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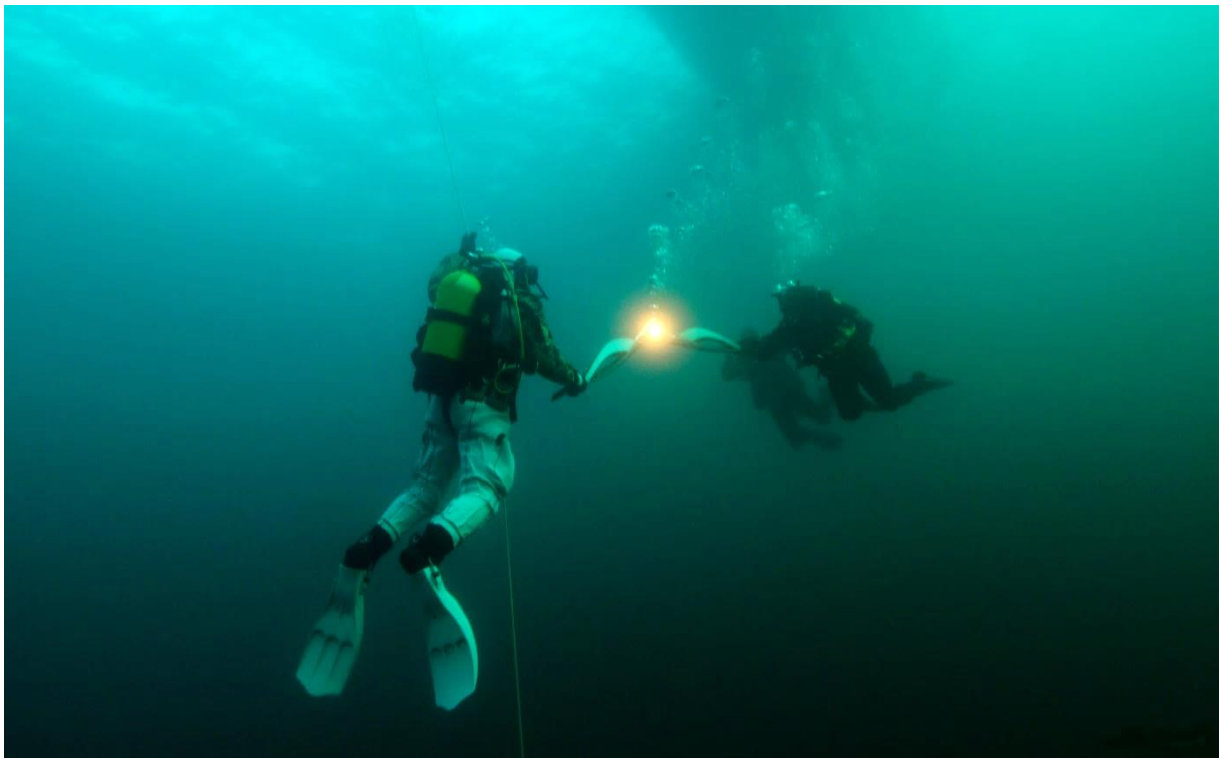
Olympic Studies Centre

Torches and Torch Relays of the Olympic Winter Games from Oslo 1952 to Sochi 2014

Reference Document

Presentation and visuals of the Olympic torches. Facts and figures on the Torch Relay for each edition.

November 2014



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Introduction

The torch relay is an integral part of the modern Olympic Games. The numerous festivities organised along the relay route announce the coming of the Games and allow the general public to share the Olympic spirit. The first Olympic torch relay was held for the 1936 Summer Games in Berlin. For the Winter Games, it was not until 1952 in Oslo that the first relay was held. Since then, the tradition has been continued for each edition of the Games.

Although the flame is traditionally transported on foot (e.g. Berlin 1936 and London 1948), the means of transport have become increasingly varied, not just for practical reasons but also to adapt to the characteristics of the regions crossed. Gondola, snowmobile, dogsled, tractor, horse, camel and even undersea diver: every conceivable means of transport has been tried out for the flame.

To maintain the link with ancient tradition, the flame is lit in Olympia in Greece using the ancient method, namely a parabolic mirror which concentrates the sun's rays. Of all the Games featuring a torch relay, only the first three relays organised for the Winter Games did not begin in Olympia: Oslo 1952, Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 and Squaw Valley 1960.

On Greek territory, responsibility for the flame lies with the Hellenic Olympic Committee, which organises the lighting ceremony in Olympia and usually the part of the relay as far as Athens. At a special ceremony in the city, usually at the Panathenaic Stadium, the flame is handed to representatives of the Organising Committee, who then arrange for it to be transported to the host city via a route determined by the theme of the relay. The aim is also to bring the flame to as many people as possible. Today, the relay theme is also reflected in the logistics and visual identity, from the torchbearers' outfits to the community celebration cauldrons in each town where the flame spends the night. In this way, while remaining true to tradition, the relay is constantly renewed and reinterpreted.

One of the most emblematic elements of the relay is naturally the torch used to pass the flame from one runner to the next. Each torch has a unique design born from the imagination of its creators. The first torches had a classical feel, but gradually, with the arrival of designers like Philippe Starck or Pininfarina (Albertville 1992, Turin 2006), they have evolved towards more modern concepts. The torch is not just a work of art; it is also a technological instrument, as its designers must also ensure that the flame continues to burn whatever the weather conditions.

Although less symbolic than the torch, the safety lamps contains a back-up of the Olympic flame and are generally similar to miners' lamps.

The relay ends with the lighting of the main cauldron in the stadium at the opening ceremony. The scenario for the lighting and the identity of the final torchbearers are a closely guarded secret until the last moment.

This document presents the torches and the relays for each edition of the Winter Games, with visuals and route maps.

Relive the epic journeys of the Olympic flame in the following pages!





Oslo 1952



TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch consisted of a cylindrical handle topped with a flat oval bowl engraved with the Olympic rings and the year 1952 as well as the words <i>Morgedal-Oslo</i> linked by an arrow.
Colour	Silver and gold
Length	22 cm (handle only)
Composition	Brass and steel alloy
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	Geir Grung / Adolf Thoresen

Find out more about [Oslo 1952](http://olympic.org/Oslo1952) on olympic.org.

**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	13 February 1952, Morgedal (Norway)
End date	15 February 1952, Bislett Stadium, Oslo (Norway)
First torchbearer	A representative of the third generation of the well known Hemmestveit skiing family.
Last torchbearer	Eigil Nansen, grandson of the famous Norwegian explorer, Fridtjof Nansen
Number of torchbearers	94 skiers
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	~225 km
Countries visited	Norway

Route design and details

The flame was “symbolic” rather than “Olympic”, as it was not lit at Olympia. The route of the relay was designed to commemorate the origins of skiing.

It was at the house of Sondre Norheim, a Norwegian skiing legend of the 19th century, that Olav Bjaaland, one of the members of the 1911 South Pole expedition, kindled at Morgedal (county of Telemark) a “symbolic Nordic” flame. This was a way of recalling that torches had long been used in Norway to allow skiers to see their way in the dark. In addition, the county of Telemark, and Morgedal in particular, were regarded as the cradle of slalom and ski jumping. Indeed, some of the great names in Norwegian skiing had come from there, like the Svalastoga and Hemmestveit brothers. The latter had created the world’s first ski school, in Oslo. Modern competition skis are also based on the skis from Telemark.

On the same day, the torch was carried to the monument to Sondre Norheim in Morgedal. The next day, it was taken to the house of Birger Ruud, a famous Norwegian skier; and on the following day to the Huseby hill, a former competition venue west of Oslo.

At the Opening Ceremony, the last torchbearer, Eigil Nansen, carried the torch around the Bislett Stadium on skis before removing them and climbing the stairs to light the cauldron, where the flame would burn throughout the Games.



DID YOU KNOW?

- This was the first torch relay in the history of the Olympic Winter Games. Symbolic fires were lit for the Winter Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1936 and St Moritz in 1948. However, these fires were not brought by relay.





Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch was based on the same model as that for the 1948 Summer Games in London and the 1956 Summer Games in Melbourne. It bore the inscription <i>VII Giochi Invernali Cortina 1956</i> and the Olympic rings on the upper part.
Colour	Silver
Length	47 cm
Composition	Metal
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	Ralph Lavers / -

Find out more about [Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956](http://olympic.org/Cortina-d-Ampezzo-1956) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	22 January 1956, Rome (Italy)
End date	26 January 1956, Ice Stadium, Cortina d'Ampezzo (Italy)
First torchbearer	Adolfo Consolini, Olympic participant in athletics (1948, 1952, 1956, 1960), gold medallist in London 1948 and silver medallist in Helsinki 1952.
Last torchbearer	Guido Caroli, Olympic participant in speed skating (1948, 1952, 1956)
Number of torchbearers	-
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	-
Countries visited	Italy

Route design and details

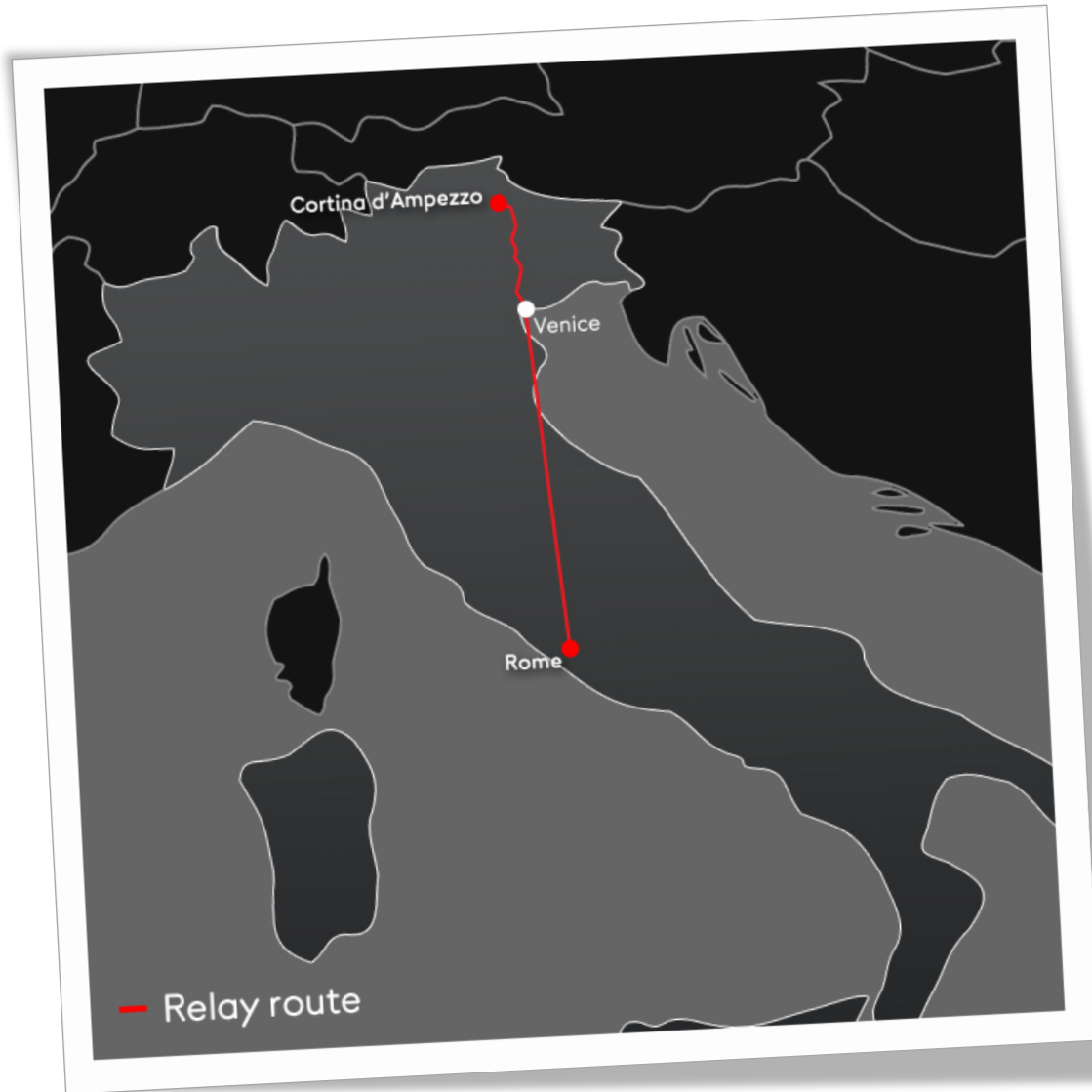
Strictly speaking, the flame was not "Olympic", as it was lit in Rome rather than at Olympia in Greece.

On 22 January 1956, the flame was lit on the steps of the Temple of Capitoline Jove in Rome, in a tripod from Olympia. It was carried in a brasero to the top of the steps outside the Senatorial Palace. The first torchbearer set off from there. The flame arrives at Ciampino airport and takes off for Venice.

From Venice, the flame travels by gondola to Mestre. From Mestre, the first stage of the relay taking it to Cortina is covered on roller skates.

On 25 January, the day before the Opening Ceremony, the flame was carried by skiers from Zuel, near Cortina, up to the Duca d'Aosta refuge, situated at 2,098m, where it spent the night.

On 26 January, the day the Games were opened, 1952 Olympic Winter gold medallist Zeno Colò carried the flame by skis to Cortina. Rockets were used to illuminate the flame's path along the valley. In Cortina, two other Olympians, Severino Menardi and Enrico Colli, took it in turns to carry the flame to the stadium. Once there, speed skater Guido Caroli skated with it into the packed Ice Stadium. The television cables he tripped over during his lap of the track did not prevent him from lighting the cauldron.







Squaw Valley 1960

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch recalls the model of Melbourne 1956, Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 and London in 1948. It bore the inscription <i>VIII Olympic Winter Games 1960 Olympia to Squaw Valley.</i>
Colour	Silver
Length	48.5 cm
Composition	Aluminium
Fuel	Bottled propane gas
Designer / Manufacturer	John Hench, Ralph Lavers / -

Find out more about the [Squaw Valley 1960](http://olympic.org/Squaw_Valley_1960) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	31 January 1960, Morgedal (Norway)
End date	18 February 1960, Blyth Memorial Arena, Squaw Valley (United States)
First torchbearer	Olav Nordskog, a young Norwegian skier
Last torchbearer	Kenneth Charles Henry, Olympic participant in speed skating (1948, 1952, 1956), gold medallist in Oslo 1952.
Number of torchbearers	More than 600
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	-
Countries visited	Norway, Denmark, United States

Route design and details

As for the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo, it was a “symbolic Nordic” flame lit in Morgedal in Norway in the hearth of the house where Sondre Norheim, the pioneer of modern skiing, was born.

The flame was originally to have been lit in Olympia. However, the Hellenic Olympic Committee, informed a month before the Games, did not have enough time to organise a lighting ceremony. Instead, the Organising Committee looked to Norway.

After being transported by car to Copenhagen via Oslo, the flame is flown to Los Angeles. From there, the relay takes it through California to Squaw Valley.

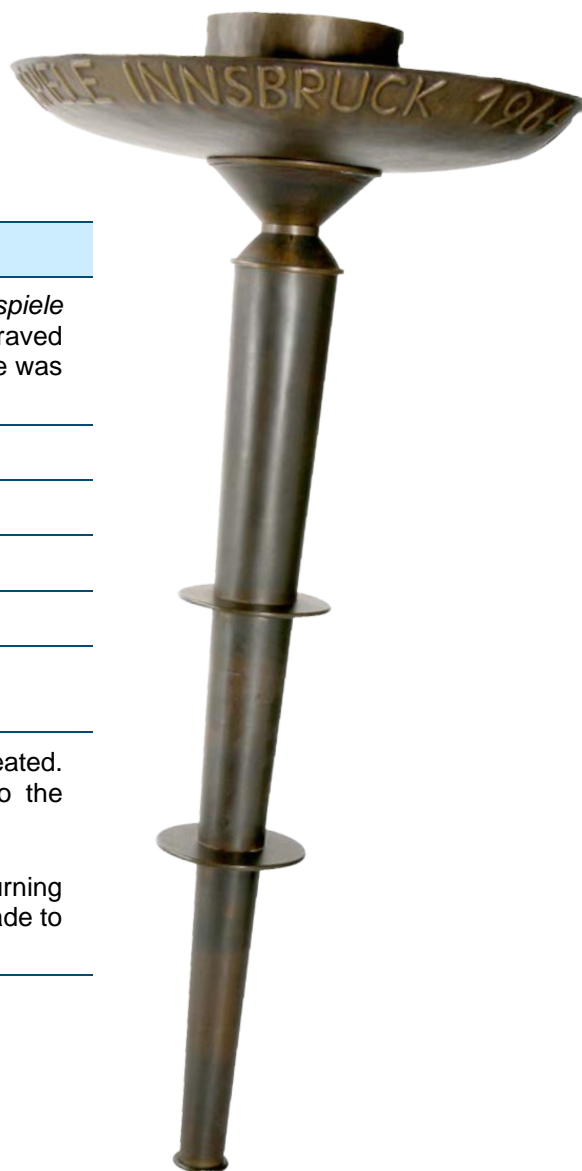
On the day of the Opening Ceremony, the torch was carried by American skier Andrea Mead Lawrence. She was accompanied by eight members of the National Ski Patrol. The flame was passed to the last torchbearer, skater Kenneth Charles Henry, who did a lap of the ice in front of the Blyth Memorial Arena before lighting the cauldron in which the flame would burn throughout the Games.







Innsbruck 1964



TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The inscription <i>IX. Olympische Winterspiele 1964</i> and the Olympic rings were engraved on the upper bowl-like part. The handle was conical with two bands.
Colour	Bronze
Length	61 cm
Composition	Brass
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	Ludwig Haselwanter / Anton Fritz
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A single original torch was created. After the Games, it was given to the last torchbearer, Josl Rieder.• Two silver safety lamps with a burning time of 22 hours were specially made to transport the flame.

Find out more about [Innsbruck 1964](https://olympic.org/en/games-events/olympic-winter-games/innsbruck-1964) on olympic.org.

**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	22 January 1964, Olympia (Greece)
End date	29 January 1964, Bergisel Stadium, Innsbruck (Austria)
First torchbearer	Dionyssis Kessaris
Last torchbearer	Josl Rieder, Olympic participant in alpine skiing (1956)
Number of torchbearers	Two in Austria. No total available for Greece.
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	-
Countries visited	Greece, Austria

Route design and details

After being lit in Olympia, the flame travels by car to Athens and remains overnight at the headquarters of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

On 23 January 1964, 16 relay runners take it to Hellenikon airport, from where it leaves for Vienna.

On 24 January, the flame arrived in Innsbruck by air from Vienna. It was on show to the public in the Maximilian Saal of the Imperial Palace, famous for its balcony with the Golden Roof, a symbol of the city entirely covered in gold tiles.

On 29 January, a group of athletes drove the flame to the Bergisel ski jump. From there, it was transferred using a piece of Greek wood from the safety lamp to the torch. At the Opening Ceremony, Alpine skier Christl Staffner passed the torch to Josl Rieder, who lit the cauldron. At the same time, a second cauldron was lit in front of the Ice Stadium.



DID YOU KNOW?

- This was the first time that it was an Olympic flame, lit in Olympia in Greece, which was used for the Winter Games.





Grenoble 1968

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch was made of copper, featuring a long narrow combustion chamber with a crenellated upper section. The handle was partly covered by a piece of cloth. The upper part bears the inscription <i>Xe Jeux Olympiques d'Hiver Grenoble 1968</i> .
Colour	Red and bronze
Length	70 cm
Composition	Textile and bronze alloy
Fuel	Propane gas. Each canister contained 280 grams, giving a burning time of more than two hours.
Designer / Manufacturer	- / Société technique d'équipements et de fournitures industrielles
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Organising Committee bought five miner's lamps, recognised as being suitable for use in mines where there was fire damp, to hold the flame during its transport by air. Fifteen lamps were also lent by the La Mure Colliery. The five lamps belonging to the Organising Committee featured an engraving of the Olympic rings and the inscription <i>Grenoble 1968</i>.

Find out more about [Grenoble 1968](http://olympic.org/Grenoble1968) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

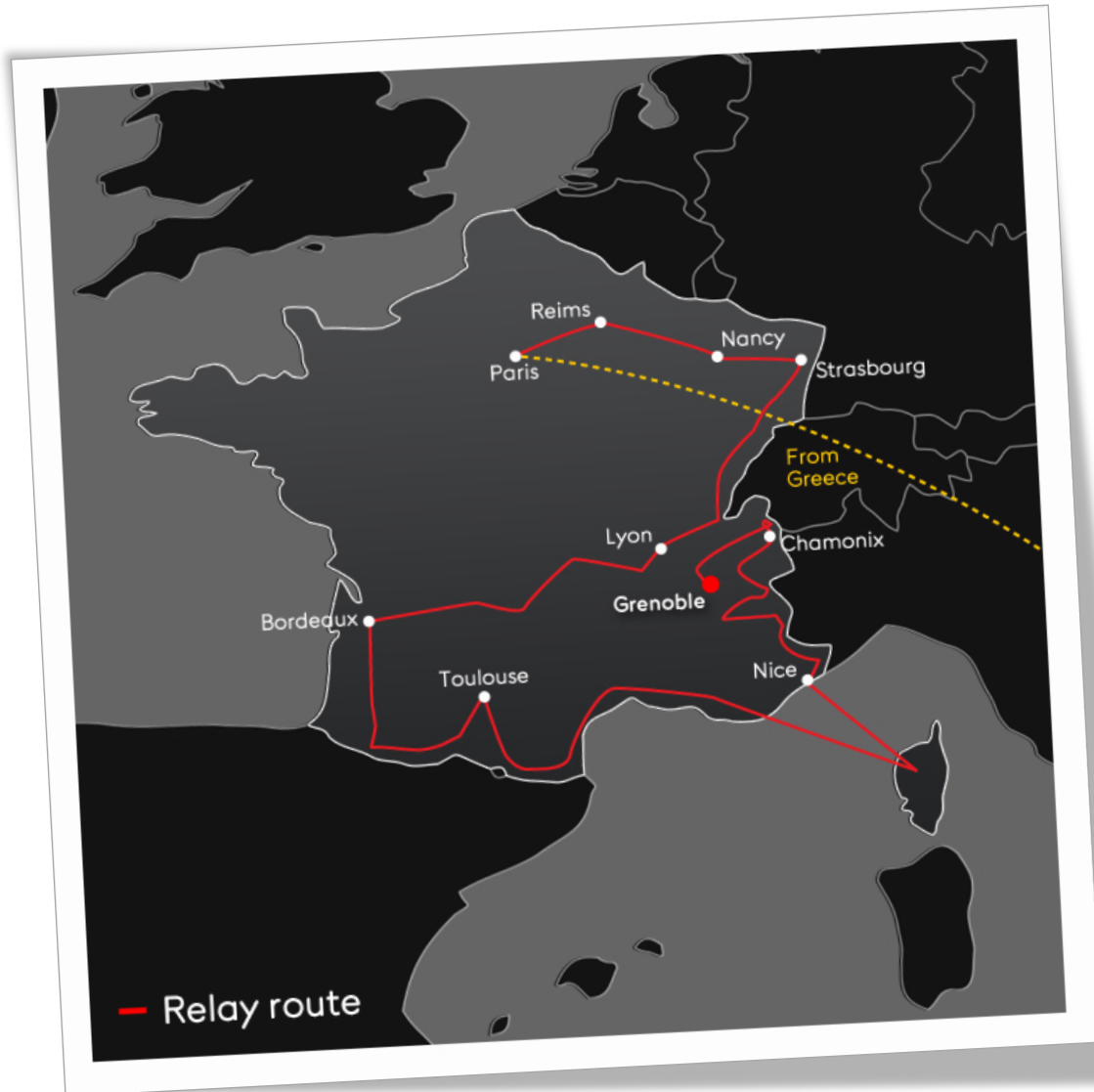
Start date	16 December 1967, Olympia (Greece)
End date	6 February 1968, Opening Stadium, Grenoble (France)
First torchbearer	Tassos Bahouros
Last torchbearer	Alain Calmat, Olympic participant in figure skating (1956, 1960, 1964), silver medallist in Innsbruck 1964.
Number of torchbearers	~5,000 in France
Recruitment of torchbearers	The first and last torchbearers were chosen by the Organising Committee's Sports Director, Colonel Marceau Crespin, and the Director General, Dr. Robert Héraut.
Distance	7,222 km in France Around 3,500 km were covered on foot; 1,600 on skis; 300 on horseback, bicycle or rowing boat; and 1,900 using mechanical means of transport (plane, helicopter, escort ship or vehicle).
Countries visited	Greece, France

Route design and details

The route focused on various sports centres in France, and the relay passed through the Jura and Vosges mountains, the Massif Central, the Pyrenees and the Alps, with a stop at Chamonix, host of the first ever Olympic Winter Games.

Lit in Olympia, the flame is taken to Mount Olympus, where a ceremony is held in its honour. It then reaches Athens and is flown to Paris. On 19 December 1967, it was Jean Vuarnet, a gold medallist at the Olympic Winter Games in Squaw Valley, who received the flame when it arrived at Paris-Orly airport. The first torchbearer in France was Alain Mimoun, a gold medal-winning distance runner at the 1956 Games in Melbourne and three-time Olympic silver medallist (London 1948 and Helsinki 1952).

At the Opening Ceremony, the organisers added a unique final touch to the relay by placing a microphone on the chest of the last runner, Alain Calmat. His heartbeat could be heard throughout the stadium as he climbed the steps towards the Olympic cauldron.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The Olympic cauldron was impressive, with a diameter of four metres and weighing 550 kg. Its three-metre wide dish had 70 burners. A helicopter transported and lifted it into place at the top of the tower at the Opening Stadium. The original plan was to extinguish the flame after the Opening Ceremony, but the organisers changed their minds when they realised that the flame could be seen from far away and encouraged the public to visit throughout the Games.
- The competition venues had their own, smaller cauldrons, 1.20m tall and 80cm in diameter, with a dish containing eight burners fed with propane by two sets of four bottles hidden in the base.
- For the Closing Ceremony, the flame from the Opening Stadium was transferred to the Ice Stadium in a chimney-shaped cauldron one metre in diameter and two metres tall.

Last update: November 2014





Sapporo 1972

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch consisted of a holder with a cylindrical combustion tube. It bore the inscription <i>Sapporo 1972</i> and the emblem of these Games. The shape of the bowl echoed that of the Olympic cauldron.
Colour	Black
Length	55 cm (only the tube)
Composition	Stainless steel covering (tube), light aluminium alloy (support).
Fuel	Priming and smoke-producing powder. Main components of fuel: red phosphorus, manganese dioxide, magnesium and wood meal. The burning time was 10 minutes for the torches carried by runners and 14 minutes for those used in cars.
Designer / Manufacturer	Munemichi Yanagi / Nikkei Yanagi
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The safety lamp's fuel was pure kerosene, and it could burn for 48 hours nonstop. A protection system featuring an air cushion was incorporated to protect it from violent impacts when it was being transported by car.



Find out more about [Sapporo 1972](http://olympic.org/Sapporo1972) on olympic.org.

**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	28 December 1971, Olympia (Greece)
End date	3 February 1972, Makomanai Speed Skating Rink, Sapporo (Japan).
First torchbearer	Yiannis Kirkelessis. He was also the first torchbearer in Greece for the relay of the 1972 Summer Games in Munich.
Last torchbearer	Hideki Takada, a 16-year-old high school pupil from Sapporo
Number of torchbearers	~16,300 in total
Recruitment of torchbearers	For the relay in Japan, only boys and girls aged between 11 and 20. The last two torchbearers were chosen by the Vice-President of the Organising Committee, Prince Tsuneyoshi Takeda, who was an IOC member from 1967 to 1981 and then an honorary member.
Distance	18,741 km 335 km in Greece, 66 km on Okinawa Island, 4,754 km in Japan and 13,586 km by plane and boat.
Countries visited	Greece, Okinawa (then under US administration), Japan

Route design and details

From Olympia, where it is lit, the flame is taken by car to Athens, from where it is flown to Japan.

On 30 December 1971, the torch arrived at Okinawa Island, where a 60-km relay took place around the island the following day.

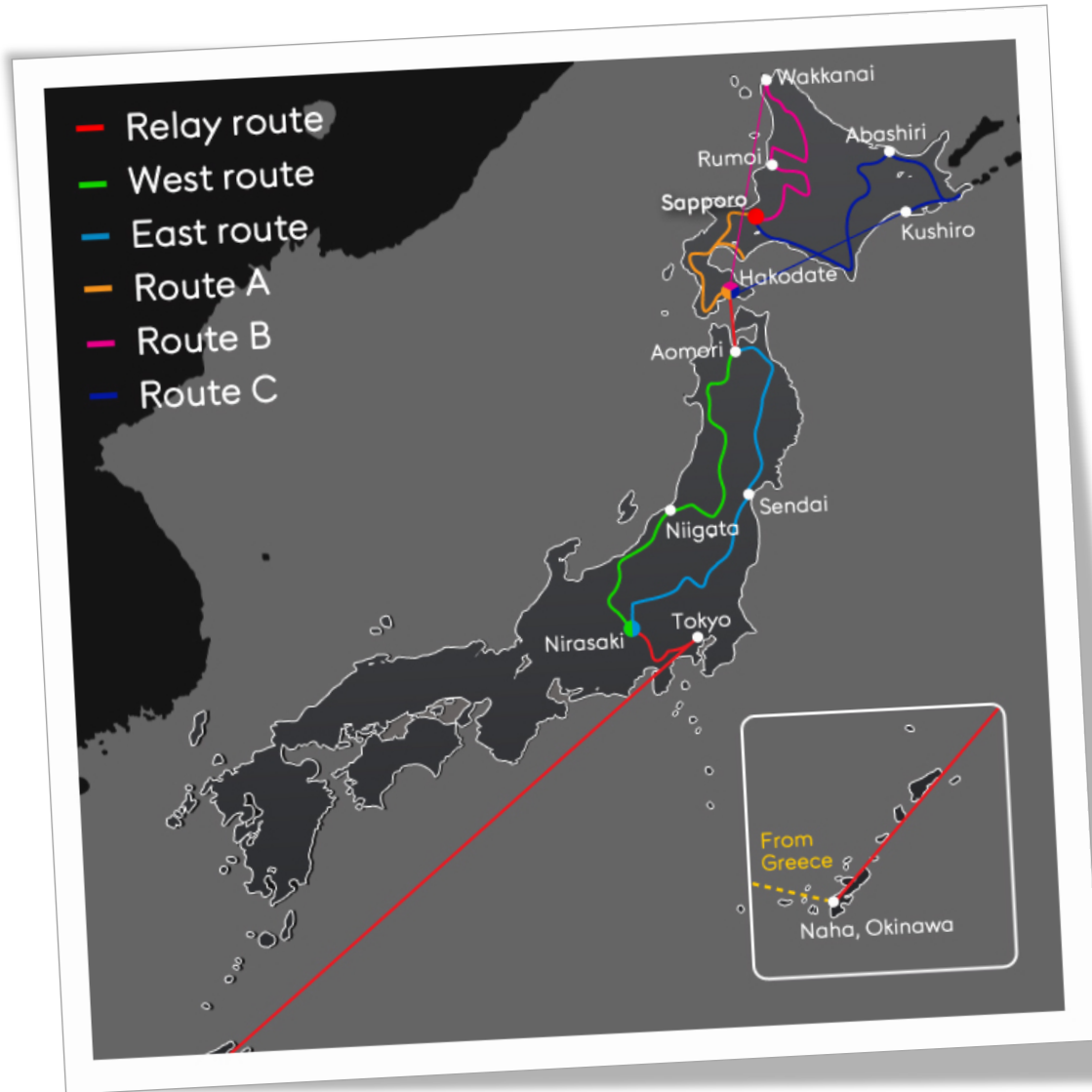
On 1 January 1972, the flame reached Tokyo. A ceremony was held at the National Stadium.

On Japanese soil, the flame was taken first to Nirasaki. There, it was split in two and followed two routes up the island of Honshu, one on the east coast the other on the west coast, meeting at Aomori in the north of the island. Once on the island of Hokkaido after crossing the Tsugaru Strait, the flame split in three, passing through the cities of Hakodate, Kushiro and Wakkanai before reaching Sapporo.

On 29 January, the three flames reached Sapporo.

On 30 January, the three flames were reunited at a ceremony attended by IOC President Avery Brundage. The flame was then taken to the City Hall square.

On 3 February, the flame was taken to the Opening Ceremony. Skater Izumi Tsujimura passed it to Hideki Takada, who lit the cauldron.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The main cauldron which overlooked the Makomanai Speed Skating Rink was made of bronze with a coating of dusty gold. It was asymmetrical, measuring 2.78 by 2.18 metres, and was 2.98 metres high. It was fuelled by propane. Like the torch, it was designed by Munemichi Yanagi.
- After the Opening Ceremony, Olympic flames were taken to the competition venues at Mount Teine and Mount Eniwa. There, they burned in auxiliary cauldrons during the competitions.





Innsbruck 1976

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The upper part of the torch was hexagonal, with the Olympic symbol in openwork and a metal strip representing a ski jump run. The central part featured the inscription <i>XII Olympische Winterspiele 1976</i> .
Colour	Silver
Length	74.6 cm
Composition	Aluminium alloy and steel
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	Vereinigte Metallwerke Ranshofen Bernhof / -

Find out more about [Innsbruck 1976](https://olympic.org/en/games-events/olympic-games/olympic-winter-games/olympic-winter-games-1976) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	30 January 1976, Olympia (Greece)
End date	4 February 1976, Bergisel Stadium, Innsbruck (Austria)
First torchbearer	Spyros Tzavaras
Last torchbearers	- Christl Haas, Olympic participant in alpine skiing (1964, 1968), gold medallist in Innsbruck 1964 and bronze medallist in Grenoble 1968. - Josef Feistmantl, Olympic participant in luge (1964, 1968, 1972), gold medallist in Innsbruck 1964.
Number of torchbearers	-
Recruitment of torchbearers	This was organised by the Landessportverbände, the regional sports clubs association, and the Austrian army.
Distance	1,618 km over two routes in Austria: 867 km for the north route and 751 km for the south route.
Countries visited	Greece, Austria

Route design and details

The flame is taken by car from Olympia to Athens and is then flown to Vienna.

The torch relay route split in two at Vienna, one heading north and the other heading for the southern part of the country. Three days before the Opening Ceremony, the two routes joined at Innsbruck. The flame was kept in the Maximilian Saal of the Goldenen Dachl, as in 1964, until the Opening Ceremony on 4 February.

To allow as many people as possible to see the flame, it was transported for some 1,500 kilometres on the roof of a car fitted with a glass dome specially designed for this purpose.



DID YOU KNOW?

- As a reminder that Innsbruck was hosting these Winter Games for the second time, two Olympic cauldrons were set up at the Bergisel Stadium, one for 1964, the other for 1976.
- For the first time, a woman, Austrian skier Christl Haas, was chosen to light the cauldron for the Olympic Winter Games. She lit the 1964 cauldron. The 1976 one was lit by luge champion Josef Feistmantl.





Lake Placid 1980

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch design and materials symbolised a blend of modern technology and a reference to Ancient Greece. The torch was shaped like a bowl with a silver ring. It bore the Games emblem and the inscription <i>XIII Olympic Winter Games Lake Placid 1980</i> . The handle was made of leather.
Colour	Bronze
Length	72.5 cm
Composition	Leather and metal
Fuel	Liquid propane. Burning time: 40 minutes.
Designer / Manufacturer	Don McFarland; McFarland Design / Cleanweld Turner

Find out more about [Lake Placid 1980](http://olympic.org/Lake-Placid-1980) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	30 January 1980, Olympia (Greece)
End date	13 February 1980, Opening Ceremony Stadium, Lake Placid (United States)
First torchbearer	Giorgos Gikas
Last torchbearer	Dr Charles Morgan Kerr, psychiatrist, University of Arizona
Number of torchbearers	52 in the United States
Recruitment of torchbearers	For the relay on American soil, the Organising Committee chose 26 men and 26 women from over 6,000 applicants. The torchbearers came from every state of the United States, the District of Columbia and Lake Placid. Each carried the flame many times during the course of the 1,600-km national relay.
Distance	12,824 km of which 1,600 km comprised the national relay in the United States.
Countries visited	Greece, United States

Route design and details

After the flame-lighting ceremony in Olympia, a relay takes it to Platanos (~6km) on foot, and it then travels by coach to Andravida airport and, finally, by plane to Athens. At midnight, the flame leaves Athens and is flown to Langley (Virginia, United States), with a stopover in Shannon, Ireland.

In the United States, the relay route was designed to retrace the American Revolution Bicentennial Trail. It started not far from where the first English settlers had landed in the New World, then passed through various sites of historical importance and big cities such as the capital, Washington D.C., New York and Philadelphia.

On 31 January 1980, despite a heavy snowstorm, the flame reached American soil on schedule at the Langley military base in Virginia, in front of several thousand people.

On 6 February, the flame reached Albany. Here, the relay split in two: one route went west through the Adirondack Mountains, the other east up the Champlain valley.

On 8 February, the two flames were reunited at Lake Placid. A welcome ceremony was held at the speed skating stadium.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The main cauldron was mobile and was placed at the top of a 16-metre tower, so that it could be seen from the various competition venues.
- A secret vote between the 52 torchbearers resulted in Dr Charles M. Kerr being chosen to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.
- During the Games, some of the medal ceremonies were held at Mirror Lake. The Olympic flame was present in the form of torches held by bearers lining the path leading to the pavilion built on the frozen surface of the lake.
- The Closing Ceremony was held in a different stadium from that used for the opening. For this occasion, the Olympic flame was burning in a cauldron suspended from the ceiling of the Olympic Centre International Ice Rink. Towards the end of the Ceremony, this flame was extinguished at the same moment as that in the main cauldron three kilometres away.





Sarajevo 1984

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The handle was topped by a platform bearing the inscription <i>Sarajevo 84</i> on one side and the Mizuno logo on the other. The Games emblem appeared on the combustion tube.
Colour	Gold and silver
Length	57.7 cm
Composition	Wood and metal
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	- / Mizuno Corporation; Nippon Koki Co., Ltd

Find out more about [Sarajevo 1984](http://olympic.org/Sarajevo1984) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	29 January 1984, Olympia (Greece)
End date	8 February 1984, Koševo Stadium, Sarajevo (Yugoslavia)
First torchbearer	Haralambos Karalis
Last torchbearer	Sanda Dubravčić, Olympic participant in figure skating (1980, 1984)
Number of torchbearers	~1,600 in Yugoslavia
Recruitment of torchbearers	Special commissions, created in all the municipalities through which the flame passed, selected workers, athletes and students.
Distance	5,289 km in Yugoslavia (2,602 km for the eastern route and 2,687 km for the western route) Of these, 900 km were covered by torchbearers. The flame was transported in specially adapted vehicles for the remaining 4,389 km.
Countries visited	Greece, Yugoslavia

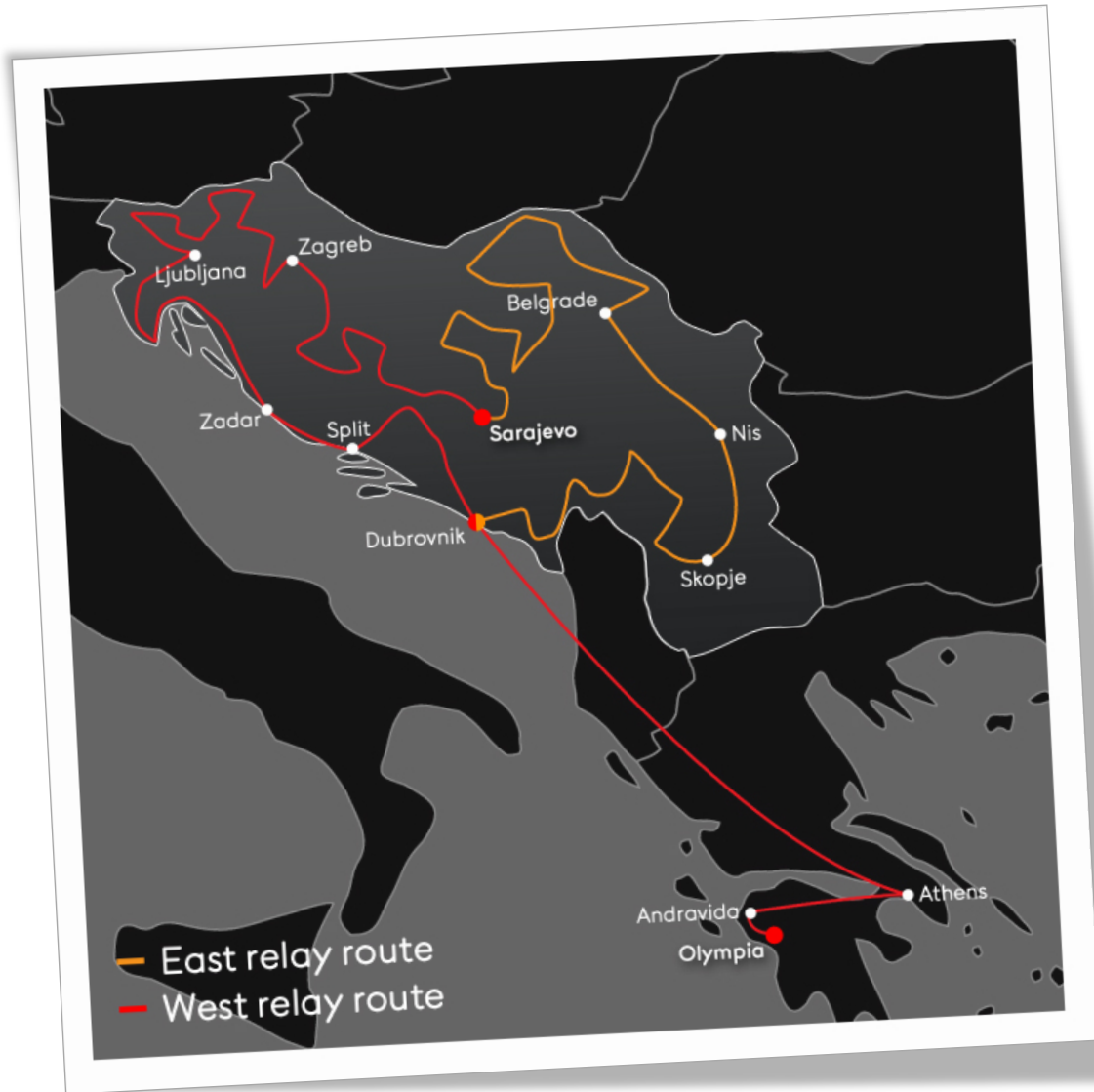
Route design and details

After being lit in Olympia, the flame is taken by car and plane to Athens via Andravida, from where it takes off for Dubrovnik.

On 30 January 1984, the first torchbearer on Yugoslav soil was Veselin Djuho, a member of the Yugoslav water polo team which won gold in Los Angeles in 1984 and at Seoul in 1988.

A second flame was lit from the original flame, and the relay split into two parts between Dubrovnik and Sarajevo, one going through the east of the country and the other through the western part.

A total of 89 local Olympic torch relays were organised with a view to promoting Olympism as widely as possible. The torches used for these relays were lit from the main flame and taken to winter sports resorts and sports centres in the region. These local relays involved 7,500 people.







Calgary 1988

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The shape of the torch was designed as a replica of the Calgary Tower. It featured the inscriptions <i>XV Olympic Winter Games Calgary Alberta Canada 1988</i> and the Olympic motto <i>Citius, Altius, Fortius</i> (faster, higher, stronger). The Games emblem and the 10 sports pictograms were laser engraved on the handle.
Colour	Silver and brown
Length	60 cm
Composition	Aluminum and wood (maple wood handle)
Fuel	Petrol, kerosene and alcohol. The burning time was around 45 minutes.
Designer / Manufacturer	National Research Council of Canada / Wemas Metal Products (Alberta)

Find out more about [Calgary 1988](http://olympic.org) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	15 November 1987, Olympia (Greece)
End date	13 February 1988, McMahon Stadium, Calgary (Canada)
First torchbearer	Stelios Bisbas, Olympic participant in athletics (1996)
Last torchbearer	Robyn Perry, a 12-year-old schoolgirl, representing the next generation of athletes.
Number of torchbearers	~7,000 in Canada
Recruitment of torchbearers	The torchbearer selection process was the biggest competition of its kind ever organised in Canada. Out of roughly 10 million application forms distributed, almost seven million were returned. A first group of torchbearers was created by drawing lots. The people selected were aged between 4 and 100, and came from all kinds of backgrounds. A second group of 300 torchbearers was created by special selection, and was composed of people with disabilities, First Nations representatives, athletes and officials.
Distance	18,000 km in Canada, 11,000 km on the ground and the remaining 7,000 km by plane, helicopter and ferry.
Countries visited	Greece, Canada

Route design and details

After the lighting ceremony in Olympia, the flame arrives at Andravida, where it takes off for Athens. From there, it is flown to St John's in Newfoundland (Canada).

On 18 November 1987, the relay on Canadian soil began. The first runners were Barbara Ann Scott, a figure skating gold medallist at St Moritz in 1948, and Harry Ferdinand (Ferd) Hayward who, at Helsinki in 1952, was the first Newfoundlander to represent Canada at the Games. They ran the first kilometre together.

On 19 January 1988, the flame reached Inuvik, the most northerly point of the relay, above the Arctic Circle and in temperatures below -30 degrees.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The relay in Canada was designed so that the time spent in each province and territory was proportional to the resident population.
- After the lighting of the copper cauldron in the McMahon Stadium during the Opening Ceremony, it was raised 12 metres in height by means of a hydraulic mechanism.
- In addition to the main flame in the McMahon Stadium, the Olympic flame also burned at other locations in cauldrons fuelled by natural gas. The flame which burned 190 metres above the ground atop the Calgary Tower could be seen from 15 kilometres away.





Albertville 1992

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch featured the inscription <i>XVles Jeux Olympiques d'hiver 1992</i> and the five Olympic rings.
Colour	Silver
Length	41 cm
Composition	Steel alloy
Fuel	Gas: propylene, butane and propane. The burning time was 40 minutes.
Designer / Manufacturer	Philippe Starck / Ugine & Gabilalex
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Made of gilded brass, the safety lamp was shaped like a miner's lamp, with the emblems of the torch relay and the Albertville Games engraved on it. Its burning time was 14 hours. The safety lamps were made by the Arras Maxéi company.

Find out more about [Albertville 1992](http://olympic.org) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

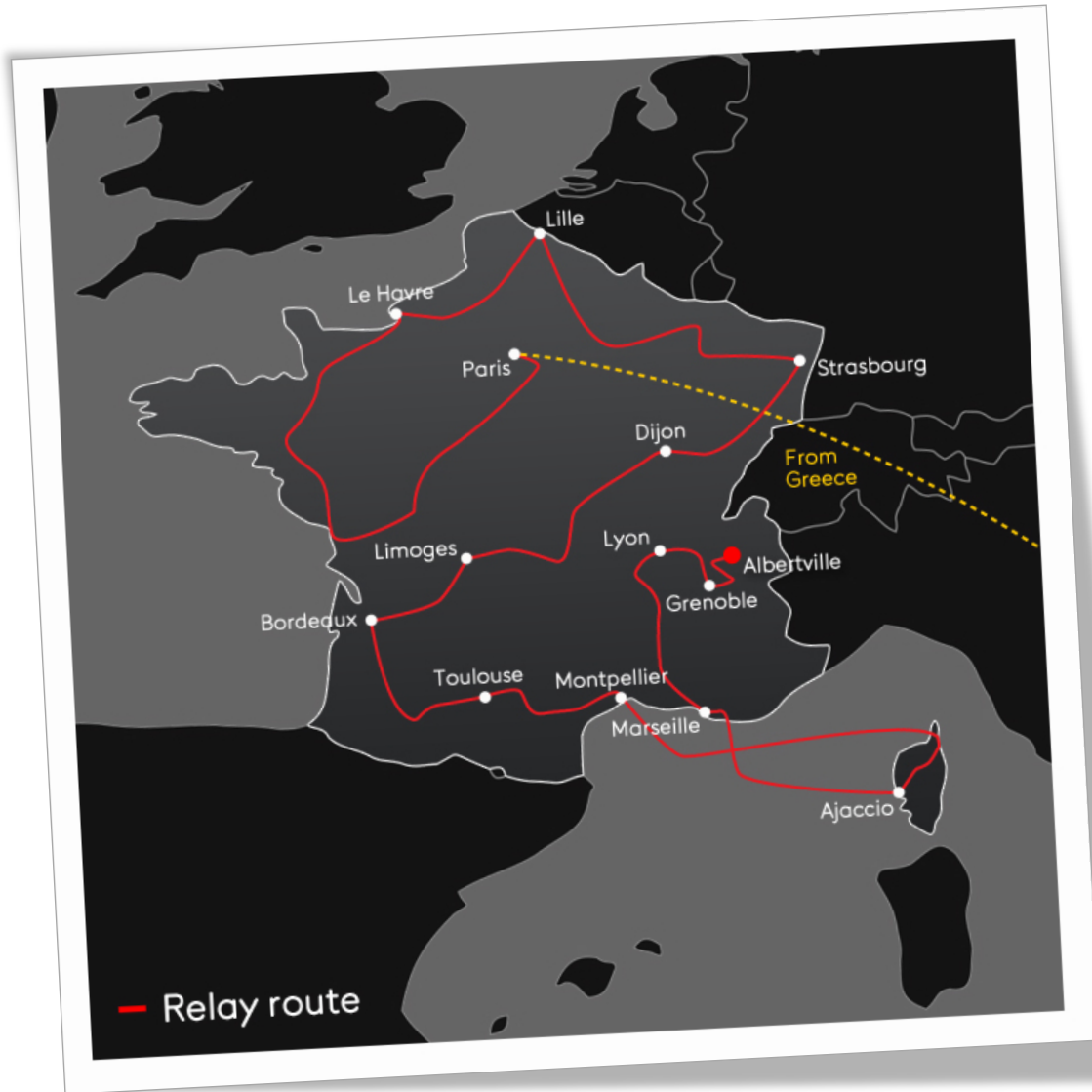
Start date	13 December 1991, Olympia (Greece)
End date	8 February 1992, the Ceremonial Stadium, Albertville (France)
First torchbearer	Athanasios "Thanassis" Tsakiris, Olympic participant in biathlon (1992, 1994, 1998, 2010) and cross country skiing (1988, 1992).
Last torchbearers	Michel Platini, Olympic participant in football (1976) and François-Cyrille Grange.
Number of torchbearers	~5,500 in France
Recruitment of torchbearers	The torchbearers had to be aged between 15 and 20. The organisers received 100,000 applications from all over France. Lots were drawn to choose the torchbearers.
Distance	~5,700 km in France
Countries visited	Greece, France

Route design and details

The aim was to cover as much of France as possible by passing through all the regional capitals. Particular focus was placed on the areas with the biggest population and Savoie, which was hosting the Games. The 57 days of the relay in France echoed the 57 events at the Winter Games in Albertville.

On 14 December 1991, the flame landed in Paris aboard a supersonic Concorde coming from Athens. The first torchbearer on French soil was Catherine Marsall, world cycling champion in 1990. In the evening, the flame reached the Champs-Élysées, where it was carried to the applause of the 200,000 people watching.

On 28 December, in Normandy, between Le Havre and Rouen, the flame stopped at the Château de Mirville. A ceremony attended by almost 1,500 people including various personalities was organised in tribute to Pierre de Coubertin, who lived there for part of his childhood.



DID YOU KNOW?

- No fewer than 10 cauldrons were made for these Games: a main cauldron in Albertville, 8 metres high, 4.7 metres in diameter and weighing 1,300 kg, including the burners; plus nine smaller cauldrons for the other Olympic venues. During the Games, the main cauldron, atop a 23-metre mast, was placed at the edge of the Ceremonial Stadium. After the Games, it was moved to the Henry Dujol Olympic Park in Albertville. Like the torch, the cauldron was designed by Philippe Starck, based on the corolla of a lily flower.





Lillehammer 1994

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	<p>The burner featured the inscription <i>The XVII OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES LILLEHAMMER 1994</i> and the Games emblem. The sports pictograms appeared on the part in copper, while the upper part in aluminium was the recipient for the pyrotechnic system.</p> <p>The torch consisted of a long wooden handle and a metal blade. The birchwood handle symbolised the traditional side of Norway; the polished aluminium of the blade reflected its industrial modernity and technology. The supple elongated shape and considerable length of the torch were chosen with a view to forming a harmonious whole with the person carrying it.</p>
Colour	Brown, silver and bronze
Length	152 cm
Composition	Wood, iron and copper
Fuel	Paraffin-based fuel. Burning time of between 30 and 40 minutes.
Designer / Manufacturer	André Steenbuch Marandon, Paal Christian Kahrs / Paal J. Kahrs Arkitekter AS, Statoil

Find out more about [Lillehammer 1994](http://olympic.org) on olympic.org.



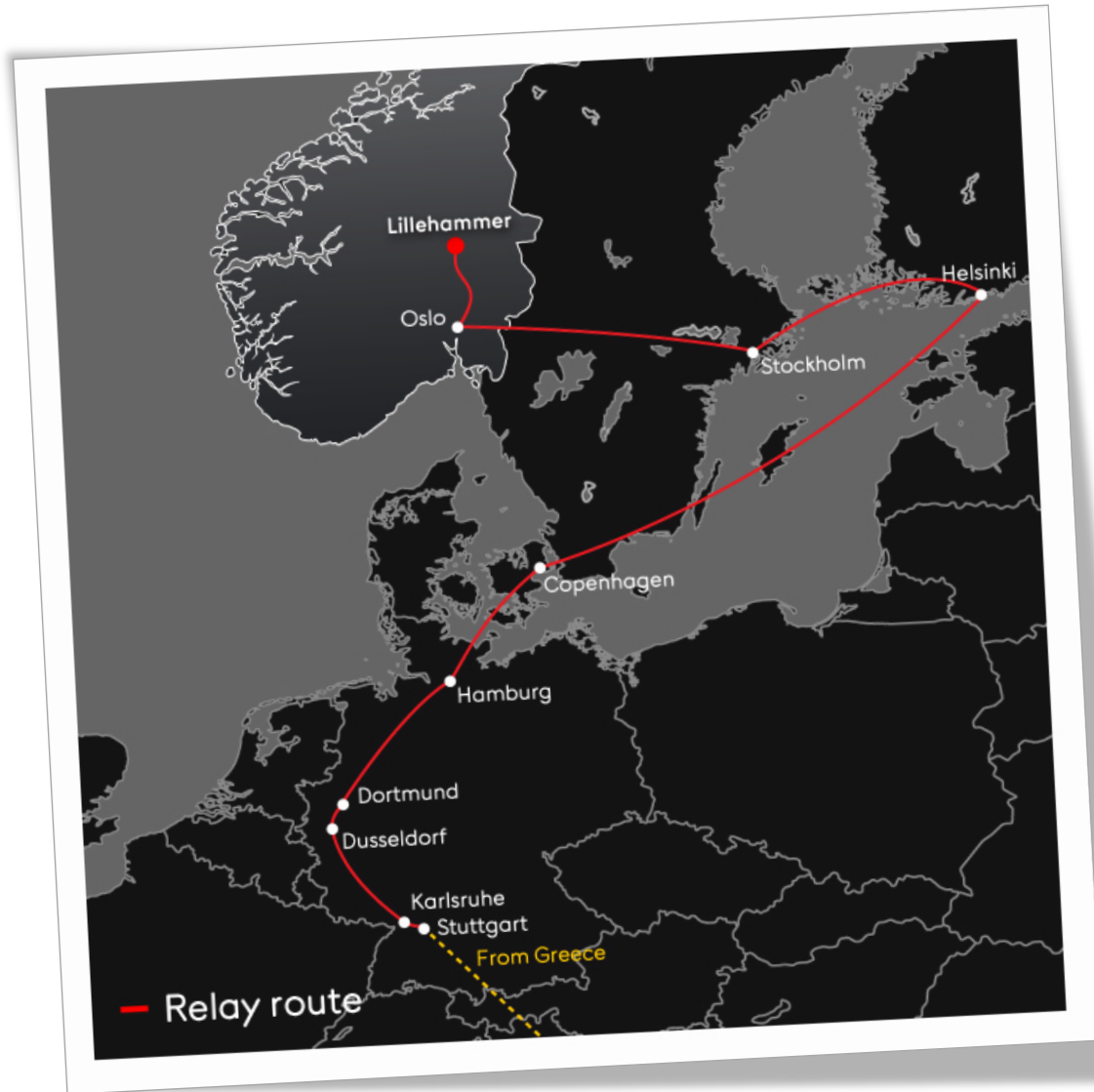
**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	16 January 1994, Olympia (Greece)
End date	12 February 1994, Lynggårdsbakkene Ski Jumping Arena, Lillehammer, (Norway)
First torchbearer	None in Greece
Last torchbearer	Crown Prince Haakon Magnus
Number of torchbearers	-
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	~6,000 km for the official relay (from Olympia)
Countries visited	Greece, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway

Route design and details

After the lighting ceremony in Olympia, the flame is flown to various German cities: Stuttgart, Ludwigsburg, Esslingen, Karlsruhe, Düsseldorf, Winterberg, Herne, Essen, Dortmund, Duisburg, Grefrath and Hamburg. It also goes to Cologne University, where a cauldron is lit in honour of Carl Diem, the Secretary General of the 1936 Games Organising Committee and the initiator of the torch relay. The journey continues via Copenhagen, Helsinki, Stockholm, Oslo and, finally, Lillehammer.

At the Opening Ceremony, Stein Gruben astounded those watching by jumping from the ski jump while holding the torch. He took the place of the intended torchbearer Ole Gunnar Fidjestøl, who had injured himself during rehearsals.



DID YOU KNOW?

- For the first time in Olympic history, the torch was passed between two parachutists, above the German town of Grefrath.
- A “non-Olympic” relay took place over 75 days in Norway. As for the editions in Oslo in 1952 and Squaw Valley in 1960, a flame was lit at Morgedal, on 27 November 1993. Princess Martha Louise was the first torchbearer. Of a total distance of 12,000 km, 8,000 were on land, and the torch was transported by runners over roughly 6,500 km. The flame was transported by plane for 4,000 km of the remaining distance, to cross the sea and fjords, and to reach the Svalbard archipelago in particular. When running with the torch was impossible, other means of transport used by the postal service at different times in history were employed. To conclude, the flame from Morgedal was used to light the cauldron from the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo, set up in the main street of Lillehammer, the Storgata, while the Olympic flame lit the cauldron in the Lydgårdsbakkene Ski Jumping Arena.

Last update: November 2014





Nagano 1998

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	<p>The wording <i>Nagano 1998, XVIII Olympic Winter Games, Nagano 1998</i> was engraved along the length of the torch. The upper part featured the Games, logo, representing snow crystals topped with the Olympic rings.</p> <p>The torch design was inspired by the pine branch torches used in the past in Japan. The hexagonal shape of the body represented snow crystals, and the silver colour was chosen to resemble a snow-covered landscape. The yellow rope was a reference to a traditional element of Japanese design.</p>
Colour	Red, silver and gold
Length	55 cm
Composition	Cotton and aluminium
Fuel	Propane
Designer / Manufacturer	Nagano Olympic Games Organising Committee / Katsura Co.
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The safety lamp made to carry the flame had a burning time of 22 hours.

Find out more about [Nagano 1998](http://olympic.org/Nagano1998) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	19 December 1997, Olympia (Greece)
End date	7 February 1998, Multi-purpose Stadium, Nagano (Japan)
First torchbearer	Vassilis Dimitriadis, Olympic participant in alpine skiing (1998, 2002, 2006, 2010). He was also the first torchbearer in Greece for the relay of the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.
Last torchbearer	Midori Ito, Olympic participant in figure skating (1988, 1992), silver medallist in Albertville 1992.
Number of torchbearers	~15 in Greece, 6,901 in Japan
Recruitment of torchbearers	The participants were chosen by the Organising Committee, the official partner of the relay (Coca-Cola) and a public competition. There were no restrictions on age, gender or nationality.
Distance	450 km in Greece, ~1,162 km in Japan
Countries visited	Greece, Japan

Route design and details

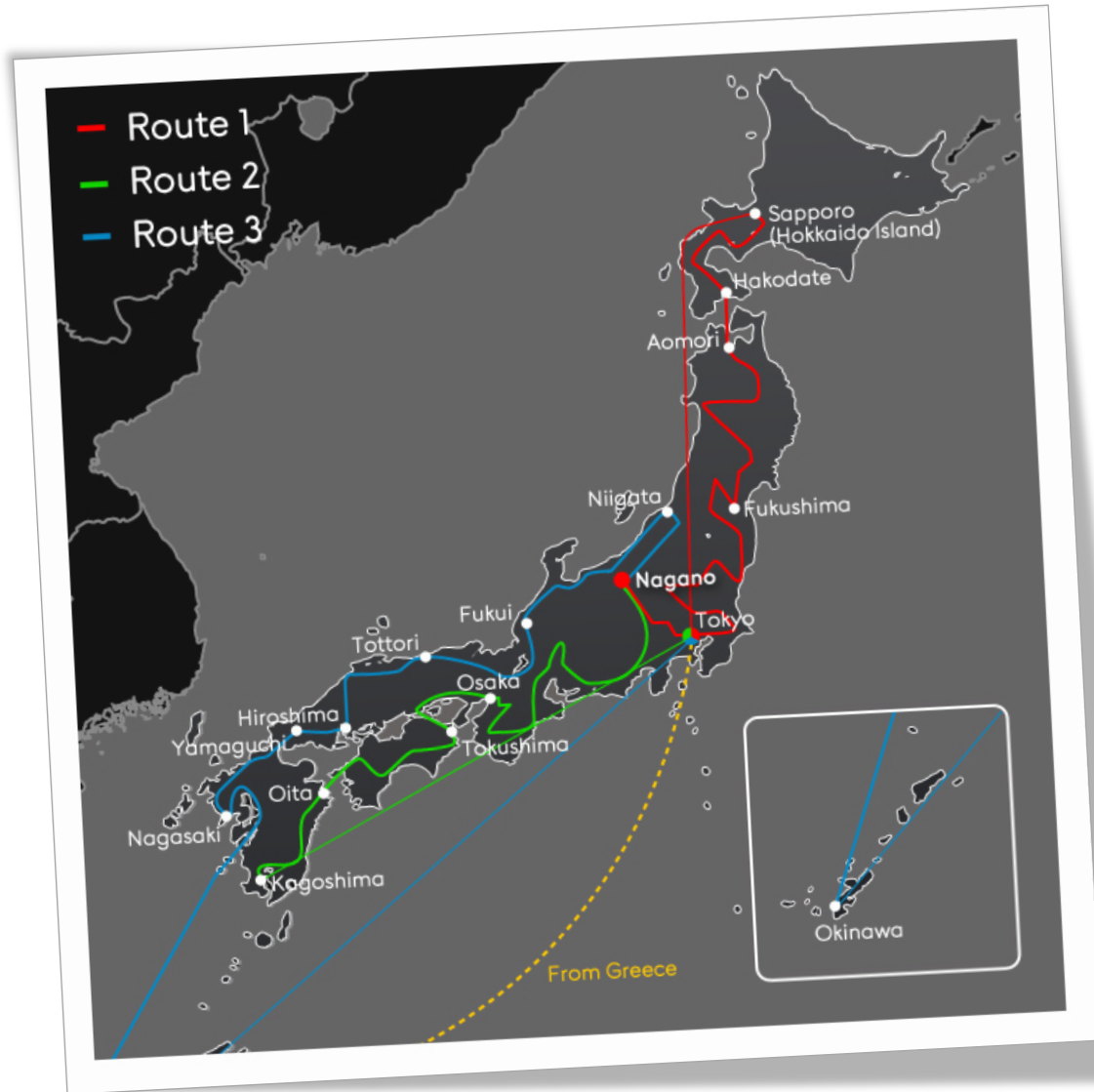
After being lit in Olympia, the flame was conveyed to Athens and then to Tokyo where it arrived via plane on 23 December 1997. It was on show from 27 to 30 December in the Ginza area and from 31 December to 4 January in the Yoyogi Athletic Park.

On 4 January 1998, at a ceremony in the Yoyogi Athletic Park, the flame was split into three and taken by plane to three destinations: 1) the Eastern Japan route, starting from Hokkaido, 2) the Pacific Ocean route, starting from Kagoshima, and 3) the Sea of Japan route, starting from Okinawa.

On 23 January, the three flames entered Nagano Prefecture from the north, south and east, and continued their separate routes.

On 5 February, the three flames arrived in Nagano and on the following day, in Central Square, a ceremony was held in which they were reunited.

The flame also lit secondary cauldrons installed at the competition venues in Hakuba, Yamanouchi, Nozawa Onsen and Karuizawa, where it burned throughout the Games.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Six metres tall and on a 25-metre base, the cauldron had a burner at a 30 degree incline so that the flame was visible throughout the stadium. The fuel used was natural gas. The aim was to produce a modern version of a traditional Japanese *kagaribi* bonfire.





Salt Lake City 2002

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	<p>Shaped like a stalactite, the torch symbolised winter sports. The silver ribbed body of the torch evoked the texture of the natural ice and rugged landscape of the American West.</p> <p>The surface of the torch varied from the aged finish of the central part (representing the past) to the high-polish finish of the lower part (modernity). The point where these two surfaces met, where the runner held the torch, was a bridge between the past and present.</p> <p>The torch was topped by a glass crown surrounding the flame and reflecting the motto for this edition of the Games, which was engraved on the handle: <i>Light the Fire within</i>. The Games emblem appeared on the front of the torch.</p> <p>The elements making up the torch also had a meaning: glass: winter and ice; old silver: the West, running water; shiny silver: the heart and speed of the athletes; and copper: fire, passion, the history of Utah.</p>
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Colour	Silver and bronze
Length	83.5 cm
Composition	Silvered metal, copper and glass
Fuel	Propane
Designer / Manufacturer	Scott Given, Matt Manes, Axiom Design / Coleman, Georgia Institute of Technology, Quickparts.com, Inc.

Find out more about [Salt Lake City 2002](http://olympic.org/SaltLakeCity2002) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

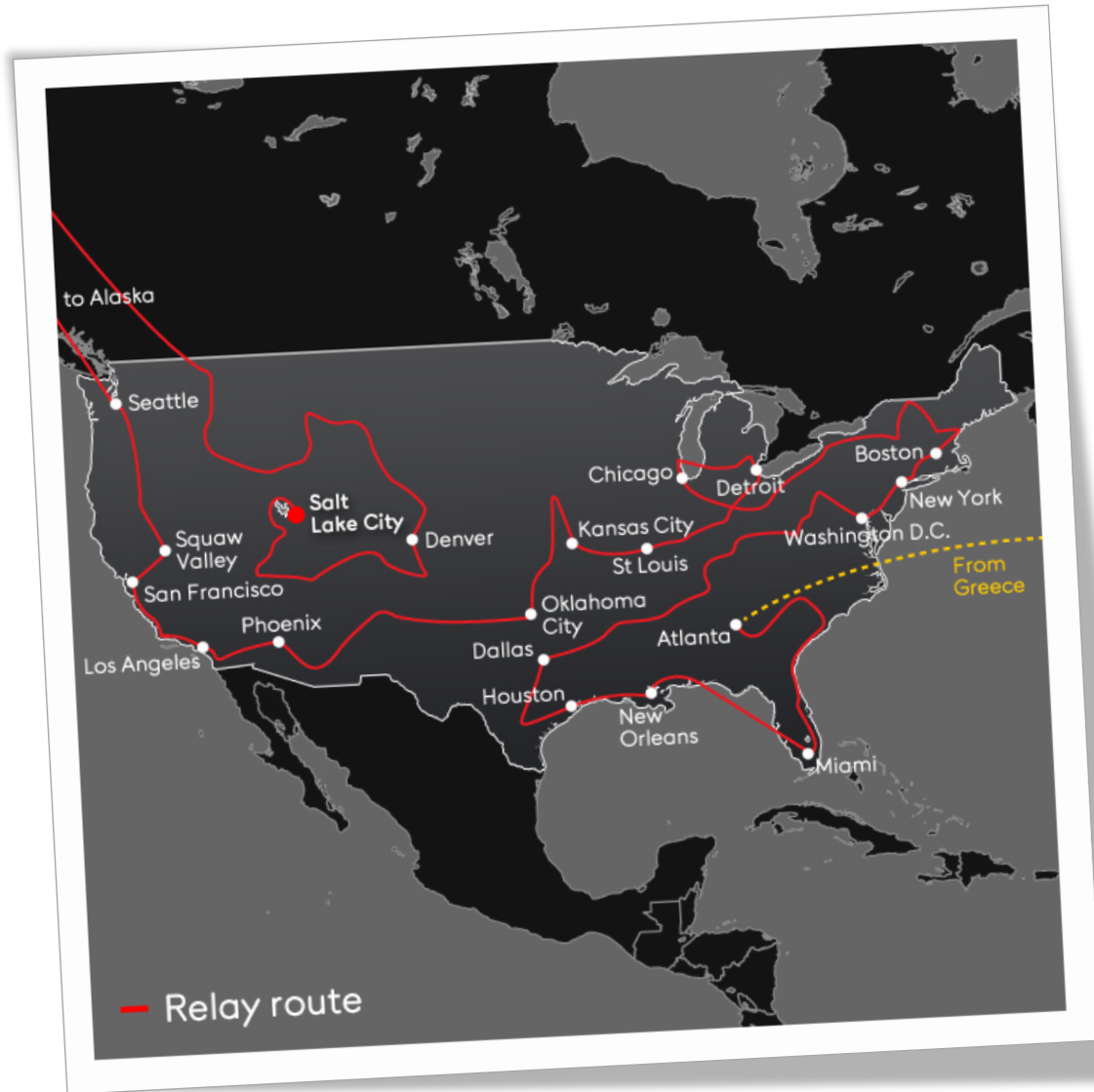
Start date	19 November 2001, Olympia (Greece)
End date	8 February 2002, Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium, Salt Lake City (United States)
First torchbearer	Lefteris Fafalis, Olympic participant in cross country skiing (1998, 2002, 2006, 2010).
Last torchbearers	The members of the US ice hockey team from the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid.
Number of torchbearers	41 in Greece, 12,012 in the United States
Recruitment of torchbearers	The torchbearers were chosen by the Organising Committee and the relay partners (Coca-Cola and Chevrolet), each choosing one-third of the total number. A publicity campaign by the Organising Committee invited Americans to submit the name of a person who was a source of inspiration in their lives. In all, more than 300,000 candidatures were received.
Distance	368 km + 8 nautical miles in Greece, 21,725 km in the United States
Countries visited	Greece, United States

Route design and details

To promote the Games among the largest number of people possible in the United States, the relay passed through over 300 towns and villages in 46 states. The route included the previous Games host cities, Atlanta, Lake Placid, St Louis, Los Angeles and Squaw Valley.

On 4 December 2001, after leaving Athens the previous day, the flame landed in Atlanta. At the Centennial Olympic Park, Muhammad Ali, who lit the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony of the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, lit the first torch on American soil. The former boxer then handed it to Peggy Fleming, the figure skating Olympic gold medallist at Grenoble in 1968. She ran the first leg of the relay with her coach Robert Paul, who had won the figure skating gold medal at the 1960 Winter Games in Squaw Valley.

On 8 February 2002, at the Opening Ceremony, for the first time in Olympic history, an entire team, the winning US men's ice hockey team from the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid, lit the Olympic cauldron.



DID YOU KNOW?

- For the first time, the cauldron was translucent. To fit in with the visual identity based on fire and ice, it contained jets of water spraying down the inside of the bowl, to create the watered silk look of a melting ice cube. The flame was lifted to the top of the glass and stainless steel structure by means of a manual mechanism. There, the flame burned more than 35 metres above the ground. The cauldron can today be seen in front of the Rice-Eccles Stadium in Salt Lake City.
- The medals plaza in the centre of the city also had its own cauldron. This “Heroes’ Cauldron” was 3.60 metres tall and shaped like the main cauldron.



028



Turin 2006

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	<p>The torch bore the inscription <i>Torino 2006</i>, together with the Games emblem and the Olympic rings.</p> <p>Using technology based on an internal combustion system, the flame, instead of emerging from a hole at the top, surrounded part of the body of the torch, giving the impression that the metal itself was on fire. The aim was to reinterpret the traditional wooden torch.</p> <p>The shape of the torch was also reminiscent of a ski tip and the monument which is the symbol of Turin: the Mole Antonelliana.</p>
Colour	Blue
Length	77 cm
Composition	Aluminium, plastic, steel and copper
Fuel	40% propylene and 60% butane. The burning time of the torch was around 15 minutes.
Designer / Manufacturer	Pininfarina / Pininfarina
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A team of 30 people spent 18 months working on designing and producing the torch, making a total of over 20,000 hours' work.• The torch was awarded the "Lorenzo il Magnifico" award, the highest prize from the Florence Biennale of Contemporary Art.

Find out more about [Turin 2006](http://olympic.org/Turin2006) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	27 November 2005, Olympia (Greece)
End date	10 February 2006, Olympic Stadium, Turin (Italy)
First torchbearer	Konstadinos "Kostas" Filippidis, Olympic participant in athletics (2012)
Last torchbearer	Stefania Belmondo, Olympic participant in cross country skiing (1988, 1992, 1994, 2002), gold, silver and bronze medallist in Albertville 1992, two-time bronze medallist in Lillehammer 1994, silver and bronze medallist in Nagano 1998, gold, silver and bronze medallist in Salt Lake City 2002.
Number of torchbearers	534 in Greece, 10,001 in Italy
Recruitment of torchbearers	-
Distance	2,006 km in Greece, 11,300 km in Italy
Countries visited	Greece, Italy, Vatican City, San Marino, Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland and France.

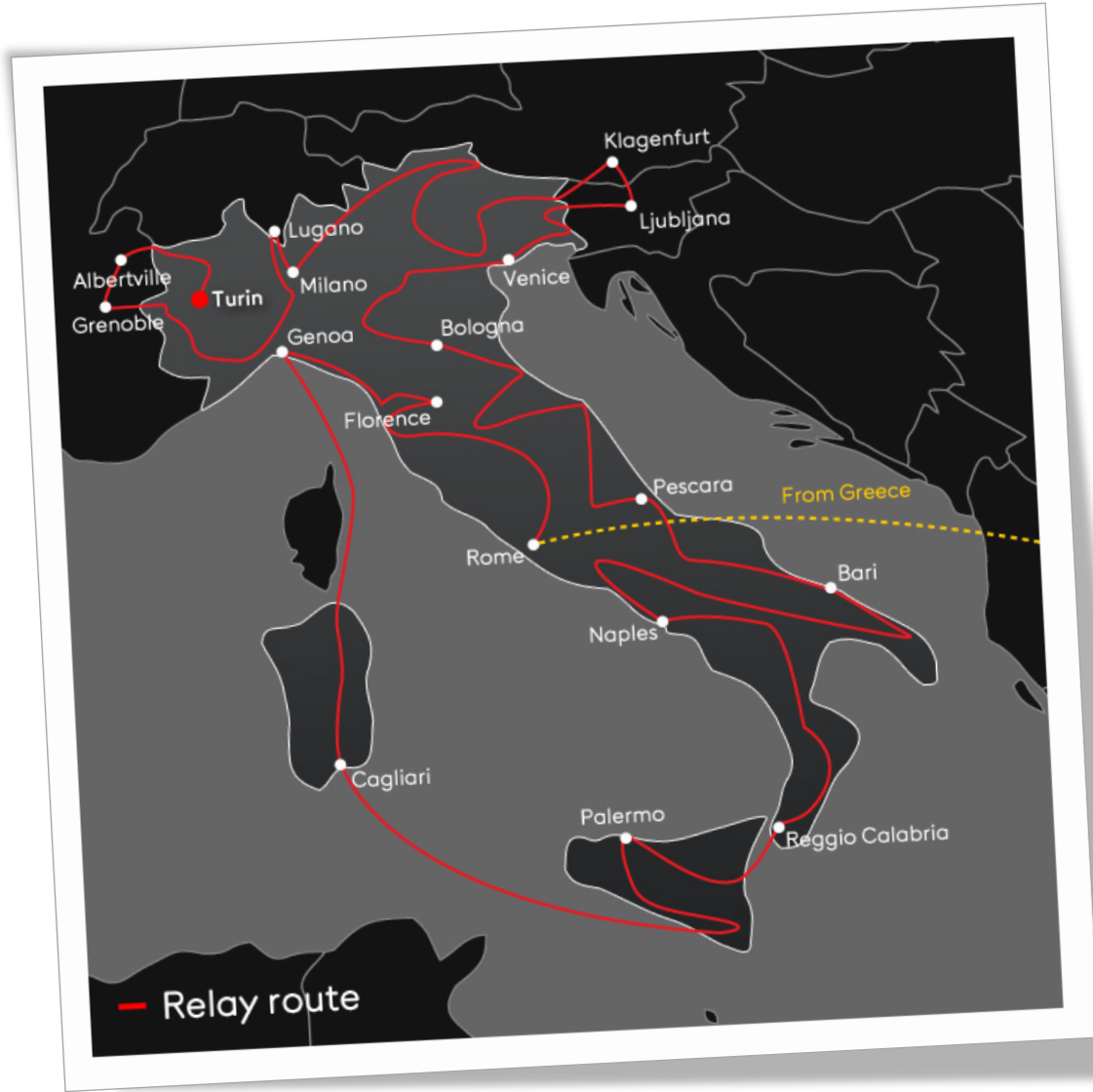
Route design and details

After being lit in Olympia, the flame is relayed to Athens and flown to Rome, where the Italian leg of the relay begins. It included parts in the neighbouring countries, including the former Olympic Winter Games host cities of Albertville and Grenoble in France.

The relay on Italian soil got under way at the Piazza del Quirinale. Stefano Baldini, the marathon Olympic gold medallist in Athens in 2004, was the first torchbearer. The flame then travelled around Italy, passing in particular through the two cities which had already hosted the Games: Cortina d'Ampezzo and Rome.

When the flame stopped in Cortina d'Ampezzo, it was exactly 50 years to the day after the opening of the Olympic Winter Games in 1956.

The final part of the relay honoured some of Italy's sporting heroes. First, it was three-time Olympic skiing champion Alberto Tomba who had the privilege to carry the Olympic flame into the stadium, then to hand it to the four men who had made up the Italian 4x10km cross-country skiing relay team which won gold in Lillehammer in 1994. They covered part of the stadium before handing the flame to Piero Gros, an Alpine skiing gold medallist at the Games in 1976, who was followed by the penultimate torchbearer Deborah Compagnoni, three-time Olympic Alpine skiing champion in 1992, 1994 and 1998. She passed the flame to Stefania Belmondo, an Italian Nordic skiing legend, who lit the 57 meters high cauldron, the tallest in the history of the Games.







Vancouver 2010

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	<p>The shape of the torch was inspired by the fluid lines and curves produced by skis in the snow or skates on ice. There were also the contours of the Canadian landscape and the curves of the relay route. Its imposing size reflected the vastness of Canada's territory.</p> <p>A cut in the shape of a maple leaf, the symbol of Canada, served as an air intake for the flame.</p> <p>The torch bore the emblem and the motto of this edition of the Games: <i>With Glowing Hearts, Des plus brillants exploits.</i></p>
Colour	Silver and white
Length	94.5 cm
Composition	Stainless steel, aluminium and plastic Burner system: stainless steel, copper and brass
Fuel	Mix of propane, isobutane and hydrocarbons. Burning time of at least 12 minutes (more depending on the temperature and altitude).
Designer / Manufacturer	Bombardier, VANOC / Bombardier
Did you know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eight safety lamps in the shape of miner's lamps bearing the Organising Committee logo were produced by Bombardier. They had a burning time of around 15 hours and used a naphtha-based fuel.

Find out more about [Vancouver 2010](http://vancouver2010.org) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	22 October 2009, Olympia (Greece)
End date	12 February 2010, BC Place Stadium and Jack Poole Plaza, Vancouver (Canada)
First torchbearer	Vassilis Dimitriadis, Olympic participant in alpine skiing (1998, 2002, 2006, 2010). He was also the first torchbearer in Greece for the relay of the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano.
Last torchbearers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Catriona Le May Doan, Olympic participant in speed skating (1992, 1994, 1998, 2002), gold and bronze medallist in Nagano 1998 and gold medallist in Salt Lake City 2002.- Nancy Greene Raine, Olympic participant in alpine skiing (1960, 1964, 1968), gold and silver medallist in Grenoble 1968.- Wayne Gretzky, Olympic participant in Ice Hockey (1998).- Steve Nash, Olympic participant in basketball (2000).
Number of torchbearers	~560 in Greece, 12,000 in Canada
Recruitment of torchbearers	The application programmes were managed by Coca-Cola and RBC, the two relay sponsors. In all, 8,500 slots were open to the public, and 30 per cent were intended for partners whose contributions were essential to the holding of the Games. There were hundreds of thousands of applications. A special programme was set up to allow members of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities to take an active part in the relay by performing various functions, including that of torchbearer.
Distance	2,180 km in Greece, 45,000 km in Canada (of which 4,000 were covered by torchbearers).
Countries visited	Greece, United States and Canada

Route design and details

After being lit in Olympia, the flame is relayed throughout Greece, from where it is flown to Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) from Athens. The relay passed through every Canadian province and territory, and included Montreal and Calgary, host cities of the Games in 1976 and 1988.

On 30 October 2009, the flame landed at Victoria in Canada. Two Olympic medallists, Catriona Le May Doan and Simon Whitfield, ran the first leg of the relay together.

On 8 November, the flame arrived by air in Alert in the territory of Nunavut, the northernmost permanently inhabited place in the world, 817 km from the North Pole.

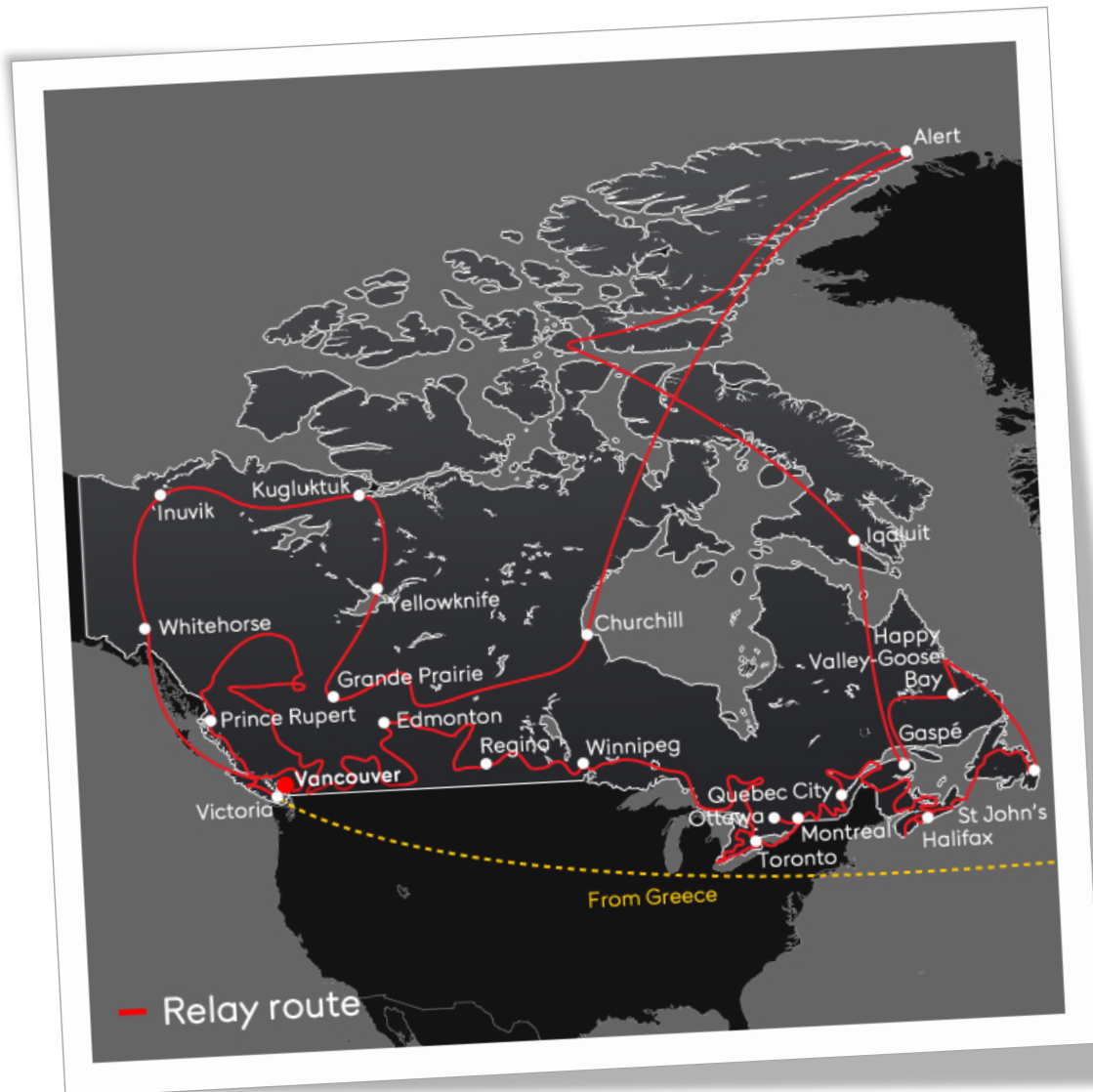
On 9 February 2010, to honour the friendship between the two countries, the flame briefly entered the United States at the Peace Arc border crossing between the state of Washington (United States) and British Columbia (Canada).

On 12 February, at the Opening Ceremony, although a technical problem prevented one of the four arms of the cauldron from rising up, the cauldron was still successfully lit by the torchbearers standing by the other arms: Nancy Greene Raine, Wayne Gretzky and Steve Nash. However, Catriona Le May

Last update: November 2014



Doan got her chance when she alone relit the cauldron during the Closing Ceremony via the fourth arm, which was working then.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Two identical cauldrons were used, one in the BC Place Stadium for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and another at the Jack Poole Plaza in Coal Harbour. The first was extinguished at the end of the Opening Ceremony, while the second, lit shortly afterwards by Wayne Gretzky, remained alight throughout the Games. At the end of the Games, during the Closing Ceremony, the two cauldrons were extinguished simultaneously.
- The Jack Poole Plaza cauldron can still be seen today. It is roughly 10 metres tall, with each pillar measuring 16.5 metres.



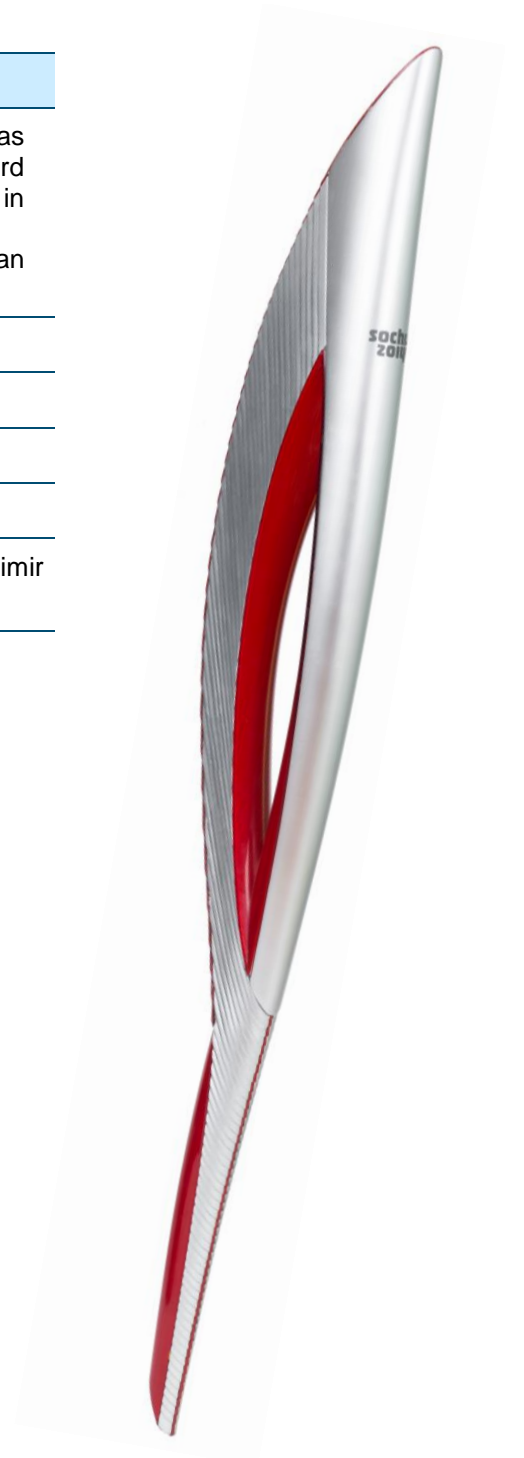


Sochi 2014

TORCH TECHNICAL DETAILS

Description	The torch is shaped like a bird's feather, as a reference to the phoenix, the fire bird which symbolises good luck and fortune in Russian folklore. The red recalls the uniforms of Russian sports teams.
Colour	Silver and red
Length	95 cm
Composition	Aluminium
Fuel	-
Designer / Manufacturer	A team of Russian designers led by Vladimir Pirozhkov and Andrei Vodyanik.

Find out more about [Sochi 2014](http://olympic.org/Sochi2014) on olympic.org.



**THE RELAY : FACTS AND FIGURES**

Start date	29 September 2013, Olympia (Greece)
End date	7 February 2014, Fisht Olympic Stadium, Sochi (Russian Federation)
First torchbearer	Ioannis Antoniou
Last torchbearers	- Irina Rodnina, Olympic participant in figure skating (1972, 1976, 1980), gold medallist in Sapporo 1972, Innsbruck 1976 and Lake Placid 1980. - Vladislav Tretiak, Olympic participant in ice hockey (1972, 1976, 1980, 1984), gold medallist in Sapporo 1972, Innsbruck 1976 and Sarajevo 1984, silver medallist in Lake Placid 1980.
Number of torchbearers	250 Greece, 14,000 in the Russian Federation
Recruitment of torchbearers	The selection of torchbearers was made by the three main Relay partners Coca-Cola, Ingosstrakh and Russian Railways as well as by the administrations of the regions of the Russian Federation and the Organising Committee. Notable amongst the selection criteria were the requirements that the torchbearers be aged 14 or over and that they adhere to the three Olympic values of excellence friendship and respect. The oldest Relay participant was 101.
Distance	2,000 km in Greece, ~65,000km in the Russian Federation including 2,615 km by torchbearers
Countries visited	Greece, Russian Federation

Route design and details

After the flame-lighting ceremony which took place at Olympia and a relay of approximately one week through Greece, the route on Russian soil began on 7 October 2013 in Moscow. From October 2013 to February 2014, it travelled through the 83 regions of the Russian Federation and visited major historic, cultural and natural sites in the country. To cover the large distances between the various stages of the Relay, a motorcade was used until St Petersburg, a special plane between St Petersburg and Vladivostok, and a special train in the southern part of the country.

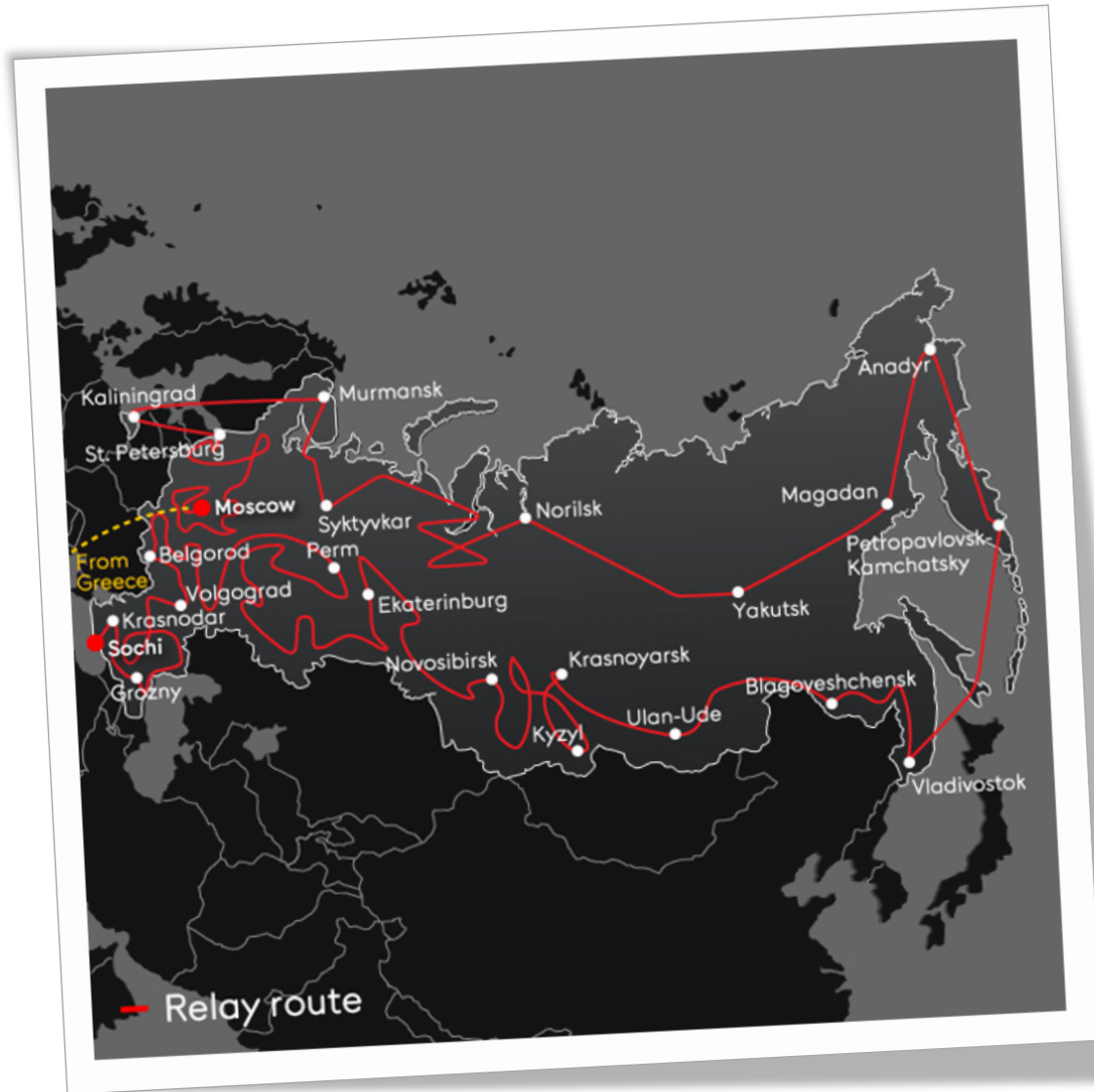
At the end of October 2013, in parallel to the main Relay, an Olympic flame reached the highest point of Mount Elbrus, where a cauldron was lit 5,652m above sea level.

On 9 November, an unlit Olympic torch was taken into open space for the first time. Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kotov and Sergei Ryazansky had the honor of going out of the International Space Station (ISS) and passing the torch in space.

On 23 November, the torch was carried 13 metres down into the depths of Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world, thanks to a specially designed burner, similar to the pyrotechnical devices used as warning signals at sea.

At the Opening Ceremony, the flame was successively relayed in the Stadium by four Russian athletes who had shone at the Olympic Games: Maria Sharapova, Yelena Isinbaeva, Aleksandr Karelin and Alina Kabaeva. Then, two other eminent Olympians, Irina Rodnina and Vladislav Tretiak carried it to the cauldron located outside the Stadium and proceeded to light it.

Last update: November 2014



DID YOU KNOW?

- Like for the torch, the shape of the main cauldron was inspired by the firebird. Close to the Fisht Stadium, in the heart of the Olympic Park, the flame burned for the Games' duration 50 m atop a tower which represented the head of the bird. At the base of the construction, its open wings formed a circle of about 100 m in diameter, where a fountain capable of producing a sound and light show and jets of water 60 m high could be found.
- The torch used by Irina Rodnina and Vladislav Tretiak to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony of the Games on 7 February 2014 was the same one taken into space in November 2013.
- For the first time in its history, the Olympic flame reached the geographical North Pole. While the main Relay continued in Western Russia, an icebreaker set off on 15 October from Murmansk with an Olympic flame conserved in a lantern on board. This flame reached the geographical North Pole on 19 October and burned there in a cauldron during a ceremony.

Last update: November 2014



Sources

General sources:

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