

# Edinburgh is the first stop on Scottish leg of Queen's Baton Relay



## EDINBURGH REVEALS THE GLASGOW 2014 QUEEN'S BATON RELAY ROUTE

- Edinburgh will be the first port of call in Scotland for the baton on Saturday 14 June 2014
- A programme of celebrations will include chance to see the baton across Edinburgh communities, concerts in Princes Street Gardens and at the Usher Hall, a family school run event and chance to try Commonwealth Games sports at Meadowbank
- Today the City of Edinburgh Council launches [Glasgow 2014 in Edinburgh](#) an information hub on how to join in Edinburgh Commonwealth Games celebrations

The 36 mile route of the Edinburgh leg of the Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay has been revealed today by The City of Edinburgh Council and Commonwealth Games organisers.

The relay in Edinburgh, which will mark the start of the baton's 40 day tour of Scotland ahead of The Commonwealth Games, will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to cheer on the baton and join in community celebrations on Saturday 14 June 2014.

The Queen's Baton will be carried through Edinburgh by over 100 batonbearers who have been nominated in recognition of their contributions to sport, community and youth projects, including representatives from the city's secondary schools.

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion for The City of Edinburgh Council, said: “The relay will be a fantastic opportunity for people to take to the streets to show their support for our batonbearers and celebrate Edinburgh’s part to play in the Commonwealth Games.

“It is great that the Queen’s Baton will travel throughout the Capital and into the many communities that make this city so unique.

“As host of the 1970 and 1986 Games, and co-host of this year’s diving event at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, it is fitting that the baton will be brought home to Edinburgh – the only city in the world to welcome Commonwealth Games events for a third time

“I urge everyone to get into the spirit of the Games and join in the Edinburgh celebrations on Saturday 14 June.”

To signal the start of the relay celebrations in Edinburgh, a Gala Classical Concert will be held at the **Usher Hall** on the evening of Friday 13 June. Entitled **Edinburgh Raises The Baton**, the concert features the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union, and the acclaimed pianist Stephen Hough.

On Saturday 14 June, the day of the relay in Edinburgh, crowds will get the first glimpse of the Queen’s Baton as it is arrives at **Heriot-Watt University**, chosen as the site for Scotland’s National Performance Centre for Sport. To celebrate, the Centre will be hosting sports activities for all the family including Gaelic football, dancing and tennis, events for children including a bouncy castle and face painting, as well as community and farmers markets. Further details are available on the [Heriot-Watt website](#).



The relay will move to **Murrayfield Stadium** where it will board a **tram** to make its way to the city centre, taking in **Edinburgh Castle**, where a 21 gun salute at 12:00 noon will mark the Queen's official birthday celebrations.

The baton will then travel down the **Royal Mile** to **Holyrood Palace** where it will signal the start of the City of Edinburgh Council's School Run Event, which is supported by Games for Scotland and supermarket chain Scotmid.

**The School Run** is a unique event encouraging school age children of all abilities to play their part in relay day over a 2.2km route through Holyrood Park and run, jog or walk side by side with sporting stars to raise money for community and school sports facilities. Young people can sign up to the run through their schools.

Both the School Run and the Queen's Baton Relay will then pass through Holyrood Park to **Meadowbank Sports Centre and Stadium**, the home of Edinburgh's previous Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. At Meadowbank, the Council's free '**Tryathon**' event will take place with the opportunity for budding sports stars to try their hand at Commonwealth Games sports and cheer the arrival of the Queen's Baton.



The relay will then take in more of Edinburgh's communities including **Leith**, the **Portobello Promenade** and **Duddingston**, before the baton is received at the **Royal Commonwealth Pool** where a spectacular diving demonstration will be held.

To celebrate the end of the relay, a **community concert** will be held on Saturday evening at the Ross Band Stand in **Princes Street Gardens** so that even bigger crowds can take part in the festivities. Further details on the concert, which will be free but ticketed, will be available closer to the date. Tickets can be reserved from Friday 16 May through the Usher Hall website and box office.

On Sunday June 15, the Queen's Baton will travel to **South Queensferry**. The Baton will then visit all other local authorities in Scotland.



Cabinet Secretary for Commonwealth Games Ms Robison, said:-  
“The Queen's Baton Relay is an exciting and dynamic countdown to the Games and offers the perfect opportunity for communities across the whole of Scotland to share in the pride and excitement of what look to be the best and most successful Games ever.

“When the Baton arrives into Scotland and the Capital on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, I urge everyone to join in with the celebrations and events across Edinburgh, and surrounds, and in particular to come out and support the wide range of inspirational batonbearers as they carry this enduring symbol of the Games in their local areas.”

Nick Finnigan, Executive Manager of Edinburgh Castle said:  
“Edinburgh Castle has witnessed many hundreds of years of history and continues to provide a spectacular backdrop for history in the making today.

“We are delighted to be welcoming the Queen's Baton relay to the castle, and I am sure that its arrival will provide a great spectacle for visitors to the castle.”

Professor Steve Chapman, Principal of Heriot-Watt University, said: “We are very pleased that the first Scottish leg of the Baton Relay is through our Edinburgh Campus and right past what will be the site for the new National Performance Centre for Sport.”