

NEWS RELEASE

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**LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY ROUTE
SOUTH EAST LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED**

Today 74 overnight locations on the London 2012 Olympic torch relay route have been announced. These locations cover the length and breadth of the British Isles and include 9 major towns and cities in the South East.

Tourism South East is delighted to congratulate Oxford, Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton and Hove, Hastings, Dover, Maidstone, Reading, Guildford and our near neighbours of Bournemouth, Salisbury and of course Weymouth and Portland who have all been named.

The torch will start the UK leg of its journey at Land's End, Cornwall, on the morning of Saturday 19 May 2012 - the day after it arrives in the UK from Greece. It will travel for about 12 hours a day, arriving at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July for the lighting of the cauldron at the opening ceremony. Events and celebrations are being planned by the cities hosting the torch on its overnight stops.

John Williams, Chairman of Tourism South East said, "I am delighted that the South East will have so many opportunities to share in the excitement and celebration. It will be another demonstration of the tourism benefits that the Games will be bringing to the whole of the Beautiful South".

Tourism South East will be working with its partners across the South East to develop the opportunities that the torch relay will create for tourism businesses.

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Note to Editors:

Tourism South East is the tourist board for South East England, covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East and West Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey.

The South East is the largest region for tourism in Britain outside of London, worth in excess of £12 billion p.a. to the regional economy (7% of regional GVA) supporting over 300,000 jobs.