



EUROS

2020 →

GLASGOW
BUCHAREST
BAKU
ROME
MUNICH
SEVILLE
AMSTERDAM
COPENHAGEN
BUDAPEST
LONDON

ST PETERSBURG



EUROS 2020

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Every two years, everyone says, 'This will be a tournament like no other', and, sure enough, a couple of epic games, a penalty shoot-out or two and one long, drawn-out finals later, it all melds into one. Can anyone who didn't play in it actually remember Slovakia 0 England 0 from Euro 2016? Greece 1 Russia 0 from 2012?

But **Euro 2020** will be so radically different, its entry in the football annals so festooned with asterisks, that it cannot fail to stand out. For a kick-off, it's 2021. This sprawling, ambitious, 12-city extravaganza, conceived by Michel Platini to mark UEFA's 60th anniversary, has been pruned to 11 host stadiums. Most will be barely a third full for the tournament. The fact that this is happening at all is... Reckless? Righteous? Risky?

Yes, there are sponsors to please, TV audiences to entertain, the whole soccer circus to keep on the road. And yet... Around 2230 CET on 12 November 2020, almost exactly seven months before Euro 2020's grand opening in June 2021, every single living room across Hungary was going doobattally when Dominik Szoboszlai planted a completely improbable stoppage-time winner off an Icelandic goalpost and into the net of an empty **Puskás Aréna**, built for the specific purpose of hosting Euro 2020. Just south in Belgrade, Scottish hearts were being squeezed through the wringer as the play-off final with Serbia went into extra-time then penalties, even goalkeeper David

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Marshall doing a double-take that his heroics had been legit. Over in Belfast, a last-gasp Slovakia own goal had given Northern Ireland the ultimately false hope that extra-time would send them to another Euro finals. All this in a space of half-an-hour. We've got a whole month of this.

And, let's face it, we all need it. And, much like the next time we all get on



a plane, it won't be routine, except for now routine pandemic restrictions, so we'll all be settling down to Austria v North Macedonia with relish instead of weary duty. We're here. After the near seismic 48-hour wobble of the European Super League, football is here. In fact, as will surely be blaring out of every window across England, it's coming home, **Wembley Stadium** due to host both semi-finals, the final

and five other games, 25 years after Euro 96 and all that.

But football is also going to **Baku**. (Wales play at least twice in Baku, 5,000km from Cardiff.) It's going to **Amsterdam, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Glasgow, Munich, Rome** and **St Petersburg**. It's going to **La Cartuja**, the Expo island in **Seville**, where two Spanish Cup finals have recently been

EUROS 2020-21

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played within the space of a month, and to **Budapest**, planning for four matches in that aforementioned arena, 100% full with vaccinated spectators.

What goes on outside those stadiums is another matter. Fan zones and street parties can't happen but it's hard to imagine any Hungarian result in a group comprising recent major trophy winners France, Portugal and Germany not being celebrated along the Nagykörút in Budapest. The central squares of Copenhagen and St Petersburg may not be swarming with Finns, but their team's participation at a major finals for the first time since 1938 demands deep pools of beer, wherever and however they can be sunk. Then there is, in fact, Austria v North Macedonia, the Balkan debutants hot to trot after that shock win over Germany in March. The venue, Bucharest, is such a tantalisingly doable drive from Skopje... Sadly, though, the distant and the virtual must take priority here. Safety first. Even when it's England-Scotland.

Teams & tips

France are favourites, now that an on-fire Karim Benzema has been welcomed back into the Gallic fold to partner with... [ulp!] Kylian Mbappé. Also in Group F, old warhorses Thomas Müller and Mats Hummels should provide stability to a **German** team always capable of collapse, though players will want long-



standing manager Joachim Löw to retire with dignity. In that same group, **Portugal's** Cristiano Ronaldo bows out from the big stage and **Hungary** will at least be roared on by a home crowd for two games.

In Group D, **England** have an embarrassment of talented riches in

attack – Phil Foden, Mason Mount, Jack Grealish – but a big question mark between the sticks. **Scotland** have their tails up, **Croatia** surely see the last and possibly best of Luka Modrić and while the **Czech Republic** continue to improve. Marek Hamšík and Robert Lewandowski will surely have their swansongs for **Slovakia**

and **Poland**, although time caught up with potential opponent Zlatan Ibrahimović, 40 (!) next birthday. Do look out, however, for **Sweden's** 21-year-old Alexander Isak, prolific for Real Sociedad in 2020-21. With awesome youngsters – Manchester City's Ferran Torres and Rodri, both on the mark in the 6-0 whitewash of



Germany last November, Leipzig's Dani Olmo – **Spain** could well win back the trophy they lifted in 2012.

For **Holland**, teenager Ryan Gravenberch has had a superb season, holding the midfield for champions Ajax, though Frank de Boer's managerial reputation still needs a little polishing since leaving Amsterdam in 2016. **Austria's** young Saša Kalajdžić may cause problems to defences in Group C, and veteran **North Macedonia** captain Goran Pandev will be looking to write yet another fairytale after scoring the only goal in the Euro play-off in Georgia, and the opener that shocked Germany four months later. Under Andriy Shevchenko, **Ukraine** should not be discounted, topping their qualifying group unbeaten by overcoming Euro 2016 winners Portugal with ten men. ➔



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Also favoured, **Belgium** feature two players in peak form for title-winning clubs, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, and another happy to put the domestic season behind him, Eden Hazard. **Russia** will be looking to repeat the heroics of the 2018 World Cup, Artëm Dzyuba top scorer for champions Zenit in 2020-21, hitting seven in their last three games. For **Denmark**, goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel was equally outstanding in Leicester's recent FA Cup win, and young strikers Jonas Wind and

Kasper Dolberg will be looking to make their mark on the big stage. Teemu Pukki has scored a goal every three games for **Finland** while compatriot Marcus Forss hit a vital one for his club Brentford to send them into the Championship play-off final.

The whole shebang starts in Rome, where two in-form sides, **Italy** and **Turkey**, clash at the Stadio Olimpico. Robert Mancini's men haven't lost since 2018, goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, midfielder Nicolò

Barella and striker Federico Chiesa key players still in their early twenties. Midfielder Marco Verratti could seal his status as an all-time great. All bodes well for Turkey, too. Three heroes of Lille's remarkable season in France – right-back Zeki Çelik, attacking midfielder Yusuf Yazıcı and, most of all, striker Burak Yılmaz – regroup under Şenol Güneş, who led the Crescent Stars to the World Cup semi-finals in 2002. With a midfield featuring Granit Xhaka and Xherdan Shaqiri, **Switzerland** will always be

solid, agelessly elegant manager Vladimir Petković in charge since 2014. **Wales** make a welcome return to the finals after an outstanding Euro 2016 and that run to the semi-final. Although preparations have been hampered by manager Ryan Giggs' arrest and the fluctuating form of Gareth Bale, passion will not be lacking. Basing the squad in Baku also makes logistical sense.

Timings & tickets

Euro 2020 involves 24 teams in six groups of four, the same as the finals

before. The top two plus four best third-placed sides go through to the final 16. Head-to-head records decide tiebreakers. Extra-time and penalties follow 90 minutes if needed in the knock-out stage, when a sixth (!) substitution be made.

Kick-off times are at 8pm (9pm CET) and 5pm (6pm CET), with a handful of group games at 2pm (3pm CET). Between the opener in Rome on 11 June and final at Wembley on 11 July, 51 games will be played, most of them in stadiums filled to around 25-33% capacity. Each destination has its rules on entry – we provide a link showing the guidelines for each on every city page.

Ticketing has been a logistical maze, compounded by Dublin and Bilbao dropping out as host venues. For all details, see uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/ticketing. It is still not yet clear how many will fill Wembley for the semis and final. Should squads fall victim to Covid, there's flexibility for the fixture to be shifted to within 48 hours of the original date, a necessary proviso under the circumstances.

Making their Euro debuts will be Finland, North Macedonia, VAR – yes, it's *that* long ago since Euro 2016 – and Skillzy, the official mascot whose man bun grates so badly, VARman may have been a better concept for designers to work with.



2021 MATCH SCHEDULE

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Johan Cruijff ArenA
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BAKU
Baku Olympic Stadium
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BUCHAREST
National Arena
p13-p14

BUDAPEST
Puskás Aréna
p15-p16

COPENHAGEN
Parken
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Hampden Park
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Saint Petersburg Stadium
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SEVILLE
La Cartuja
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LONDON
13.6/7
ENG v CRO
3pm/2pm UK
18.6/20
ENG v SCO
9pm/8pm UK
22.6/32
CZE v ENG
9pm/8pm UK
26.6/37
R16/1A v 2C
9pm/8pm UK
29.6/44
R16/1D v 2F
6pm/5pm UK
6.7/49
SF/W46 v W45
9pm/8pm UK
7.7/50
SF/W48 v W47
9pm/8pm UK
11.7/51
F/W49 v W50
9pm/8pm UK

GLASGOW
14.6/8
SCO v CZE
3pm/2pm UK
18.6/19
CRO v CZE
6pm/5pm UK
22.6/31
CRO v SCO
9pm/8pm UK
29.6/43
R16/1E v
3A/B/C/D
9pm/8pm UK

COPENHAGEN
12.6/3
DEN v FIN
6pm/5pm UK
17.6/16
DEN v BEL
6pm/5pm UK
21.6/27
RUS v DEN
9pm/8pm UK
28.6/42
R16/2D v 2E
6pm/5pm UK

AMSTERDAM
13.6/5
HOL v UKR
9pm/8pm UK
17.6/17
HOL v AUS
9pm/8pm UK
21.6/29
MAC v HOL
6pm/5pm UK
26.6/38
R16/2A v 2B
6pm/5pm UK

ST PETERSBURG
12.6/4
BEL v RUS
9pm/8pm UK
14.6/10
POL v SVK
6pm/5pm UK
16.6/15
FIN v RUS
3pm/2pm UK
18.6/21
SWE v SVK
3pm/2pm UK
21.6/28
FIN v BEL
9pm/8pm UK
23.6/34
SWE v POL
6pm/5pm UK
2.7/45
QF/W41 v W42
6pm/5pm UK

GROUP A
A1 Turkey (TUR)
A2 Italy (ITA)
A3 Wales (WAL)
A4 Switzerland (SWZ)

GROUP B
B1 Denmark (DEN)
B2 Finland (FIN)
B3 Belgium (BEL)
B4 Russia (RUS)

GROUP C
C1 Holland (HOL)
C2 Ukraine (UKR)
C3 Austria (AUS)
C4 North Macedonia (MAC)

GROUP D
D1 England (ENG)
D2 Croatia (CRO)
D3 Scotland (SCO)
D4 Czech Republic (CZE)

GROUP E
E1 Spain (SPA)
E2 Sweden (SWE)
E3 Poland (POL)
E4 Slovakia (SVK)

GROUP F
F1 Hungary (HUN)
F2 Portugal (POR)
F3 France (FRA)
F4 Germany (GER)

SEVILLE
14.6/9
SPA v SWE
9pm/8pm UK
19.6/22
SPA v POL
9pm/8pm UK
23.6/33
SVK v SPA
6pm/5pm UK
27.6/39
R16/1B v
3A/D/E/F
9pm/8pm UK

MUNICH
15.6/12
FRA v GER
9pm/8pm UK
19.6/24
POR v GER
6pm/5pm UK
23.6/36
GER v HUN
9pm/8pm UK
2.7/46
QF/W39 v W37
9pm/8pm UK

ROME
11.6/1
TUR v ITA
9pm/8pm UK
16.6/14
ITA v SWZ
9pm/8pm UK
20.6/26
ITA v WAL
6pm/5pm UK
3.7/46
QF/W39 v W37
9pm/8pm UK

BUDAPEST
15.6/11
HUN v POR
6pm/5pm UK
19.6/23
HUN v FRA
3pm/2pm UK
23.6/35
POR v FRA
9pm/8pm UK
27.6/40
R16/1C v 3D/E/F
6pm/5pm UK

BUCHAREST
13.6/6
AUS v MAC
6pm/5pm UK
17.6/18
UKR v MAC
3pm/2pm UK
21.6/30
UKR v AUS
6pm/5pm UK
28.6/41
R16/1F v 3A/B/C
9pm/8pm UK

BAKU
12.6/2
WAL v SWZ
3pm/2pm UK
16.6/13
TUR v WAL
6pm/5pm UK
20.6/25
SWZ v TUR
6pm/5pm UK
3.7/47
QF/W40 v W38



EUROS 2020 London

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London

Selected to host eight games including the semi-finals and final of Euro 2020, 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, one Euro and now another to follow.

Thousands come from Scandinavia, Russia and beyond to catch the world's top stars in action at North London rivals **Arsenal** and **Tottenham**, and at 2021 Champions League winners, 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 now join 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 Snarebrook, 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 **official guidelines** concerning visiting London for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/london/stadium/. 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.

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 →



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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



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rooms in a restored Georgian property. Similarly classy with a spa to boot, **The Landmark** stands slap 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 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, 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. **LD**



EUROS 2020 Wembley

www.libero guide.com/wembley-stadium

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. **L3**



EUROS 2020 Amsterdam

www.liberoguide.com/amsterdam

Amsterdam

Forward-thinking and multicultural, **Amsterdam** is represented by a flagship club in its own image: **Ajax**. This successful school of footballing excellence is as global a brand as the three crosses of the city emblem. The famous thick red stripe of Ajax is a symbol of intelligent football played by young players nurtured or moulded at the club.

Three waves of star teams have made their mark in Europe and won silverware. Louis van Gaal's Ajax of the 1990s heralded a new era, with the opening of the futuristic **Amsterdam ArenA**, co-host of Euro 2000. In 2018, it was renamed the **Johan Cruyff ArenA**.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Amsterdam for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/amsterdam/stadium/. Amsterdam's **Schiphol Airport** is 9km (6 miles) south-west of the city centre, connected by train (€4.30) to **Centraal station** and **Amsterdam Bijlmer ArenA** (€3.90), both about 15mins away. There are shared or private taxis bookable on the airport website, prices starting around €30. **City transport** consists of buses, trams, light rail/metro lines and ferries, accessed by the national **OV-chipkaart** (€7.50) from machines and



St James's Gate

convenience stores. A **single journey** without the OV-chipkaart is €3. There are also cards for **24-hour** (€7.50) and **48-hour** (€12.50) travel.

Bed

Iamsterdam (iamsterdam.com) has a hotel database. Near the ArenA, on the Bijlmer ArenA station concourse, the **Hampton by Hilton Amsterdam** is business-friendly, with a bar open to all pre- and post-match. A short walk from Overamstel station, the towering **Mercure Hotel Amsterdam City** has a gym and sauna. Also near Overamstel is the mid-range **Bastion Hotel Amsterdam/Amstel**.

Hotels cluster around Centraal Station. These include the **Prins Hendrik**, best known for its unfortunate footnote in music history – here jazzster Chet Baker jumped to his death. A plaque marks his memory. Nearby, the **Hotel Internationaal** features a 90-year-old bar at street level and affordable rooms



above. Round the corner from Centraal, the **Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam** offers five-star luxury in a beautiful old shipping house. For something more individual, the **WestCord Art Hotel Amsterdam** near Museum Het Ship features original works by controversial artist/musician Herman Brood.

Close to Rembrandtplein, hotels allow for easy barhopping. The **Hotel Atlanta** above the St James's Gate pub is

comfortable and affordable. Also nearby are the three-star **NH Schiller** and the **NH Carlton Amsterdam**, built for the 1928 Olympics.

Beer

Sports bars surround **Rembrandtplein**. These include the **Satellite Sports Café** and **St James's Gate**, along with pubs such as the **Three Sisters**, the **Old Bell**, **Hoopman**, and, in the same family, the **Hole in the Wall**. **Coco's Outback** is a

popular Aussie sports pub nearby, with 30 screens. Round the corner, **Regular & Jack** shows most games in a lively, up-for-it atmosphere. **The Tara** on nearby Rokin provide a nice pub feel with TV sport in focus. Further towards the Red Light district, the **Old Sailor** is an age-old corner spot dotted with TV screens for football watching. The **Heineken Experience** has its own brew pub, behind which **O'Donnell's** goes big on live sport.



EUROS 2020 Johan Cruijff ArenA

www.libero guide.com/ajax-amsterdam



Johan Cruyff ArenA

Johan Cruijff ArenA

Home of recent and record Dutch champions Ajax, the **Johan Cruijff ArenA** (johancruijffarena.nl/home) is named after their greatest player, his number forever 14, his surname often anglicised to Cruyff. He grew alongside De Meer, the legendary ground where

his mother was a cleaner and his stepfather a groundsman, his old house at No.32 now displaying a mural of the star he became. Even when playing marquee fixtures at the Olympic Stadium, Ajax, thanks to Cruyff a major European force, needed something bigger.

The solution was Bijlmer. An area earmarked for urban renewal in Amsterdam-Zuidoost, served by

Amsterdam's first metro line, the site ticked many boxes, underlining the trend towards encouraging supporters to leave their cars at home and take public transport. Another plus was Euro 2020 – Holland and Belgium were to co-host, confirmed in 1995, but in the air when the new stadium project was set in motion in 1993.

Three years later and the equivalent of €140 million later, Queen Beatrix was



seen doing the Mexican wave as Ajax succumbed 3-0 to Milan in the curtain-raiser. The stadium went on to stage five games at Euro 2000, including a semi-final, with four lined up for Euro 2020, at least three games involving Holland. For the national side, the Oranje, this is as close as they have to a home, although De Kuip in Rotterdam is said to generate more passion. Ajax fans, too, had to adapt to their new surroundings, the notorious F-Side first spread around the ground before being allowed to gather in the eerste Zuid-ring, sectors 126-128, behind the south goal. At the opposing Noord (A-C, K), away fans are usually allocated sectors 416 and 417 through gate K in the north-west corner. The Ajax Fanshop is found at the main entrance, Hoofdingang (gates D-F). Capacity is just shy of 55,000,

although considerably reduced for Euro 2020. Certainly the 5,000 lucky enough to attend a game here in March 2021, Holland's 2-0 win over Latvia, a year or more into lockdown, seemed to enjoy the novelty.

Transport

Metro line 54 runs to **Station Bijlmer ArenA** from **Centraal**, direction **Gein**. Allow 15 mins. The previous stop of **Strandvliet** is also reasonably close and more convenient for the Noord end.

The station is on a direct train line from **Schiphol Airport**, journey time 15 mins.

Shops

On the west side of the main entrance of the ArenA, the **Ajax Fanshop** proffers classic white/red combination shirts, along with away tops of black with gold shoulders.

Bars

At the main entrance to the stadium, chain venue **FEBO** has a terrace, two TV screens inside and live music laid on before and after matches. Nearby is a popular nameless bar by gate Zuid G – look out for the **Grolsch** and Guinness signs. Grolsch is also the attraction at the **Grand Café 3 & 20** on De Passage. Those being wined and dined in the corporate zone can look forward to the Maison van den Boer's cuisine in the **Brasserie Ajax**. **LE**



EUROS 2020 Baku

www.libero guide.com/baku

Baku

Baku, capital of oil-rich Azerbaijan, has emerged from its obscure status as a football footnote. Chosen to co-host Euro 2020, Baku was quick to build the 68,000-capacity **Olympic Stadium**. It then successfully staged the 2019 Europa League Final between Arsenal and Chelsea.

Baku first witnessed major European club football in 2017. Prodigal residents Qarabağ became the first Azeri club to qualify for the Champions League. Representing the war zone of Nagorno-Karabakh, Qarabağ were forced to relocate to Baku in the 1990s. First based at the former national stadium named after Tofik Bakhramov, the linesman of 1966 fame, Qarabağ later built the Azersun Arena north-east of town.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Baku for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/baku/stadium/. **Baku Heydar Aliyev International Airport** is 20km (12 miles) north-east of the city centre. The Aero Express bus leaves every 30min for metro station **28 Maya**, where the red and green lines meet. From there, it's an easy hop to the **Olympic Stadium** at **Koroglu**, downtown seafront **Sahil** and the Old Town stop of



İçerisheher. Journey time to 28 Maya is 30-45mins. The bus operates on the same **Baku Card System** as the **metro**. At the airport, tickets cost 1.50AZN/€0.75 from the kiosk near the exit of Terminal 1, cash only, in small denominations. In town, the Baku Card is 2AZN/€1 (each journey 0.20AZN/€0.10), available from machines at stations. A **taxi** from the airport to town should cost around 25AZN/€12.50, half that to the Olympic Stadium. To phone one, call **189 Taxi** (+994 12 565 31 89).

Bed

Nearest to the Olympic Stadium, the four-star Avenue Hotel Baku is two bus stops by the ASK Arena. All the main chains are found in town. These include the **Hilton** by the seafront, the **Fairmont** near the Flame Towers and the **Park Inn** near the train station. A couple of blocks from the Hilton on focal Azadliq Square, the **JW Marriott Absheron** exudes luxury, with a panoramic pool, spa and gym. To stay in the centrally located bar quarter, the **Du Port Hotel** on Yusif Mammadaliyev

has its own pub/restaurant with a large-screen TV and billiard room.

Bars

Local **Khirdalan** beer, Turkish **Efes** and pool tables are main features around the main bar hub, near **Fountains Square**, where the streets of **Alizade** and **Tarlan Aliyev** intersect. There you'll find long-established **Finnegans** and **Shakespeare**, with TV football. Corner bar **Otto** is another old favourite. Other expat-friendly options include **Shamrock** and the



Baku Olympic Stadium



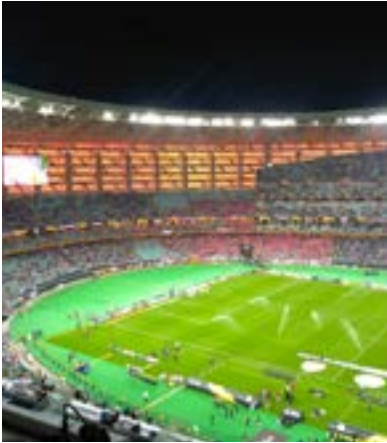
JW Marriott Absheron

neighbouring **Hairy Lemon** and memorabilia-filled **Hops Pub Baku** on Tarlan Aliyev. Also recommended are the **Compass West** pub and the excellent **Tortuga**, closer to Fountains Square. The **Red Lion Pub** on Bulbul Avenue was particularly busy in the build-up to the Europa League final while the **London Pub** and **Top Beer** on Yusif Mammadaliyev are quieter options. Further up, on the corner of Mardanov and Bashir Seferoglu Küçesi, **Koleso** is another screen-equipped hostel, with Stara Praga beer on tap. Just over the road, the **Sport Pub Beer Dad** ticks most boxes. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Baku Olympic Stadium

www.liberoguide.com/baku-olympic-stadium



Baku Olympic Stadium

Opened in 2015, the **Baku Olympic Stadium** (Bakı Olimpiya Stadionu, [bos.az/en](#)) personifies the oil-rich capital of Azerbaijan, determined to claim its place on the world stage by hosting prestigious global events. The Europa League final of 2019 is the most recent, an easy win for Chelsea over Arsenal in a stadium only two-thirds full nearly 5,000km from London. Here, Wales, Turkey and Switzerland play each other in Group A, with a quarter-final to follow on 3 July.

The fact that Baku's once modest metro network now extends this far out of town is indicative of the speed of urban development of the city, today a vast ex-Soviet sprawl. Host



of the inaugural European Games of 2015, the Olympic Stadium covers an extensive site – three times the size of Baku's historic Old Town – and rises six storeys high. Laid out in three tiers, the stadium loops around a running track with a fair distance between those in the highest ring and the action. Construction required four years and the best part of €700 million.

The 68,000-capacity arena is set way north-east of town, by the shores of Lake Boyukshor. Nearby stands the ASK Arena, home of top-flight side Keşla.

Qarabağ, the club from the war-torn region of Nagorno-Karabakh that moved to the Azeri capital in the early 1990s, now call the national stadium home for prestige fixtures.

Here, they have welcomed the likes of Roma, Atlético Madrid and Sevilla, along with Chelsea and Arsenal, who then returned for that final a long, long way from London.

Transport

The quickest way to reach the stadium is by metro. **Koroglu station** is on both the red and the green lines, four stops from the main

crossing point of **28 May**, five on the red from central **Sahil**.

Allow 20 minutes from town. Koroglu station is a 10-15min walk to the stadium, approaching the south-west exit. Several bus lines, including **Nos. 1** and **13**, serve the nearest stop of **Milli ('National') Stadion**, but unless you're staying at a hotel en route, it's hardly worth the hassle.

A **taxi** from the city centre should cost around 12AZN/€6 but make sure the meter is running and/or agree a price beforehand. The traffic will be heavy heading to the match and atrocious coming back, so, again, metro might be best. Given the three-hour time difference with the UK, two-hour with CET, matches here have earlier kick-offs, and transport should still be running after the final whistle.

Bars

Metres from Koroglu metro station, the **MAF Lounge** is the best option close to the Olympic Stadium. An outdoor terrace, reasonably cheap beer including local brews, a large indoor space with shisha pipes and plenty of screens for sport attract plentiful football pre-match, but it's also a good option for a post-match bite while the crowds disperse. Alongside, the **Metro café** is a much simpler option with sensational shawarma and basic street food. Beers fill the fridge but there's less of a bar/pub atmosphere. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Bucharest

www.libero guide.com/bucharest

Bucharest

Co-hosting Euro 2020, stage for the Europa League Final in 2012, **Bucharest** has gained a wider profile thanks to the **National Arena**, opened in 2011. This is the new face of the Romanian capital: a modern, EU metropolis still emerging from a dark past.

Since 2015, the stadium has also been the home ground of the country's most decorated club, Steaua Bucharest, officially known as FCSB. European Cup winners in 1986, Steaua were the first club from the Eastern bloc to attain such heights. Able to attract the best Romanian talent, most notably Gheorghe Hagi, Steaua were dominant but relinquished the role after Hagi left for Real Madrid and the Communist system that held them in place collapsed.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Bucharest for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/bucharest/stadium/.

Henri Coandă airport, aka Otopeni, is 17km (11 miles) north-west of town. A signposted door from the Arrivals terminal leads to the bus stops for town, a ticket office to the right. Two trips are 8.60 lei/€1.80 (cash-only). The **No.780** runs to main train station **Gara de Nord**, the **No.783** to Piața



Victoriei/Piața Unirii, the No.784 to **Piața Unirii**, every 30min-1hr. Journey time 30-45mins. For **taxis**, use the touch screens in Arrivals – you receive a number, waiting time and a ticket to give to the driver. Expect to pay 40-50 lei/€8-€10 for town. In town, from Gara de Nord to the airport, the bus stop is near Hotels Sir and Andy. For the **metro network**, it's 5 lei/€1 for 2 rides, 20 lei/€4 for 10, 8

lei/€1.65 for a day pass on bus, trams and trolleybuses. Across town by taxi should be 10-15 lei/€2-€3. **Taxi Mondial** (+40 21 9423) are based near the National Arena.

Bed

The only hotel near the National Arena is the **Holiday Inn-Times**, behind Piața Muncii metro station on Bulevardul Decebal. Around the Gara

de Nord, handy for the airport and most stadiums, **Hello** on Calea Griviței serves the budget traveller perfectly. Opposite, the **Euro Hotels Gara de Nord** is more downbeat. Global chains in town include the **InterContinental**, with its panoramic gym and pool by Universitate metro station, the palatial **Marriott** with its high-end spa, and the four-star **Novotel** with its gleaming façade on Calea Victoriei.



Further up, the **Athenee Palace**, now a Hilton, was the ornate haunt of spies either side of the war.

Beer

A Bermuda Triangle of streets in the historic centre – Strada Șelari, Covaci and Gabroveni – is where you find three dozen drinking spots at least. The most football-focused are **Halftime**, framed Liverpool shirts displayed around a host of plasma screens, and **Mojo**, another LFC haunt next door, with equal emphasis on live music. Also on Gabroveni, **Beer O'Clock** lines its counter with craft options. The **Boulevard Pub** and **Fire Club** on Covaci offer live TV sports. **The Drunken Lords** on Șelari knows how to party. Across main Bulevardul Brătianu, **Légère** on Piața Rosetti attracts a mainly Romanian crowd with TV football, great beer and a nice courtyard. **LG**



EUROS 2020 National Arena

www.libero guide.com/national-arena



National Arena

Selected to co-host Euro 2020, venue for the Europa League Final of 2012, the **National Arena** was opened in 2011 in place of the old National Stadium. Built in 1953 and first named in honour of the Romanian uprising against Nazi rule on August 23, 1944, this classic Communist arena was where Ceaușescu and the party bosses would

... speak to the masses on May Day – and, of course, on August 23.

Crowds of 80,000 and 90,000 witnessed major internationals here, such as Romania's 2-1 defeat of England in 1980. The stadium was later renamed after Romanian discus thrower Lia Manoliu, actually from Chișinău, Moldova, later President of the Romanian Olympic Committee. No

... longer fit for modern purpose, the old stadium last saw the national team play here in 2007.

Over three years, and at a cost of €230 million-plus, a five-star, 55,600-capacity arena was built, for football matches and concerts. The retractable roof was an expensive afterthought. Bizarrely, since opening for a Euro qualifier against France in

September 2011, the National Arena hasn't yet been filled to capacity – not even for the visit of Eastern European royalty, Depeche Mode, in 2013. Steaua Bucharest's decision to play European fixtures here in 2013-14 changed the stadium's status from events arena to home ground – a role extended when Steaua moved all their games here from 2015. Dinamo should follow suit in 2021. Each major club is involved in rebuilding its own stadium, though deadlines are being pushed further and further back.

The two-tiered National Arena is divided into two Peluzele (Nord I and Sud II) behind each goal, Tribuna I (Vest) and II (Est) on the sidelines. Tram-lined Bulevardul Besarabia gives access to Peluza II Sud, Bulevardul Pierre de Coubertin to Peluza I Nord. For international fixtures, away fans are allocated sectors 124, 126, 355, 356, 357 and 358, through Gate H.

Transport

The stadium is a 15min walk up Bulevardul Besarabia from **Piața Muncii** on yellow metro line M1. If you're arriving directly from Gara de Nord, turn right out of the carriage and up the stairs. Exit left towards the tall white building if you're taking **tram Nos.40** and **56** from the metro station, two stops to **Arena Națională**. You'll see the stadium on the left as you arrive.

Bars

Options line Bulevardul Besarabia, the best being **Burgarescu** (No.80), where Carlsberg, Staropramen and local Bucur beers are served on a sun-catching terrace with a TV, and, on the Arena side, the **Berăria Park** (No.37-39), a large beer garden done out in Tuborg green. Signature beer cocktails (21 lei/€4.30) come with white rum and grilled platters (99/179 lei/€20/€37) can be shared between several hungry people. Just past the stadium, **Champions** serves its purpose perfectly, TV screens inside and out, and a pictorial history of Romanian sport on the walls. Alongside, **Bistro 37-39** has been in place for many years, a restaurant specialising in grilled meat, televisions spread around the neat interior and leafy garden courtyard so you don't miss any match action. **LG**





EUROS 2020 Budapest

www.liberoguide.com/budapest

Budapest

A traditional football capital, **Budapest** is regaining its old pomp thanks to new stadiums replacing famous old ones, most notably the national **Puskás Aréna**, the former Népstadion. At club level, an appearance by Ferencváros in the Champions League in 2020 has raised hopes of a new era. Their old ground at Üllői út was knocked down in 2013, Chelsea the visitors when the new Groupama Aréna opened on the same site. In 2015, it was the scene of celebrations when Hungary beat Norway to qualify for Euro 2016, their first major finals for 30 years. By then, the last touches were being added to the Puskás Aréna, due to co-host the Euros, a major first for Budapest.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Budapest for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/budapest/stadium/. Budapest's **Liszt Ferenc Airport** is 16km (ten miles) south-east of town. From outside Arrivals, **No.100E bus** leaves every 15-30min for central **Deák tér** (Ft900/€2.60, journey time 45mins). A kiosk dispatches **Főtaxi** (+36 1 222 2 222) services into town (Ft8,000/€23). The **BKK transport network** consists of four metro lines, buses, trams and trolleybuses. Each journey requires a ticket to



be stamped (single Ft350/€1, ten Ft3,000/€8.60, from machines, credit cards accepted).

Bed

Alongside the metro station for the Puskás Aréna, the four-star **Danubius Hotel Arena** has a pool, gym and spa. Across from Keleti station, still walking distance to the stadium, the **Royal Park Boutique Hotel** is a handy mid-range choice while **Baross City** offers standard convenience. Close

by, the long-established **Hungaria City Center** has nearly 500 rooms and suites. Budapest is renowned for its spas and spa hotels – the **Gellért** on the square of the same name is the most famous. On the same Buda bank, **Lánchíd 19** is a classy design hotel whose best rooms overlook the Chain Bridge. Five-star hotels tower over the city's retail hub, including the **Ritz-Carlton** and **Kempinski**. Near the Opera House, the **Hilton Garden Inn** has a rooftop space.

Bars

Budapest is a great bar city. **District VII**, between the Great Synagogue and Klauzál tér, is the nightlife hub. Within it, the **Gozsdu udvar** passageway is lined with venues. Nearby football-focused bars include **Champs** on Dohány utca, decorated with line drawings of Magyar Olympic heroes since 1896 – it also runs a summer terrace sports bar on Margaret Island. Where Dob utca meets the tram-lined ring road, the **Nagykörút, Ziccer, Score**



and **Winners** offer big-screen action. Also nearby, the **Stifler** and **Pointer Pub** chains have several burger-and-soccer sports bars, on and off the Nagykörút. Near Boráros tér, the **6:3** takes its name from the scoreline when Hungary beat England in 1953. Its former owner was hat-trick hero Nándor Hidegkuti, the bar taken over in 2018 by expat football fans, keen on preserving its heritage. Across the Danube, named after the Chain Bridge it stands near, the Buda-side **Lánchíd Söröző** at Fő utca 4 is a homely, retro-themed bar/restaurant with old Who videos in one room, TV football in another. **LB**



EUROS 2020 Puskás Aréna

www.libero guide.com/puskas-arena



Puskás Aréna

The **Puskás Aréna** (facebook.com/puskasarena) is the second iteration of Hungary's national stadium. The first and most iconic, the **Népstadion** ('People's Stadium') not only hosted the great stars of the early 1950s, they helped build it – motivational photos show Puskás and co lugging wheelbarrows full of bricks with hundreds of other volunteers. The stadium opened on Hungary's national day, August 20, in 1953, with an exhibition game between Honvéd and Moscow Spartak. Nine months later, many of the Hungarian players trounced England here, 7-1.

Half a century later, shortly before his death, the stadium took Puskás' name. An arena created in Socialist-Realist style holding 100,000, proudly decked out in red, white and green,



had meanwhile been reduced to a UEFA-advised 35,000-seater.

Three failed bids to co-host the Euros did little to release funds for a new national stadium, until the government gave the green light in 2013. The old stadium was demolished in 2016, the new 67,000-capacity Puskás Aréna built between 2017-19. Architect György Skardelli has managed to echo as much of the original stadium as

possible, a steel mesh replicating its monolithic exterior. Three tiers of seats ring the pitch in intimate fashion.

The basic cost? Ft142.85 billion, €400 million-plus. After the curtain-raiser of Hungary-Uruguay in November 2019, the Puskás Aréna staged the 2020 Hungarian Cup Final, the UEFA Super Cup and European fixtures involving the likes of Manchester City, Liverpool and Tottenham. In between,

there was the dramatic matter of Hungary's qualification for Euro 2020, a wonder goal from Dominik Szoboszlai in stoppage time against Iceland taking the Magyars through to the finals for which this very stadium was built.

Transport

The stadium has its own stop, **Puskás Ferenc Stadion**, on the **red M2 metro line**, one up from Keleti station, and on **tramline No.1**.

Visitor Centre

In 2018, a first-floor **Visitor Centre** (Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, free admission) opened by the metro station, shows a history of the stadium and provides an immersive drone view of construction. You can replay the 7-1 game of 1954 using the popular Hungarian version of football-tiddlywinks, *gombfoci*, with players' portraits on each counter.

Bars

Walking up from Keleti, the **Stadion Söröző** is a popular pre-match spot where Thököly meets Dózsa György út. On the other side of the arena by the No.1 tram stop, **Stefano** is both a cosy football bar and pizzeria, rare scarves and pennants decorating a cabin-like interior. Opt for a classic Hungarian dish if you're dining. Around the corner, the **Féldő** ('Half-Time') **Söröző** is a basic pre-match choice.

Nearby, the other side of the Stadion bus station, smarter Ypsilon ('Y') provides a lovely terrace and Bitburger beer. Further down Stefánia út at No.29, another terrace awaits at the timeless **Tücsök Sörkert**, with an interior of vintage Hungarian advertising posters and a beer garden as promised in the name.

Close to the stadium at the neighbouring SYMA events centre, past the security barrier on Dózsa György út, **Planet Sport** is a basic bar/restaurant with a first-floor terrace. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Copenhagen

www.libero guide.com/copenhagen

Copenhagen

The status of **Copenhagen** as an international venue – co-host of Euro 2020, stage for two European club finals, both involving Arsenal – is aided by the proximity of the somewhat functional national stadium, **Parken**, to the city centre. Add its lively bars, lashings of Carlsberg and excellent transport connections, and the Danish capital can be considered one of the best, if priciest, destinations to travel with your team.

Thanks to the regular progress of flagship club and 2019 champions FC Copenhagen (FCK), who groundshare Parken with the national side, it's a journey that fans of Leicester, Ajax and Atlético Madrid have made in recent seasons..

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Copenhagen for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/copenhagen/stadium/.

Copenhagen Airport is 8km (five miles) south-east of the city, connected by regular **metro** to **Nørreport** (15 mins, 36Dkr) or **rail** to **Central Station** (15 mins, 36Dkr), both from terminal 3. A **taxi** (+45 35 35 35 35) to town should cost around 250Dkr. The **transport network** of a two-line, 24-hour metro,



buses and trains is accessed with a **rejsekort smartcard**. Anonymous cards are available from machines at Copenhagen Airport, Central Station and metro stations. A one-day **City Pass** (main zones, 80Dkr) is also valid from the airport. There's a 48hr pass for 150Dkr, 72hr for 200Dkr, and so on.

Bed

Visit Copenhagen (visitcopenhagen.com) has a **comprehensive hotel database**. The **Rye 115**, the closest to Parken, is family-run B&B down the quiet Ryesgade ten minutes from the stadium. Central Station is surrounded

by some 20 hotels from high-end to hostel. Down Colbjørnsensgade you'll find the affordable hotel/hostel hybrid **Urban House by MEININGER**, the mid-range **Good Morning Copenhagen Star** and the eco-friendly **Axel Guldsmiden**, with a rooftop terrace and a hot tub. Closer to Tivoli on Bernstorffsgade, the **Copenhagen Plaza** dates back to 1913 and **Nimb** attracts high-paying guests with its pool, spa and Nordic-meets-East design. Around the main square of Rådhuspladsen, the **Scandic Palace** has been the most sought-after hotel in town since opening in 1910.

Beer

City of **Carlsberg**, Copenhagen is a real drinking town. Strolling out of Central Station, you immediately find the tourist-friendly **Tivoli Biergarten** and a row of football-focused pubs along Vesterbrogade: **The Old English Pub**, **Rosie McGee's**, **The Scottish Pub** and **The Irish Pub**. Round the corner on Jernbanegade, the Shamrock Inn also offers pool and table football. Also close, **Pub & Sport** on Vester Voldgade is a dependable choice to watch the match. On narrow Lille Kannikestraede, lively **Den Glade Gris** is the meeting point for Copenhagen's Man United



fraternity. For something unique, the wonderful **Jernbanecafeen**, the 'Railroad Pub' beside Central Station on Reventlowsgade, has been pulling pints for 86 years to regulars and travellers in a homely, train-themed atmosphere. On the other side of the station, bars line trendy Halmtorvet. Among them, **Bodega 54** plays up its St Pauli credentials by showing all games from the Millerntor, filling the fridge with bottles of Astra from Hamburg and blaring out Peel-era tunes all night. **LB**



EUROS 2020 Parken

www.libero guide.com/parken

Parken

A 38,000-seater, the **Telia Parken** is the venue for Denmark's qualifying fixtures, the home ground of FC Copenhagen (FCK), who own the place, and a co-host of Euro 2020. You couldn't call Parken a beautiful ground, neither inside nor out. Its three, two-tiered stands were built on a tight budget in 1992 and has a no-frills feel to it, not helped by the office towers in the corners and an ugly stand behind one goal added in 2009. With dwindling attendances for FCK and Denmark games, it can seem somewhat oversized. As a consequence, most Denmark friendlies are now played at smaller grounds. The atmosphere tends to suffer when it's another day at the office, but come to Parken on a European night, under floodlights, and the B Tribune should be rocking.

For FCK and Denmark games, older fans occupy the Nedre (Lower) C Tribune, more boisterous younger ones the Nedre B, the Øvre (Upper) B for bigger games. D Tribune is divided between families and visiting supporters. For Denmark games, the standing, singing Red Wall is set up in the Lower B.

Transport

Copenhagen's metro circle line, the **M3**, is ideal for match days, as Parken



is underserved by buses. Get the metro from Rådhuspladsen or Central Station to **Trianglen** or **Vibenshus Runddel**, the two stations at either end of Øster Allé, each a five-minute walk from Parken. A word to the wise: Vibenshus Runddel is less used – avoid queues and full trains at Trianglen by getting on the clockwise train into town (via Østerport) from there after the match.

Bars

Parken's central location and the residential, moneyed nature of surrounding Østerbro mean that there are bars and restaurants

everywhere. Across the square from Triangeln metro station, **Halifax** provides fine burgers. There are more meaty offerings a few doors down, at **Østerbros Originale Burgerrestaurant**, at the corner of Odensegade. Along Østerbrogade, opposite the grandiose main entrance to Østerbro Stadion, the **Park Pub** is functional yet extremely popular pre-match bar with plenty of TV football action. Nearby, on the church square of Sankt Jacob Plads, the **PS Bar & Grill** is a nice mix of restaurant and pub, where you can plot up at the bar and order a Yakima IPA or Tuborg Classic on draught. Back on

the stadium side of Østerbrogade, behind the statue of legendary radio commentator Gunnar Nu Hansen, the **Kafe Kapers** offers standard Danish draught beers and a large terrace, ideal for summer. If too pricy, **Kim's Pølser** will sort out a classic hotdog from a little van. Further down Serridslevvej, by Østerbro Stadion, the **Copenhagen Diner & Steakhouse** goes to town on big-match nights, with grills set up outside. On the other side of the ground, near the FCK Fanshop, the **Eventyr kiosk** has been selling ice creams to locals since 1923 – Tuborg too, particularly on match days.



Younger FCK fans gather at **Central Park**, at the corner of the B and C stands. Expect football anthems at full blast. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Glasgow

www.libero guide.com/glasgow



Glasgow

Scotland's football hotbed is the home of its national stadium, **Hampden Park**, and the Old Firm of Celtic and Rangers, where every league title has gone since 1985.

It has also witnessed a number of notable moments in European football history, such as a sublime display by Real Madrid in 1960 and Zinedine Zidane's stunning goal for the same club in 2002. These were both finals of Europe's premier trophy – in 2021 Hampden co-hosts Euro 2020.



Glasgow was also where international football first started. The first match between Scotland and England was played on St Andrew's Day 1872, at the West of Scotland Cricket Club, Hamilton (or West Hamilton) Terrace. The cricket club is still there, but now on Peel Street, a short walk from Partick subway/rail. This story is told at The Stumps pub (7 Peel Street) nearby, where illustrated background on that historic day is presented at a chatty neighbourhood local.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Glasgow for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/glasgow/stadium/. **Glasgow Airport** is 11km (7 miles) west of the city. The **No.500** (£6 single, £8 with further bus travel) is one of several buses to run into town. A **taxi** would take around 20 minutes and cost £20. Some airlines use **Prestwick Airport**, 51km (32 miles) from

the city in Ayrshire, the only spot on British soil that Elvis Presley graced. Central Glasgow is easily walkable. The city is served by one **Subway** line, **overland rail** and a network of **buses**. Main local firm **First Bus Glasgow** has a **FirstDay pass** for £4.70. The **Roundabout day ticket** (£7.40) from Scotrail is valid for Subway and train services after 9am weekdays, all day weekends. **Glasgow Taxis** (0141 429 7070) are plentiful and reliable.

Bed

People Make Glasgow

(peoplemakeglasgow.com) has a hotel database. Near Hampden Park, the four-star **Number 10 Hotel** near Crosshill station offers special packages around match days. At Glasgow Central, the four-star **Grand Central** is the definitive railway hotel, with a host of famous past guests. On the same side of the station, the quality **Radisson Blu** has a pool and sauna. Towards the river, **Jurys Inn Glasgow** comprises 300-plus comfortable rooms. By focal **George Square**, the **Z Hotel** is central and affordable, the **Millennium** elegant and reasonably priced, **Native Glasgow** as opulent as one of the ocean liners built on the Clyde.

Beer

Glasgow and pubs are synonymous. Of the hundreds that show football, the most famous is the **Horseshoe Bar**, by Glasgow Central, big on live sport. Around George Square, **The Auctioneers** shows games in HD in smart pub surroundings, **The Ark** in a funky interior with a beer garden attached. Nearby, the trendy Merchant City is where you find buzzy destinations such as **Committee Room No.9**, live sport shown amid stripped wood, **BrewDog**, the local branch of the global Aberdeen craft-beer chain, and the outstanding **McChuills** on High Street. Games are shown on a big screen, live music is staged and craft beers are downed by a lively crowd. **LE9**



EUROS 2020 Hampden Park

www.libero guide.com/hampden-park

Hampden Park

Hampden Park (hampdenpark.co.uk) is the home of Scotland and, until recently, venerable Queen's Park. Although it has held well over 100,000 spectators, such as for the seminal European Cup final between Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt in 1960, Hampden has a current capacity of 52,000.

Built by the Queen's Park club in 1903, the stadium is set in Mount Florida, south Glasgow, near the rail station of the same name. Fittingly, Glaswegian engineer Archibald Leitch was the brains behind its construction. For half a century, Hampden Park was the world's largest football ground, famous for its fiery encounters between Scotland and England. One particular match, in April 1937, attracted 149,400 spectators – the all-time record for any game in Europe. The famous Hampden Roar, a thundering, communal din, was said to audible a mile away. It put the fear of God into any opposition, ideally those in England shirts.

It wasn't just about noise or numbers: the 1960 European Cup Final is best known for the fine football of Real Madrid in the last of their five consecutive European Cup wins, a 7-3 masterclass against Eintracht Frankfurt. By the time the European Cup semi-final of 1970 between Celtic and Leeds was drawing 136,505 (the



all-time European record between clubs), Hampden was beginning to lose its sheen. Saint-Étienne fans well remember the square crossbar that thwarted two efforts against Bayern Munich in the 1976 European Cup Final, now found in the club museum.

A €4.5million refurbishment in the early 1980s reduced capacity to just over 74,000. The second phase of renovation (one which nearly bankrupted the Scottish FA, whose headquarters are situated here) was completed in time for the Scottish Cup final of 1999. Real Madrid, in particular Zinedine Zidane,

gave another memorable display of footballing brilliance here in the Champions League Final against Bayer Leverkusen in 2002.

The arena is divided simply into stands named after the points of the compass: the two-tiered main South one features Astroturf warm-up areas, six dressing rooms, a sports injury clinic and 126 executive boxes. Its glass-fronted floors also contain the excellent Scottish Football Museum. Alongside, Lesser Hampden has just been revamped and is now being used by Queen's Park for first-team games.

Transport

The easiest way to reach Hampden is to take the outer circle rail line from **Glasgow Central** to **Mount Florida**. From there it's a ten-minute walk up Somerville Drive.

Bars

Many Scotland fans convene in pubs along Victoria Road, nearer to Queen's Park station, such as the traditional **Queen's Park Café** (No.530), in business since 1898. A great pub option in the Queen's Park vicinity is **Hampden** (58 Albert Road). Occupying a quiet street corner some 10min



walk from the stadium, this age-old landmark displays classic Scotland memorabilia, including photo line-ups from 1880 and 1929, and shots of a relaxed Denis Law in training. Within a short walk of Hampden on Cathcart Road, the **Clockwork Beer Company** welcomes fans without colours with TV sports, a full menu and microbrewed beers.

HAMPDEN PARK





EUROS 2020 Munich

www.liberoguide.com/munich



Augustiner

Munich

Munich is synonymous with nine-in-a-row German champions Bayern, whose home is the **Allianz Arena**. Opened a year before the 2006 World Cup it would co-host, it was built to replace the Olympiastadion, where Franz Beckenbauer's West Germany beat Holland 2-1 to win the 1974 World Cup. The triumph bookended a golden decade for the player, the club team he joined as a teenager and the county he captained.

Before promotion in 1965, Bayern were overshadowed by the more

popular 1860. The city rivals first groundshared the Grünwalder Stadion, then the Olympiastadion, then the Allianz, before 'Sechzig' moved back to their first home. With working-class roots class around Giesing, TSV were the favoured club of the 1940s. Their fan base in bohemian Schwabing, and under Jewish management, Bayern were forced to adopt amateur status. It took them 20 years to recover.

Locally born Beckenbauer and his illustrious teammates changed all that. As captain, coach and organising chairman, he thrice brought the World Cup to Germany. The Allianz later



Sport-Café Schiller RIP

staged the Champions League Final of 2012, in which Chelsea overcame Bayern on penalties, and now Germany's group games at Euro 2020.



Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Munich for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/munich/stadium/. **Munich Airport** is 28km (18 miles) north-east of town, connected by S-Bahn lines S1 and S8 that take different routes to the central stops of Marienplatz and the Hauptbahnhof main station about 40-45mins away. Tickets are €10 single, €11 for a day pass. A day pass on the **transport network** of U-Bahn, S-Bahn, trams and buses is €5.60, a single €2.50. A **taxi** (+49 89 19410) from the airport to town should cost about €60, €40-€45 to the Allianz-Arena en route.

Bed

Near Kieferngarten U-Bahn stop, one down from Fröttmaning and the Allianz, the **Hotel Arena Stadt München** is a pleasant lodging 20 minutes' walk from the stadium. On

the same U6 line near Nordfriedhof, upscale **Munich Marriott** features the Champions Sports Bar. Closer to the same U-Bahn station, stablemates **Pullman Munich** and **ibis Munich City North** cater to business and budget traveller alike. Near the station, the **Jedermann** is affordable and family-run, while closer still, **Le Méridien Munich** and **Sofitel** offer a sauna, pool and gym. Built into the station itself, German chain **InterCity** caters to rail travellers with neat, functional rooms and a free pass for public transport.

Beer

Munich is a beer capital, its historic city-centre hostelries including the **Hofbräuhaus** and **Augustiner**. In party-focused Schwabing, the **Vereinsheim** on Occamstraße combines a classic German Kneipe with a retro football bar – note the 1974 iconography. Nearby on Trautenwolfstraße, the **Shamrock** was one of the city's first expat pubs – by focal Marienplatz you'll find **Ned Kelly's** and **Kilians** next door. **Stadion** on Schleißheimer Straße recreates the match-day experience, screens, scarves and shirts everywhere.

Given the sad closure of the legendary **Sport-Café Schiller** on Schillerstraße, the main football bar by the station is **Fan Arena**, in a passageway off Arnulfstraße. Classic Bayern memorabilia from the owner's personal collection is on display. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Allianz Arena

www.liberoguide.com/allianz-arena

Allianz Arena

In contrast to the Olympiastadion, erected for the 1972 Games, and once groundshared by city rivals Bayern Munich and TSV 1860, the **Allianz Arena** (allianz-arena.com/en) was custom-built for soccer. 'A true football stadium at last', as Franz Beckenbauer said. Capable of accommodating 75,000 but giving everyone a taste of the action – many can smell the turf from their seat – the Allianz pioneered the multi-coloured glowing exterior, created from 2,874 EFTE plastic panels. A ring of bright red beckons Bayern fans on match days, the blue of TSV long gone after the cash-strapped club sold their half of the ownership to all-conquering Bayern.

Die Roten don't always have it all their own way, however – it was here that Bastien Schweinsteiger's penalty hit the post in the 2012 Champions League Final, and Chelsea lifted the trophy. The Allianz also staged six matches at the 2006 World Cup, including the opening game and semi-final, and will host four for Euro 2020. Euro2024 will be the next major tournament here.

Capacity for internationals is 70,000, the standing places in blocks 112 and 113 in the Bayern end, the Südkurve, removed. The stadium comprises three steeply rising tiers: Unterrang (sectors 101-136); Mittelrang (201-



247), and Oberrang (301-348). For Bayern games, away fans are allocated upper blocks 340-347 in the top half of the Nordkurve, with additional seats available should demand require in middle block 242 just below.

Transport

The stadium is a ten-minute, well signposted walk from **Fröttmaning** U-Bahn station on the U6 line, direct from central **Marienplatz** 11 stops/15mins away. From the **airport**, the **S8** takes you direct to **Unterföhring** in 15mins. A **taxi** (€15)

should then take 10mins or change for **bus No.233** to **U6 Studentenstadt** (10min journey time), three stops from Fröttmaning.

Shop

The **FC Bayern Fan-Shop** on level 2 by staircase H on the east side of the stadium is one of nine (!) in Munich and 14 across Germany. Look out for souvenirs related to the club's recent ninth straight Bundesliga win – and 'Danke Hansi' coffee mugs, related to the outgoing coach now joining the German national team.

Bars

According to the team that takes care of catering at the Allianz, on any given match day 40,000 beers and 20,000 bratwursts are devoured. There's a fans' bar at each end, the third-level **Paulaner Fantreff Nord** by staircase M done out with flat-screen TVs. Eight types of Munich's own Paulaner are on offer, two on draught (Münchner Hell and Hefe-Weißbier), two alcohol-free and one alcohol-light. Food includes Bratwurst, Schnitzels and Leberkäse, meatloaf. Done out with tasteful, black-and-white images depicting German



football history – a close-up of Helmut Rahn's boot or the lace-up collars of the pre-Beckenbauer national shirt – the **Arena Bistro** in the Südkurve is open daily (10am-6pm) for affordable pizzas and pastas and the same range of Paulaner beer. Payment is by credit card only. For a quick drink before you set off, **Champions** in the Marriott Hotel is awash with TV screens and 5mins' walk from Nordfriedhof U-Bahn, five stops from Fröttmaning. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Rome

www.liberoguide.com/rome



Rome

Rome is Italy's capital but it rarely welcomes home its league title. Regularly winning through to the knock-out rounds of the major European competitions, Lazio and Roma have not claimed any scudetto silverware since 2000 and 2001 respectively – although these eternal

Rome rivals are still major players at home and abroad. Home for both is the **Stadio Olimpico**. Like Milan, Rome is a stadium-share city. Roma represent downtown Testaccio, Lazio the suburbs of Parioli and beyond. The Olimpico is north of the Vatican, near the Tiber.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Rome for the Euros, check **this**

link: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/rome/stadium/.

The main airport of **Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino**, 35km (22 miles) south-west of the city centre, is connected by **Leonardo Express** train (€14, 30min journey time) every 15min to the main station of **Termini**. From Termini, trains leave from outer platform 28. Alternatively, a regular **SIT shuttle bus**

(online price €6) takes 90min to reach via Marsala 5 outside Termini. A direct Fiumicino-Termini bus service is also provided by **Terravision** (online €5). A **City Airport Taxi** from Fiumicino into town has a fixed fee of €48.

Lesser-used **Ciampino Airport** is 12km (7.5 miles) south-east of town, served by the same bus companies to Termini, **SIT** and **Terravision** (online price €5, journey time 45min). A **City Airport Taxi** from Ciampino has a fixed fee to the city centre of €45 but the standard rate you should find outside is €30. Flagging down a taxi or finding a rank works out cheaper than calling one – such as **Radio Taxi** (+39 06 3570). Rome's **transport system** consists of two metro lines, buses, trams and suburban trains. A **BIT single ticket** (€1.50) is valid for 100mins. A **24hr pass** (€7), **48hr pass** (€12.50) and **72hr pass** (€18) are also available.

Bed

Convenient for the Olimpico, elegant three-star **Hotel delle Vittorie** sits near piazza Giuseppe Mazzini. Just the other side of the stadium, the rooftop terrace of the **Hotel Farnesina** on the street of the same name provides a perfect post-match vantage point. The other side of the Vatican, near Roma S Pietro station, upscale **Starhotels Michelangelo** is a four-star boutique. Central **Hotel Rome Garden** (via Nomenita 28) forms part of a local chain. Good for location and



price, **Hotel Raffaello** (via Urbana 3) is within easy reach of Termini.

Beer

The **Druid's Den** (via di San Martino Ai Monti 28), Irish-owned **Finnegan** near Cavour metro, football-oriented **Highlander** (vicolo di San Biagio 9) and **Fiddler's Elbow** (via dell'Olmata 43) are typical of the expat genre. Both close to Colosseo metro serving the Colosseum, **BrewDog Roma** brings Scottish craft to the Italian capital while the **Shamrock Irish Pub** on via del Colosseo keeps adding to its mighty collection of football scarves, hanging over nine TV screens. The **Bar San Calisto**, in the square of the same name in Trastevere, is a lived-in local with classic calcio and boxing iconography. Nearby, **IVO a Trastevere** (via di San Francesco a Ripa 158) is a homely football hang-out. **LG**



EUROS 2020 Stadio Olimpico

www.libero guide.com/stadio-olimpico



Stadio Olimpico

All roads lead to Rome – or so it seems when you stride up the grandiose walkway to the impressive **Stadio Olimpico**. Stage for the Olympic Games of 1960, the World Cup final of 1990, Euro 2020 Group A games and a quarter-final, and many a major European final, the Olimpico remains the shared home of **Lazio** and **Roma**.

A 70,000-capacity bowl in Rome's green northern reaches, Italy's de facto national stadium dates back nearly 70 years. In 1928, the national stadium was in nearby Flaminio, where Mussolini opened the Stadio del Partito Nacional Fascista. It then hosted the World Cup final of 1934. Meanwhile, a mile away across of the Tiber, il Duce was also planning a grand sports complex in his name: il Foro Mussolini. Although this vast project never came to pass, the grand

Fascist entrance remains, with its walkway and hallmark obelisk. An open bowl inaugurated in 1953, the 54,000-seater arena was surrounded by the Foro Italico sports complex.

Host of the 1960 Games, the Olimpico was overhauled for the 1990 World Cup. The result is pretty much as you see today. Despite the sheer scale of the place – and a running track – on its night the Olimpico can be one of the loudest and most colourful



football arenas in the world, as anyone who has been at the Rome derby will testify. Lazio fans fill the Curva Nord with noise and colour; Roma's the Curva Sud – and never the twain will meet. Prime seats are along the sidelines, in the Tribune Tevere and Monte Mario. In recent years, Roma have made plans to move out to their own stadium at Tor di Valle, but the project has since been shelved.

Transport

From **Ottaviano** station on **metro line A**, veer away from the Vatican in the distance and into via Barletta, for the **No.32 bus stop** in the middle of the street. The infrequent No.32 heads north, past the Flaminio Stadium, and after 15mins passes the Olimpico at the stop **LGT M.llo Diaz (De Bossis)**.

An easier journey might be to take regular **tram No.2** from **Ple Flaminio/P de Popolo** (metro line A)



to the terminus at **Mancini**. You then just have to cross the bridge with the Olimpico ahead of you.

Bars

On the city side of the river, by the No.2 tram terminus on piazza Mancini, **Pizzeria 'Il Derby'** allows you to gawp at autographed photos of Totti while your slice is being prepared. A string of outlets hugs the river on the stadium side of Duca D'Aosta Bridge. These include friendly **La Pizza del Buongustaio**, the cabin-sized **River Café**, and the more bar-like **Big Stefano's**, with table football. The liveliest fans frequent 'il River', drinking bottled Ceres (don't touch the draught) and gawping at the earlier Serie A game on the TV in a side area. A little further along, past piazzale di Ponte Milvio, the **Antica Trattoria Pallotta** was founded in 1820 and still feels pleasingly old-school, with a lovely summer garden attached. **L9**



EUROS 2020 St Petersburg

www.liberoguide.com/st-petersburg

St Petersburg

St Petersburg has superseded Moscow as Russia's football capital. Flagship club **Zenit**, backed by energy giant Gazprom, won the title again in 2021, the third in a row. They were also the last (and only the second) Russian club to win a European trophy, in 2008.

On Krestovsky Island, a 60,000-plus capacity superdome unveiled in 2017 staged the Confederations Cup that July. Designed by innovative Kisho Kurokawa, the **Saint Petersburg Stadium** was a World Cup venue in 2018 and now a designated one for Euro 2020. It stands on the site of the old **Kirov Stadium**, where Zenit won their only Soviet title in 1984.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting St Petersburg for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/saint-petersburg/stadium. **Pulkovo Airport** is 17km (11 miles) south of the city centre. **Bus Nos.39** and **39Ex** run to **Moskovskaya station** every 15-30mins (journey time 20mins). Pay the conductor on board, about 40r/€0.50. **Minibus K39** also calls at Moskovskaya plus six other metro stations. Pass 40r/€0.50 to the driver. Arrange a **taxi** from the desk in Arrivals, paying by cash or credit



card there, around 1,000r/€13 and 1,500rub/€19 to the centre. In town, green-branded **Taxovickhof** (+7 812 330 0002) are as good as any and can be booked online. Moskovskaya station is on **blue metro line M2**. One journey on the five-line **metro system** is 55r/€0.70 with a token, a ten-trip card (370r/€4.75), available from stations. For **buses, trams** and **trolleybuses**, pay the conductor 40r/€0.50.

Bed

By the stadium, the mid-range **Arena Hotel** has a pool, gym, sauna and restaurant. Also close is the **Hotel Park Krestovsky**, a modern three-star with tennis courts. On the northern bank by the amusement park, the **Hermes Park Hotel** is pricier. The **Courtyard St Petersburg Vasilievsky** opposite the Petrovsky Stadium delivers four-star comfort and stunning waterside views. Tucked in from Tuchkov Bridge across

from Zenit's former home, the three-star **Shelfort** (3-ya liniya Vasilevsky ostrova 26) is reliably mid-range.

By St Isaac's, **Astoria** dates back to 1912, palatial enough for the French squad who stayed here in 2018. Alongside, **Angleterre** is similarly swanky. Near Tekhnologicheskoy Institut (M1/M2), the **Sokos Olympia Garden** at Batayskiy pereulok 3A exudes Scandinavian cool, its **Sports**



Bar '84 named after Zenit's title-winning season. By **Moskovsky station**, **Park Inn by Radisson Nevsky St Petersburg** features the convivial **Paulaner Bar**.

Beer

Suitable places to watch the match include **Mollie's Mews** (Bolshaya Konyushennaya ulitsa 5), in a local pub chain also including **Mollie's** at ulitsa Rubinstein 36 and the **Office Pub** at Kazanskaya ulitsa 5. Near Kazan Cathedral, right on Nevsky at No.22, you'll find the **Tower Pub**, with TV football – next door is **O'Hooligans**, another mini chain. **Liverpool** (ulitsa Mayakovskogo 16) lays the Beatles theme on thick but offers action in high definition. By the Mariinsky Theatre, the **Shamrock** is probably the most authentic of the football-focused pubs. Picturesquely set by the Fontanka, **Dickens** offers a large range of draught beers and whiskies. The **Oliver** pub (ulitsa Belinskogo 3) is in similar vein. **LE**



EUROS 2020 Saint Petersburg Stadium

www.liberoguide.com/saint-petersburg-stadium



Saint Petersburg Stadium

The **Saint Petersburg Stadium**, also known as the **Krestovsky Stadium** after the island it stands on, will stage seven games at Euro 2020, the same as for the 2018 World Cup. Here, Lionel Messi scored his wondergoal against Nigeria, France overcame Belgium in the semi-final and Belgium then claimed third place against England.

The arena had been unveiled the year before, way past the original deadline and way over budget, but in time for the Confederations Cup. This is also the home of recently crowned Russian champions, Zenit. This 68,000-capacity dome replaced the former **Kirov Stadium**, the Soviet-era bowl that once held 110,000 people. A statue of local Communist boss Sergei Kirov still stands outside. If the



Krestovsky took ten years to build, from the groundwork in 1932, the Kirov required 18 years to complete, interrupted by war.

The curtain-raising match came in 1950 between local teams Zenit and Dynamo. After Zenit had moved to the smaller Petrovsky Stadium, the Kirov was demolished in 2006. In 2009, Russia submitted its bid to host the World Cup. The decision had already

been made to build a new arena where the Kirov had stood, with the City of St Petersburg picking up the tab after Gazprom pulled out. By then Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa had passed away, but left in place a plan for a futuristic dome that would dominate one fifth of the island, from Victory Park to the waterfront.

Above a two-tiered bowl, a retractable roof and a retractable pitch come into

play during the long, bitter winter. A snow-melting feature amid the roof membranes of hot air allowed the opening game to take place between Zenit and Ural in April 2017, when much of the city was still iced over. Capacity for the Confederations Cup was set at 64,000, as it was for the World Cup. Only 50,000 witnessed Russia's debut here, a 2-0 win over New Zealand, 57,000 the final between Germany and Chile. For Zenit

games, average gates are 44,500, the highest in the Russian Premier. The best seats are in 1XBet Sektor A and Rossiya Sektor C along the opposite sideline.

Transport

The nearest metro station, **Novokrestovskaya (Новокрестовская)** on **green line M3**, is linked to central Nevsky Prospekt. **Krestovsky Island (Крестовского остров)** on **purple M5** also serves the stadium but is 2km/25min away, through Park Pobedy, pleasant on a summer evening, a no-no in winter.

Bars

The stadium is surrounded by parkland and waterfront, which bars and restaurants use to full advantage. Five minutes away at Yuzhnaya doroga 25, at rustic brewhouse/restaurant **Karl und Friedrich**, pork knuckle, schnitzel and sausages accompany litres of house lager. Alongside, lakeside **Russian Fishing** is a cosy cabin where fish bred in the adjoining waters are served. There's a huge vodka selection to wash it all down.

Across pedestrianised Yachtennyi Bridge in the **Piterland** centre, **Papasha Klauss** is a German-style brewhouse with fabulous views over the stadium and Gulf of Finland beyond. In summer, a beach bar extension usually operates. **LB**



EUROS 2020 Seville

www.liberoguide.com/seville



SEVILLE

Seville

Romantic, romanticised **Seville** embodies all the clichés of Andalusia, the bullfighting, the flamenco and the fervent processions. The football, too, is just as fiery, the rivalry between Betis and Sevilla more head-on than anywhere else in Spain.

At one point, the rivals were considering sharing a single stadium, named after the island it stands on: **La Cartuja**. This is where Porto and Celtic played the UEFA Cup final of 2003, and where Spanish Cup finals have been scheduled since the pandemic. Spain have played several internationals there as well, most notably the 6-0 whitewash of Germany in November 2020. The city has always held a talismanic attraction for La Selección. This tradition began at Betis with Spain's 12-1 win over Malta in 1983 to qualify for Euro 1984. Shortly before, the epic World Cup semi-final

between France and West Germany was played at Sevilla's Sánchez Pizjuán.

Bearings

For **official guidelines** concerning visiting Seville for the Euros, check **this link**: uefa.com/uefaeuro-2020/event-guide/seville/stadium/.

Seville's **San Pablo Airport** is 10km (six miles) east of town. **EA Airport buses** (every 30mins, journey time 35min, €4), runs to city-centre bus hub **Plaza de Armas**, via **Santa Justa station**, terminus of the **AVE train** link with Madrid (2.5hrs). A **Radio Taxi** (+34 954 580 000) to town carries a flat fare of €25 daytime, €35 at night. A **one-line metro system** (€2.70-€3.60, day pass €4.50) and **TUSSAM buses** (€1.40, day pass €5, 3-day €10) comprise the city's transport network.

Bed

Seville Tourist Office (visitasevilla.es/en) has a hotel database. On La Cartuja,

the **Hotel Exe Isla Cartuja** serves the stadium it stands alongside, offering a sleek stay. Also on the island, close to del Alamillo Bridge to the mainland, the **Barcelò Sevilla Renacimiento** is a family-friendly five-star with an outdoor pool and gym. Sevilla's Sánchez Pizjuán features business-like four-star **Novotel Sevilla** on one corner and the pool- and gym-equipped **Meliá Lebreros** near the other. In town, high-end boutique options include the **Casa 1800**, with a panoramic pool overlooking Seville Cathedral, the **Palacio Alcazar** alongside, and the

Fontecruz on C/Segovia, its rooftop pool doubling up as a beach club. By main Plaza Nueva, old-school **Hotel Inglaterra** features a panoramic terrace. At the budget end, the **Hostal Sierpes** by the Flamenco Museum is set around a pretty courtyard.

Beer

The narrow streets of the **Santa Cruz** and **Triana** districts are lined with traditional tiled tapas bars that offer local Cruzcampo beer and relief from the relentless Andalusian sun. Typical is

the **Bodega Santa Cruz** (Calle Rodrigo Caro 1A), while nearby **Bar La Moderna** (Calle Mateos Gago 7) is popular spot for TV football. The **Café Bar Leviés** (Calle San José 15) is another TV-football destination, with a huge screen and seats outside. **Taberna El Papelón** is a local chain of tapas bars, including one on Calle Granada by the Ayuntamiento. The main football-focused expat places in town are the **Merchant Pub** on Calle Canalejas, **O'Neill's** and **The Clan** on Calle Adriano by the bullring, **LE**



EUROS 2020 La Cartuja

www.libero guide.com/la-cartuja



La Cartuja

It was no coincidence that the 1492-themed Expo 1992 was sited on La Cartuja, the island that reclines in the Guadalquivir near the historic centre of Seville. Exactly 500 years before, Christopher Columbus set out for the New World, his voyage planned here on La Cartuja. Once the Expo pavilions were cleared away, an amusement park, Isla Mágica, was set up and, by the island's northern tip, **La Cartuja Stadium** (estadiolacartuja.es).

Unveiled in 1999 with a friendly between Spain and Croatia, the stadium was central to Seville's bid to host the Olympics of 2004 – and again in 2008. Multi-purpose, with a running track, this 60,000-capacity arena then staged everything from Madonna to Davis Cup tennis – when occasion demanded.

Porto and Celtic fought out a ding-dong UEFA Cup final here in 2003, which saw a peaceful invasion of Seville by 80,000 Celtic fans. Their award-winning behaviour was even more remarkable considering their

3-2 defeat to José Mourinho's crew, and the utter lack of local taxi drivers that evening.

With both Olympic bids having failed, and the city's rival clubs Betis and Sevilla unwilling to move out of their grounds and share La Cartuja, the stadium became a huge white elephant, dusted down a couple of times a year and ignored by the many families visiting Isla Mágica. Then came the pandemic. Isolated by definition, with a decent hotel right next door and one close by, La Cartuja came into its own when stadiums in



busy, downtown locations – such as the Bernabéu – were forced out of favour. Two Spanish cup finals were duly staged here in April 2021, both involving Athletic Bilbao, whose local government then decided against co-hosting Euro 2020.

The fact that Spain's three group games will be held here is further happy coincidence. For La Selección, the city of Seville has held magical

properties, underlined by the 6-0 whitewash of Germany at La Cartuja in November 2020.

Transport

The stadium is by **Juan Bautista Muñoz (Leonardo da Vinci)**, one stop from the **Américo Vespucci terminus** of the **circular C1 and C2 bus lines** (every 10-15mins). Running in opposite directions, each calls at **Resolana (Barqueta)** on the mainland waterfront, and circumvents the city centre to terminate/set off from **Prado de San Sebastián**, the park south of town.

Bars

From the mainland, across la Barqueta bridge, you soon find the **Río Terraza** nightclub, keeping late hours but open from late afternoon at weekends. As its name suggests, it's a terrace spot overlooking the river. Nearby, attached to the **Barceló Sevilla Renacimiento** hotel, **La Santa María** provides another terrace for alfresco drinks, with a superior snack selection. Nearer the stadium, beside the little tourist train that takes visitors round Alamillo Park, the **Kiosco El Naranjal** serves as the main pre-match pitstop. A large terrace mainly catering to families with coffee and snacks, it also sells beer and pours a decent gin & tonic. Within the stadium, on the west side, functional **Cafetería de Pablo** operates between a gym and a dance centre. **LG**