

PRESS RELEASE

Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay to visit the Eden Project as full England route revealed

- *Queen's Baton Relay route through England revealed*
- *Baton will visit the Eden Project in Cornwall on July 4*
- *It will spend two days in the South West between July 4 and 5*

Wednesday 11 May 2022: The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit the Eden Project as a one of many stops on its final journey through England this summer, as the full route is revealed.

Birmingham 2022 is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – a journey which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth during the build up to the Games. In England, the Queen's Baton Relay will provide the opportunity for communities to experience the excitement for Birmingham 2022, as the 11 days of showstopping sport nears ever closer.

The Queen's Baton Relay is set to travel the length and breadth of England for a total of 29 days, before culminating at the Opening Ceremony for Birmingham 2022 on 28 July 2022. Kicking off on **Thursday 2 June**, the Baton will spend four days in London, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. The Baton will then resume the international journey and return to England on **Monday 4 July** to commence a 25-day tour of the regions.

The England leg of the Queen's Baton Relay, which is proudly partnered with Longines, has a busy schedule of activities and events planned, with opportunities to highlight untold stories from Batonbearers who are striving for change in their community.

On Monday, July 4, the Queen's Baton will visit the Eden Project during its journey through the South West.

Peter Stewart, Eden Project Executive Director, said: *"We are delighted that the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit the Eden Project on July 4, as part of its incredible journey through England this summer. We are looking forward to celebrating the arrival of the Baton and everyone here is excited to give it a warm welcome."*

Thousands of Batonbearers, each with inspiring backgrounds and stories, will have the honour of carrying the Baton during the journey through England, including those nominated in recognition of their contributions to their local community, whether that be in sport, education, the arts, culture or charity. Between 40 and 130 Batonbearers will carry the Baton each day, and the Relay will reach hundreds of villages, towns and cities during its tour of the country.

Travelling via land, air and sea, more than 180 communities in England will experience the Queen's Baton on a route spanning 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres). From energetic cities and historic market towns, to rolling countryside and rugged coastline, the Baton will head as far south as Cornwall and as far north as Northumberland.

Since its inaugural appearance at the Cardiff 1958 Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton Relay has been a tradition for the Commonwealth Games.

The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay began at Buckingham Palace on 7 October 2021, when The Queen placed Her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton and passed it to four-time Paralympic gold medallist Kadeena Cox, who had the honour of being the first of thousands of Batonbearers to carry the Baton.

Since then, the Baton has visited Commonwealth nations and territories in Europe, Africa, Oceania. It still has further destinations in the Caribbean, the Americas, and more countries in Europe, including the Home Nations consisting of five days in **Scotland**, four in **Northern Ireland** and five in **Wales**, where it will finish on Sunday 3 July, before returning to England in summer for the final countdown to the Commonwealth Games.

The dates of when the Baton visits each region are:

- 4 July – 5 July: **South West**
- 6 July – 7 July: **South East**
- 8 July – 9 July: **East of England**
- 10 July – 11 July: **East Midlands**
- 12 July – 13 July: **Yorkshire and the Humber**
- 14 July – 15 July: **North East**
- 16 July – 17 July: **North West**
- 18 July – 28 July: **West Midlands**

Phil Batty, Director of Ceremonies, Culture & Queen's Baton Relay, said: *“Whilst the Baton has been travelling across the Commonwealth, we have worked closely with Local Authorities in England to devise a route that engages with hundreds of communities, passing sport venues, historic sites, local schools and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Yet the Queen's Baton Relay is far more than just a journey. It symbolises connecting people from every corner of the Commonwealth, celebrates Batonbearers who take on challenges, and marks the countdown the biggest sporting event in West Midlands history. And by the time the Baton returns to England for the final leg, 71 nations and territories will have already experienced the magic that comes with it.*”

“We hope that communities across the country join the excitement, attend events near them, line the streets to cheer on our incredible Batonbearers and celebrate the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.”

Throughout May, the Queen's Baton Relay continues its journey through the Caribbean and the Americas, with visits to St Kitts & Nevis, Antigua & Barbuda, Bermuda and Canada, amongst others.

For more information on the Queen's Baton Relay, visit www.birmingham2022.com/qbr.

The information provided on the route through England is subject to local authority approval and therefore could be subject to change.

ENDS

May 11, 2022

Captions:

Picture 1: The Queen passes the Baton to the first of thousands of Batonbearers, four-time Paralympic gold medallist Kadeena Cox, at Buckingham Palace on October 7 2021.

Picture 2: The Queen's Baton which will visit the Eden Project on July 4.

Picture 3: The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit the Eden Project on July 4. Image credit ©Hufton+Crow.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Imagery and footage from the international Queen's Baton Relay can be downloaded

here: <https://wetransfer.com/downloads/b2a20f72d2cdccd360fb81256798c19620220510082909/11ab82>

About the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay

Birmingham 2022 is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – a journey which brings together and celebrates communities in every corner of the Commonwealth ahead of Birmingham 2022.

The Baton has already begun its epic journey across the Commonwealth, where it will have visited Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean, and the Americas, it will return to England in July 2022 for the final countdown to the Commonwealth Games.

The Queen's Baton will travel around England for 25 days, before the Relay officially ends at the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games on 28 July 2022. The Queen's Baton Relay is a Games tradition that celebrates, connects and excites communities from across Commonwealth during the build up to the Games.

This collective journey will ignite hope, solidarity and collaboration for the next generation, with these stories leaving us all inspired to take on the challenges that matter most to us.

For more information, visit birmingham2022.com/qbr

The Queen's Baton

The Queen's Baton for Birmingham 2022 was created in a West Midlands collaboration that fused art, technology and science. Made from copper, aluminium and steel, the Baton also features a platinum strand in homage to The Queen in her Platinum Jubilee year. It is also equipped with cutting-edge technology; 360-degree camera, heart rate monitor, atmospheric sensors and LED lighting.

About the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held from 28 July until 8 August 2022, will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to put the city, the region, and its people on the global stage.

The Games is already proving to be a catalyst for transformation across the West Midlands, attracting new investment and funding, creating jobs and apprenticeships for local people and new opportunities for local businesses, as well as accelerating projects that will ensure the region is ready to host a fantastic sports and cultural celebration.

Birmingham 2022 will be the Games for everyone, bringing people together from across Birmingham and the region, to provide a warm welcome to millions of visitors during the summer of 2022.

Find out more at www.birmingham2022.com

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