

4066 KM FOR THE FLAME IN KOREA

Since its creation in 1936, the torch relay has enjoyed a popularity which grows from Olympiad to Olympiad. In this run, each person chosen to bear the flame for a stage asserts symbolically his attachment to the Olympic ideal. In the same way, all along the route, the overflowing enthusiasm of the crowds in an expression of the support of the population as a whole for the great festival of world youth. In order to satisfy this popular demand, the SLOOC has decided on an itinerary which should make it possible for everyone to watch the flame go by.

The flame is scheduled to arrive on the Island of Chesu in the extreme south of the Korean peninsula on 27th August 1988. Kindled six days previously by the rays of the Greek sun in Olympia, then entrusted officially to the Korean Olympic Committee by the Hellenic Olympic Committee in Athens, it will have already covered a good quarter of the globe by air (twenty-nine hours by plane via Bahrain and Bangkok). The long journey through Korea will really start in Pusan, site of the Olympic regattas. After skirting the southern coast in the direction of Mokpo in the south east, the flame will move slowly northwards, following a route which winds from east to west and back. Linking sixty-three cities throughout the country and passing through a host of villages on its way. At each stage, cultural and artistic events will be organised to give the torch bearers a worthy reception. Over twenty-two days, this splendid cross-country run will mobilise twenty-four thousand, six hundred and twenty runners, accompanied by twenty-four vehicles and four helicopters, over four thousand and sixty-six kilometers. On 16th September, the eve of the opening ceremony of the Games, the flame will make its entrance into the Olympic city.

