

Thinking creatively and revolutionising the Games yet remaining accessible to a large audience: this is the challenge met by Paris 2024. Thanks to the concerted efforts of Paris 2024, the City of Paris, the French government, the IOC and the CNOSF, the Opening Ceremony is being remade anew.

ONE CEREMONY, SEVERAL FIRSTS

The Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Olympic Games will be bold, original and unique. On 26 July 2024, Paris 2024 will offer an Opening Ceremony that is certain to join the most memorable moments in Olympic history.

A ceremony outside a stadium

For the first time in the history of the Olympic Summer Games, the Opening Ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Paris 2024 is breaking new ground by bringing sports into the city and the same will be true of the Opening Ceremony, set to be held in the heart of the city along its main artery: the Seine.

A ceremony on the river

Taking on a new guise, the parade of athletes will be held on the Seine with boats for each national delegation. These boats will be equipped with cameras to allow television and online viewers to see the athletes up close. Winding their way from east to west, the 10,500 athletes will cross through the centre of Paris, the overall playing field for the Games on which these competitors will display their sporting prowess over the next 16 days. The parade will come to the end of its 6-kilometre route in front of the Trocadéro, where the remaining elements of Olympic protocol and final shows will take place.

A ceremony with free admission for many spectators

Holding a ceremony open to a large audience, with no admission fee for most of its spectators, is a major first. Fans won't need tickets to access the upper quays, but those wishing to access the lower quays, from the Austerlitz bridge to the Iéna bridge, will need to buy tickets. Eighty giant screens and strategically placed speakers will allow everyone to enjoy the magical atmosphere of this show reverberating throughout the French capital. The Opening Ceremony

for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 will be the largest in Games history. It will be open to all: residents from Paris and its region, as well as visitors from all over France and around the world.

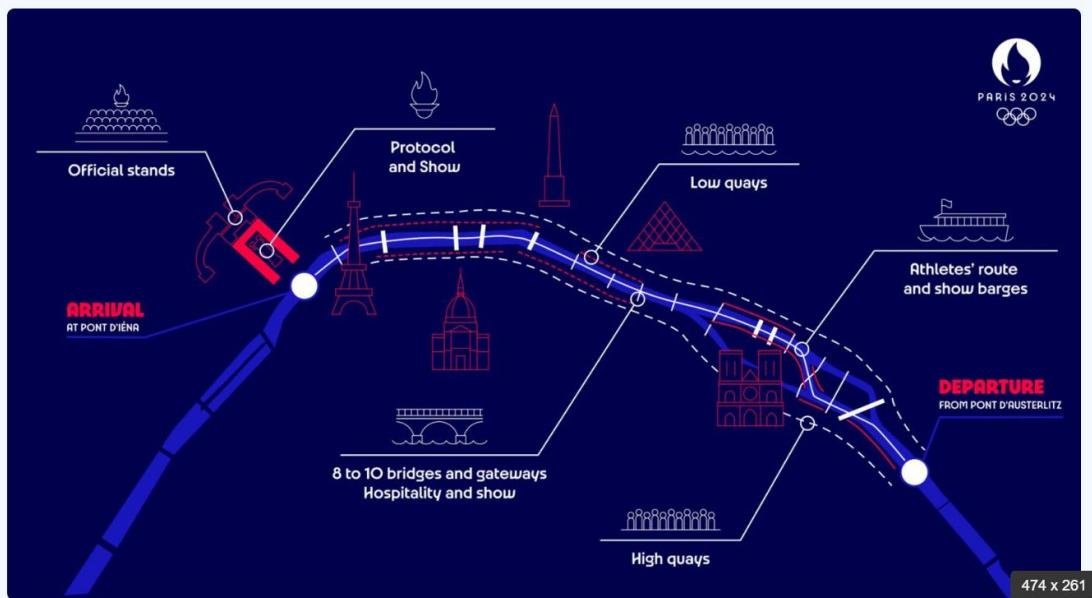
A ceremony designed for and by athletes

Athletes will be the heart and soul of the ceremony. By opening with the parade of athletes, Paris 2024 is breaking with tradition. Athletes will be featured on stage during the introduction to and throughout the ceremony as part of Paris 2024's constant aim to hold Games created for and by athletes.

PARADE ROUTE

The river parade will follow the course of the Seine, from east to west over 6 kilometres. The parade will depart from the Austerlitz bridge beside the Jardin des Plantes and make its way around the two islands at the centre of the city (the Île Saint Louis and the Île de la Cité) before passing under several bridges and gateways. Athletes on board the parade boats will get glimpses of some of the official Games venues, including Parc Urbain La Concorde, the Esplanade des Invalides, the Grand Palais, and lastly the Iéna bridge where the parade will come to a stop before the ceremony's finale at the Trocadéro.

source: <https://olympics.com/en/paris-2024/the-games/ceremonies/opening-ceremony>



Paris 2024 aims to revolutionise Olympic opening ceremony ...

Vocabulary

bold = audacieux / courageux

break new ground = innover

true = vrai

be held = avoir lieu

display = montrer

pro prowess = talent

admission fee = frais d'admission

up(per) contraire = low(er) = haut/bas

quays = quais

speakers = enceintes

break with tradition = rompre avec la tradition

Reading activity

1. How many partners worked on the Paris 2024 organisation? Name them.
2. How is the Opening Ceremony described? (3 adjectives)
3. When is the Opening Ceremony taking place?
4. What will happen for the first time in the Olympic Games history?
5. Where will the parade take place?
6. How many athletes will parade?
7. How long is the parade route?
8. The Opening Ceremony will be (circle the right answer)
 - free for a lot of people
 - free for some people.
9. In what way is Paris 2024 Opening Ceremony breaking with tradition?