



## TRAVEL TO LONDON DURING THE 2012 OLYMPIC PERIOD INFORMATION FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

With less than 2 months until the start of the 2012 Olympics, Embassy London would like to provide Official Delegations and Members of Congress with guidance about both official and unofficial travel to London during the July 27-August 12 Olympics and August 29-September 9 Paralympics Games period.

**OFFICIAL VISITS AND MEETINGS:** The Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in London recommend careful consideration of the utility of any potential official visit to the UK during the period of the Olympic Games. We anticipate traffic and travel restrictions and an acute shortage of hotel rooms. Scheduling meetings with British officials during the Olympics will be extremely difficult. Many key British counterparts outside of government may similarly be unavailable.

**TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS: THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GAMES:** To accommodate the hundreds of thousands of athletes and visitors from all over the world who will begin pouring into London before the Olympics begin on July 27, the UK Government is implementing measures that include severe restrictions on traffic and parking throughout central London. Diplomatic vehicles are not exempt from these restrictions and U.S. Embassy motorcade services for Official Delegation and Congressional visits will be limited. These restrictions will dramatically increase reliance on public transit for central London travel— especially the London Underground, which will see three million extra journeys a day during the Games. Travelers to London during the Olympics should expect long queues at tube stations as well as at the airport and going through security at the Olympic Park.

**U.S. EMBASSY LONDON SUPPORT TO OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS:** The Embassy will do its best to assist Official Delegations and Members of Congress and staff traveling to London during this time to the extent possible. However, in the immediate run-up to and during the July 27-September 9 period, Embassy resources will be focused on supporting the Official USG Delegation to the Games; availability of staff support for additional visitors will be extremely limited. Members of Congress and Official Delegations intending to come to London should plan ahead as tickets for events are in short supply as are hotel rooms, which are easily costing more than double the regular summer rates, and many requiring minimum stays. (The websites listed on the following page provide useful travel and Games information.)

Embassy London looks forward to welcoming official visitors back to London for the wide ranging consultations and outreach we value following completion of the Games on September 9. Contact the OCO staff at [LondonOCO2012@state.gov](mailto:LondonOCO2012@state.gov) with any questions or inquiries.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES AND INFORMATION

**Official U.S. Ticket Reseller:** [www.cosport.com](http://www.cosport.com) or call 1-877-457-4647

*For individual tickets or package deals. Please be aware of scams, fake Olympic ticket websites, and unlicensed ticket resellers. To check the validity of tickets or read the latest information on Olympic scams, visit <http://www.london2012.com/about-this-website/ticketing-website-checker.php>*

**Official London 2012 Website:** <http://www.london2012.com>

*Official website on the London 2012 Games; Information about UK-based ticket purchasing, the schedule of events, the Opening & Closing Ceremonies, sporting venues, Cultural Olympiad, London Festival accommodations, accessibility, and more.*

**Transport for London:** <http://www.tfl.gov.uk>

*London's official transportation website complete with journey planners for the London Underground/Tube, railways and bus service. TfL's website will also show any delays, station closures or service interruptions.*

**Get Ahead of the Games:** <http://www.getaheadofthegames.com/>

*A transportation website sponsored by the Mayor of London with information on special Games-specific transportation options and up-to-date information on closures or interruptions to service.*

**Visit London's Website:** <http://www.visitlondon.com>

*Official tourism website for London. Here you can find information on dining, shopping, theatre, and sightseeing.*

**U.S. Embassy London Website:** <http://london.usembassy.gov>

*Information regarding American Citizen Services the Embassy offers, security and travel information, fraud warnings, etc.*

**Department of State Travel Website:** <http://www.travel.state.gov/>

*Latest travel warnings, international travel tips, information regarding the STEP registration process, etc.*

**USA in UK Blog/Twitter:** <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/london2012>

*The official Olympics blog of the U.S. Embassy in London, featuring information about preparations for the Olympics & Paralympics, the Games "experience," and helpful tips to make sure you can enjoy a safe and fun trip to London. The USA in UK blog also has a Twitter feed that you can follow to stay updated.*

**U.S. Embassy London's Facebook page & YouTube Channel:**

<http://www.facebook.com/uk.usembassy>

*"Like" U.S. Embassy London on Facebook to see the latest updates, photos and comments or search for us on YouTube.*

**Team USA/U.S. Olympic Committee Website:** <http://www.teamusa.org>

*Keep up with Team USA as they prepare for London 2012. Site features athlete bios, merchandise, and more.*

**Olympic Ticket-selling Website Checker:** <http://www.london2012.com/about-this-website/ticketing-website-checker.php>.

*The London2012 "website checker" to verify the legitimacy of a ticket selling websites.*

**Note:** The Olympic Village and nine of the Olympic venues are located in East London. There are 13 other London venues hosting various sporting events. In addition, there are 10 venues outside of London. Visit the London 2012 website at [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com) for full venue details.