Fact sheet

When the Queen’s Baton arrives at the Opening Ceremony of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games™ (GC2018) on 4 April 2018, the entire Commonwealth will have been a part of the journey, giving everyone the opportunity to Share the Dream.

On an ambitious journey to connect with the modern and diverse Commonwealth of today, the GC2018 Queen’s Baton Relay (QBR) will achieve two records – it will be the longest relay ever, and the most accessible relay to date.

The QBR has been the traditional curtain-raiser to the Commonwealth Games since the 1958 Games in Cardiff, Wales. The Queen’s Baton carries a message from Her Majesty The Queen, through all nations and territories as a call to the Commonwealth to come together in friendly competition at the Games.

It is the vision of the XXI Commonwealth Games to stage a great QBR that embraces the Commonwealth’s diversity, ignites community pride and excites the Commonwealth about the GC2018.

The Relay will start at Buckingham Palace on Monday 13 March 2017 – Commonwealth Day. At the commencement ceremony Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, will place Her message into the Baton and entrust its journey with the many batonbearers who will carry it around the Commonwealth.

Travelling for 388-days throughout all nations and territories, the Relay will be the longest in Commonwealth Games history.

Over the 288-day international sector, the Baton will spend between two and four days in each nation and territory, taking time to embrace every community it visits across Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia and Oceania.

The Baton will be the most accessible yet; not just passing through, but spending quality time in each relay community. This will give more than one-third of the world’s population, the opportunity to have a memorable experience with the Baton and Share the Dream of the QBR and GC2018.

Although called a relay, running is not central to the QBR. Accessible and alternate modes of transport will carry the Baton on its journey throughout the Commonwealth, embracing the local culture and traditions of each nation and territory the Baton visits.

It is the aim of the GC2018 QBR to be the first relay to arrive in Saint Helena by plane; in previous relays the Baton has arrived on the RMS St Helena. In another first, the Baton will be present at the Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG); The Bahamas will host the 2017 CYG from 19 to 23 July 2017 in the capital Nassau.

Showing leadership in sustainability is a priority for the GC2018 QBR, with consideration given to ensure the Relay leaves positive economic, environmental, social and community legacies.

Starting in Australia on 25 December 2017, the Relay will commence a 100-day domestic sector, concluding its journey at the Games Opening Ceremony. The final Batonbearer will return the Baton to Her Majesty The Queen (or Her Representative), where the message will be removed from the Baton and read aloud to officially open GC2018.

Please note: The information contained in the following pages is correct at the time of publication. Information may change due to circumstances outside of the control of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation.
20. Trinidad and Tobago (from Saint Helena) Sun 28 May 2017
21. Grenada Wed 31 May 2017
22. St Vincent and the Grenadines Sat 3 Jun 2017
23. Saint Lucia Wed 7 Jun 2017
24. Barbados Sat 10 Jun 2017
25. Dominica Wed 14 Jun 2017
26. Antigua and Barbuda Sat 17 Jun 2017
27. Montserrat Wed 21 Jun 2017
28. St Kitts and Nevis Sat 24 Jun 2017
29. Anguilla Wed 28 Jun 2017
30. British Virgin Islands Sat 1 Jul 2017
31. Jamaica Wed 5 Jul 2017
32. Turks and Caicos Islands Tue 11 Jul 2017
33. Cayman Islands (to the Americas) Fri 14 Jul 2017
34. The Bahamas (from the Cayman Islands) Tue 18 Jul 2017
35. Bermuda Mon 24 Jul 2017
36. Canada Thu 27 Jul 2017
37. Belize Wed 2 Aug 2017
38. Guyana Mon 7 Aug 2017
39. Falkland Islands (to Europe) Sat 12 Aug 2017
57. Nauru (from Asia)  
Arrive: Wed 1 Nov 2017

58. Kiribati  
Arrive: Fri 3 Nov 2017

59. Niue  
Arrive: Thu 7 Nov 2017

60. Cook Islands  
Arrive: Sat 11 Nov 2017

61. Tonga  
Arrive: Thu 16 Nov 2017

62. Fiji  
Arrive: Mon 20 Nov 2017

63. Samoa  
Arrive: Thu 23 Nov 2017

64. Tuvalu  
Arrive: Tue 28 Nov 2017

65. Vanuatu  
Arrive: Fri 1 Dec 2017

66. Solomon Islands  
Arrive: Wed 6 Dec 2017

67. Papua New Guinea  
Arrive: Sat 9 Dec 2017

68. Norfolk Island  
Arrive: Fri 15 Dec 2017

69. New Zealand  
Arrive: Sun 17 Dec 2017

70. Australia (Domestic Sector)  
Arrive: Sun 24 Dec 2017

71. South Pacific Regional Games  
Arrive: Thu 28 Dec 2017

72. Commonwealth Games  
Arrive: Fri 29 Dec 2017

73. Olympic Games  
Arrive: Sat 30 Dec 2017

74. Closing Ceremony  
Arrive: Sun 31 Dec 2017

VISTING ALL COMMONWEALTH nations and territories

Starts on 13 March 2017, BUCKINGHAM PALACE Commonwealth Day

388 DAYS

OPENING CEREMONY

4 April 2018

230,000 KM

50% of COMMONWEALTH citizens are aged 25 and under

#QBR2018

288 DAYS

XXI Commonwealth Games

Queen's Baton Relay

Share the Dream