Venue Guide
Olympiastadion
Opening Ceremony

#UnbeatableTogether

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Welcome to the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023!

This guide will give you all the information you need for your visit to the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023. Including how to get there, our services, and information about our venues.

We invite you to join us as we work towards a more inclusive future. From cheering on our athletes in the stands, to learning and broadening your horizons at our festival and cultural program. At the end of your visit, you will not only have watched our athletes in action, but you will also have become an active part of a movement.

This is not just an event to attend, but an event to join. Be part of the inclusion revolution!
Olympiastadion
Venue for Opening Ceremony

Address to Olympiastadion
Friedrich-Friesen-Allee
14053 Berlin
District Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf

Find it on Google Maps.

Find more information on transport here.

The Opening Ceremony is ticketed.
## Spectator Venue Guide

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Venue Overview

1. Olympiapark
2. Messe
3. Wannsee
4. City
5. SSE
6. Bowling
7. Grünau
8. Bad Saarow
Legend

- Entry / Eingang
- Drinking Water / Trinkwasser
- Tickets
- Shuttle / Bus-Transport
- Buses and Trains / Bus und Bahn
- Parking / Parkplatz
- Toilets / Toiletten
- Press / Presse
- Eating Area / Ess-Bereich
- Quiet Room and Prayer Room / Ruhe-Raum und Gebets-Raum
- Lounge
- Opening Ceremony / Eröffnungsfest
- Sports Area / Spiel-Feld
- Press Area / Presse-Bereich
- Honored Guests and Families / Ehren-Gäste und Familien
- Athlete / Athleten
- Volunteer and Workforce / Helfer und Mitarbeiter

- S-Bahn Pichelsberg / 3 minutes / 280 m
- S-Bahn Olympia Stadion / 125 m
- U-Bahn Olympiapark / 4 minutes / 290 m

North / Norden
The Opening Ceremony is the first real "goosebumps" moment of every big sporting event. It will set the tone for the entire Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 and will provide a lasting impression.

Everyone can look forward to a spectacular show featuring well-known artists, the official Olympics ceremonial elements, and the highly anticipated Parade of Athletes.

Entrance to the Opening Ceremony is via the East and South Gates. All ticket holders should use only East Gate.

South Gate is reserved only for Honored Guests and those that require the Accessible entrance.

Both East and South Gate are fully wheelchair accessible.
Checklist & Prohibited Items

To ensure your visit to Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 is an unforgettable experience, please consider the following points and plan your journey well in advance:

☑ Please remember your ticket & credentials
☑ In the case of a discounted ticket, please have ID proof ready
☑ If you have a mobile ticket, please remember to charge your phone sufficiently beforehand.
☑ Plan your journey in good time and in a sustainable way: public transport (VBB-ticket) is included in all paid tickets
☑ Please bring appropriate clothing for the weather, as not all venues are covered (consider rainwear, sun protection, etc.)
☑ Install the official “Berlin2023” App on your mobile phone to keep up to date with all the latest information

Personal items that cannot be taken into the Olympiastadion and can be left at the storage area at the corner of Gutsmuthsweg and Südtorweg. Please make sure to observe the following rules:

☒ Weapons of any kind (e.g., pepper spray)
☒ Glass containers or bottles
☒ Any plastic canisters, plastic bottles, metal containers, or metal bottles of any kind (tetra packs 250ml or under containing water may be brought in)
☒ Items bigger than A4 paper Size (210 x 290 mm); including bags
☒ Alcoholic beverages/drugs
☒ Straight umbrellas (non-collapsible); Helmets
☒ Smoking is not permitted at all of our venues

On our website, you will find a complete overview of all prohibited and permitted items!
“Berlin 2023” Games App

Download our official Berlin 2023 App to help plan your visit and always have the most up-to-date schedules!

— Customize the app according to your needs: Follow athletes and mark venues & sports as favorites
— Want to know what is going on at the moment? Find all competitions, events, and awards ceremonies at a glance
— Stay up to date with push notifications and announcements, for example when there are changes to the schedule

The App is available in German, English, Easy Language German, and Easy Language English as a free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store under the name “Berlin 2023”
On Site Services

Info Point

Info Points for Opening Ceremony can be found at both entrances. The following services are provided:
• Lost and Found
• Storage of Personal Items
• Accessibility Information
• Wheelchair Loan
• Sensory Backpack Loan

Food & Drinks

There will be catering stands located within the Olympiastadion.

First Aid

The location of the first aid station is marked on the venue map, which you find here.

Tickets can be purchased at the ticket booths on Olympischer Platz in front of the main entrance (East Gate). We recommend you purchase your tickets in advance via our webshop.
On Site Services

Live Broadcasting
There will be live broadcasting of the Opening Ceremony.

Lost and Found
All found items can be handed in at the Info Point. If you have lost an item, you can fill out a report at the Info Point or online.

Merchandise
There are three locations for our Fan Shops at the Opening Ceremony: one at the South Gate, and two at the East Gate. The Fan Shops are open on June 17 from 18:00-23:00.

Toilets
The location for toilets (including accessible toilets) can be found on the venue map. They are located within the Olympiastadion.
Accessible On-Site Services

Accessibility toilets
There will be accessible toilets located throughout the stadium.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower
We are members of the global Hidden Disabilities Sunflower network, and our staff and volunteers will be prepared to assist Sunflower wearers. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower helps to discreetly indicate that the wearer has a health condition that is not immediately obvious to others and highlights the potential need for support. For more information or to purchase Sunflower products in advance of the games, visit Hidden Disabilities Sunflower.
Accessible On-Site Services

Wheelchair Seats
Wheelchair seats can be found around the stadium on the lower level. All seats for wheelchair users can be found in the inner gallery in row 41. The row in front of these seats will be reserved for individuals accompanying. They must be pre-purchased.

Walker
Should you require a walker, you are permitted to bring it to the venue. Once you have found your seat, our team can assist to find a safe place to store the walker and return it to you when required.

Assistance Animals
Guide and assistance animals are allowed for Opening Ceremony as support for people with disabilities, if they are required for medical purposes.
Inclusive Services

- Audio description devices (available at Info Point) will be available in German for selected sessions. You can find the schedule [here](#). You can pick up the device at the Info Point or fill out the [online registration form](#) to reserve a device. To receive the device, we ask you to fill out a form at the Info Point.
- We recommend that you reserve a seat in Block A1 to ensure that the devices connect to the audio stream without interference.
- Sign language interpretation will be available in German sign language. You can find the schedule [here](#).
- Speech-to-text-interpreting will be available for the Opening Ceremony. The interpreting will be automatically displayed on all screens and is available in German and English.
- Sensory backpacks will be available for loan at each Info Point. The packs include earplugs, sensory toys, wayfinding maps, and other tools.
- Wheelchairs will be available for loan at the Info Point if required. They can be pre-booked via [visit@berlin2023.org](mailto:visit@berlin2023.org).

Quiet and Prayer Room

Being in a crowded and busy environment can be overwhelming. There is a place for you to assist with sensory overload, meditate, pray, or just be by yourself for a minute. Each room is barrier-free and contains some yoga mats, ear defenders, and sensory toys.

You can find the room next to the Info Point on the Upper Level on the Northeast Side of the venue. You can ask at the Info Point at the East Gate for assistance and access to the room.

Social Stories

We are providing a social story for the Opening Ceremony. It can help people, for example with autism, so they don’t feel overwhelmed when entering the venue for the first time. You can download the pdf document from our [general accessibility page](#).
Transport Information

Special Olympic World Games Berlin 2023 supports the idea of a sustainable society in all spheres of life. It is therefore highly recommended to use sustainable travel methods.

Arrival by public transport (the entire VBB network is included in every paid ticket):

**S-Bahn**
- “S Olympiastadion” with operating lines S3 and S9
- Walking from the station to the venue will take 5 minutes.
- All ticket holders will be directed to exit to the East and use the main East Gate.

**Subway (U-Bahn)**
- “U Olympiastadion” with operating line U2
- Walking from the station to the venue will take 10 minutes.

Both stations are fully wheelchair accessible.

Active travel – by bike, e-bike & e-scooter
- The Olympiastadion is also easy to reach by bike. Bicycle racks are available free of charge at the venues.
- Another option is to arrive by Bolt e-scooter or e-bike to and discover Berlin at your own pace. Please keep in mind e-scooters can only be used to reach Olympiastadion. In the venue itself, using and parking is prohibited.

**Did you know:**
If you come to the Games with your bike or a Bolt e-scooter or e-bike, you have the chance to win **merchandise** from the Special Olympics World Games 2023 or one of two Bolt **ride credits** of **30€** each! To find out how, go to [Greener Games](https://www.greenergames.com)!
Transport Information
Please keep in mind road closures and limited parking areas while planning your trip.

Arrival by taxi or carpooling
Recommended drop-off and pick-up location: the smaller area at Olympischer Platz (coming from Olympische Straße)

Arrival by car
The Special Olympics does not provide parking for spectators (please see accessible parking for those with permits). Please note we expect the parking to be very limited in the area that night. If you do need to arrive by car, we recommend parking near Messe Berlin and using the U-Bahn (U2) to travel 1 stop to the Stadium.

Accessible parking
Accessible parking can be found at the Olympischer Platz (Olympic Place); access must be requested. If you need accessible parking and are a blue badge holder, please contact us at visit@berlin2023.org or +49 (0)30 62933 6084.

Helpful tools along the way

— The app GuideMeGo helps to find your way around the city when you need assistance. Several functions are available including video chat.

— The app VBB Easy is aimed at cognitively impaired people to help them navigate through Berlin and the region. It shows you possible routes, you can save different locations and you receive tips during your journey. You can also request help via the app.
Greener Games

A sustainable world for all is our commitment and we do our best to be as environmentally conscious as possible. Greener Games is our way to work altogether:

— We have **water fountains** at most of the venues. You can find them on the [map](#). You can simply refill your water bottle (not larger than 500ml) for free.

— Be part of Bolt’s **Cycle to the Games**. Take a photo of you and your two-wheeler safely parked at the designated parking zone, share the photo as an Instagram story & tag #CycleToTheGames & @bolt.deutschland or use the QR code that is visible at all Info Points.

— We prioritize a **vegetarian and vegan menu** for our athletes and honored guests and encourage you to also try out meatless options at the food stalls.
Get the limited WelcomeCard from visitBerlin for just 9€ and discover the city with their attractive offers!

- **Get a discount of up to 50%** with more than 180 partners, including highlights such as the TV Tower or the DDR Museum
- **Online guide** with all partners, tour recommendations and much more
- **Valid for 72h** from 12 June until 25 June

Get your ticket [here](#)
Special Olympics Festival

The Special Olympics Festival is a unique and inclusive experience for all: colorful stage programs, many participatory offers and sports activities invite all Games’ attendees, visitors and Berliners to locations spread throughout the city, bringing sport and culture together. Come along and look forward to a varied program!

We invite you to try out our join-in activities, enjoy great performances, dance in front of the stages and learn more about Special Olympics.

Find more information on our website.
Special Olympics Festival

Festival at Neptunbrunnen

The Special Olympics Festival at Neptunbrunnen brings the World Games to the centre of the city. You are invited to come by and experience a colorful, public and inclusive festival program. Come along and enjoy music and stage performances, try out join-in activities in exhibitor booths and cheer on our athletes in the official 3x3 basketball competitions, which are taking place right next to the festival. Admission is free.

When: from 15 to 25 June
Daily from 14:00 to 22:00. Exceptions: On 17, 22 and 25 June, the festival closes already at 19:00
Where: Neptunbrunnen, Rathausplatz 1, 10718 Berlin

Find more information on our website.

Festival at Sommergarten, Messe Berlin

Messe Berlin’s Sommergarten will come alive this Summer! Join us for our outdoor celebration at our largest sport venue. Athletes, delegations and ticket holders can enjoy a stage program, performances, join-in activities at our exhibitor booths, and award ceremonies. Admission only with ticket and accreditation.

When: from 18 to 25 June
daily from 11:00-19:00, Exception: on the 25th the festival already closes at 14:00
Where: Sommergarten at Messe Berlin, Messedamm 22, 14055 Berlin

Find more information on our website.
Highlight Events at Brandenburg Gate

A wide-ranging and diverse program awaits you at the Special Olympics Festival Highlight Events at the Brandenburg Gate – Berlin’s most famous landmark, right in the middle of the city. Admission is free!

When:  
- Sunday, 18 June: Family sports festival  
- Monday, 19 June: Concert Evening as part of the Kultursommer 2023  
- Wednesday, 21 June: Fête de la Musique

Where: Brandenburger Tor, Pariser Platz, 10117 Berlin

Find more information on our website.

Cultural Program

The cultural program includes inclusive top cultural offerings from various artists, collectives, and institutions. From theatre plays to guided tours, special museum offers, and musical highlights. Don’t miss out on the best of Berlin’s cultural scene. You can get your ticket information directly from the organisers.

When: 10 to 25 June
Where: various locations around Berlin

Find more information on our website.
Visit The Torch

Do you want the chance to take a photo with our official Olympic Torch?

Be sure to visit our Torch Experience booths at the following venues to see the torch up close and create a memory of your visit!

- Basketball Hall at Messe Berlin (thanks to Coca-Cola)
- Athletics at Hanns-Braun-Stadium at Olympiapark (thanks to Toyota)
- Equestrian at Reitclub am Olympiapark (thanks to Schufa)
FAQ

Where can I find the sports schedule?
The schedule (all subject to change) is available here. We also recommend you download our app.

How do I leave a comment or ask a question?
We love to receive feedback both positive and constructive. To leave a comment or ask a question, you can contact us at visit@berlin2023.org or you can visit one of our Info Points and the team will be happy to listen and assist.

Can I leave and come back? Are there pass outs?
Yes, you can re-enter at all our events. Please make sure to scan before entering and leaving the venue to ensure a safe re-entry process.

How can I be sure if I get free public transport with my ticket?
All paid tickets include free public transport within Berlin zones A, B and C. If you are not sure whether you can use public transport, you can check whether your ticket has the VBB logo on it. The ticket must be personalized with the traveler’s name. Please make sure you have valid identification with you for possible ticket checks on public transportation.

For more information and general question, please see our FAQs on our website.

Did you enjoy your experience?
We would love your feedback. Please scan the QR-Code and tell us how we did!
How to Stay Involved

Become an active part and join as a volunteer. Have a look and see the possibilities for your home region: Become a Volunteer (specialolympics.org)

Help us to transform a life and give people a chance to receive health and education:
- Donate ! Special Olympics
- Spende ! Special Olympics Projekte

Thanks for cheering and celebrating our athletes!
We hope you had a great time at the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023!
Stay tuned for more and be a part of the inclusion revolution via social media:

- Instagram
- Facebook
- Youtube
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
Photos
Special Olympics Inc.
Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 / Anna Spindelndreier, Florian Conrad, Sarah Rauch, Stefan Holtzem, Tilo Wiedensohler

The content of this handbook reflects the planning status at the end of April 2023, subject to change.

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#UnsichtbaresLeben

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Organizing Committee gGmbH

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