



Media Release

January 06, 2022

THE QUEEN'S BATON RELAY COMPLETES VISIT TO SRI LANKA

January 06, 2022: The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay has completed its visit to Sri Lanka the 25th destination out of the 72 Commonwealth nations and territories it will be visiting.

The Baton arrived on January 3, 2022 and was officially welcomed by Her Excellency Sarah Hulton OBE, British High Commissioner and Mr. Suresh Subramaniam – the President of CGA Sri Lanka before spending three days touring the country.

During its time in Sri Lanka, the Queen's Baton Relay and CGA Sri Lanka took part in numerous activities and festivities, including a special visit to Colombo, Kandy and Hatton. Chinthana Vithanage and Dinusha Hansani Gomes, who have won the medals at the Commonwealth Games, had the honour of being the first Batonbearer in Sri Lanka to hold the Baton.

The Baton also paid a visit to Kirkoswald Tea estate in Hatton to honour the tea industry in Sri Lanka.

In Colombo, The Queen's Baton Relay celebrated with many sport activities around the Independence square.

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 started at Buckingham Palace on 7 October 2021, when Her Majesty The Queen placed her Message to the Commonwealth into the Baton.

Mr. Suresh Subramaniam, the President of CGA Sri Lanka said *"I am filled with pride that Sri Lanka had the opportunity to host the Queen's Baton Relay and be part of this momentous journey. Not only did it give us the opportunity to celebrate the spirit of Sri Lanka but it represents the coming together of communities across the whole of the Commonwealth."*

The Secretary General of CGA Sri Lanka Mr. Maxwell de Silva said *"We have relished in the opportunity to commemorate our community's part in the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay. Everyone here has had a great time taking part in all the activities and supporting our local champions, as they represent Sri Lanka as Batonbearers."*

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It has taken to Bangladesh by Mr. Chandana Liyanage - the Baton Manager for Sri Lanka's Leg to continue in its tradition of touring the Commonwealth in the build-up to Birmingham 2022.

Commenting on the Queen's Baton Relay celebrations, Maarya Rehman, Country Director British Council Sri Lanka said: *'We feel honoured to have been part of the Queen's Baton Relay in Sri Lanka as it is on its epic 294-day journey around the world, through 72 nations and territories. The British Council has worked with schools in Sri Lanka for many years and we are delighted to have been involved in the 2022 Games by linking up six schools in the UK and Sri Lanka so that young people from around the world can learn from each other and develop a deeper understanding of the Commonwealth and its values – which include a commitment to democracy, protecting the environment, and investing in opportunities for young people. The Commonwealth Connections global program is a joint project with the Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, twinning 60 schools in the West Midlands with 60 schools across the Commonwealth.'*

The 16th official Queen's Baton Relay is an epic journey covering the entirety of the Commonwealth as it will travel to all 72 nations and territories, covering a distance of 140,000 kilometres. For 269 days, the Baton will travel to Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and the Americas, before it embarks on the final stretch of its journey across England for 25 days.

The Queen's Baton Relay will complete its journey at the Opening Ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on 28 July 2022. This is a traditional and fundamental part of the Games and the Opening Ceremony, as the final Batonbearer will pass the Baton back to The Queen. The Queen's message to the Commonwealth will then be removed from the Baton and read aloud, marking the official start of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

For further information about the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay visit: www.birmingham2022.com/qbr

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About the Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay

The Queen's Baton Relay is a Games tradition that celebrates, connects and excites communities from across Commonwealth during the build-up to the Games.

Birmingham 2022 is staging the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay – an epic journey across the Commonwealth, with The Queen's Baton visiting all 72 nations and territories, reaching Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean and the Americas.

The Relay will begin on 7 October 2021 at a special event at Buckingham Palace, where Her Majesty The Queen will place Her message to the Commonwealth into the Baton.

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The Baton will travel for 294 days, visiting all 72 nations and territories and connecting communities in every corner of the Commonwealth, embracing unique cultures and sharing stories.

This collective journey will ignite hope, solidarity and collaboration for the next generation, with these stories leaving us all inspired to take on the challenges that matter most to us.

For more information, visit birmingham2022.com/qbr

About the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held from 28 July until 8 August 2022, will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to put the city, the region, and its people on the global stage.

The Games is already proving to be a catalyst for transformation across the West Midlands, attracting new investment and funding, creating jobs and apprenticeships for local people and new opportunities for local businesses, as well as accelerating projects that will ensure the region is ready to host a fantastic sports and cultural celebration.

Birmingham 2022 will be the Games for everyone, bringing people together from across Birmingham and the region, to provide a warm welcome to millions of visitors during the summer of 2022.

Find out more at www.birmingham2022.com

Full schedule of the Queen's Baton Relay international route:

Nation / Territory	Arrival date
1. Cyprus	9 October 2021
2. Malta	12 October 2021
3. Nigeria	16 October 2021
4. The Gambia	20 October 2021
5. Sierra Leone	23 October 2021
6. Ghana	26 October 2021
7. Cameroon	29 October 2021
8. Kenya	2 November 2021
9. Uganda	5 November 2021
10. Rwanda	10 November 2021
11. Tanzania	13 November 2021
12. Malawi	17 November 2021
13. Zambia	20 November 2021
14. Mozambique	23 November 2021
15. Mauritius	27 November 2021
16. Botswana	30 November 2021
17. St. Helena	5 December 2021
18. South Africa	8 December 2021
19. Namibia	14 December 2021
20. Eswatini	17 December 2021

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21. Lesotho	20 December 2021
22. Seychelles	23 December 2021
23. Pakistan	27 December 2021
24. Maldives	1 January 2022
25. Sri Lanka	4 January 2022
26. Bangladesh	7 January 2022
27. India	12 January 2022
28. Singapore	17 January 2022
29. Malaysia	22 January 2022
30. Brunei	26 January 2022
31. Papua New Guinea	30 January 2022
32. Solomon Islands	2 February 2022
33. Nauru	5 February 2022
34. Fiji	13 February 2022
35. Samoa	16 February 2022
36. Tonga	19 February 2022
37. Vanuatu	22 February 2022
38. Kiribati	25 February 2022
39. Tuvalu	28 February 2022
40. Niue	3 March 2022
41. Cook Islands	6 March 2022
42. Norfolk Island	9 March 2022
43. New Zealand	12 March 2022
44. Australia	17 March 2022
45. Belize	23 March 2022
46. Guyana	26 March 2022
47. Grenada	30 March 2022
48. The Bahamas	3 April 2022
49. Turks & Caicos	7 April 2022
50. Cayman Islands	12 April 2022
51. Jamaica	15 April 2022
52. Trinidad & Tobago	19 April 2022
53. Barbados	23 April 2022
54. Montserrat	26 April 2022
55. Dominica	29 April 2022
56. British Virgin Islands	3 May 2022
57. St. Kitts & Nevis	6 May 2022
58. Anguilla	9 May 2022
59. Antigua & Barbuda	13 May 2022
60. St. Lucia	16 May 2022
61. St. Vincent & The Grenadines	19 May 2022
62. Bermuda	22 May 2022
63. Canada	26 May 2022
64. Gibraltar	31 May 2022
65. Falkland Islands	7 June 2022
66. Jersey	10 June 2022
67. Guernsey	13 June 2022
68. Isle of Man	16 June 2022
69. Scotland	18 June 2022

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70. Northern Ireland	24 June 2022
71. Wales	29 June 2022
72. England	4 July 2022

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