

THE STORY OF



Track & Field News Tours

When a friend of T&FN publisher Bert Nelson suggested that Track & Field News try to get a group together to go to the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, Bert thought it sounded like a pretty good idea—get enough people to go and there could be a free trip in it for himself and his new wife, Jeannette. Working with a travel agent in Stockton, California, T&FN was able to offer a 16-day tour for \$825 per person. Lodging (mostly in private homes), Games tickets, air transportation, a tour of Stockholm and a stopover in Paris, with a party at the Folies-Bergère, were the basic tour components and 46 American fans went on the trip. Still recovering from World War II, the Finnish people were friendly and hospitable, but there weren't many amenities for visitors. Some tour members recall sleeping on mattresses filled with straw.

When Bert returned home, it occurred to him that the touring business had possibilities and he started planning for the next trip: the British Empire Games in Vancouver in 1954 (where Bannister beat Landy in the famous Miracle Mile). Little did he realize what he'd begun. A half-century later, Track & Field News has taken almost 22,000 fans to 60 different countries on six continents.

Tokyo 2020 will be the 18th Summer Olympic tour for TAFNOT (Track & Field News Olympic Tours). In addition, T&FN has led groups to all 16 Track & Field World Championships, five Pan American Games, nine Commonwealth Games, seven Olympic Trials and a host of other track & field festivals.



A popular feature of T&FN's larger tours is a gala group dinner party to which the world's leading athletes are invited and at last count more than 80 Olympic and World Championships gold medal winners have attended these parties and have been interviewed publicly for the party-goers. These celebrities include Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, Michael Johnson, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Mike Powell, Lee Evans, Stacy Dragila, Bob Beamon, Tirunesh Dibaba, Justin Gatlin, Ashton Eaton, and Sanya Richards, plus other track legends like Dr. Roger Bannister, Ron Clarke, Emil Zátopek, Arthur Lydiard and Bob Mathias.

Sports Tours Operated By Track & Field News 1952-2024

	#Members		#Members		#Members	Other:	#Members
Summer Olympic Games		Pan American Games		U.S. Olympic Trials		1964 USA-USSR meet, L.A.	40
1952 Helsinki	46	1955 Mexico City	33	1964 Los Angeles	50	1966 USA-Comm.-Africa, L.A.	35
1956 Melbourne	69	1959 Chicago	26	1984 Los Angeles	405	1966 All-American Inv., Berkeley	35
1960 Rome	215	1967 Winnipeg	68	1988 Indianapolis	312	1981 USSR Championships	41
1964 Tokyo	176	1975 Mexico City	50	1992 New Orleans	390	1983 TAC Summer Games, L.A.	64
1968 Mexico City	817	1979 San Juan	66	1996 Atlanta	271	1987 TAC Champs., San Jose	104
1972 Munich	1100			2000 Sacramento	337	1991 TAC Champs., New York	52
1976 Montreal	2920	World Track & Field Championships		2004 Sacramento	180	1991 Scandinavia Circuit	46
1980 Moscow	132	1983 Helsinki, Finland	453	2008 Eugene	310	1994 Penn Relays	38
1984 Los Angeles	600	1987 Rome, Italy	524	2012 Eugene	237	1994 European Circuit	16
1988 Seoul	720	1991 Tokyo, Japan	247	2016 Eugene	220	1995 USATF Champs., Sacto	94
1992 Barcelona	630	1993 Stuttgart, Germany	212	2021 Eugene	59	1997 USATF Champs, Indpls	68
1996 Atlanta	1400	1995 Göteborg, Sweden	293	2024 Eugene	115	1998 USATF Champs, New Orleans	40
2000 Sydney	625	1997 Athens, Greece	188			1998 European Circuit	81
2004 Athens	396	1999 Seville, Spain	253	World Indoor Championships		1999 USATF Champs, Eugene	191
2008 Beijing	580	2001 Edmonton, Canada	497	1993 Toronto	79	2001 USATF Champs, Eugene	124
2012 London	446	2003 Paris, France	347	2016 Portland	65	2003 USATF Champs, Stanford	101
2016 Rio	298	2005 Helsinki, Finland	360			2005 USATF Champs, Carson	100
2024 Paris	150	2007 Osaka, Japan	140	European Track & Field Championships		2006 European Circuit	34
		2009 Berlin, Germany	248	1974 Rome	20	2007 USATF Champs, Indy	58
Winter Olympic Games		2011 Daegu, South Korea	65	1986 Stuttgart	64	2007 European Circuit	14
1976 Innsbruck	31	2013 Moscow, Russia	136	1998 Budapest	20?	2009 USATF Champs, Eugene	74
1988 Calgary	80	2015 Beijing, China	82	2002 Munich	65	2011 USATF Champs, Eugene	101
2010 Vancouver	19	2017 London, England	255			2014 World Junior Champs, Eugene	25
		2019 Doha, Qatar	69	World University Games		2014 European Circuit	40
Commonwealth Games		2022 Eugene, OR	300	1983 Edmonton	21	2015 World Relays, Nassau, Bahamas	34
1954 Vancouver	26	2023 Budapest	162			2015 USATF Champs, Eugene	73
1966 Kingston	30			Goodwill Games		2017 World Relays	38
1970 Edinburgh	35	World Track & Field Cups		1990 Seattle	120	2017 USATF Champs, Sacramento	41
1974 Christchurch	25	1977 Dusseldorf	43			2018 European Diamond League	60
1978 Edmonton	155	1979 Montreal	243			2022 USATF, Eugene	60
1982 Brisbane	54	1981 Rome	62			2023 USATF, Eugene	49
1986 Edinburgh	120	1985 Canberra	48			2024 World Relays	38
1994 Victoria	47	1989 Barcelona	49				
2014 Glasgow	25						

Check our web site: www.trackandfieldnews.com



Track & Field News Tours goes where the action is: Zürich, Scandinavia, Tokyo, Sydney, Eugene—wherever the major events are. We provide memorable track and travel experiences in the company of like-minded track fans from around the world.

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