

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games

What are the Winter Olympic Games?

The Winter Olympic Games are a contest of sports that take place on ice or snow, with athletes from countries all around the world taking part.

- They take place every four years.
- The first Winter Olympics took place in 1924, 98 years ago, in Chamonix, France, and only 16 nations took part.
- The last Winter Olympics was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in 2018.

The Host Country and City

The next Winter Olympics will be held in the city of Beijing in China in 2022. The event will begin on 4th February with an opening ceremony and will end on 20th February with a closing ceremony.

There will be 80 nations competing in 15 different winter sports. The events will be held in 26 different venues around the city of Beijing. Some events will also take place in the Hebei province, which is 140 miles from Beijing.

Did You Know...?

The Winter Olympic mascot is called Bing Dwen Dwen and is a panda that wears a shell made from ice.

Fun Winter Olympics Facts

- The 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, was the first time artificial snow had to be used.
- Women were allowed to compete in ski-jump for the first time at the Sochi Games in 2014. Before this, only men competed.
- Norwegian athletes have won more medals at the Winter Olympics than any other country since the games began.
- American athlete, Eddie Eagan is the only athlete ever to have won gold medals at both the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. He won gold at the 1920 Summer Games in boxing. He then won gold at the 1932 Winter Games in the team bobsled event.



The Winter Sports

The Winter Olympic sports are:

alpine skiing

biathlon

bobsleigh

cross country skiing

curling

figure skating

freestyle skiing

ice hockey

luge

Nordic combined

short-track speed

skeleton

ski jumping

snowboarding

speed skating

The **Biathlon** combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting.



The **luge** involves one or two people sledging down an ice track, feet-first on their backs. They can reach up to 90 miles per hour.

Nordic combined includes cross-country skiing and ski jumping.

The **skeleton** involves the competitor riding head-first and face down on a flat sled on an ice track.

