

WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 →

BRENTFORD
LEIGH
SHEFFIELD
BRIGHTON
WEMBLEY
LONDON
ROTHERHAM
MANCHESTER
SOUTHAMPTON

MILTON KEYNES



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022

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The women's game has come a long way since **England** last hosted the **Euros** in 2005. Crowds of 91,000 recently recorded at Barcelona, a **World Cup** of 32 teams due for Australia/New Zealand in 2023 and a combined TV audience of a billion-plus for France 2019... And yet, has it?

While the Euro 2005 final was played at Ewood Park, Blackburn before 21,000 spectators, halfway through **Germany's** European reign, the upcoming tournament is due to take place at several grounds of well under 20,000 capacity. True, the event is bookended by a showcase opening fixture at **Old Trafford** on July 6 between hosts England and **Austria**, and the final set for **Wembley** on July 31 but, in between, current European champions **Holland** will be striding out at **Leigh Sports Village**. The setting, nowhere near any train station, has been designated by UEFA as being 'Wigan and Leigh' – the ground forms part of the college campus of the same name.

Many point to the entire North-East and the Midlands being completely ignored here, but this is unfair. Quite simply, no grounds there applied to be hosts. The fact that stadiums had to apply in 2018, before the successful Women's World Cup in France for which thousands hopped across the Channel, is unfortunate.

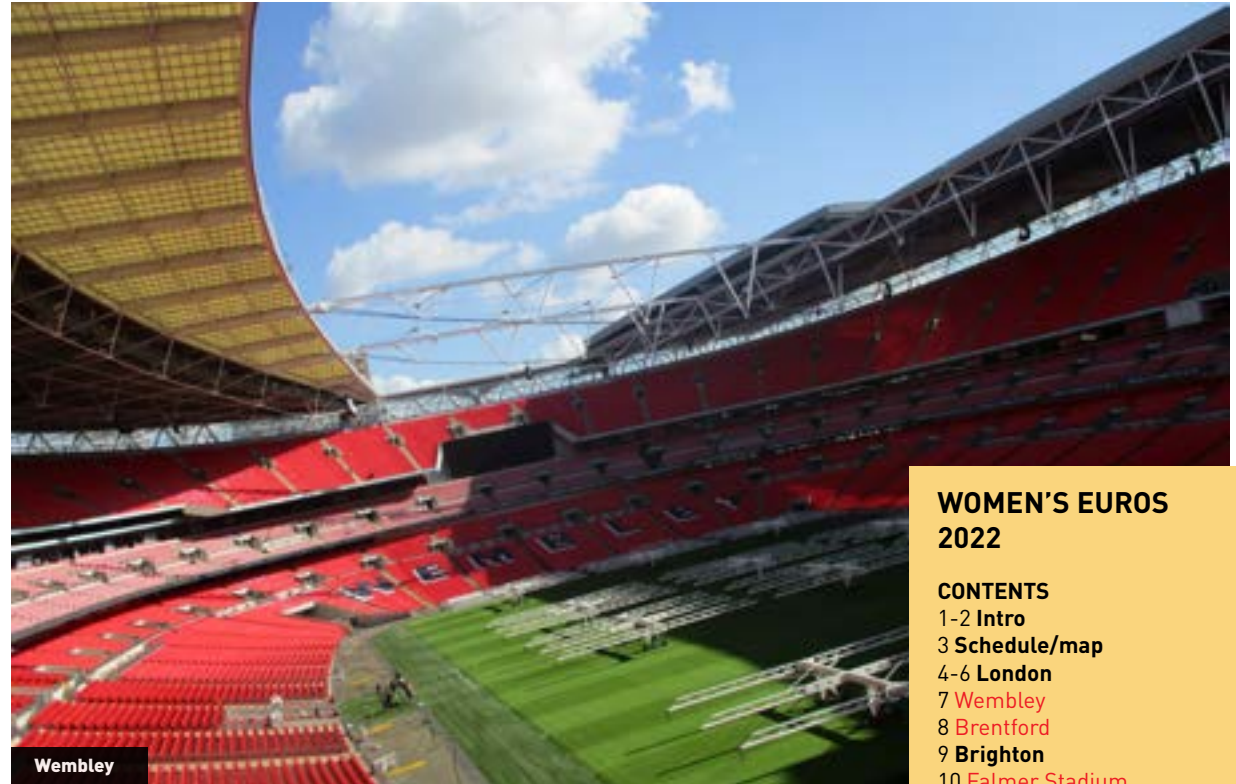
Between the curtain-raiser and the final, what are we left with? Actually, plenty of great football. England's

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other two games in **Group A** take place on the south coast, **Brighton** and **Southampton** certain to provide a holiday atmosphere in July.

The winners of Group A stay in Brighton for the quarter-finals – this tournament being the classic four-groups-of-four format baby-boomers still mourn when thinking of World Cups of yore. Group runners-up go to **Brentford**, a completely new stadium in west London



Wembley

and a shining example of what can be done when you run a football club properly, the regular tenants having just enjoyed a thrilling return to the top flight after 74 years.

The **Brentford Community Stadium** also stages the plum fixture in the group stage, favourites **Spain** against traditional powerhouse Germany on 12 July. When the same two teams met at an empty Riverside Stadium in

Middlesbrough last February, Germany rescued a late draw after **Alexia Putellas** had opened the scoring. The Barcelona captain and Ballon d'Or winner is heavily backed to be top scorer this summer. The 2021 Champions League winners provide the bulk of the Spanish squad.

The other likely candidate to take the Golden Boot this July is England's **Ellen White**. Having scored in almost

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Bramall Lane/Joe Stubley

every other game during her 100+ appearances for the Lionesses, 33-year-old White is surely playing in her last Euros, though probably not her last major tournament.

England coach **Sarina Wiegmann**, who masterminded that Dutch win at the last Euros and their impressive performance to take silver at the 2019 World Cup, will be another major factor

why many think that Wembley will again be welcoming the host nation at the Euros, a year after the men. Arriving in September 2021, Wiegmann has yet to oversee a losing side, her team notching a quite absurd number of goals in the meantime.

Five came against **Northern Ireland** in April, two from promising strikers Georgia Stanway and Lauren Hemp,

both expected to shine at Euro 2022. The lowest-ranked team to qualify for these finals, managed by Kenny Shiels recently of Derry City, Northern Ireland are taking their major-tournament debut seriously. Turning professional in September 2021, they would have beaten Austria in October but for a stoppage-time equaliser, and held **Switzerland** to a 2-2 draw in February. Drawn in the same group as England,



Pic: Krisztián Mányi

Norway and Austria, however, they may struggle.

Holland begin the defence of their title in **Group C**, taking on a very decent **Sweden** side at **Bramall Lane, Sheffield**. Spectators at nearby **Rotherham** will be looking forward to quality action between **France, Italy, Belgium** and **Iceland** in **Group D**, the winners staying at the **New York Stadium** for the quarter-finals. French captain is Wendie Renard, centre-half stalwart at the mighty Olympique Lyonnais since 2006, winner of eight Champions League medals, including one for a surprisingly straightforward win over Putellas' Barcelona in May. Player of the Match Amandine Henry was a surprising omission when controversial French coach Corinne

Diaconescu named her squad for the Euro finals. As seen at the 2019 Women's World Cup in her home country, it's a decision she may well regret.

Timings & tickets

The Women's Euros 2022 takes place between **July 6-31** in **ten stadiums** across **eight cities**, with 'Wigan and Leigh' sitting just outside Manchester. The biggest arenas, Wembley and Old Trafford, host only one game each, the showcase fixtures at either end of the tournament. The other eight grounds, host either three or four games each between them. The two kick-off times are at **5pm** and **8pm**.

The **16 teams** are play in the classic format of four groups of four, with the two top qualifying for the quarter-finals. If teams are level on points, then matches between them decide who goes through, including goal difference and goals scored if need be. In the knock-out stage, it's extra-time then good old penalties. There's no third-place play-off.

At press-time, **tickets** were still available for all games through www.uefa.com/womenseuro/ticketing/. For most fixtures, they're priced in **three categories**, from the cheapest 3 (£10-£15) to the priciest 1 (£20-£30). For the final at Wembley, it's £15-£50, although if momentum follows any England run to the final, you can expect these to sell out fast. **LE**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 MATCH SCHEDULE

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Wembley p7
Brentford p8

BRIGHTON p9

Falmer Stadium p10

MANCHESTER p11-12

Old Trafford p13
Academy Stadium p14
Leigh Sports Village p15

MILTON KEYNES p16

Stadium MK p17

ROTHERHAM p18

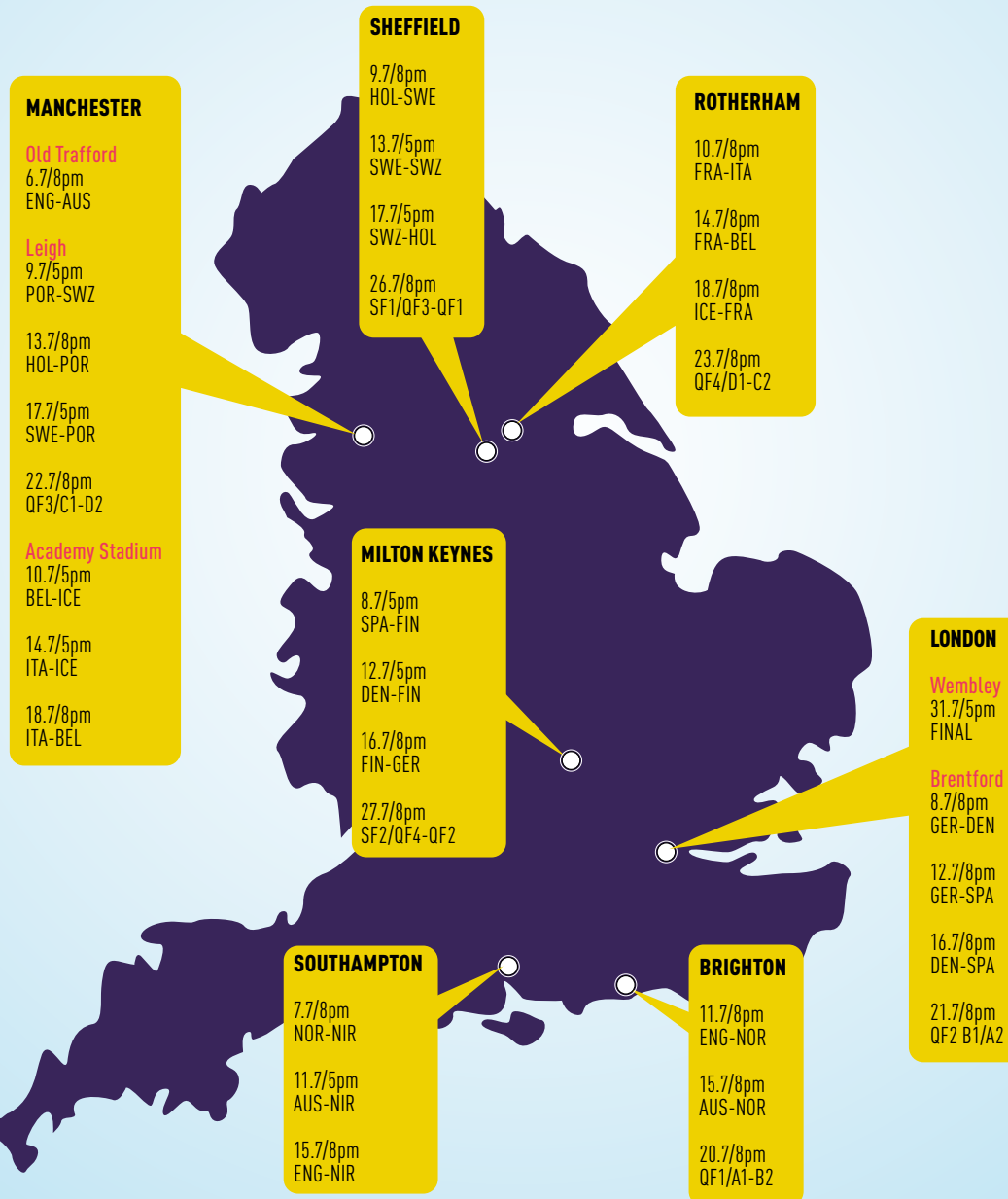
New York Stadium p19

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GROUP A

- A1 England (ENG)
- A2 Austria (AUS)
- A3 Norway (NOR)
- A4 Northern Ireland (NIR)

GROUP B

- B1 Germany (GER)
- B2 Denmark (DEN)
- B3 Spain (SPA)
- B4 Finland (FIN)

GROUP C

- C1 Holland (HOL)
- C2 Sweden (SWE)
- C3 Switzerland (SWZ)
- C4 Portugal (POR)

GROUP D

- D1 France (FRA)
- D2 Italy (ITA)
- D3 Belgium (BEL)
- D4 Iceland (ICE)



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 London

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London

Selected to host five games including the final of Euro 2022, home of six Premier League clubs and a national stadium, **London** is a soccer mecca second-to-none. The stadium in question, **Wembley**, has been the stage for one World Cup, seven Champions League finals, two Euros and now another to follow.

The four other matches in the capital are being played at the **Brentford Community Stadium**, recently opened home of up-and-coming Premier League outfit Brentford FC, based in London.

Every week, thousands come from Scandinavia and beyond to catch the world's top stars in action at North London rivals **Arsenal** and **Tottenham**, and at 2021 Champions League finalists Chelsea. While Chelsea have put their stadium rebuilding plans on hold, Tottenham moved into their new one in 2019 after nearly two whole seasons at Wembley. Across the city in Stratford, **West Ham** are based at the **London Stadium** that staged the Olympic Games in 2012.

Built for the 1908 Games, White City also staged a random group game for the 1966 World Cup before being demolished in 1985. Nearby, **Queen's Park Rangers** have been trying to



move out of cramped Loftus Road for years, without success. New stadiums have opened during the pandemic, however, Brentford's near Kew Bridge station and **AFC Wimbledon's**, beside the site where the original Plough Lane was located, home of 1988 FA Cup winners Wimbledon. Nearby, **Sutton** won the National League in 2021 and joined The 92. South-east of the river, you find **Crystal Palace**, **Charlton** and **Millwall**, local rivals who occasionally

share divisional status. Firmly rooted in East London, **Leyton Orient** recently rediscovered league status, while further east, **Dagenham & Redbridge** are battling to do the same.

The capital is also the seat of the Football Association, the stuffy body who ran the game from its foundation at the Freemasons Tavern in Great Queen Street in 1863 to the inaugural Football League in 1888.

Drafting the rules of the game, the FA then introduced a challenge cup, first won in 1872 by Wanderers, a team of Old Harrovians originally based in Snarbrook, near Epping Forest. Ever since, London teams traditionally performed well in the glamorous cup competitions but poorly in the long, gruelling league championship. All this changed with the arrival of Arsène Wenger as coach of Arsenal and Roman Abramovich as owner of

Chelsea. Eight titles have come to the capital since 1998. During that time, Wembley, opened in 1923, was completely rebuilt and reopened, making it the showcase once again for the national game.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in London during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/london. Five main airports serve London. **Heathrow** is 27km (17 miles) west of town, connected by **Tube** (Piccadilly line, 45mins, pay by **Oyster card** or contactless) and the pricy **Heathrow Express** fast train to **Paddington** (15mins). **Gatwick** is 47km (30 miles) south of town, connected by the **Gatwick Express** to **Victoria Station** (30mins). **Regular trains** to Victoria are cheaper and just as quick. **Luton** is 56km (35 miles) north of town, connected by rail to **St Pancras** (45mins), which includes the shuttle bus to **Luton Airport Parkway** station. **Stansted Airport** is 48km (30 miles) north-east of town, connected by **Stansted Express** to **Liverpool Street** (45mins). A **black cab** from any of these airports to town should cost £60-£100, cheaper with a minicab. By Docklands, **London City Airport** is the closest to town, 11km (seven miles) from the capital's financial centre. It has its own stop on the **Docklands Light Railway (DLR)** line, 17mins from Stratford International and the London Stadium. ➔



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 London

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The hub for **Eurostar** services from Paris and Brussels is at **St Pancras**. The city's main international bus station is **Victoria**, a 10min walk from the main train station of the same name. **London Transport** consists of the Tube, buses, local and light rail, the network divided into zones. Day passes (Travelcards) are sold according to zones, and the price of all-day travel is capped for Oyster users. There are no more cash fares on buses, only payment by Oyster or contactless. Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports are within

the Oyster zone, Luton and Stansted require separate tickets.

Bed

Visit London (visitlondon.com) and information desks at major stations can help with booking. Staying cheaply in London is close to impossible, though there are affordable guesthouses of varying standards around Victoria, Euston and King's Cross Stations.

If you're arriving or departing by Eurostar, the **Great Northern Hotel** is

now a luxury boutique option, having served St Pancras in the great steam era. For something more wallet-friendly, a row of cheap(ish) lodgings between Euston Station and the British Museum lines Gower Street, including the **Arosfa** and **Gower Street Hotels**. For a little football history, then the **Great Cumberland Place** by Marble Arch is where the Magic Magyar team stayed in 1953, though this contemporary lodging looked far different then. Plenty of options surround Wembley and convenient access points.



Right on Wembley Way, stands the gym-equipped, four-star **Novotel**. Even closer, the **Hilton** has a pool, sauna and the panoramic Sky Bar 9 backdropped by the stadium itself. Just behind, rising up alongside each other, are an **ibis** and a **Holiday Inn**.

Right by Wembley Park Tube station, you can't miss the large, gleaming **Premier Inn**, a handy budget choice. Also close are the **Wembley International Hotel**, with 165 value-conscious rooms and a sports bar, and, over the road, the business-friendly **St George**. Near Wembley Stadium rail, **The Arch** is a 14-room hotel with a sports bar and Indian restaurant. You can also try the en-suite rooms above the **Green Man** pub, up a steep little climb from the stadium. Around Baker Street, convenient for Wembley, the **Holmes Hotel** offers stylish rooms in a restored Georgian property. Similarly classy with a spa to boot, **The Landmark** stands slap →

LONDON



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Adidas store/Krisztián Mányi

opposite Marylebone Station, directly linked to Wembley. A minute away, affordable accommodation can be found at the **Travelodge**.

Right alongside Stamford Bridge, the **Millennium & Copthorne Hotels at Chelsea Football Club** are two adjoining four-stars offering match-day packages, plus dining and drinking at the 55 Restaurant and Frankie's Sports Bar. The business-friendly **DoubleTree by Hilton Chelsea** is also convenient for Stamford Bridge, steps away from Imperial Wharf station.

Beer

Literally thousands of pubs show TV football – and scores around **Soho** and the **West End**. Right on Leicester Square, surrounded by gambling action, the **Carlsberg Sports Bar** occupies a huge basement area of the Casino at the Empire, with large screens and Danish beer on offer to non-players too. In the heart of Soho, calcio-centric **Bar Italia** is a perennial classic while the **Queens Head** behind Piccadilly dates back to 1736 and shows games. Another classic Soho spot is **De Hems**, steeped

in Dutch history, with Benelux beers and an orange glow when major tournaments are on. Between Soho and the media hub of Noho, tucked down an alley off Newman Street, the Scando-themed **Nordic Bar** is another sports haunt bound to go full Danish, Swedish or Finnish for the Euros. Over in Covent Garden, convivial traditional pub in, the **Freemasons Arms** may not be the exact place where the FA convened in 1863 but displays documentation to that effect. Almost next door, **Philomena's Irish Sport Bar & Kitchen** places GAA and



Freemasons Arms/Krisztián Mányi

rugby over God's own game but fills for big finals.

Near Victoria station, **Greenwood** puts televised sport first, as does the nearby branch of the Londonwide chain of the **Sports Bar & Grill**. The one by **Marylebone** station displays Pelé's signed shirt from *Escape to Victory*, with other branches located at Canary Wharf, Clapham Junction, Farringdon and Old Street.

A Panenka above mainstream chains, table-football bars the **Café Kick** in Exmouth Market and **Bar Kick** in Shoreditch, are both outstanding, with retro, continental designer touches, decent food and a party atmosphere. Elsewhere, diagonally opposite Madame Tussauds, the TV-equipped **Globe** is a convivial choice before the trek to Wembley. For dozens of screens to watch at any one time,



Pic: Liam Dawber

head over to the **Famous 3 Kings** by West Kensington Tube.

Shops

Shopping mecca London doesn't lack for soccer boutiques. Traditional **Lillywhites**, in a prime location right on Piccadilly, has scores of kits on the second floor. On Carnaby Street there's a large outlet for **PUMA**. The main branches for **adidas** are on nearby Foubert's Place and at 425 Oxford Street, along which you'll find a number of generic sportswear shops and stalls selling replica shirts. Don't miss **Classic Football Shirts**, a trove of archive treasure in the Old Truman Brewery near Shoreditch High Street Tube. SEGA-sponsored Arsenal tops, Inter ones as customised during the Ronaldo era and, perhaps for the visiting Scotland fan, that number 6 England shirt in Gareth Southgate grey, await a loving torso. **LB**

LONDON



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Wembley

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Wembley

England's national stadium, arguably football's most iconic arena, was opened in 1923 and rebuilt, amid controversy, eight decades later. **Wembley Stadium** (wembleystadium.com), named after the surrounding district in London's north-western outskirts, now sports a 134-metre high arch, the world's largest single-span roof structure, visible for 13 miles away.

It was not quick in coming. Originally, the old Wembley – of the famous twin towers, the inaugural 'White Horse' Cup Final of 1923, the Matthews Final of 1953, the World Cup Final of 1966 and no fewer than six European Cup finals – was due to be demolished after Germany beat England there in October 2000.

After two years of bureaucratic and financial wrangling, demolition eventually began in September 2002. Spiralling costs caused delay after delay while cup finals were moved to Cardiff, and England matches were played around the country. Eventually, the relandscaped Wembley Way, fronted by the imposing figure of Bobby Moore, welcomed fans to the 90,000-capacity new Wembley for the FA Cup final of 2007.

Admired for its innovation – as well as the arch, the new arena featured



a sliding roof – Wembley came under fire for its poor pitch, relaid several times. Now, with the roof always open, the pitch is 97% real, 3% artificial.

The stadium comprises three levels, with the cheapest seats (sectors numbered 501-552) around top Level 3. South and North Stands contain the dearest seats over the halfway line; the East and West Stands are behind each goal. Entrances are lettered A-P (no I), with J-N for the West Stand,

B-F the East Stand. G-H are for the North Stand, with its Bobby Moore statue, A and P for the South Stand. Level 2 (201-252), lined with upscale bars and restaurants, is allocated to Club Wembley members. Level 1 (101-144) is nearest the pitch.

Transport

Three stations serve Wembley: **Wembley Park** (Jubilee and Metropolitan lines), closest to the North Stand up Wembley Way;

Wembley Central (Bakerloo, overground rail), a 15min walk up the High Road and left to White Horse Bridge and the stadium's south-west corner; and, the closest, **Wembley Stadium station** (trains from **Marylebone**). For the Bakerloo line to Wembley Central from **Baker Street**, allow 30mins for the journey. For the quicker Metropolitan line to Wembley Park from Baker Street, allow 15mins. For the quickest, rail from Marylebone to Wembley Stadium, allow 10mins.



Shop

The **Stadium Store** by the East Ticket Office on Level B1 of the North Stand. Stocking mainly England gear, it offers DVDs of great Wembley finals and a 1966 World Cup Memorabilia Pack with replicas of the final programme, ticket and the *Daily Express* from the following day.

Bars

Halfway up Wembley Way on the right-hand side, **Boxpark Wembley** is a multi-venue complex, surrounding one main bar with a huge screen for live action (not Wembley games during Euro 2020), eateries and family-friendly leisure activities. Open to non-guests, the third floor of the **Hilton Wembley** hotel is given over to the **Icons Bar**, images of classic Wembley moments on display. **LB**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Brentford

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Brentford

Back in the top flight after 74 years, **Brentford** have achieved near miracles thanks to savvy ownership, data-based planning and teamwork. Danish coach Thomas Frank had worked for nearly two decades in youth development before his first senior post at Brøndby, then move to west London in 2016.

His vital contribution to Brentford's success is only part of the story. The 2021 Championship play-off win to reach the Premier League capped a memorable decade under the pioneering ownership of lifelong fan, Matthew Benham. Building a new ground, the **Brentford Community Stadium**, half a mile east of the Bees' old home at Griffin Park, Benham has shown how a supporters' trust can transform a club for the good and still reach the very top of the game. The move from nearby Griffin Park, where the club shop and famous four corner pubs remain, represented a return to where the Bees were founded in 1889.

The Brentford Community Stadium is just that, a campus for communal use consisting of a football ground, more than 900 flats and a public square yet to be fully configured. The ground comprises 17,250 multi-coloured seats, the stands designated as North, South, East and West. Noisier



Pic: Matt Walker

home fans gather in the West Stand, where safe standing is planned, older ones in the nearby sectors of the South Stand. For Brentford games, visiting supporters are allocated eight adjoining sectors of the East and North Stands. The best seats are in the sun-catching North Stand. The stadium is groundshared with London Irish rugby club, who moved here after 20 years in Reading.

Transport

The stadium is near **Kew Bridge station**, 30mins from **London Waterloo** (single £5.50, every 30mins), a pedestrian underpass leading to Lionel Road alongside the ground. The nearest Tube is **Gunnersbury**, 15mins direct from Piccadilly. It might be best jumping on a **110, 237** or **267 bus** from **Chiswick High Road** two stops to **Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre** than negotiate the Chiswick flyover on foot.



Pic: Liam Dawber

The **sat nav code** for the **Brentford Community Stadium** is **TW8 0RU**. The stadium offers **parking** at **Lionel Primary School** (£15, **TW8 9QT**) and at **Chiswick Park** business park (£12, **W4 5XU**), each 20mins walk away.

Bars

No, there's not a pub on every corner as there still is at nearby Griffin Park,

but there are plenty of drinking options near the riverbank. On the stadium side of the Thames, you find the more traditional **Bell & Crown** and the funkier **One Over The Ait**, in a former Victorian warehouse. In between, **The Steam Packet**, named after the ships that once plied diplomatic mail down the Thames, provides upscale cuisine, best enjoyed on the upper terrace.

The best choice, close to Kew Bridge station, the CAMRA-decorated **Express Tavern**, fills a former coaching inn with satisfied chatter. Ten cask ales, 15 kegs and five ciders showcase independent brewers and producers, the food (burgers, BBQ ribs, pulled pork) is all a notch above, there's TV sport and a garden. **LE**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Brighton

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Brighton

The liveliest party resort on the south coast, **Brighton** is a football-focused city with a huge fan base. Flagship club **Brighton & Hove Albion** are now established in the Premier League, 25 years after near oblivion and homeless purgatory.

Brighton's stadium by the university complex in **Falmer** attracts something

close to its 30,000 capacity every home game. Opened in 2011, the ground replaced the inappropriate Withdean Stadium, appropriately named Palookaville by famed local DJ Fatboy Slim for a launch party there. Due to host three games for Euro 2022, at least one involving England, against Norway on July 11, and a quarter-final for the group winners on July 20, the venue is referred to by its non-sponsored name of the **Falmer Stadium** for the purposes of the tournament.

Bearings

For **arrangements and events** in Brighton during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/brighton-hove. Brighton's nearest airport is **Gatwick**, 50km (31 miles) away. The **train** (£8.40-£10) takes 30mins. **Brighton Taxis** (01273 20 40 60) charge £40-£50. Each named after a famous Brightonian, **Brighton & Hove buses** cover the city. A single ticket is £2.70, short hop £1.90, a citySAVER



day pass (not valid on night buses) £5.20, all sold on board. The stadium is by **Falmer station** north-east of town, though local buses will be less busy than trains on match days.

Bed

To stay near Brighton station, the **ibis** is right outside, while behind the station complex, **Jurys Inn** is a reliable choice – and it now has another **branch** on the seafront. **The Grand** is the city's most famous hotel, as elegant as its name suggests, creating a sweeping seafront façade with its near neighbour, the equally high-end **Metropole**. The historic **Old Ship Hotel** is another quality option overlooking the sea. The nearby **Harbour Hotel** fills an 1850s building with a spa, bar and

79 trendy guest rooms. Just behind the seafront, the **Travelodge** on West Street provides a budget option.

Beer

Brighton is party city. Some three-dozen pubs belong to the **Laine** group, including the 140-year-old seafront **Fortune of War** and the tiled **Victory** on Duke Street. Dating back to 1779, on Marlborough Place near the Pavilion, **The King & Queen** houses the largest sports bar in Brighton. **The Bright Helm**, on the main drag down to the seafront, is the nearest Wetherspoon pub to the beach. Opposite, **Molly Malone's** is sport-focused, with 4am closing at weekends.

Pubs cluster around the station, TV sports broadcast in the **Queen's Head**, the **Railway Bell** and the **Duke of Wellington**, while there's a beer garden at **Grand Central**.

The nearby **Evening Star** is where renowned local beer Dark Star was first brewed. It is also served in bohemian **The Prince Albert**, its façade of iconic rock and rollers brightening the gloom by the railway arches.

Amid the boutiques of North Laine, **The Heart & Hand** is a tiled masterpiece, showing football during tournament summers but mainly playing classic 45s on its vinyl jukebox and giving Bailey the pub cat the run of the place. **LG**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Falmer Stadium

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Falmer Stadium

Twenty years after a pitch invasion at the club's doomed home of the Goldstone Ground – part protest, part desperation for the club to stay in the Football League – Brighton & Hove Albion fans swarmed across the turf at the **Falmer Stadium** in celebration of promotion and a remarkable transformation.

The win over Wigan in April 2017 not only meant that the Seagulls would be joining England's elite for the first time since 1983. From the controversial closure of their beloved ground, then homeless oblivion, to the crusade for a new stadium and its opening in 2011, Brighton had been salvaged, sustained and steered by two dedicated, generous chairmen. A bedrock of Seagulls supporters did the rest.

Its curving exterior echoing the contours of the surrounding South Downs, the award-winning **Falmer Stadium** was opened with a friendly against Spurs in July 2011. As envisaged, capacity was increased from just over 20,000 to 30,000 by 2013. Attendances averaged around 25,000 spectators, each getting a padded seat and a full view of the action. The home North End is one-tier. Executive boxes line the impressive, three-tiered West Stand.



Transport

The stadium stands alongside **Falmer station**, three stops/10mins from Brighton. Trains run every 15mins. Queues can be long and trains packed – some prefer to set off from **Lewes** (one stop/7mins) or take frequent **buses 25, 28 or 29** from downtown **Churchill Square** (journey time 20mins), stop G. **Bus 50** sets from stop F. **Bus 23** sets off from the Marina.

The **sat nav code** for the stadium is **BN1 9BL**. The club runs two **Park & Ride** facilities located at **Mill Road (BN1 8ZF)** and **Brighton Racecourse (BN2 9XZ)**. One alternative is to park

at **Lewes station** (Mon-Fri £7.10/day, Sat £6.60/day, Sun/hols £2.25/day) then take the train in, free with your match ticket.

Bars

The only pub in the vicinity is the traditional **Swan Inn** along Middle Street in Falmer. Head under the motorway and bear right away from Brighton, it's down a narrow lane, allow 10-15mins. It's a cosy spot with a beer garden. For Brighton games, visiting supporters usually have to make do with the bars around **Brighton station** – but should leave plenty of time for the long queues for match-day trains.



Behind the north stand of the stadium, **Dick's Bar** (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm, match days) above the Stadium Superstore is dedicated to the club's life president, Dick Knight. Tasteful displays on the wall tell Brighton's decade-long stadium saga – a mosaic of Albion fans' portraits, a signed Doncaster Rovers shirt from the last game at the old ground in 1997, the *Goldstone Ghosts* poem by

Attila the Stockbroker – while the bar serves local beers such as Dark Star Hophead and Harvey's Brighton. The match-day, family-friendly **Fan Zone** outside the stadium near the walkway to Falmer station is usually happy to welcome away fans. Harvey's from nearby Lewes is the beer of choice, although the club will try and stock a particular craft brew from the town of the visiting team. **LG**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Manchester

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Manchester

Manchester is England's de facto football capital. While **Manchester United** are the most titled club in the land, newly moneyed **Manchester City** have won the league six times since their historic breakthrough victory in 2012, and are now major players on the world stage after massive investment from Abu Dhabi.

Though the title-winning Sky Blues look like ruling the roost for many a year to come, United's global reach – and **Old Trafford**'s 75,000 capacity compared to the Etihad's 55,000 – sees them regularly at the top of the world's richest clubs list.

The biggest club ground in the country, Old Trafford is where the opening game of Euro 2022 takes



place, between England and Austria on July 6. East of town, the Etihad centrepieces a sports campus of the same name that includes the **Academy Stadium** training ground of 7,000 capacity. This will be reduced to just under 5,000 for the three Group D games it is due to stage, involving Belgium, Italy and Iceland.

West of town in Greater Manchester, **Leigh Sports Village** is another surprisingly modest Euro 2022 venue, due to co-host the Rugby League World Cup next autumn. This July, all four teams in Group C – reigning champions Holland, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland – will play here. Group winners then stay put for the

quarter-final, taking on the runners-up (Italy? Belgium?) in Group D.

Soccer tourists can also visit the **National Football Museum** (£10.50/£5.50 discounted, valid all year), set in the towering glass Urbis building in the city centre. Among the treasures are an unused (!) ticket for

the 1930 World Cup Final and Geoff Hurst's winning shirt from 36 years later. There are plenty of interactive attractions, too.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in Manchester during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/manchester.

Manchester Airport is 14km (nine miles) south-west of the city centre. It is linked to **Manchester Piccadilly train station** (£3.80, 15mins) by **rail**, as well as by various bus services. **StreetCars** (0161 228 7878) charges £24 to Piccadilly and £20 to Old Trafford.

City transport consists of buses, local trains and the light-rail tram Metrolink. There are several types of day passes depending on combinations of transport, bus, tram and train, called **System One**. These range from the £6 **Anybus** to the £10 off-peak **Anybus, Train and Tram**, with seven-day, student, youth and junior options. Old Trafford and the Etihad campus are in Zone 2 of the Metrolink tram network, **off-peak/ weekend day passes** £3.50.

Single tickets vary according to length of journey – Piccadilly to Old Trafford is £2.80. Buy tickets from machines at tram stops. On buses, pay the driver, change given. If you're travelling to ➔



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Manchester

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Manchester by train and not staying long, adding a **PlusBus** (£4.20) to the fare means you can use local buses all day.

Bed

Sleep beside Old Trafford at the **Hotel Football**, created by five members of United's Class of '92 at a cost of £24 million. Even if you're not staying, the Cafe Football is a must, though it's best to reserve on match days. All is topped off with a rooftop five-a-side pitch for hire. Just across Sir Alex Ferguson Way, the **Premier Inn** is more affordable though availability is limited on United match days.

Over the water, the upper mid-range **Copthorne** on Clippers Quay suits business visitors while diagonally across main Trafford Road, the **AC Hotel Manchester Salford Quays** should provide the ideal city break with plenty of dining options within walking distance of Old Trafford. Next door, the **ibis Manchester Salford Quays** offers budget rooms. Nearby, on the waterfront, the **Holiday Inn Express Manchester Salford Quays** is another affordable favourite.

In town, the high-end **Lowry** by Trinity Bridge is Manchester's destination hotel, its many dining options, spa and chic rooms always a hit with the football fraternity. Near Deansgate



station, the **Hilton Deansgate** is another players' fave, with panoramic views from its cocktail bar on the 23rd floor. Nearby on Peter Street, the **Midland** has been providing exemplary service since 1903, to the likes of Charles Rolls and Henry Royce, who met here to design their iconic car, first produced in Manchester. On King Street, the five-star **Gotham** provides Art-Deco luxury in a former bank building.

By the Royal Exchange, **Motel One** is one of two branches of this low-budget German chain in town, both done out in signature turquoise with urban pizzazz. By Piccadilly Gardens, lunch or drinks at the four-star **Mercure Manchester Piccadilly** come with panoramic city views from the third floor. Across Piccadilly Gardens, the **Travelodge** can be classed as notch-above budget with an unbeatably central location.



Beer

There are plenty of options on and off **Deansgate**, all the way up to the National Football Museum. Opposite, **Printworks** fills a former newspaper hub with mainstream drinking options and family-friendly entertainment. Nearby, alongside Exchange Square, historic **Sinclair's Oyster Bar** has been serving drinks for 200 years, its large beer garden busy on big-match nights.

On Deansgate itself, traditional pubs the **Sawyer's Arms** and the **Lost Dene** both go big on live sport. On nearby Mount Street, **The Brotherhood** is more sophisticated in style, but with TV sport paramount, screens lining the back bar. Plenty of pub pastimes, too. The other side of Albert Square on Tib Lane, the **Town Hall Tavern** is a decent spot for football watching,

the contemporary **Directors' Box** on Booth Street also big on live action, plus craft beers. The **Shakespeare Pub** on Fountain Street also shows games on a number of large flat-screen TVs.

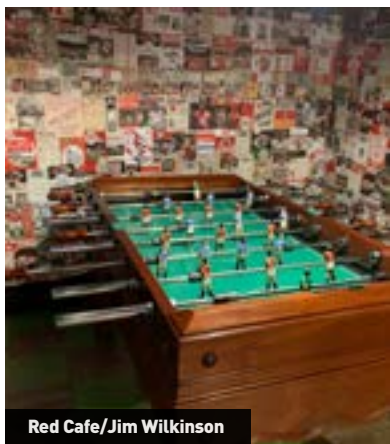
Up in the trendy Northern Quarter, you can book a booth for HD sport at the **Tib Street Tavern** and watch the game in peace at the relaxing **High Street Tavern**, just across from the Arndale fish market.

Around Piccadilly, **The Green** on Ducie Street is a sports bar with indoor golf and sport-focused **O'Sheas** on Princess Street serves Guinness as decent as the first one poured here, by Jack Charlton in 1994. Towards the university quarter, **The Courtyard** on Chester Street offers a beer garden, drinks deals and huge screens. **LE**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Old Trafford

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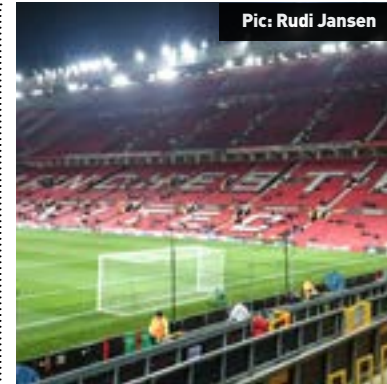


Red Café/Jim Wilkinson

Old Trafford

The Theatre of Dreams, **Old Trafford** can accommodate just over 74,000, making it the biggest club ground in England. If a mooted second tier is added to the South Stand, capacity will go beyond 80,000. Unveiled by the Bridgewater Canal in 1910, it was conceived by great Scottish stadium architect Archibald Leitch. Damaged by German bombing, Old Trafford reopened through the 1950s and saw significant renovation for the 1966 World Cup.

A new North Stand was built for Euro 96, and smaller later expansions have set Premier-League attendance records. The three-tier North Stand named after Sir Alex Ferguson houses the Red Café and Manchester United Museum. The facing smaller South Stand accommodates VIPs, media and the dug-outs. The West Stand is the former Stretford End, home of United's long-suffering following, while the East Stand houses the United Megastore. Outside stand statues to George Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, and their manager, Sir Matt Busby. Here,



Pic: Rudi Jansen

too, is the Memorial Plaque dedicated to those who lost their lives in the Munich Disaster, when the bulk of an exciting young United side perished. A clock shows at the exact time of the crash, 3.04pm, and the date, February 6, 1958.

Transport

Three stops on the Metrolink tram network are within walking distance of the stadium. From **Piccadilly** main train station, take the purple line or pick up the green line at St Peter's Square, direction Altrincham, to **Old Trafford** (single £2.80, return £3.90), by the cricket ground. Exit the station into Brian Statham Way, head up Warwick Road to Chester Road/Sir Matt Busby Way. Allow 15 minutes.

The new **Wharfside** station on the red line is just over the road from the Premier Inn, a short walk from the ground. One stop away, quieter

Pomona, on the light blue and orange lines from Piccadilly/St Peter's Square, is 10-15mins away along the waterfront.

The **sat nav code** for **Old Trafford** is **M16 0RA**. There's no match-day parking at the ground. The best option is to use the **Quayside MediaCityUK** mall (**M50 3AH**) at Salford Quays, which charges £4.40/4hrs. From there, walk over to Salford Quays and the Metrolink (light blue line/orange line) to **Pomona**. On **non-match days**, stadium car park E2 is free to use, **sat nav M16 0SZ**.

Bars

On **Chester Road**, classic pre-match pubs include **The Trafford** (No.699), decked floor to ceiling in United memorabilia (even down to the red pool table), and, diagonally opposite, **The Bishop Blaize**, a screen-lined Wetherspoons whose bar features the oar swiped from the final scene of Ken Loach film *Waiting For Eric*, signed by Eric Cantona himself. On the north-east side of the ground by the canal, **Cafe Football** in the themed hotel of the same name is over-18s only on match days but otherwise open to non-guests.

On the third floor of the North/Sir Alex Ferguson Stand, the themed **Red Café** by the museum exit provides fish and chips before United and City battle it out on the table-football table. **L6**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Academy Stadium

www.liberoguide.com

Academy Stadium

A long bridge links the **Academy Stadium** with the main arena where recently crowned English champions Manchester City play, a journey all of the young members of the club's Academy team and the Elite Development Squad hope to make one day. Also based here are Manchester City WFC, runners-up in the FA Women's Super League five seasons running from 2017, and Women's FA Cup winners three times.

This 7,000-capacity stadium, whose use for the 2022 Euros will be restricted to its 5,000 seats, was opened in 2014, a vital element of the substantial Etihad Campus and project. When previously underachieving City started receiving a huge investment from the Abu Dhabi United Group from 2008, the money was spent on more than just bringing in the likes of Pep Guardiola and Kevin De Bruyne.

City's training complex is now here. The club's academy side of under-18s and the Elite Development Squad of under-23s, which replaced the reserves a decade or so back, play at the Academy Stadium. In 2021-22, these two sides and the seniors all won their respective Premier League titles – for the second season running.



Founded in 1988, Manchester City WFC have set attendance records for the FA Women's Super League while playing at the Academy Stadium. Semi-finalists in the Women's Champions League in 2018, quarter-finalists in 2021, City have fallen short when up against the likes of Lyon and Barcelona but remain among the top clubs in England. They also provide almost half the England squad for the Euros.

Half the Group D games will be played here, involving Belgium, Italy

and Iceland, although the Academy Stadium won't be staging any knock-out matches.

Transport

The nearest tram stop is **Velopark** on the blue line of Manchester's Metrolink network, 4 stops and 10mins from Manchester Piccadilly station. Trams run every 12mins. If you'd like to visit the Manchester City store and see the main Etihad Stadium beforehand, jump off at the stop before, **Etihad Campus**, and walk the 10mins to the Academy Stadium.



free **Park&Ride** service for Metrolink ticket holders. Just jump on the next tram for 6 or 7 stops to Velopark.

Bars

Halfway between the Etihad and the Academy Stadium, **Mary D's Beamish Bar** (13 Grey Mare Lane) is one of the definitive City hangouts. It's basically a former workingmen's club turned into a huge pre-match pub, filled with pool tables, table football and a dartboard, decorated in all kinds of City iconography. Plenty of TVs, too.

Perhaps a more comfortable though a little further away, **The Townley** at 31 Albert Street is a welcoming local with a nice community feel. Also covered in City memorabilia, it might be less intimidating than the hard-drinking Mary D's. It's a 15min walk from the Academy Stadium, via Albert Street and Grey Mare Lane. It also offers secure parking. **L9**



Further down the line, by both **Ashton West** (Lord Sheldon Way, **OL7 0PG**) and **Ashton Moss** (Alexandria Drive, **OL6 7UB**) stations, there's a



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Leigh Sports Village

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Leigh Sports Village

Due to co-host the Rugby League World Cup this autumn, **Leigh Sports Village** is the home ground for venerable RL club Leigh Centurions, as well as Manchester United's reserve, academy and women's soccer teams. Throw in Leigh Harriers athletics club and the sports teams of the Wigan & Leigh College also based here, and the term 'multi-use' for this £50 million facility unveiled in 2008 is obviously more than justified. An indoor arena with nine courts, a pool and gymnasium, and an adjoining hotel, complete the picture.

It is, indeed, a sports village, within a small town in Greater Manchester, Leigh, 25km west of Manchester itself. The centrepiece stadium comprises 12,000 seats in the bright red of Leigh Centurions.

For all the criticisms of underwhelming venues being chosen to co-host Euro 2022, the Dutch players striding out here to face Portugal in defence of the Euro title they won in 2017 are used to playing in stadiums of this size. For one of them, Jackie Groenen, selected for the Team of the Tournament when Holland won in 2017, this is where she has been playing her club football since 2019.

Leigh also stages a quarter-final on July 22, which will involve Mark Parsons' Leeuwinnen should they win their group.

Transport

Leigh Sports Village is poorly served by public transport. **Shuttle buses** (£8.50) will run over the course of an hour from **Stand R** at **Piccadilly Gardens** in Manchester to **Leigh bus station**. Coming back, they set off from car park 9 by the stadium and drop off at Portland Street in Manchester city centre. Travel time is 40mins. For 5pm kick-offs, they set off between 11.30am-12.30pm, arriving at least four hours before the match. For 8pm games, it's 2.30pm-3.30pm. **Book your seat** though the website (parkthecarhere.com/Events.aspx?CustomerId=75).

To travel independently, take **bus V1** from **Portland Street** in Manchester (**stop S0**) to Leigh bus station, journey time 50mins. Its a 15min walk to the stadium, straight down King Street, over the canal to St Helens Road, then right down Schofield Street. Weekday daytimes, **Diamond bus 597** runs twice an hour from the bus station to stadium, journey time 5mins.

Leigh has no train station – the nearest is **Atherton**, about 40mins from **Manchester Piccadilly** allowing for a change and waiting time at

All pix: Joe Stubley



Whistling Wren



Salford Crescent (20min journey time). A **taxi** from Atherton 5.5km (six miles) away takes 5-10mins, fare £10-£12. Try Atherton-based **Supercabs** (01942 881188). A taxi all the way from Manchester Piccadilly would cost £45-£50.

There is no parking at the stadium. The car park by **Leigh Town Hall (WN7 1YA)** near the bus station costs £2.60 for up to 4hrs, free on Sundays.



Bed & bars

Integral to Leigh Sports Village, a **Holiday Inn Express** offers 135 rooms, a 24/7 gym and restaurant. On the other side of the stadium, the

Whistling Wren pub has two children's play areas, one outside, plus a standard menu of family favourites and drinks offers. Stadium bar **Legends** operates on match days. **LG**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Milton Keynes

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All pix: Krisztián Mányi

Milton Keynes

Concrete cows, grid planning, roundabout hell – the London overspill New Town of **Milton Keynes** was a hard sell even before a moneyed music producer-cum-property developer moved a 114-year-old football club 60 miles here in 2003.

It wasn't so much Pete Winkelman's game plan – 'naïve', in his own words – as the principle. In the English game, tradition and local pride

are sacrosanct, surely? Shouldn't Wimbledon, 1988 FA Cup winners, play in Wimbledon?

No, said Winkelman and his consortium. Two decades on, **MK Dons**, successors to Wimbledon FC, and breakaway club AFC Wimbledon, are both often found in the third flight. Grudge matches – such as the 2012 cup tie, decided on stoppage-time back-heel for MK – still matter.

The sleek **Stadium MK**, of ambitious 30,500 capacity, was unveiled by the

Queen in 2007. Built by Winkelman's Inter MK Group, in its first season it saw the Dons rise back to League One – and even play a season in the Championship in 2015-16.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in Milton Keynes during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/milton-keynes.

Luton is the nearest airport to Milton Keynes 40km (25 miles) away. **National Express** coaches (advance



singles £8-£10) run every 30mins-2hrs to **Milton Keynes Coachway** (40min journey time), on the eastern edge of town by the M1 motorway.

There's no direct rail link between Luton Airport Parkway and Milton Keynes Central train station, on the western edge of town. Regular **trains** from **London Euston** (singles £10-£20) take 30mins. For the Stadium MK, **Fenny Stratford** is closer. Get the regular train from Euston to **Bletchley** (advance singles £20, 35mins), then change (3mins). Adding a **Milton Keynes/ Bletchley PlusBus** supplement (£3) to your ticket allows you to use local buses for the rest of the day.

From Luton Airport to Milton Keynes, a local **Skyline Taxi** (01908 222 111) quote £30.

Bed

Destination Milton Keynes (destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk) has a **hotel database and booking service**.

The Stadium MK has a hotel built into it: **DoubleTree by Hilton Milton Keynes**. With 230 guest rooms, this business-friendly establishment contains the **Pitchside Bar & Restaurant**. Pitch-facing suites must be vacated during match time.

In town, on Midsummer Boulevard near the station, **Jurys Inn** comprises 279 rooms often available with seasonal discounts. The **Holiday Inn Milton Keynes** has a gym, sauna and heated pool. The nearby **Moxy** offers funky lodgings with a games zone.

At Marlborough Gate, overlooking Campbell Park and much else besides from its 14 storeys, **La Tour** is stylish luxury itself.

Beer

Chain bars dot the grid-patterned streets of the Theatre District, the nightlife and dining quarter. The bar at the **BrewDog** craft-beer chain is lined with 20 options. Non meat-eaters can look forward to Vegan Mondays. Don't miss the **Midsummer Tap** for further adventures in ale, with big-screen football. Also here is the **Brewhouse & Kitchen**, with house options such as Style Council Tropical IPA. Just south of the central zone, **The Cricketers** is a handy find for families, a Greene King pub with TVs for sport and a terrace overlooking green Oldbrook. **LG**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Stadium MK

www.liberoguide.com

Stadium MK

The sleek **Stadium MK** puts the New Town of Milton Keynes on the international sporting map. Created by Pete Winkelman's Inter MK Group, it was partly backed by large retail firms eager on establishing a shopping and leisure area in Denbigh, nearer to Fenny Stratford and Bletchley than central Milton Keynes. The stadium was built by architects HOK, responsible for Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and the new Wembley around the same time.

The stadium was opened in 2007, the Queen giving it her official blessing. This was also the 40th anniversary of Milton Keynes itself, the stadium hosting the celebrations. Since then, the Stadium MK has staged high-profile rugby matches, including the World Cup. It was earmarked for a co-hosting role for the football version, if England had been awarded the 2018 tournament. Capacity would have increased to 44,000.

As it stands, a spacious, twin-tiered 30,500 is ample for most **MK Dons** fixtures of 9,500 crowds. Home fans gather in sectors 10-13, the South Stand 'Cowshed', its nickname an ironic nod to MK's infamous concrete cows. The best seats are in the East Premium (sectors 3-5) over the halfway line.



Transport

The nearest rail station is **Fenny Stratford**, about 15-20min walk away. Exit right, then right again onto arrow-straight historic Watling Street. The floodlights appear on the right behind ASDA.

If you're coming from London or Birmingham, you'll have to change for Fenny Stratford at Bletchley. A longer walk to the stadium, with an inferior choice of nearby pubs, Bletchley is handy for evening games when services back from Fenny Stratford

finish early. From Bletchley, head under the railway bridge then follow Saxon Street round, under the rails again, until you reach Watling Street.

Alternatively, from Bletchley bus station on the other side of the rails from the train station, **Arriva buses 6** and less frequent **F70** and **F77** take 5mins to reach the **Stadium MK stop**. The **5** is also regular but takes 15mins. They all go to **Milton Keynes Central Station**. If that's where you're setting off from, allow 30mins.

It's a £10 **taxi ride** to the stadium. At the ground, the taxi rank is by Gate 7. The **sat nav code** for the **Stadium MK** is **MK1 1ST**. The club offers pre-booked match-specific parking at the ground (advance £7 + £1 fee, £10 on the day).

Bars

The best pubs are ranged around Fenny Stratford station, the **Swan Hotel**, with a dedicated sports bar, close to **The Chequers** pub on Watling Street. Also either side of Fenny Stratford station are the canalside **Red**

Lion and **The Maltsters** on Aylesbury Street.

The stadium is surrounded by chain outlets, the most popular being **TGI Fridays**. Alongside the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel, the **reddot bar** opens pre-match for home fans and neutrals. The hotel contains the **Pitchside** bar & restaurant, patronised by sponsors before the game. Note the framed display of the boots worn by Gareth Edds when he scored the goal that kept the Dons in League One in 2005. **LO**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Rotherham

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Rotherham

Like nearby Sheffield the other side of the M1, **Rotherham** was built on steel. Like Sheffield, football in Rotherham was centred on two clubs, in this case Town and County. But, unlike Sheffield, these two clubs merged – and the resultant **Rotherham United** have never won any major silverware.

On the plus side, United are based at the new-build **New York Stadium**. It stands on the site of the former Guest & Chrimes foundry that supplied the Big Apple with its distinctive fire hydrants.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in Rotherham during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/rotherham.

Doncaster Sheffield is the nearest airport to Rotherham, 29km (18 miles) away. **First Bus 57c** runs to **Doncaster Interchange** (£3, South Yorkshire day pass £5 on board, Mon-Sat every 30mins, Sun every hr, journey time 25mins), a 5min walk to Doncaster station. An hourly **train** to **Rotherham Central** (£5.50) takes 20mins.

Add a **Doncaster PlusBus pass** (£4) to your train ticket to use all local transport in South Yorkshire for the rest of the day.



All pix: Paul Martin

Nearly all **trains** from **London Kings Cross** (cheapest online advance single £40-£50) require one change at Sheffield, overall journey time 2hrs 15-30mins.

It's a short walk from Rotherham Central to both town centre and stadium. **A1 Taxis** (01709 555 555) provide airport transfers. Return price for Doncaster-Sheffield is £60.

Bed

Visit Rotherham (visitrotherham.com) has a **database of local accommodation**.

The nearest lodgings to the stadium, the **Prince of Wales** and the **Corona**, are really only worth it if you have to stay close. Near the Minster in town, the **George Wright Boutique Hotel** is chintzy enough to hold many a wedding



but modest enough to charge under £100 for a standard double. Most guests come here to dine rather than take advantage of its seven rooms.

Of the hotels on and off Moorgate Street/Road, the affordable **Netherleigh Guest House** is a self-catering arrangement of ten rooms in a Victorian building. Further down Moorgate Road, the family-friendly **Brentwood** occupies a large, statuesque property in its own wooded grounds with a restaurant on-site.

Just north of the town centre, the modern **Fitzwilliam Arms Hotel** comprises 40 rooms, a large bar, restaurant and games room. Outside stretches the Roundwood golf course. Buses 141/142 go to and from Rotherham town centre every 30mins-1hr or a taxi would take 5mins.

Beer

Rotherham town centre is mainly given over to retail, dotted with the odd chain pub and, around the fringes, more traditional places. These include the **High House**, where Moorgate Street meets Ship Hill, a pleasant pub with a big screen and a front terrace.

Nearby in Imperial Buildings, the **Sports Box** offers huge screens and drinks promotions. For the most extensive range of beer and real ciders, the quirky **Three Cranes Inn** opposite dates back to 1470 and remains the oldest secular building in Rotherham. Up on Bridgewater, regulars gather at **The Angel** and **The County** for affordable drinks and sport-watching just over the Don from Rotherham Central station. **LE**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 New York Stadium

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All pix: Paul Martin

New York Stadium

The opening of the **New York Stadium** in July 2012 could not have been better timed. Rotherham were about to begin another season in the fourth tier – only to finish, two consecutive promotions later, in the second.

The run culminated with the 2014 play-offs for the Championship, a three-

game series of memorable goals and memorable saves, notably by Adam Collin in the penalty shoot-out against Leyton Orient. Since then, the Millers have flitted between Championship and League One each season.

Set between the railway line to Sheffield and the River Don, the 12,000-capacity **AESSEAL New York Stadium** is a fine example of a new-build. Close enough to town – even

closer to the station – to be walkable but in a location that allows gradual expansion for up 20,000 seats in total, Rotherham's £20-million arena overlooks the floodlights of former home Millmoor and the site of the scrap metal merchants who still own it. Their intransigence forced the club to move out in 2008.

Home fans usually occupy the KCM Recycling North Stand, aka the New

Tivoli, named after the old one by the nightclub of the same name at Millmoor. Opposite, the Mears South Stand accommodates visiting supporters. The Ben Bennett Stand by the river is family-friendly.

Transport

The ground is an easy walk from **Rotherham Central** station. To stick to the stadium side of the river, head down College Road, first right past the warehouses of Masbrough Street, then left at the roundabout onto Main Street. New York Way is first left.

Many prefer the other way from the station, down Bridge Street and across the river, then first main right down Corporation Street and left onto Main Street – New York Way on your right carries you back over the river. This route takes you past pubs and near historic landmarks.

The **sat nav code** for the **AESSEAL New York Stadium** is **S60 1FJ**. There's no match-day parking at the ground but the nearby **Westgate car park** (£2 Sat/match days) at 127 Westgate (**S60 1BJ**) and **Forge Island** (**S60 1QE**, free Mon-Fri after 6pm, and Sat-Sun) facing Rotherham Central station are both convenient options.

Bars

If you're taking the Bridge Street option from Rotherham Central, the **Bridge Inn** is a must. An outlet for

Old Mill ales from Goole, it welcomes home and away fans, its interior filled with flags and scarves of all teams. It has a beer garden, too, the food and affordable. It also contains music venue **The Hive**, if you're making a night of it.

Further down Westgate, past the turning for Main Street, the excellent **Cutlers' Arms** provides on live music and a BBQ after Rotherham games, and offers themed, locally brewed ales such as New York Pale and the Mighty Millers – beermaker **Chantry** on Parkgate was set up in 2012 using traditional techniques.

Close by, the **New York Tavern** is another Chantry outlet, dating back to 1856. It displays vintage photos of Millmoor and old Rotherham teams, plus signed Rotherham shirts. **LG**



NEW YORK STADIUM



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Sheffield

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Sheffield

Nowhere else could call itself 'The Home of Football' and offer weekend tours under that name. But **Sheffield** has every right. While the modern-day fan thinks of this South Yorkshire hub as the home of two clubs – **Sheffield Wednesday** and their opponents in the Steel City derby, **Sheffield United** – there's much more to soccer here than that.

A city of historic football firsts, Sheffield was where free-kicks, corners, throw-ins and even headers were first devised. Sheffield United were football's first United, originally as a cricket team. The Sheffield Rules of 1858 laid out concepts such as kick-offs, goal kicks and other dead-ball situations.

These rules were adhered to by **Sheffield FC**, the world's oldest football club, founded the year before, and city rivals **Hallam FC**, the world's second oldest. The so-called Rules Derby between them is also the world's oldest football fixture, first played in 1860 at Hallam's pitch at Sandygate Road – the world's oldest football ground.

Sheffield FC now play at Dronfield over the border in Derbyshire, where the **Coach & Horses ground** draws regular curious visitors from around



Europe. 'The Club' lay on football-history tours of town, taking in the earliest grounds, the modern-day stadia of Wednesday and United, Hallam and Dronfield. Contact info@sheffieldfc.com for details.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in Sheffield during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/sheffield.

The nearest airport is **Doncaster-Sheffield** 43.5km (27 miles) away. **Bus X6** (single/day pass £6, every hr, Sun 90mins, journey time 1hr 10mins) goes to **Sheffield Interchange**, by the main bus station and close to the train station and city centre. **Travel South Yorkshire** oversees regional transport. City transport consists of a **four-line tram network** and **local buses**. A **CityBus 1 day pass** is £4.70, a **CityWide 1 day pass** including trams is £5.10. **Bramall Lane** is walkable



All pix: Joe Stubbley

from the train station. **A1 Sheffield Taxis** quote £43 from Doncaster-Sheffield Airport to town.

Bed

Welcome to Sheffield (welcometosheffield.co.uk) has a **hotel-booking service**. Right by Bramall Lane, the otherwise convenient **Copthorne Hotel Sheffield** is currently closed, tied up in a legal dispute.

Ideal for both stadium and station, the **Premier Inn Sheffield CC St Marys**

Gate Hotel, **Jurys Inn Sheffield** and the **Novotel Sheffield Centre Hotel** provide reliable comfort at varying price ranges. There are also two budget chains, an **ibis** and a **Premier Inn**, by the downtown entertainment complex by the Sheffield Arena. Another nearby chain, the **Best Western Cutlers Hotel** stands close to snooker's famous Crucible Theatre.

Beer

The former waiting room of Sheffield station, **The Sheffield Tap** offers

dozens of hand-pull cask ales and continental beers on tap and by the bottle. Also close, **The Globe** on Howard Street is a lively choice. Over at The Forum, the US-style **Common Room** serves good pub food amid numerous large screens and a dozen cheap-to-play American pool tables.

The city's nightlife hub is **West Street**, where 13-screen **The Beehive** and the spacious **Cavendish** can be relied upon for TV sports, drink offers and weekend party madness. **LG**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Bramall Lane

www.liberoguide.com



Joe Stubbley

Bramall Lane

FA Cup semi-finalists in 2014, League Cup semi-finalists in 2015, **Sheffield United** gained promotion to the Premier League in 2019, followed by a surprise a ninth-place finish, a best-ever performance since 1975. This achievement was even more remarkable considering it took place during a bitter dispute over club ownership.

This took its toll in 2020-21 when the Blades lost 29 games out of 38 and sank back down to the Championship. It's now 1976 since they've been able to put together anything more than a two-season run in the top flight.

Formed by a local cricket club at the city's Adelphi Hotel under the auspices of Sir Charles Clegg, United have been based at **Bramall Lane** since their foundation year of 1889. Scene of the game's first

floodlit match, the venue remains the world's oldest stadium still staging professional fixtures.

Originally a cricket ground, it held its first football match in 1862, between Sheffield FC and Hallam. Home to both Sheffield United and Wednesday, Bramall Lane witnessed a friendly game with experimental lighting in 1877 and a handful of England internationals from the 1880s onwards.



Paul Martin

Until the development of the larger Hillsborough after Wednesday moved out in 1887, Bramall Lane was also a popular choice of FA Cup semi-final venue.

The building of the South Stand in 1975 all but bankrupted the club. Forced to sell the likes of Tony Currie, United were relegated and Bramall Lane would not witness top-flight football for 15 years. With the Premier League revenues of the early 1990s, the club built the John Street Stand, holding executive boxes.

With its corners also developed, one containing an enterprise centre, Bramall Lane is modern, impressive and, as opposed to Hillsborough, close to the city centre, an easy stroll from the train station. Capacity is an all-seated 32,000.

The steep-seated Redbrik Estate Agency (Bramall Lane) Stand usually houses away fans. The Kop is the home end.

Transport

Bramall Lane is close to the city centre, less than 15 minutes' walk from **Sheffield train station**. Exit the station left, along the main road. After less than 5mins, this road forks – take right-hand Shoreham Street, past BBC Radio Sheffield, and keep going for 10mins.

The **sat nav code** for **Bramall Lane** is **S2 4SU**. It's permit-parking only around the ground on match days. The club recommends using the parking facilities at **The Moor Sheffield-APCOA** on **Eyre Street (S1 4QU)** in town, a 15min walk from the ground. It should cost £5/day or £3.50 with a match/season ticket.

Bars

Depending on the opposition, **Sheaf Island** welcomes both visiting and home supporters on match days. It's a large Wetherspoons set in an early Victorian brewery, on Ecclesall Road. There are plenty of TV screens and an outdoor area. Home fans usually gather nearer the ground at the **Golden Lion** on Alderson Road, with TV sports, darts and a small beer garden, and, on Bramall Lane itself, the partisan **Sheaf House** and **Cricketers Arms**. 



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 Southampton

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All pix: Peter Thompson

Southampton

Southampton FC are based at **St Mary's** on the south coast. Lending its name to the stadium built in 2001 after a century at The Dell, the area of St Mary's is where the club has its roots.

It was in 1885 that the Reverend Arthur Sole set up the St Mary's Young Men's Association football

team, attached to the church of the same name. The club then became Southampton FC, nicknamed the Saints.

One player for St Mary's was Charles Miller, a Brazilian student who would take the game to São Paulo, and thus Brazil. A mural on the footbridge to today's St Mary's honours this extraordinary twist of fate. Others sailing out from Southampton were the engineers, dockers and miners



who introduced football to Spain. These locals probably instigated the wearing of red-and-white stripes in Bilbao.

Bearings

For **arrangements** and **events** in Southampton during the Euros, check www.uefa.com/womenseuro/event-guide/southampton.

Southampton Airport is 6.5km (four miles) north-east of town, with its own rail terminal, **Southampton Airport Parkway**, near the terminal. A **train** (£3.40, journey time 10mins) runs to **Southampton Central** every 10-15mins.

Radio Taxis (023 80 666 666) charge £11-£12 for the same journey. The station is just west of the nearby city centre, St Mary's east of town near the riverfront. The main bus companies

are **Bluestar** (Southampton City 1 day pass £3.40) and **FirstBus** (aka City Red, FirstDay pass £3.50). There's no one overall pass but if you add a **PlusBus tariff** (£2.40) to your train ticket here, you can use nearly all local buses all day. From **London Waterloo**, the **train** takes 1hr 15mins, average advance single £12-£15.

Bed

The city's tourist office website **Visit Southampton** (visitsouthampton.co.uk) has a click-through **room-booking service**.

Near the stadium, the family-friendly **Premier Inn Southampton City Centre** has a restaurant attached. Another 10mins towards town, **Jurys Inn Southampton** on Charlotte Place comprises 270 upper mid-range rooms, some overlooking East Park.

Historic city-centre hotels include the **Mercure Southampton Centre Dolphin**, where Jane Austen celebrated her 18th birthday in 1793. Alongside on High Street, the **Star Hotel** dates back to the 1700s.

For luxury in the heart of town, the themed **White Star Tavern** on Oxford Street offers five-star boutique with a bar and restaurant to match. Many passengers would have slept here before taking their fatal last voyage on the *Titanic*. Overlooking the marina, **Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa** is the city's five-star, its rooftop HarBAR a fine spot for drinks.

Beer

With the stadium so close, city-centre pubs double up as pre-match ones. Classic examples include **The Grapes** on Oxford Street, recognisable from the film *Titanic*, and **The Alexandra** on Bellevue Road, with a spacious beer garden and live music. Both show TV sport.

Other multi-screen hostelrys include **The Bedford** on Bedford Place, with craft beers and DJ sessions. Also in the vicinity are the more gastro-focused **Cricketers** and the funky local branch of **BrewDog**, all 21 taps of it. **The Mayflower Village** is a handy, games-focused pub by the Mayflower Theatre, with interactive darts and shuffleboard. **LB**



WOMEN'S EUROS 2022 St Mary's Stadium

www.liberoguide.com

St Mary's Stadium

Opened at the end of the Matt Le Tissier era in 2001, **St Mary's** staged its first England international a year later, a ding-dong 2-2 draw with Macedonia. Holding just under 33,000, with scope to expand, the stadium is comfortable, well-facilitated and easy-on-the-eye.

For Euro 2022, it stages three games, all involving Northern Ireland, including a fixture with England on July 15.

Comprising four stands of equal height – Northam for home and away fans, Chapel behind the opposite (south) goal, Itchen facing the river and Kingsland – St Mary's affords fine views of the action, as do its two huge screens. Outside stands a statue of Ted Bates, the Southampton legend who served the club for 66 years as player, manager, director and president.

Transport

On match days, **shuttle buses** (£3 return/under-15s £2 return) run to St Mary's from Southampton Central station (**Blechynden Terrace** bus stop by Commercial Road) and the **Town Quay Ferry Terminal**. After the game, buses (choose Rail or Ferry Shuttle) then depart from the corner of **Chapel Road** and **Granville Street**.



Pic: Peter Thompson

Bluestar city bus 18 runs from Southampton Central station every 10-15mins to the nearest stop of **Brintons Road**, journey time 10mins. **Routes 3** and **16** also go to Brintons Road, but only from **Bargate Street** in town, journey time 6mins. **FirstBus City Red 8** runs this same route, Bargate Street to Brintons Road, hourly, until 6pm at weekends.

Many walk from town. From the Civic Centre, head over the main road of

Above Bar Street to the roundabout, before cutting between East Park and Palmerston Park. Keep walking in the same direction along New Road, past the Premier Inn hotel on your right and through an underpass. The stadium is signposted.

A **taxi** from the station should cost £6-£7.

The **sat nav code** for **St Mary's Stadium** is **S014 5FP**. There is no

parking around the stadium. A safe bet is to park at the **Ocean Village Marina** (SO14 3TJ), with nearly 800 spaces. It's £3 for up to 3hrs, £4/4hrs. From there, it's a 15min walk to the stadium, via Neptune Way, Canute Road and Royal Crescent Road.

Bars

Immediately close to the stadium, the only pub, the King Alfred by the footbridge, is currently closed. Nearer town, along rough-and-ready



ST MARY'S STADIUM

St Mary Street, the equally rough-and-ready **Kingsland Tavern** (No.76) swarms with Saints fans on match days. Further down, and more accommodating to the neutral, **The Joiners** (No.141) is a live music venue but open daytimes at weekends.

Slightly further afield, Saints fans gather at the **Chapel** (formerly Le Tissier) **Arms** (40 Albert Road North), about 15min south of the ground. Closer to town, a short detour from the main drag between town and stadium, **The Angel** (21-22 Palmerston Road) is another. It'll be too crowded to use the table football or pool tables.

At the stadium, facing the train tracks, the **Saints Bar**, done with tasteful images of Saints stars and pool tables, is now part of match-day hospitality packages. **LB**