

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games

What are the Winter Olympic Games?

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

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

The Host Country and City

Since its establishment in 1924, the Winter Olympics has been hosted in a range of different cities in 12 different countries around the world. The countries are:

- four times in the United States.
- three times in France.
- twice in Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.
- once in Germany, (former) Yugoslavia, Russia and South Korea.

The next Winter Olympics will be held in the city of Beijing in China in 2022. Beijing also hosted the 2008 Summer Olympic Games. This is the first time that the Winter Olympics will be hosted by a city that has also hosted the Summer Olympics. This means that four existing indoor venues, that were originally built for the 2008 Games, will be used.

The event will get underway on 4th February with an opening ceremony and will conclude on 20th February with a closing ceremony. Both ceremonies will take place in the Beijing National Stadium. 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 towns of the neighbouring Hebei province - 140 miles from Beijing.

The Italian cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo have been elected to host the next Winter Olympics 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.

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 skating

skeleton

ski jumping

snowboarding

speed skating

combining
cross-
country
skiing
and rifle
shooting.

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. Prior to 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.
- The U.S.A. is the only country to have won a gold medal at every Winter Olympic Games.
- American athlete Eddie Eagan is the only athlete ever to have won a gold medal at both the Winter and Summer Olympics. He won gold at the 1920 Summer Games in Antwerp, Belgium in boxing. He subsequently won gold at the 1932 Lake Placid Winter Games in the team bobsled event.

involves one or two people sledging down an ice track, feet-first on their backs, reaching up to 90 miles per hour.



includes cross-country skiing and ski jumping.

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

