



UNESCO and the Paris 2024 Olympic Games



The World Heritage, backdrop of the Paris 2024 Olympics Games

Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay: a journey through UNESCO World Heritage

The Paris 2024 Olympic Torch Relay will feature some 30 cultural and natural sites listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. The flame will end its journey in Paris on 26 July for an opening ceremony which will take place, for the first time in the history of the modern Olympic Games, in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

12 May – Arles, Roman and Romanesque monuments A site of exceptional architectural heritage ranging from Roman antiquity (arenas, ancient theatre) to Provençal Romanesque art of the 11th and 12th centuries (Saint-Trophime), through the second Roman golden age in the 4th century (Alyscamps necropolis).

16 May – Historic Fortified City of Carcassonne A remarkable example of a fortified medieval city with a defensive system surrounding the castle and its dependencies, built mainly during the 13th century.

18 May – St. Marie Cathedral in Auch, part of the Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France Four routes to Santiago de Compostela originating from Paris, Vézelay, Le Puy and Arles were used by countless pilgrims in the Middle Ages. These paths are lined with pilgrimage churches and sanctuaries, hospitals, bridges and wayside crosses.

19 May – Gavarnie Cirque, Pyrenees, part of Pyrénées - Mont Perdu Mountain landscape located between France and Spain, centred around the Mont Perdu peak, a limestone massif reaching an altitude of 3,352 m. The site includes two of Europe's largest and deepest canyons.

22 May – Saint-Front Cathedral in Périgueux, part of the routes of Santiago de Compostela in France Four routes to Santiago de Compostela originating from Paris, Vézelay, Le Puy and Arles were used by countless pilgrims in the Middle Ages. These paths are lined with pilgrimage churches and sanctuaries, hospitals, bridges and wayside crosses.

23 May – Bordeaux and the surrounding area Jurisdiction of Saint-Emilion An exceptional landscape, entirely devoted to winegrowing, with many historic monuments in the towns and villages.

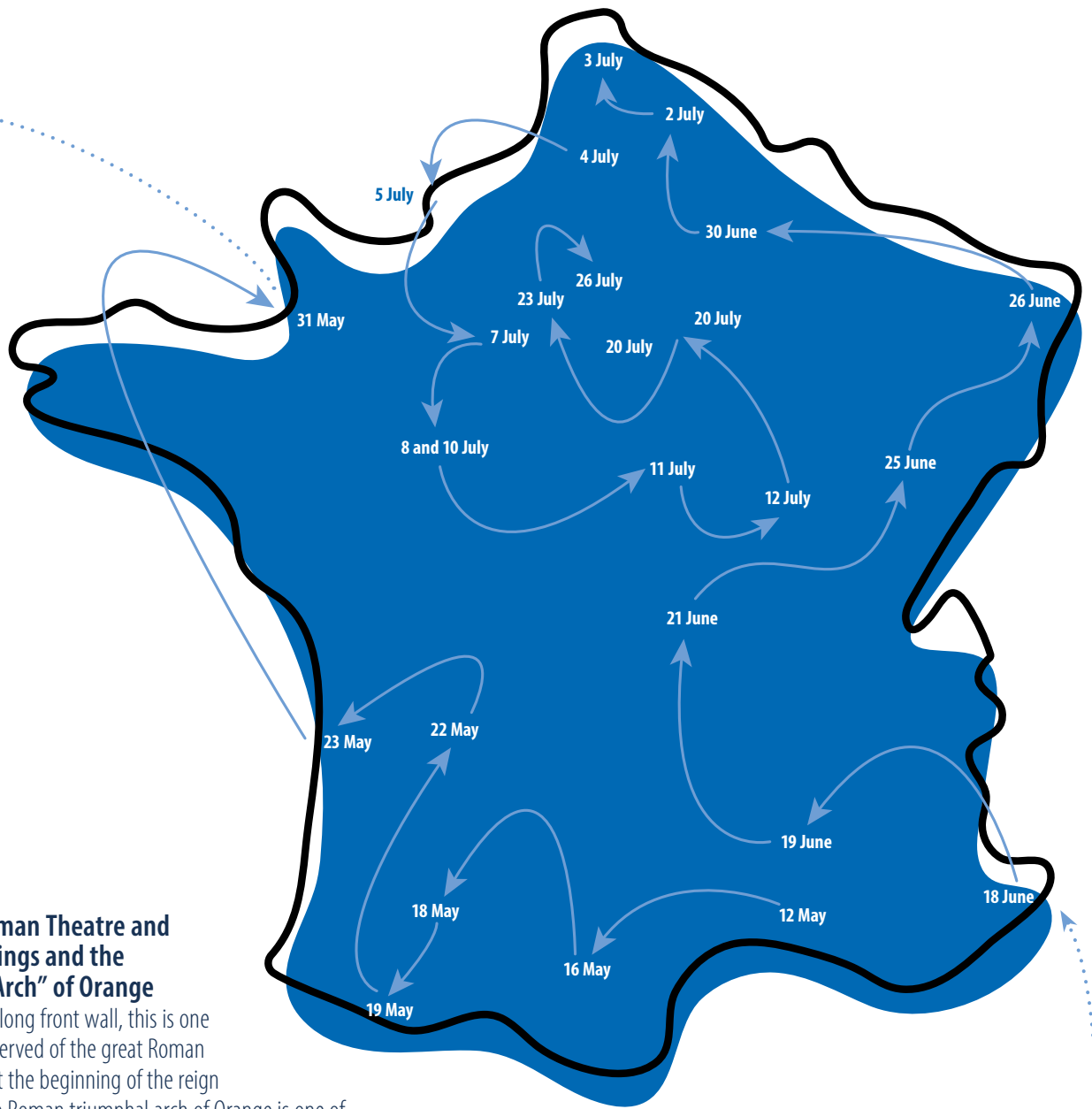
Bordeaux, Port of the Moon The city's urban planning and architecture from the early 18th century onwards have made it an outstanding example of classical and neoclassical trends, granting it a remarkable urban and architectural unity and coherence.

31 May – Mont-Saint-Michel and its Bay Often referred to as "the Wonder of the West", this Gothic Benedictine abbey dedicated to the archangel Saint-Michel was built upon a rocky islet surrounded by vast sandbanks, between Normandy and Brittany.

12 June – Pitons, cirques and ramparts of Reunion Island Dominated by two volcanic peaks, the site's spectacular landscape features escarpments, gorges and wooded valleys. It provides a natural habitat for a wide variety of plants with a high degree of endemism.

17 June – Volcanoes and Forests of Mount Pelée and the Pitons of Northern Martinique All the forest types and plant diversity endemic to the Lesser Antilles are represented on this site, within forest continuums ranging from the seashore to the volcanic summits.

18 June – Nice, Winter Resort Town of the Riviera Nice reflects the development of a city devoted to winter tourism, making the most of its mild climate and its coastal location, between sea and mountains. The eclectic urban planning and architectural styles of its districts contribute to Nice's reputation as a cosmopolitan winter resort.



19 June – Roman Theatre and its Surroundings and the “Triumphal Arch” of Orange

With its 103 m-long front wall, this is one of the best-preserved of the great Roman theatres. Built at the beginning of the reign of Augustus, the Roman triumphal arch of Orange is one of the most beautiful and interesting of the Augustan era.

21 June – Vichy, part of The Great Spa Towns of Europe

Vichy bears witness to the international European spa culture that developed from the early 18th century to the 1930s, leading to the emergence of major international resorts that influenced urban typology around ensembles of spa buildings such as baths, pump rooms, spring halls, colonnades and galleries.

25 June – Besançon Citadel, part of the Fortifications of Vauban

The Fortifications of Vauban consist of 12 groups of fortified buildings and sites along the western, northern and eastern borders of France. They represent the finest examples of the work of Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633-1707), a military engineer of King Louis XIV.

26 June – Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt

The Grande-Île and the Neustadt form an urban ensemble that is characteristic of Rhineland Europe, with a structure that centres on the cathedral, a major masterpiece of Gothic art. Perspectives created around the cathedral give rise to a unified urban space and shape a distinctive landscape organized around the rivers and canals.

30 June – Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Former Abbey of Saint-Rémi and Palaco of Tau, Reims

These three buildings form an exceptional architectural ensemble. The Cathedral of Notre-Dame is a masterpiece of Gothic art. The Palace of Tau preserves the memory of the coronation ceremony, while the former royal Benedictine Abbey of Saint-Rémi boasts majestic 18th-century architecture.

30 June – Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars

In north-east France, on chalky land, the Champagne hillsides form a remarkable agro-industrial landscape of vineyards and cellars. This is where the benchmark method of producing sparkling wine, thanks to a secondary fermentation in the bottle, was developed from its beginnings in the 17th century to its industrialization in the 19th century.

2 July – Belfries of Belgium and France

Twenty-three belfries in northern France and the Gembloux belfry in Belgium were listed in 2005, as an extension to the 32 Belgian belfries listed in 1999 under the name Belfries of Flanders and Wallonia. Built between the 11th and 17th centuries, they illustrate the Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architectural styles.

3 July – Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin The Nord-Pas de Calais region offers a remarkable landscape shaped by three centuries (18th to 20th centuries) of coal mining with pits, slag heaps, railway stations, coronas and miners' villages.

4 July – Amiens Cathedral The Amiens Cathedral is one of the largest churches in France, and one of the finest examples of 13th century Gothic architecture.

5 July – Le Havre, the city rebuilt by Auguste Perret Reconstructed after the Second World War according to the plans drawn by Auguste Perret, the city of Le Havre is a remarkable example of post-war architecture and urban planning, based on the unity of methodology and the use of concrete.

7 July – Chartres Cathedral Notre-Dame de Chartres cathedral is one of the most authentic and accomplished works of early 13th century religious architecture. Its stained-glass windows, monumental statuary and painted decor make it one of the most impressive and best-preserved examples of Gothic art.

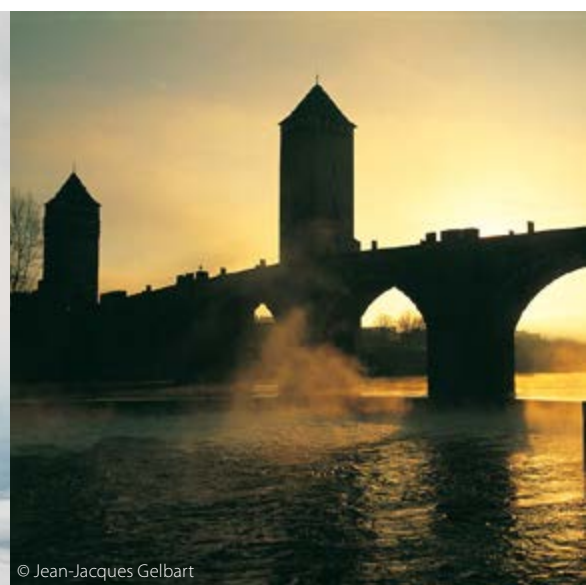
8 and 10 July – The Loire Valley between Sully-sur-Loire and Chalonnes The Loire Valley is an exceptional cultural landscape, comprising historic towns and villages, great architectural monuments – many famous châteaux – and farmland.

11 July – Vézelay, Church and Hill The basilica of St. Mary Magdalene, a 12th-century monastic church, is a masterpiece of Burgundian Romanesque architecture, with its sculpted capitals and portal.

12 July – The Climats, terroirs of Burgundy Climats are precisely delimited vineyard parcels on the slopes of the Côte de Nuits and Côte de Beaune south of the city Dijon. They differ from one another due to specific natural conditions (geology and exposure, vine types).

20 July – Palace and Park of Fontainebleau Used by the kings of France since the 12th century, the hunting residence of Fontainebleau, located in the heart of a vast forest in the Île-de-France region, was transformed, enlarged and embellished in the 16th century by King François I, who wanted to make a "new Rome" of it. The château remained a royal or imperial residence until the end of the Second Empire.

20 July – Provins, Town of Medieval Fairs This fortified medieval town is located in the heart of the ancient region of the Counts of Champagne. It bears witness to the early development of international trading fairs and the wool industry. The historic fortified town is an exceptional and authentic example of a medieval Champagne fair town.



23 July – Palace and Park of Versailles The primary residence and seat of power for the French monarchy from Louis XIV to Louis XVI, the palace and grounds of Versailles, built and embellished by several generations of architects, sculptors, painters, ornamentalists and landscapers, were the model of what a royal residence should be for over a century.

26 July – Paris, Banks of the Seine This site includes many architectural masterpieces along the Seine, as well as iconic buildings and landmarks.

28 August – Paralympic Torch Relay The UNESCO headquarters will be among the Parisian locations of the Paralympic Torch Relay. The Flame will be rekindled at the foot of the Tree of Peace, at the centre of the Tolerance Square, an artwork by the Israeli artist Dani Karavan, and will go through the building of UNESCO, in front of the 194 flags of the Organization’s Member States.



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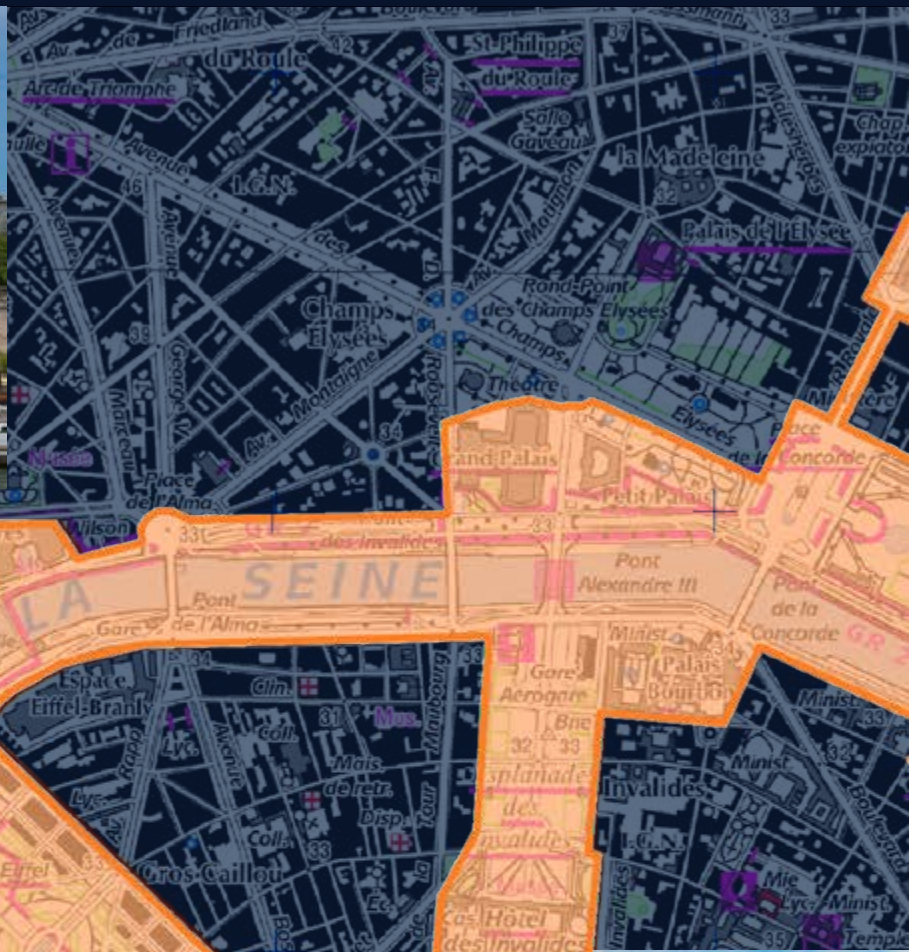
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The Banks of the Seine and venue for the C

For the first time in the history of the modern Olympic Games, the opening ceremony will take place in the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage site. This celebration will be the opportunity to showcase a cultural heritage of outstanding universal value, recognized by the entire international community.



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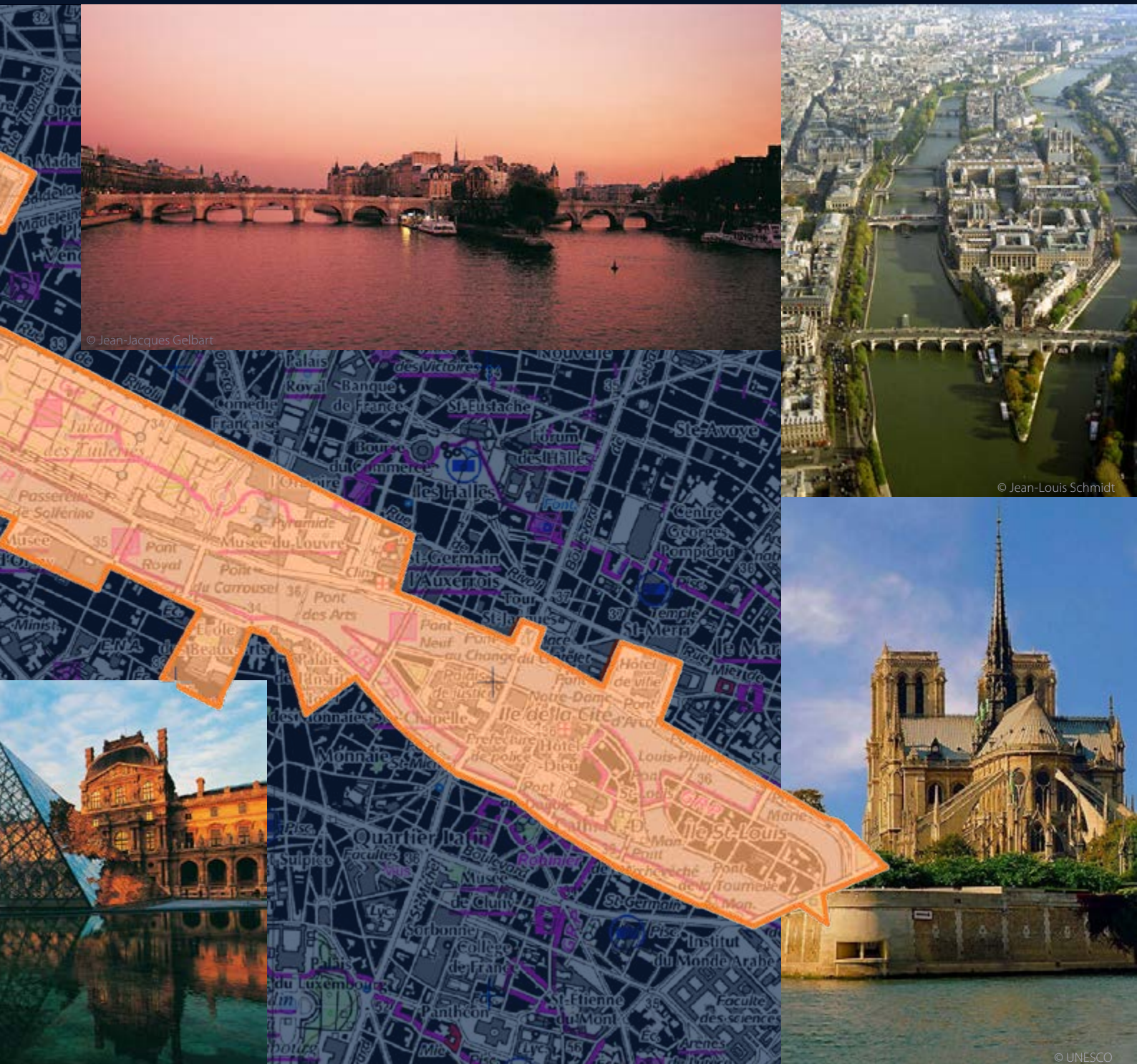
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Paris, World Heritage Site Opening Ceremony

The site includes all the architectural masterpieces along the Seine, such as the famous Pont-Neuf and Alexandre III bridges, and emblematic buildings and sites such as the Île Saint-Louis, Île de la Cité and the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, the Hôtel de Ville, the Louvre Museum, the Hôtel des Invalides and its esplanade, the Place de la Concorde and the Eiffel Tower.



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UNESCO and Sports

UNESCO, as the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture, promotes the educational, cultural and social dimensions of sport and physical education. The Organization provides assistance, advice and recommendations to Member States wishing to develop or strengthen their sports policies.


The power of Physical Education and Sport

 Created in 1976, the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS) is a forum that facilitates intellectual and technical exchange in the fields of physical education and sport. It is the only global platform involving governments, intergovernmental organizations, the sport movement, academia and specialized NGOs. MINEPS also played a major role in the development of the International Charter of Physical Education and Sport (1978) - which establishes the practice of physical education and sport as a fundamental right for all - and in the creation of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). It also provided a key platform for the negotiation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport.



© UNESCO - Fit for Life / Francesca Farci

Anti-doping: protect the integrity of sport

 UNESCO's International Convention against Doping in Sport (2005) harmonizes anti-doping legislation, regulations and rules internationally to ensure a level playing field. The Convention is the only international treaty in this domain and provides the legal framework under which governments can address specific areas of the World Anti-Doping Code. It helps protect public health and to safeguard the ethics, integrity and universal values of sport through harmonized standards and policies.



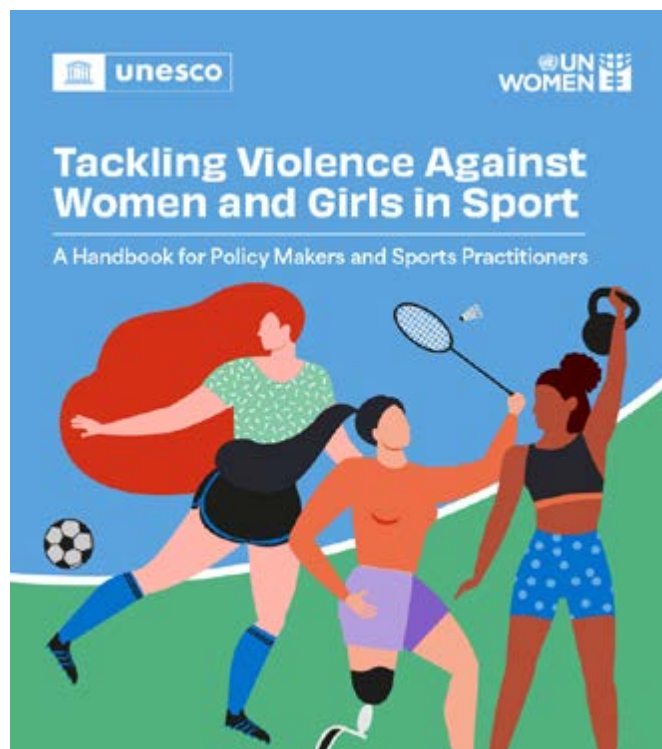
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Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Sport

In 2024, UNESCO launched a 10-point call to action, based on the recommendations put forward in the UNESCO and UN Women handbook “Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in Sport”, supported by the UN Spotlight initiative. The handbook provides policymakers and sports professionals with strategies and resources for effectively combating gender-based and sexual violence.

In particular, it recommends the creation of a centralized governance framework and a normative instrument for the protection of women and girls in sport, to ensure harmonized and compatible standards of prevention in sport between Member States. The Appeal also recommends filling the gaps in impact measurement and data on gender-based and sexual violence in sport and stresses the importance of creating a solid knowledge base for effective public policies.

UNESCO also stresses the importance of fair and inclusive representation of women in the media, and the role of men and boys in changing attitudes and behaviour at a societal level. It is essential to ensure an inclusive and equitable representation of women in sports




media and in leadership positions, in order to provide young athletes with role models and foster solidarity in spaces that have traditionally been dominated by men. By amplifying women's voices in sporting narratives and ensuring their presence in decision-making roles, we can challenge the *status quo* and pave the way for a more equitable sporting culture.



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“Fit for Life”

 “Fit for Life” is a UNESCO programme designed to support the development of inclusive policies, and enhance the well-being of young people through sport. Powered by a global compact of partners, “Fit for Life” tackles the interrelated crises of physical inactivity, declining mental health and increasing inequality.

UNESCO has developed a set of resources on quality physical education which has benefited from the contribution of more than fifty organizations and experts from all regions.

UNESCO worked with four pilot countries (Fiji, Mexico, South Africa and Zambia) to help them revise their national physical education policies. Drawing on the experience of the pilot countries and the QPE resources developed, Kazakhstan and Kenya have embarked on a process of reviewing their public policies, resulting in the adoption of a new inclusive physical education policy.

The UNESCO headquarters and the Olympics

UNESCO, partner of the cultural Olympiad



The cultural Olympiad is a series of events combining art, culture and olympism, organised alongside the Olympic Games. This bridge between different disciplines allows visitors to approach sports from an unprecedented angle through thousands of events, before and during the entire duration of the Olympic Games.

“Games Cultures” with the Olympic Museum

(25 June – 8 September)

UNESCO and the Olympic Museum of Lausanne present an exclusive photographic exhibition dedicated to cultural diversity and the values of sport, honoured during the opening and closing ceremonies since 1924. 140 photographs of ceremonies will be exhibited with free access on the external fencing of the Organization’s headquarters.



“Around the world in a day”

(20 July)

UNESCO will welcome the launch of the “Around the world in a day” initiative organised as part of the Cultural Olympiad on 20 July 2024. A cultural programme of art and sport will allow the public to discover the artistic propositions of dozens of countries in a few hours. This initiative is coordinated by the Forum of Foreign Cultural Institutes in Paris.



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Sport can “Change the Game”

(20 July – 8 September)

The exhibition highlights different fundamental values shared by UNESCO and the Olympics: gender equality, inclusion, togetherness, commitment to combating climate change, the search for peace, and healthcare. The exhibition route highlights the power of sport to carry change in these domains, by relying on UNESCO’s programme and various figures of sportsmen and athletes who, through their engagement, have helped to change the world, push back prejudice and promote the values of human dignity.

With the collaboration of Gilles Aaron Smadja, director of the ‘Athletes who changed the world’ exhibition, and the participation of Sylvère-Henry Cissé, Associate Curator.

Daily tours of UNESCO

(all summer)



UNESCO is open to the public by reservation, with 8 guided tour slots per day giving access to the Olympic cultural programme and the UNESCO art collection, including masterpieces by Calder, Giacometti, Noguchi, Picasso and many more.

Calendar of UNESCO conferences on the occasion of the Olympic Games

Global Sport Conference: “Change the Game”

(23 – 24 July)



Ahead of the opening of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, UNESCO will bring together the sports ministers of its 194 member states, sports organizations, high-level athletes, as well as private sector players, investors and social entrepreneurs to debate the transformative role of sport in contemporary societies.

Forum: “Investing in Social Impact in and through Sport”

(23 July)

Organized in cooperation with the Yunus Sports Hub, this forum will bring together civil society players to discuss the social benefits and return on investment of sports policies and programmes. Panels will focus on investment opportunities for people (youth, athletes, coaches) and systems (infrastructure, support networks). They will also identify innovative financial mechanisms. During the forum, UNESCO will present a world report on the social impact of sport, along with recommendations.

World Ministerial Meeting

(24 July)

Discussions will be based on UNESCO's expertise in the field of sport, in particular:

- “Global State of Play – Report and Recommendations on Quality Physical Education”, which will encourage and support decision-makers in developing and implementing more inclusive Quality Physical Education policies and practices.
- The Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan, which will support policy makers and support practitioners to design, deliver and measure the impact of inclusive sport policies and programmes.

The ministerial meeting will also focus on the protection of athletes. In particular, it will examine the measures taken by Member States in applying the UNESCO Handbook on Tackling Violence against Women and Girls in Sport.

International Sports Press Association (AIPS) Centennial Celebration

(6 August)

The International Sports Press Association (AIPS) was founded in 1924 on the occasion of the Paris Olympic Games. At this event, which will bring together world-renowned sports journalists and the President of the International Olympic Committee Thomas Bach, a number of journalists will pay tribute to their colleagues who have covered many editions of the Olympic Games during their careers.

International Disability Inclusion Conference: Harnessing the transformational impact of Para sport

(27 – 28 August)

Co-organized with the International Paralympic Committee, this conference aims to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities by encouraging governments to eliminate barriers to sport for people with disabilities, through appropriate programmes.



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For the Olympic and Paralympic Games, UNESCO and The Associated Press are joining forces to ensure quality media coverage of Paris 2024. The Associated Press will set up on the premises and roof of the UNESCO headquarters building, facing the Eiffel Tower, to record and broadcast its television programmes. The Agency will provide spectators with unique media coverage of the Games and offer original content on the social impact of sport and sports policies, in collaboration with UNESCO.



[Learn more](#)

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