

## PROGRAM AND PARTICIPATION

The Olympic program in Lillehammer is very similar to the Albertville Games. Four more events have been included: in freestyle skiing, an aeriels event for men and women is now included, and in short-track speed skating, there are two new events - 500 metres for men and 1,000 metres for ladies.

Over 80 nations have preliminarily entered teams for the Lillehammer Olympics. This figure is expected to decrease to about 70 competing teams because of the new qualification rules set by the International Federations. A few of the teams which have entered will not have athletes meeting the qualifying standards, and no wild cards are permitted.

## THE ARENAS

The arenas for the different sports are now all completed and test Olympic competitions for all sports have been successfully organized. All the arenas have been shown to be of top quality and as at December 1993 there are good snow conditions in all skiing areas. The arenas are all situated within one hour by car from Lillehammer in normal traffic conditions. Kvitfjell, venue for alpine skiing (downhill and super-G) lies in Kingbu municipality at the heart of the Gudbrandsdalen valley, approximately 70 km. north of Lillehammer. Hafjell, venue for the slalom and giant slalom competitions, lies in Øyer municipality, just 15 km. north of Lillehammer. In the same area - at Hunderfossen, Scandanavia's first artificially frozen bobsleigh and luge track has been constructed. Just a few hundred metres from the centre of Lillehammer the Lysgårdsbakkene Ski Jumping Arena forms the central part of the city's Olympic Park. The two jumping hills merge with the arena for the opening and closing ceremonies, creating an attractive and unique facility with a superb view over Lillehammer, Lake Mjøsa (Norway's biggest lake) and the surrounding countryside. Close to the jumping hills the Kanthaugen Freestyle Arena is located as an important element in the Olympic Park. Birkebeieren Ski Stadium, arena for cross-country skiing and biathlon at Abbotjern, is another important part of the Lillehammer Olympic Park. Between the jumping hills and the centre of Lillehammer, Håkon's Hall and Kristin's Hall are located. Thirty of the 46 ice hockey matches scheduled for the Games will be held in Håkon's Hall and Kristin's Hall will be used for training. The remaining ice hockey matches will be played in the unique Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall in the town Gjøvik, 50 km. south of Lillehammer on the western shore of Lake Mjøsa. Built 120 metres inside a hill, the Cavern Hall is the world's largest rock cavern open to the public, providing a showcase for Norwegian rock tunnelling technology. On the eastern side of Lake Mjøsa, 60 km. south of Lillehammer, lies the town of Hamar, venue for all skating events at the Olympic Games. Hamar Olympic Hall is the arena for the speed skating events, a fully covered 400 metre speed skating track. The architecture is unique - the roof constructions resemble the upturned hull of a Viking longship. Therefore the Hamar Olympic Hall is already known by Norwegians as "Vikingskipet" ("the Viking ship"). The ice conditions in the Vikingskipet have been shown to be excellent; the World Cup competitions in speed skating at the beginning of December produced three world records, with American Dan Jansen becoming the first man to break the 36 second barrier in the 500 metres with a fabulous 35.92 race.

Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre, completed on schedule by 1 December 1992, will host all figure skating events and short-track speed skating. In this arena, special importance has been attached to using environment-friendly materials and comprehensive energy saving measures are in place. The following table gives the main figures about the Olympic arenas:

<b>Arena</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>Cost (NOK)</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Distance from Lillehammer</b>
Kvitfjell	Alpine skiing	150 mill.	35,000	70.0 km.
Hafjell	Alpine skiing	81 mill.	22,000	15.0 km.
Hunderfossen	Bobsleigh/luge	202 mill.	10,000	15.0 km.
Lygåedsbakkene	Ski jumping	112 mill.	34,500	1.0 km.
Kanthaugen	Freestyle skiing	20 mill.	15,000	1.0 km.
Birkebeineren	Cross-country	84 mill.	31,000	3.0 km.
	Biathlon		12,500	3.0 km.
Håkon's Hall	Ice hockey	210 mill.	10,500	0.5 km.
Gjøvik Cavern Hall	Ice Hockey	134 mill.	5,500	60 km.
Hamar Olympic Hall	Speed skating	253 mill.	11,000	70 km.
Hamar Olympic Amphitheatre	Figure Skating	83 mill.	6,000	70 km.

## **THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE**

Some 2,500 competitors, team officials and coaches will be accommodated in Skråsetlia Olympic Village at Lillehammer, within walking distance from the Lillehammer Olympic Park and central Lillehammer. The permanent buildings (approx. 45% of total) will be converted to ordinary dwellings, an old people's home, kindergarten and church after the Games, while the temporary buildings will be turned into permanent homes after they have been moved. Another 500 competitors and officials for the skating events will be accommodated in Toneheim High School in Hamar.

## **MEDIA FACILITIES**

The International Broadcasting Centre (IBC) is located at Storhove, 4 km. north of central Lillehammer, providing facilities for more than 4,000 radio and television personnel. After the Games, the IBC will represent a substantial addition to Oppland Regional College which has the same location today. The Main Press Centre is also sited at Storhove, close to the IBC. This building will be the most important working place for some 2,800 journalists and photographers expected at the Games. Most of the media will be housed at Storhove and Jorekstad (3,000 beds), close to the broadcasting and press centres. There will also be local media villages in the Hafjell area (2,500 beds) and Hamar (5,000 beds).

## TICKET SALES

A total of 1.3 million tickets for more than 115 different competitions are put on sale. Of these, 800,000 were made available to every Norwegian family on an equal basis. By the deadline of 8 October 1992, requests had been received for about 1.8 million tickets from around 140,000 customers. Where the demand for a particular event exceeded the supply of tickets available, they were allocated by drawing lots. This had to be done for events in Nordic Skiing and men's Speed Skating, popular Norwegian sports with national favorites. For instance, over 150,000 Norwegians wanted to see the 1,500 metre speed skating for men, with only 7,000 tickets available for the Norwegian market. As of mid-December, approximately 80% of the tickets are sold. Two months before the opening ceremony (12 February 1994), it is tempting to conclude that the Games will be very successful regarding attendance figures, especially considering the meager population base in the Lillehammer area. Lillehammer's resident population is 23,000 and Gjøvik and Hamar both have 26,000 residents. The total population in the Olympic area barely exceeds 100,000.

The main objective for the Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games is to demonstrate Norway's traditions as a winter sports nation, and draw on Norwegian culture and national character so as to reflect the Norwegian people's basic attitude towards the individual and society within the realm of sport. LOOC and the 6,000 volunteers are ready for the 16 days of world class sporting achievement which will follow the opening ceremony in the Lillehammer Olympic Park. We will also try to show our guests at the Games what a fine country we live in, presenting it's cultural traditions, and demonstrating that winter sports are everyday pursuits here during the cold winter months.

**Welcome to Lillehammer!**