

An aerial night view of the London Olympic Stadium, illuminated from within, showing the green field and the surrounding city lights. A large Union Jack flag is overlaid on the top half of the image.

OUR OLYMPIC YEAR
BRITAIN
2012

Join us as we celebrate the biggest show on Earth!

THE BIGGEST SHOW ON EARTH

The stage is set for the most spectacular sporting event that will showcase Britain and London all across the world

THIS SUMMER'S OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES IN London is a unique, once-in-a-lifetime event for everybody living and visiting Britain. But the celebrations do not just apply to the capital city – nor is it solely focused on sporting endeavour. The biggest cultural festival the country has ever seen has been arranged for 2012 so that the whole of the British Isles can become part of the Olympic experience. From a stunning piece of human artwork set to illuminate Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh to an English flower garden of ceramic blooms to a special Olympic-themed Proms, there are an incredible 12,000 special events happening at over 900 venues the length and breadth of Britain from now until the end of September 2012.

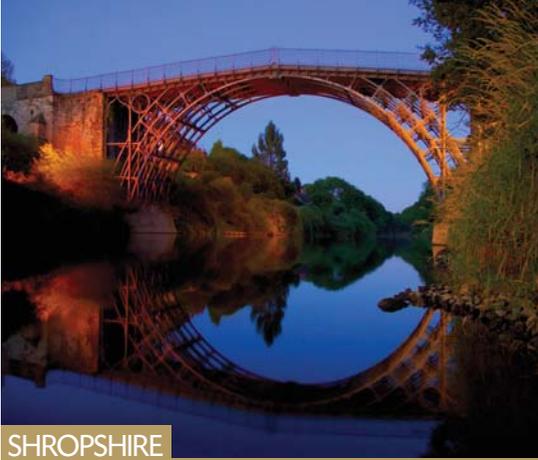
Some have a strong sporting connection, while others revolve around celebrating Britain's music, art, theatre, film and comedy. This fits perfectly with the ideals of the very first Olympics. As recently as London's last Olympic Games in 1948, medals were still awarded to artists as well as athletes.

In 2012, the only people who can win medals will be those competing this summer, but that doesn't mean Britain's artists, performers, choreographers and musicians aren't also aiming for a gold standard, and we've selected some highlights that illustrate the very best that you can watch, enjoy and even participate in.



PHOTO: © JASON HAWKES / IMAGE FROM BRITAIN FROM ABOVE MONTH BY MONTH BY JASON HAWKES PUBLISHED BY DORLING KINDERSLEY. SEE PAGE 45 FOR MORE DETAILS





SHROPSHIRE

WEIGHTLESS IRON

A series of spellbinding digital projections at Ironbridge Gorge add to the reasons to visit this World Heritage Site in the coming months. As well as being home to the world's first Iron Bridge, the area also boasts Kurt Hentschläger's CORE installation at Ironbridge Gorge Enginuity Museum, from now until the end of September. The display uses light, movement and sound to pull you into a world of weightless figures, moving and interacting with one and another and creating a dream-like world. www.ironbridge.org.uk



PHOTOS: CACTUS IMAGES/LONDON 2012



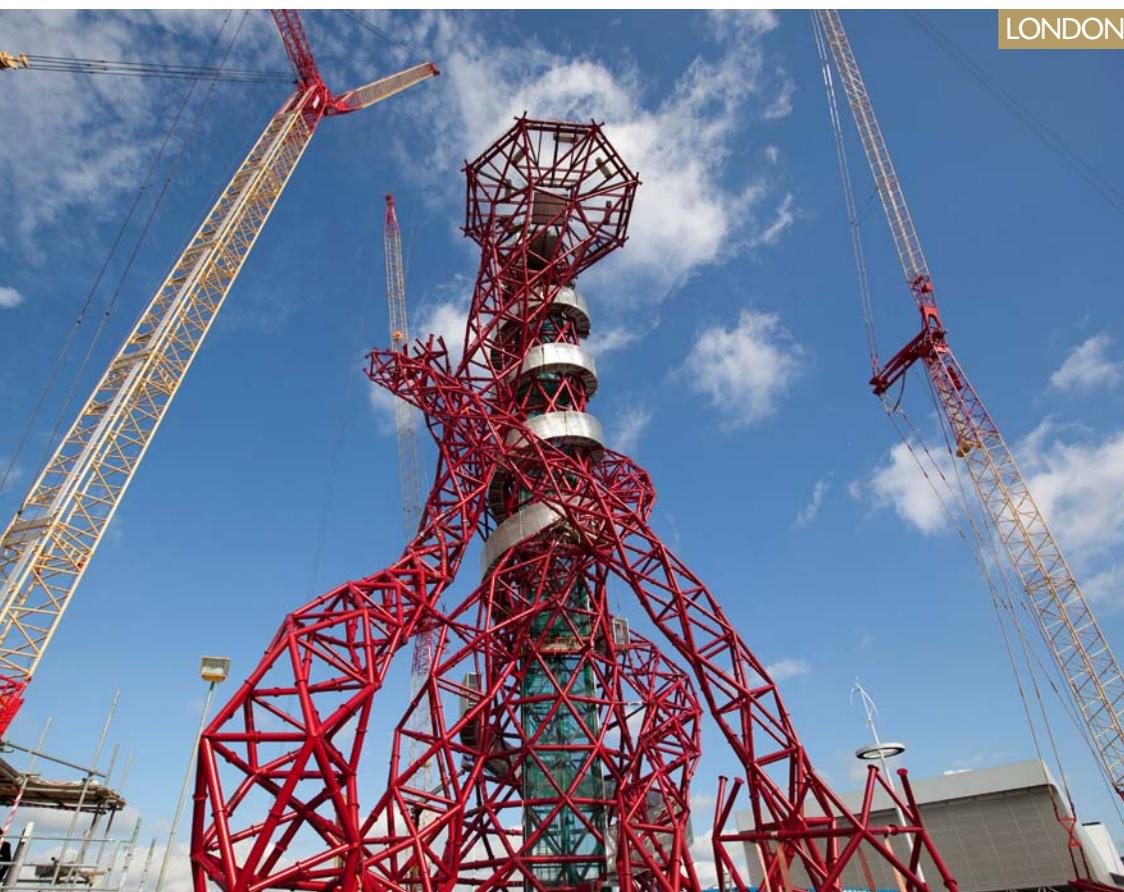
INTO ORBIT

Innovative and exciting artwork and installations will adorn London's Olympic Park at the heart of the Games (27 July to 12 August) through Art in the Park, a venture aimed at integrating arts and culture into public spaces. This includes the vividly colourful Steles, tall columns which accentuate the main river that flows

through the park. They will be used as boat moorings, making them both artistic and a fully functional part of London life.

Winning Words sees inspiring poetry, such as 'To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield' from Alfred Lord Tennyson's *Ulysses*, prominently displayed around the park. Fast, Faster, Fastest is an interactive bridge that will be lit up during the Games. After the Olympics, it will be programmed so that the lights flash along it at the speed of the Games' fastest 100-metre sprints.

Standing above all this is the tallest art structure in Britain; the 115-metre Orbit, designed by the internationally acclaimed British artist Anish Kapoor. Visiting it involves travelling in a glass lift, which takes you through the Orbit's spiralling red structure to a viewing platform that gives you spectacular views of London's Olympic stadiums and the capital's cityscape. The Orbit will be open throughout the Olympics, before reopening to visitors again in 2013. www.london2012.com/spectators/venues/olympic-park



LONDON



EDINBURGH

ILLUMINATING EDINBURGH

Historic Arthur's Seat is home to a mesmerising visual display throughout August, as the mountain is brought to life by hundreds of runners and walkers. They will wear specialised light suits and each take a specific path every night to form a spectacular Speed of Light display. You can become part of the event, as a walking audience member can carry a portable light source up the dark features of the hill or you can stand back and admire the stunning show. <http://speedoflight2012.org.uk>



VICTORY MEDALS

A unique British Museum exhibition aims to tell the narrative of London's medals, from the mining of the metals to their design, to the eventual production at the Royal Mint.

As well as showing the London medals to the public for the first time, the exhibition also delves into the long history Britain has with the Olympic movement. Objects from the 19th-century Shropshire games sit alongside medals from the 1908 and 1948 London Olympics, offering a fascinating historical link to the events in London this summer. Open now until 9 September. www.britishmuseum.org

VARIOUS

GARDEN IN BLOOM

A celebration of the quintessential British love of flowers is at the heart of Paul Cummins' The English Flower Garden. It involves a total of approximately 15,000 hand-thrown ceramic flowers displayed at six different locations, including Castle Howard in York, Blenheim Palace in Oxford and the Althorp Estate in Northampton.

Each flower has been selected for its historic relationship with the location in question and is carefully displayed in an open, accessible way for all to enjoy these beautiful glazed, ceramic blooms. www.paulcumminsceramics.com



POSTER PERFECT

All the official posters for the Olympic and Paralympic Games are on show as part of a free Tate Britain exhibition from June until 23 September. Among the 12 artists commissioned by a select panel were Turner Prize-winners Martin Creed, Tracey Emin (below) and Chris Ofili. www.tate.org.uk





BELFAST/CARDIFF/EDINBURGH/LONDON

LIGHT IN AUGUST

Each of Britain's capital cities hosts a breathtaking Flame Festival in late August, where four separate Paralympic fires are lit. This is accompanied by live sporting demonstrations, a stage show featuring rising stars and a beautiful lantern procession.

From their various destinations, the four flames will then take separate journeys to Stoke

Mandeville in Buckinghamshire – the spiritual home of the Paralympic movement – where they will be combined to create one London 2012 Paralympic Flame. That marks the beginning of a 24-hour torch relay to the Olympic Stadium, where the flame arrives on 29 August to mark the opening of the Paralympic Games. <http://festival.london2012.com>



PHOTOS: LONDON, 2012

LONDON

FUNNY GAMES

Comedian Stephen Fry and other guests, including Tim Minchin (*left*) and some world-famous athletes, are part of a two-week event running alongside the Summer Olympics, called Playing the Games, at the capital's historic Criterion Theatre. Two new plays have been written in response to the Games' arrival in London, while Olympic greats past and present take to the stage for a series of lunchtime discussions about their life and achievements, interviewed by TV and stage personalities. www.criterion-theatre.co.uk

LONDON

DESIGNING THE GAMES

The Royal Institute of British Architects' exhibition tells the story behind the design and engineering of London's 2012 stadiums, via detailed models and a stunning, 14-metre mural. Entry is free from now until 21 September. www.architecture.com





SELKIRK

FOREST FOOTBALL

Art and sport merge as a serene forest in the Scottish borders becomes home to a full-size football pitch. Forest Pitch sees two matches take place on 21 July in an event that evokes the spirit of the original Olympics. www.forestpitch.org

PHOTOS: LONDON 2012/ISTOCK



LONDON

JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

The Royal Opera House has teamed with the Olympic Museum in Lausanne to create a free and unique one-off exhibition – The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games. This immersive experience guides you through the history of the Summer Games, highlighting the remarkable feats of achievement that have characterised the competition. All Olympic torches and medals from London 2012 will be on display here, from 28 July to 12 August. www.ironbridge.org.uk



LONDON

OLYMPIAN PROMS

The world-famous Proms has added Olympic fervour this year, with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony being played to mark the opening day of the Games on 27 July (it contains the glorious *Ode to Joy*, which is traditionally played at the Olympic and Paralympic opening ceremonies).

There is also the appearance of a new Olympic Fanfare, specially created by acclaimed Scottish classical composer James MacMillan. On top of all this, Wallace & Gromit even find time to have a new Proms adventure on 29 July. www.bbc.co.uk/proms

NATIONWIDE

IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Some of Britain's most revered directors have been commissioned by the BBC and Film4 to create new films as part of the London 2012 Festival. The legendary, BAFTA-winning director Mike Leigh has created an upbeat comedy-drama called

A Running Jump, which shows how sport intertwines with everyday life for all the members of an east London family. *The Swimmer*, a poetic short film directed by Lynne Ramsay, follows a lone swimmer through Britain's scenic coastlines and inland waterways, accompanied by a powerful soundtrack of music composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams and Frederick Delius, as well as British pop.

What If by Noel Clark showcases urban sport such as free-running, while Asif Kapadia – director of the multi-award-winning Formula 1 documentary *Senna* – returns to his London roots to make *The Odyssey*, exploring the relationship between the capital and the Olympics. All four films are screened at selected British cinemas throughout the summer. <http://festival.london2012.com>





LONDON

INSIDE NUMBER 10

A rare chance to peek inside the Government Art Collection, which contains over 13,500 paintings and sculptures dating back to the 16th century, is on offer at the Whitechapel Gallery until 2 September.

The exhibition contains portraits of past British Prime Ministers, and a World War II photograph showing the bomb damage to the State Rooms at 10 Downing Street. Other documents on display for the very first time include a list of the paintings hung in number 10, plus papers detailing the loan of Churchill's bust to the Oval Office in Washington from 1997 to 2008. www.whitechapelgallery.org

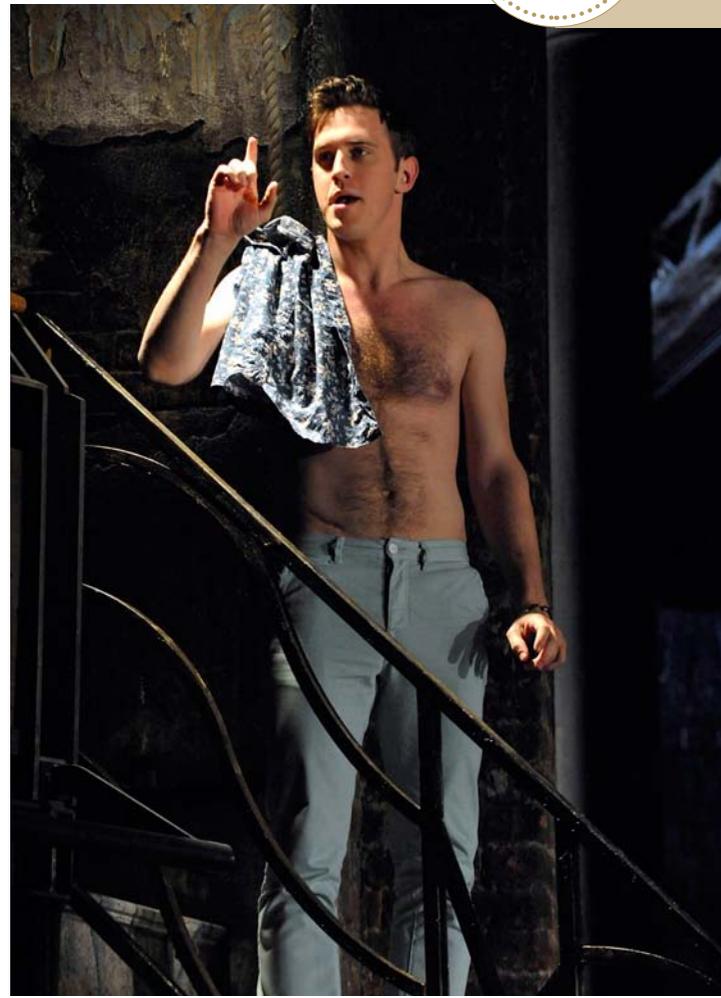
PHOTOS: © ESTATE OF JOHN PIPER / COURTESY OF THE UK GOVERNMENT ART / LONDON 2012 COLLECTION

NATIONWIDE

CELEBRATE THE BARD

Not only is the Danny Boyle-directed, £81 million opening ceremony set to feature a strong Shakespearean theme, The Bard is ubiquitous throughout the London 2012 Festival. London's Globe theatre has taken on a vast undertaking; staging 37 plays in 37 languages, a feast of diverse theatre in honour of the universal themes of Shakespeare's characters and plays.

Further events include Shakespeare's three shipwreck plays (*The Comedy of Errors*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest*) performed as a trilogy in Stratford-upon-Avon, while the renowned Welsh actor Jonathan Pryce takes on the role of King Lear at London's Almeida Theatre. It's just the tip of the iceberg of a series of special Shakespeare performances taking place across Britain. <http://festival.london2012.com>



LONDON

FACES OF 2012

Evocative Olympic portraits taken by some of the world's finest photographers go on display at a special exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, running from 19 July to 23 September.

As well as images of British Olympians and 2012 medal hopefuls such as Jessica Ennis, Tom Daley and Rebecca Addington, the three-year BT Road to 2012 project has also captured some of the faces behind the scenes of the Games. Including the chairman of the organising committee (and double Olympic gold medallist) Lord Sebastian Coe, kit designer Stella McCartney and some less recognisable faces, this display takes you through the story of how the Olympic dream has become a reality.

Find out more about the London 2012 Festival at <http://festival.london2012.com>



Our pilots study altitude.
So do our chefs.

At 30,000 feet, your taste buds react differently than they do on the ground.

Which is why we hired world renowned chefs and a team of molecular gastronomists to design menus that perform at great heights, just like our airplanes.

To Fly. To Serve.