

Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay to visit Severn Valley Railway as full England route revealed

May 11, 2022



The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit the Severn Valley Railway as one of several stops on its final journey through England this summer, as the full route is revealed.

Birmingham 2022 is hosting the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – a journey which brings together and celebrates communities across the Commonwealth during the build up to the Games. In England, the Queen's Baton Relay will provide the opportunity for communities to experience the excitement for Birmingham 2022, as the 11 days of showstopping sport nears ever closer.

The Queen's Baton Relay is set to travel the length and breadth of England for a total of 29 days, before culminating at the Opening Ceremony for Birmingham 2022 on 28 July 2022. Kicking off on **Thursday 2 June**, the Baton will spend four days in London, coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend. The Baton will then resume the international journey and return to England on **Monday 4 July** to commence a 25-day tour of the regions.

The England leg of the Queen's Baton Relay, which is proudly partnered with Longines, has a busy schedule of activities and events planned, with opportunities to highlight untold stories from Batonbearers who are striving for change in their community.

On Saturday 23 July, the Queen's Baton will visit the Severn Valley Railway during its journey through the West Midlands.

Helen Smith, the SVR's Managing Director, said: *"We are delighted that the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay will visit the Severn Valley Railway on 23 July, as part of its incredible journey through England this summer. We are looking forward to celebrating the arrival of the Baton and everyone here is excited to give it a warm welcome."*

Thousands of Batonbearers, each with inspiring backgrounds and stories, will have the honour of carrying the Baton during the journey through England, including those nominated in recognition of their contributions to their local community, whether that be in sport, education, the arts, culture or charity. Between 40 and 130 Batonbearers will carry the Baton each day, and the Relay will reach hundreds of villages, towns and cities during its tour of the country.

Travelling via land, air and sea, more than 180 communities in England will experience the Queen's Baton on a route spanning 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres). From energetic cities and historic market towns, to rolling countryside and rugged coastline, the Baton will head as far south as Cornwall and as far north as Northumberland.

Since its inaugural appearance at the Cardiff 1958 Commonwealth Games, the Queen's Baton Relay has been a tradition for the Commonwealth Games.

The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay began at Buckingham Palace on 7 October 2021, when The Queen placed Her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton and passed it to four-time Paralympic gold medallist Kadeena Cox, who had the honour of being the first of thousands of Batonbearers to carry the Baton.

Since then, the Baton has visited Commonwealth nations and territories in Europe, Africa, Oceania. It still has further destinations in the Caribbean, the Americas, and more countries in Europe, including the Home Nations consisting of five days in **Scotland**, four in **Northern Ireland** and five in **Wales**, where it will finish on Sunday 3 July, before returning to England in summer for the final countdown to the Commonwealth Games.

The dates of when the Baton visits each region are:

- 4 July – 5 July: **South West**
- 6 July – 7 July: **South East**
- 8 July – 9 July: **East of England**
- 10 July – 11 July: **East Midlands**
- 12 July – 13 July: **Yorkshire and the Humber**
- 14 July – 15 July: **North East**
- 16 July – 17 July: **North West**
- 18 July – 28 July: **West Midlands**

Phil Batty, Director of Ceremonies, Culture & Queen's Baton Relay, said: "Whilst the Baton has been travelling across the Commonwealth, we have worked closely with Local Authorities in England to devise a route that engages with hundreds of communities, passing sport venues, historic sites, local schools and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Yet the Queen's Baton Relay is far more than just a journey. It symbolises connecting people from every corner of the Commonwealth, celebrates Batonbearers who take on challenges, and marks the countdown the biggest sporting event in West Midlands history. And by the time the Baton returns to England for the final leg, 71 nations and territories will have already experienced the magic that comes with it.

"We hope that communities across the country join the excitement, attend events near them, line the streets to cheer on our incredible Batonbearers and celebrate the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games."

Throughout May, the Queen's Baton Relay continues its journey through the Caribbean and the Americas, with visits to St Kitts & Nevis, Antigua & Barbuda, Bermuda and Canada, amongst others.

For more information on the Queen's Baton Relay, visit www.birmingham2022.com/qbr.

The information provided on the route through England is subject to local authority approval and therefore could be subject to change.

Photo credit: Jack Boskett