

Olympic Games

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For months before the **Olympic Games**, runners relay the [Olympic Flame](#) from [Olympia](#) to the opening ceremony.

The **Olympic Games**, or **Olympics**, are an international [multi-sport event](#) taking place every fourth [year](#). Originally held in [ancient Greece](#), they were revived by a [French](#) nobleman, [Pierre Frèdy, Baron de Coubertin](#) in the late [19th century](#). The **Games of the Olympiad**, better known as the [Summer Olympics](#), have been held every fourth year since [1896](#), with the exception of the years during the [World Wars](#).

In [2004](#), the Olympics returned to their ancient home in Greece for the [XXVIII Olympiad](#).

A special edition for [winter sports](#), the [Olympic Winter Games](#), was established in [1924](#). Originally these were held in the same year as the Summer Olympics, but starting with [1994](#) the Winter Games are in between, two years after the Games of the Olympiad.

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Ancient Olympics

In detail: [Ancient Olympic Games](#)



Athletes trained in this Olympia facility in its heyday.

The origin of the ancient Olympic Games has been lost, although there are many legends surrounding its origins. One of these legends associates the first Games with the ancient Greek concept of *ekeicheiria* or [Olympic Truce](#). The first recorded celebration of the Games in [Olympia](#) was in [776 BC](#), although this was certainly not the first time they

were held. The Games were then mostly a local affair, and only one event was contested, the [stadion](#) race.

From that moment on, the Games slowly became more important throughout ancient Greece, reaching their zenith in the sixth and fifth centuries BC. The Olympics were of fundamental [religious](#) importance, contests alternating with sacrifices and ceremonies honouring both [Zeus](#) (whose [colossal statue](#) stood at Olympia), and [Pelops](#), divine hero and mythical king of Olympia famous for his legendary chariot race, in whose honor the games were held. The number of events increased to twenty, and the celebration was spread over several days. Winners of the events were broadly admired and were immortalised in [poems](#) and [statues](#). The Games were held every four years, and the period between two celebrations became known as an [Olympiad](#). The Greeks used Olympiads as one of their methods to count years. The most famous Olympic athlete lived in these times: The sixth century BC wrestler [Milo of Croton](#) is the only athlete in history to win a victory in six Olympics.

The Games gradually lost in importance as the [Romans](#) gained power in Greece. When [Christianity](#) became the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Olympic Games were seen as a "pagan" festival threatening Christian hegemony, and in [393](#) the emperor [Theodosius](#) outlawed the Olympics, ending a thousand year period of Olympic Games.


During the ancient times normally only young men competed. Performers were usually naked, not only as the weather was appropriate but also as the festival was meant to be, in part, a celebration of the achievements of the human body. Upon winning the games, the victor would get not only the prestige of being in first place but also a crown of olive leaves.

During competition for some of the events, many of the participants would use oils to keep their skin smooth, as well as provide an appealing luster to anyone who saw them.


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Revival of the Olympic Games



 [Pierre de Coubertin](#) wanted better physical education and foreign relations and so spurred the modern Olympic Games into existence.



 The first modern Olympics were held in this all-marble stadium in [Athens, Greece](#)

The Olympic Games did not die in 393. Already in the [17th century](#) a sports festival named after the Olympic Games was held in [England](#). Over the next few centuries, similar events were organised in France and Greece, but these were all small-scale and certainly not international. The interest in reviving the Olympics grew when the ruins of ancient Olympia were uncovered by German [archaeologists](#) in the mid-[19th century](#).

At the same time, [Pierre, Baron de Coubertin](#) searched for a reason for the French defeat in the [Franco-Prussian War](#) (1870–1871). He thought the reason was that the French had not received proper physical education, and sought to improve this. Coubertin also thought of a way to bring nations closer together, to have the youth of the world compete in sports, rather than fight in war. In his eyes, the revival of the Olympic Games would achieve both of these goals.

In a congress at the [Sorbonne](#) university in [Paris](#) held from [June 16](#) to [June 23, 1894](#) he presented his ideas to an international audience. On the last day of the congress, it had been decided that the first modern Olympic Games would take place in 1896 in Athens, in the country of their birth. To organise the Games, the [International Olympic Committee](#) (IOC) was established, with the Greek [Demetrius Vikelas](#) as its first president.

[The first modern Olympic Games](#) were a success. Although the total number of athletes did not exceed 250, they had been the largest international sports event ever held. The Greek officials and public were also very enthusiastic, and they even proposed to be allowed to have the monopoly on organising the Olympics. The IOC decided differently, however, and the [second Olympic Games](#) took place in [Paris, France](#).

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Modern Olympics

In detail: [Summer Olympics](#), [Winter Olympics](#)

After the initial success, the Olympics struggled. The celebrations in [Paris \(1900\)](#) and [St. Louis \(1904\)](#) were overshadowed by the [world's fair](#) exhibitions in which they were included. The so-called [Intercalated Games](#) (because of their "off-year" status) were held in 1906 in Athens, as the first of an alternating series of Athens-held Olympics. Although originally the IOC recognised and supported these games, they are currently not recognised by the IOC as Olympic Games, which has given rise of the explanation of them being intended to mark the 10th anniversary of the Modern Olympics. Most contemporary Olympic historians, however, consider them to be official Olympic Games. Either way, the 1906 Games again attracted a broad international field of participants — in 1904, 80% had been American — and great public interest, thereby marking the beginning of a rise in popularity and size of the Games.

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Growth

From the 245 participants from 15 nations in 1896, the Games grew to more than 10,500 competitors from 200 countries at the [2000 Sydney Olympics](#). The number of competitors at the Winter Olympics is much smaller than at the summer edition; 2,400 athletes competed at the [2002 Winter Olympics](#) in [Salt Lake City](#) in 78 events.

With over 16,000 broadcasters and journalists present in Sydney, the Olympics are one of the largest media events, together with the [Football World Cup](#). In 2000, an estimated 3.8 billion viewers watched the Olympics on [television](#). The growth of the Olympics is the largest problem the Olympics face today. Although allowing professional athletes and attracting sponsorships from major international companies solved financial problems in the 1980s, the large number of athletes, media and spectators makes it difficult and expensive for host cities to organise the Olympics.

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Membership

Over 200 countries currently participate in the Olympics. This is noticeably higher number than the number of countries recognized by the [United Nations](#), which is only 192. This is because the International Olympic Committee allows nations to compete which do not meet the strict requirements for political sovereignty that many other international organizations demand. As a result, many colonies and dependencies are permitted to host their own Olympic teams and athletes even if such competitors hold the same citizenship as another member nation. Examples of this include territories such as [Puerto Rico](#), [Bermuda](#), and [Hong Kong](#), all of which compete as sovereign nations despite the fact that politically they are considered part of another country and their residents do not carry citizenship from that nation. Also, since 1980, [Taiwan](#) has competed under the name "[Chinese Taipei](#)", and under a flag specially prepared by the IOC (prior to that year the [People's Republic of China](#) refused to participate in the Games because Taiwan had been competing under the name "[Republic of China](#)").

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Political interference

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War

Despite what Coubertin had hoped for, the Olympics did not stop wars from happening. In fact, three [Olympiads](#) had to pass without Olympics because of war — due to [World War I](#) the 1916 Games were cancelled, and because of [World War II](#) the games of 1940 and 1944 were also skipped.

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Deaths

In 1972, when the Summer Games were held in [Munich, West Germany](#), eleven members of the [Israeli](#) Olympic team were taken hostage by [Palestinian terrorists](#). A failed liberation attempt led to the deaths of all of the abducted athletes, along with five of the terrorists and a policeman. This event is known today as the [Munich Massacre](#).

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Politics

Politics also interfered with the Olympics on several other occasions, the most well-known of which were the [1936 Summer Olympics](#) in [Berlin](#), which were used as [propaganda](#) by the German [Nazis](#).

A political incident on a smaller scale occurred at the [1968 Summer Olympics](#) in [Mexico City](#). Two [African-American](#) track-and-field athletes, [Tommie Smith](#) and [John Carlos](#),

advertised domestic political views in staging a protest against [racism](#) in the [United States](#) on the victory stand of the 200 m [track and field](#) race. As a result, the IOC told the USOC to either send the two athletes home, or to withdraw the complete track and field team. The USOC opted for the former.

In 1963, various newly-independent nations set up a challenge to the IOC called [GANEF0](#) (Games of the New Emerging Forces), which openly espoused politics in sport. The IOC declared participants in GANEFO as [persona non grata](#) for the Olympic Games.

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Boycott

Five Summer Olympics, starting with [Mexico 1968](#) were marred by boycotts.

In 1968, 1972, and 1976 a large number of African countries threatened the IOC with a boycott, to force them to ban respectively [South Africa](#), [Rhodesia](#), and [New Zealand](#). Twice the IOC gave in, but for the [1976 Olympics](#) they refused, and the African countries did not take part.

Also in 1976, [Canada](#) told the team from [Taiwan](#) that it could not compete at the Montreal Summer Olympics under the name '[Republic of China](#)'. Taiwan refused and did not participate as a result.

In [1980](#) and [1984](#) the cold war opponents boycotted each other's games. The [United States](#) and several other Western nations refused to compete at the [Moscow Olympics in 1980](#), for reason of the [Soviet invasion of Afghanistan](#). The Soviet Union and most of its Eastern Bloc partners countered by skipping the [Los Angeles Olympics in 1984](#), arguing the safety of their athletes could not be guaranteed there.

In [1988](#), [North Korea](#) boycotted the [Seoul Olympics in 1988](#) along with a couple of other nations.

Another boycott, but on a smaller scale has been performed by [Iran](#) over the years. Since Iran does not acknowledge the existence of [Israel](#) it does not allow its athletes to compete against Israeli, resulting in a series of "injuries" and similar reasons for refusing to compete. During the [2004 Summer Games](#) at [Athens, Greece](#) for the first time this happened at the Olympics, as in a [judo](#) event [Arash Miresmaeili](#) intentionally overate, to avoid having to face [Israeli Ehud Vaks](#).

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Olympic Movement

A number of organisations are involved in organising the Olympic Games. Together they form the Olympic Movement. The rules and guidelines by which these organisations operate are outlined in the [Olympic Charter](#).

At the heart of the Olympic Movement is the [International Olympic Committee](#) (IOC), currently headed by [Jacques Rogge](#). It can be seen as the government of the Olympics, as it takes care of the daily problems and takes all important decisions, such as the host city of the Games and the programme of the Olympics.

Three groups of organisations operate on a more specialised level:

- International Federations (IFs), the governing bodies of a sport (e.g. [FIFA](#), the IF for [football \(soccer\)](#))
- National Olympic Committees (NOCs), which regulates the Olympic Movement within one country (e.g. [USOC](#), the NOC of the [United States](#))
- Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs) which take care of the organisation of a specific celebration of the Olympics.

At present 202 NOCs and 35 IFs are part of the Olympic Movement. OCOGs are dissolved after the celebration of the Games, when all subsequent paperwork has been done.

More broadly speaking, the term Olympic Movement is sometimes also meant to include everybody and everything involved in the Olympics, such as national sport governing bodies, athletes, media and sponsors of the Olympic Games.

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Criticism

In the past, the IOC has often been criticised for being a monolithic organisation, with several members remaining a member at old age, or even until their deaths. Especially the leadership of IOC president [Juan Antonio Samaranch](#) has been strongly criticised. Under his presidency, the Olympic Movement made great progress, but has been seen as autocratic and corrupt. Samaranch's ties with the former [fascist](#) government in [Spain](#), and his long term as a president (21 years), until he was 81 years old, have also been points of critique.

In 1998, it became known that several IOC members had taken bribes from the organising committee for the [2002 Winter Olympics](#) in [Salt Lake City](#), in exchange for a vote on the city at the election of the host city. The IOC started an investigation, which led to four members resigning, and six being expelled.

The scandal set off further reforms, changing the way in which host cities are elected to avoid further bribes. Also, more active and former athletes were allowed in the IOC, and the membership terms have been limited.

A [BBC](#) documentary aired in August 2004 entitled [Panorama: "Buying the Games"](#) investigated the taking of bribes in the bidding process for the [2012 Summer Olympics](#). The documentary claimed it is possible to bribe IOC members into voting for a particular candidate city. In particular [Bulgaria](#)'s member Ivan Slavkov and Muttaleb Ahmad from the Olympic Council of Asia were implicated. They denied the allegations.

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Olympic symbols

In detail: [Olympic symbols](#)



The five Olympic rings debuted at the Games at [Antwerp, 1920](#).

The Olympic movement uses many symbols, most of them representing Coubertin's ideas and ideals. The best known symbol is probably that of the [Olympic Rings](#). These five intertwined rings represent the unity of the five continents. They appear in five colours on a white field on the [Olympic Flag](#). These colours, white (for the field), red, blue, green, yellow, and black (for the rings), were chosen such that each nation had at least one of these colours in its national flag. The flag was adopted in [1914](#), but the first Games it flew at was [Antwerp, 1920](#). It is hoisted at each celebration of the Games.

The official [Olympic Motto](#) is "Citius, Altius, Fortius", a [Latin](#) phrase meaning "Swifter, Higher, Stronger". Coubertin's ideals are probably best illustrated by the [Olympic Creed](#):

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

The [Olympic Flame](#) is lighted in Olympia and brought to the host city by runners carrying the torch in relay. There it plays an important role in the opening ceremonies. Though torches have played a part historically, the relay was introduced in [1936](#).

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Opening ceremonies



Opening ceremonies climax with the lighting of the Olympic Flame. For lighting the torch, modern games feature elaborate mechanisms such as this cauldron-spiral-cauldron arrangement lit by the [1980 U.S. Olympic ice hockey team](#) at the [2002 Winter Olympics](#).

Many traditional elements frame the opening ceremonies of a celebration of the Olympic Games. The ceremonies typically start with the performing of the host country's national anthem. The traditional part of the ceremonies starts with a parade of nations, during which most participating athletes march into the stadium country by country. One honoured athlete, typically a top competitor, from each country carries the flag of his or her nation leading the entourage of other athletes from that country. Traditionally (starting at the [1928 Summer Olympics](#)) Greece marches first, because of their historical status as the origin of the Olympics, while the host nation marches last. (Exceptionally, in 2004 when the Games were held in Greece, Greece marched last as host nation rather than first, although the [Flag of Greece](#) was carried in first.) Between these two, all other participating nations march in alphabetical order of the dominant language of the host country, or in English alphabetical order if the host country does not write its dominant language using an alphabet. After all nations have entered, the president of the host country's Olympic Organizing Committee makes a speech, followed by the IOC president, who at the end of his speech, introduces the organizing country's head of state, who in turn formally opens the Olympics.

Next, the [Olympic Anthem](#) is played, and the Olympic flag rises in the stadium. Then, the flag bearers of all countries circle around a rostrum, where one athlete (since the [1920 Summer Olympics](#)) and one referee (since the [1972 Summer Olympics](#)) speak the [Olympic Oath](#), declaring they will compete and judge according to the rules. Finally, the penultimate runner in the [Olympic Flame](#) relay brings a torch into the stadium, passing the flame to the last carrier. The last carrier of the torch, often a well-known athlete from the host nation, then lights the fire in the stadium's cauldron. (The Olympic Flame has been lit since the [1928 Summer Olympics](#), but the torch relay didn't start until the [1936 Summer Olympics](#).) The lighting of the Olympic Flame is followed by the release of [doves](#), symbolising peace; this was first done at the post-[World War I 1920 Summer](#)

[Olympics](#) and discontinued after several doves were burned alive in the Olympic Flame during the [1988 Summer Olympics](#) opening.

Apart from these traditional elements, the host nation ordinarily presents artistic displays of dance and theatre representative of that country.

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Closing ceremonies

The closing ceremonies are not as structured as the opening ceremonies. The athletes also march into the stadium, but they march in random order, not divided by country. The Olympic fire is then extinguished, and the Olympic flag is lowered, folded, and presented to the mayor of the host city of the next Olympic Games. The IOC president ends the ceremonies by declaring the Games closed.

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Olympic sports

In detail: [Olympic sports](#)

At the 2004 Olympics, events were held in 28 sports, per the IOC count. If one splits up sports such as [aquatics](#), there were 37 different sports. Only five sports have been on the Olympic programme since 1896: [athletics](#) (track and field), [cycling](#), [fencing](#), [gymnastics](#) and [swimming](#). If the 1896 [rowing](#) events had not been cancelled due to bad weather, they would have been included in this list as well.

At the most recent Winter Olympics, 7 sports were conducted, or 15 if one splits up sports such as [skiing](#) and [skating](#). Of these, [cross country skiing](#), [figure skating](#), [ice hockey](#), [nordic combined](#), [ski jumping](#) and [speed skating](#) have featured on the programme at all Winter Olympics. In addition, figure skating and ice hockey have also been contested as part of the Summer Games before introduction of separate Winter Olympics.

In recent years, the IOC has added several new sports to the programme to attract attention from young spectators. Examples of such sports include [snowboarding](#) and [beach volleyball](#). The growth of the Olympics also means that some less popular ([modern pentathlon](#)) or expensive (white water [canoeing](#)) sports have to fear for their place on the Olympic programme. Although no sports have been excluded from the programme since the 1920s, the IOC has indicated it may do so after the 2008 Games if sports no longer fit in the programme.

Until 1992, the Olympics often also featured so-called demonstration sports. The objective was for these sports to reach a big audience through the Olympics; the winners of these events are not properly Olympic champions. These sports were sometimes sports only popular in the host nation, but also internationally known sports have been

demonstrated. Some demonstration sports, such as [baseball](#) and [curling](#) were eventually included as full-medal events.

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Amateurism and professionalism

In Coubertin's vision, athletes should be gentlemen. As in most cases only amateurs were considered such, professional athletes were not allowed to compete in the Olympic Games. The exception to this were the fencing instructors, who were indeed expected to be gentlemen. This exclusion of professionals has caused several controversies throughout the history of the modern Olympics.

1912 Olympic [pentathlon](#) and [decathlon](#) champion [Jim Thorpe](#) was disqualified when it was discovered that he played semi-professional [baseball](#) prior to winning his medals (he was restored by the IOC in 1983). Twenty-four years later, Swiss and Austrian skiers boycotted the [1936 Winter Olympics](#) in support of their skiing teachers, who were not allowed to compete because they were considered to be professionals, earning money with their sport.

It gradually became clear to many that the amateurism rules had become outdated. For example, many athletes from [East European](#) nations were officially employed by the government, but effectively given opportunity to train all day, thereby only being amateurs in name. Nevertheless, the IOC held on to amateurism.

In the [1980s](#), amateurism regulations were relaxed, and eventually completely abolished in the [1990s](#). This switch was perhaps best exemplified by the American [Dream Team](#), composed of well paid [NBA](#) stars, which won the Olympic gold medal in [basketball](#) in 1992. [As of 2004](#), the only sport in which no professionals compete is [boxing](#); in [football](#) the number of players over 23 years of age is limited to three per team.

Advertisement regulations are still very strict, at least on the actual playing field, although "Official Olympic Sponsors" are common. Athletes are only allowed to have the names of clothing and equipment manufacturers on their outfit. The sizes of these markings are limited.

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Doping

One of the major problems facing the Olympics (and international sports in general) is [doping](#), or performance enhancing drugs. In the early 20th century, many Olympic athletes used drugs to enhance their performance. For example, the winner of the [marathon](#) at the [1904 Games](#), [Thomas Hicks](#), was given [strychnine](#) and [brandy](#) by his coach, even during the race.

As these methods became more extreme, gradually the awareness grew that this was no longer a matter of health through sports. The first olympic death caused by doping occurred in 1960. At the games in Rome the danish Knut Enemark Jensen fell from his bicycle and died. As was later established he had been doped with amphetamines.

In the mid-1960s that sports federations put a ban on doping, and the IOC followed suit in 1967. The first Olympic athlete to test positive for doping use was [Hans-Gunnar Liljenwall](#), a Swedish [pentathlete](#) at the [1968 Summer Olympics](#), who lost his bronze medal for alcohol use. More than fifty athletes followed him over the next 34 years, several medal winners among them. The most publicised doping-related disqualification was that of [Canadian](#) sprinter [Ben Johnson](#), who won the 100 m at the [1988 Seoul Olympics](#), but tested positive for [stanozolol](#).

Despite the tests, many athletes used doping without being caught. In 1990, documents were revealed that showed many [East German](#) athletes, especially women, had been administered [anabolic steroids](#) and other drugs by their coaches and trainers, as a government policy.

In the late [1990s](#), the IOC took initiative in a more organised battle against doping, leading to the formation of the [World Anti-Doping Agency](#) (WADA) in 1999. The 2000 and 2002 Olympics showed that the battle is not nearly over, as several medallists in weightlifting and cross-country skiing were disqualified after doping offences.

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Olympic champions and medallists

In detail: [Olympic medallists](#)



With 10 Olympic titles, [Ray Ewry](#) may be considered the most successful Olympic athlete in history.

For all events held at the Olympic Games, a classification is made up. The athletes (or teams) who place first, second, or third receive medals. The winners receive what are called "gold medals". (Though they used to indeed be of solid [gold](#), they are now actually [gilded](#) silver, making the description somewhat inaccurate.) The runners-up receive [silver](#) medals, and the third-place athletes [bronze](#) medals. In some events contested by a [single-elimination tournament](#) (most notably [boxing](#)), third place might not be determined, in which case both semi-final losers receive bronze medals. The practice of awarding medals to the top three competitors was introduced in [1904](#); at the [1896 Olympics](#) only the first two received a medal, silver and bronze, while various prizes were awarded in [1900](#). However, the [1904 Olympics](#) also awarded silver trophies for first place, which makes [Athens 1906](#) the first games that awarded the three medals only. In addition, from [1948](#) onward athletes placing fourth, fifth and sixth have received certificates which became officially known as "victory diplomas;" since [1976](#) the medal winners have received these also, and in [1984](#) victory diplomas for seventh- and eighth-place finishers were added, presumably to ensure that all losing quarterfinalists in events using single-elimination formats would receive diplomas, thus obviating the need for consolation (or officially, "classification") matches to determine fifth through eighth places (though interestingly these latter are still contested in many elimination events anyway). Certificates were awarded also at the 1896 Olympics, but there they were awarded in addition to the medals to first and second place. Commemorative medals and diplomas — which differ in design from those referred to above — are also made available to participants finishing lower than third and eighth respectively.

Because the Olympics are held only once every four years, the public and athletes often consider them as more important and valuable than world championships and other international tournaments, which are often held annually. Many athletes have become celebrities or heroes in their own country, or even world-wide, after becoming Olympic champion.

The diversity of the sports, and the great differences between the Olympic Games in 1896 and today make it difficult to decide which athlete is the most successful Olympic athlete of all times. When measuring by the number of titles won, the following athletes may be considered the most successful:

Athlete (Nation)	Sport	Olympics	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Ray Ewry (USA)	Athletics	1900–1908	10	0	0	10
Larissa Latynina (URS)	Gymnastics	1956–1964	9	5	4	18
Paavo Nurmi (FIN)	Athletics	1920–1928	9	3	0	12
Mark Spitz (USA)	Swimming	1968–1972	9	1	1	11
Carl Lewis (USA)	Athletics	1984–1996	9	1	0	10

Bjørn Dæhlie (NOR)	Cross-country skiing	1992–1998	8	4	0	12
Birgit Fischer (Germany)	Canoeing	1980–2004	8	4	0	12
Sawao Kato (JPN)	Gymnastics	1968–1976	8	3	1	12
Jenny Thompson (USA)	Swimming	1992–2004	8	3	1	12
Matt Biondi (USA)	Gymnastics	1984–1992	8	2	1	11

In the above table, the results of the [1906 Olympics](#) have been included; without these, Ray Ewry would move down to 10th position, as he won two of his titles at those [Intercalated Games](#).

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Locations of Modern Olympic Games

The table below gives an overview of all host cities of both the Olympic Summer Games (Games of the Olympiad) and Winter Games. Only actual host cities are listed. Click on the year to get more detailed information about the host city election for those Olympics.

Games of the Olympiad (Summer)			Winter Games		
Games	<i>Host city (and state or province if U.S. or Canada)</i>	<i>Country</i>	Games	<i>Host city (and state or province if U.S. or Canada)</i>	<i>Country</i>
1896	Athens	Greece	—		
1900	Paris	France	—		
1904	St. Louis, Missouri	United States	—		
1906	Athens	Greece	—		
1908	London	Great Britain	—		
1912	Stockholm	Sweden	—		
1920	Antwerp	Belgium	—		
1924	Paris	France	1924	Chamonix	France
1928	Amsterdam	Netherlands	1928	St Moritz	Switzerland
1932	Los Angeles, California	United States	1932	Lake Placid, New York	United States
1936	Berlin	Germany	1936	Garmisch-Partenkirchen	Germany
1948	London	Great Britain	1948	St Moritz	Switzerland
1952	Helsinki	Finland	1952	Oslo	Norway
1956	Melbourne	Australia	1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo	Italy
1960	Rome	Italy	1960	Squaw Valley, California	United States
1964	Tokyo	Japan	1964	Innsbruck	Austria

1968	Mexico City	Mexico	1968	Grenoble	France
1972	Munich	West Germany	1972	Sapporo	Japan
1976	Montreal, Quebec	Canada	1976	Innsbruck	Austria
1980	Moscow	Soviet Union	1980	Lake Placid, New York	United States
1984	Los Angeles, California	United States	1984	Sarajevo	Yugoslavia
1988	Seoul	South Korea	1988	Calgary, Alberta	Canada
1992	Barcelona	Spain	1992	Albertville	France
—			1994	Lillehammer	Norway
1996	Atlanta, Georgia	United States	—		
—			1998	Nagano	Japan
2000	Sydney	Australia	—		
—			2002	Salt Lake City, Utah	United States
2004	Athens	Greece	—		
—			2006	Turin	Italy
2008	Beijing	People's Republic of China	—		
—			2010	Vancouver, British Columbia	Canada
2012		To be announced July 6, 2005	—		

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Related topics

- [Ancient Olympic Games](#)
- [International Society of Olympic Historians](#)
- [Paralympic Games](#)
- [Art competitions at the Olympic Games](#)
- [Olympic Museum](#)

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External links

- [Official website of the Olympic Movement](http://www.olympic.org) (<http://www.olympic.org>)
- [Official website of the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens](http://www.athens2004.com) (<http://www.athens2004.com>)
- [Story of Pelops, mythical king of Olympia honored by the ancient games](http://www.haidukpress.com/tantalus/index.html) (<http://www.haidukpress.com/tantalus/index.html>)
- [Article on Rising Costs to Host the Olympic Games](http://mutualfunds.about.com/od/news/a/2004_olympics.htm) (http://mutualfunds.about.com/od/news/a/2004_olympics.htm)
- [Olympic Watch: Human Rights in China and Beijing 2008](http://www.olympicwatch.org) (<http://www.olympicwatch.org>)
- [Olympic Information Center by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles](http://www.aafla.org/6oic/over_frmst.htm) (http://www.aafla.org/6oic/over_frmst.htm) – Includes a primer on the Olympic Games, and many historical documents on the Olympic Games are presented in digital form.
- [Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol](http://wipo.int/clea/docs/en/wo/wo018en.htm) (<http://wipo.int/clea/docs/en/wo/wo018en.htm>)

Olympic Games

Summer Olympic Games

[1896](#) | [1900](#) | [1904](#) | [1906*](#) | [1908](#) | [1912](#) | [1916](#) | [1920](#) | [1924](#) | [1928](#)
| [1932](#) | [1936](#) | [1940](#) | [1944](#) | [1948](#) | [1952](#) | [1956](#) | [1960](#) | [1964](#) | [1968](#)
| [1972](#) | [1976](#) | [1980](#) | [1984](#) | [1988](#) | [1992](#) | [1996](#) | [2000](#) | [2004](#) | [2008](#)
| [2012](#) | [2016](#)

Winter Olympic Games

[1924](#) | [1928](#) | [1932](#) | [1936](#) | [1948](#) | [1952](#) | [1956](#) | [1960](#) | [1964](#) | [1968](#) |
[1972](#) | [1976](#) | [1980](#) | [1984](#) | [1988](#) | [1992](#) | [1994](#) | [1998](#) | [2002](#) | [2006](#) |
[2010](#) | [2014](#) | [2018](#)

*The 1906 Olympic were organised by the [IOC](#), but are currently not officially recognised by the IOC.

