

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games

What are the Winter Olympic Games?

The Winter Olympic Games are an international contest of sports carried out on ice or snow in both indoor and outdoor venues.

- They take place every four years.
- The first Winter Olympic Games took place in 1924, 98 years ago, in Chamonix, France, with only 16 nations participating.
- The last Winter Olympics was held in Pyeongchang (pronounced 'Pee-yon-chang'), South Korea in 2018.

The Host Country and City

The Winter Olympic Games have been hosted by many cities in different countries around the world since 1924, including the United States, Austria, France and Japan.

The next Winter Olympics will be held in the city of Beijing in China in 2022. The event will get underway on 4th February with an opening ceremony and will come to an end on 20th February with a closing ceremony. During that time, 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 neighbouring towns of Hebei province - 140 miles from Beijing.

The Italian cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo have been chosen to host the next Winter Olympic Games in 2026.

Did You Know...?

The Winter Olympic mascot is called Bing Dwen Dwen and is a panda that wears a shell made from ice, a bit like an astronaut's suit.

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, it was a male-only competition.
- Norwegian athletes have won more medals at the Winter Olympics than any other nation 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 Antwerp, Belgium in boxing. He later won gold at the 1932 Lake Placid 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

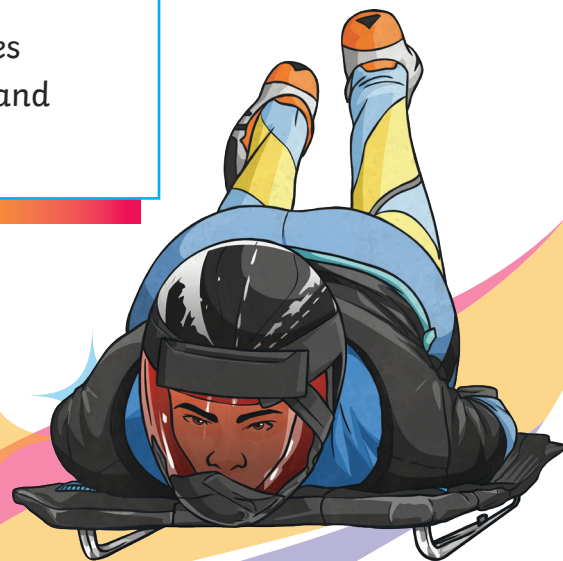
skeleton

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

