

Press release: Drivers advised to plan journeys ahead of M48 Severn Bridge half-marathon closure

Up to 2,300 runners are expected to take part in the fourth running of the half-marathon, which starts on the western (Chepstow) end of the Severn Bridge, on the motorway itself, and finishes, after crossing the bridge and back, below junction 2 of the M48.

The half-marathon will start at 9am and the 10k event, new for this year, will start at 9.45am.

On the day, the bridge will be fully closed to traffic between 7.30am and 11.30am, with a clearly signed diversion route in place during the duration of the closure. The eastbound footpath and cycle track will also be closed between 9am and 3pm.

Gareth Price, south west emergency planning officer for Highways England, said: "We'd like to remind road users to plan ahead – more than 2,000 people are expected to take part, and as well as the bridge closure, local roads are also expected to be busy before and after the race.

"Our advice is to check our traffic and travel information channels, set off early and allow plenty of time." Drivers can get up-to-the-minute travel information by phoning the Highways England Information Line on 0300 123 5000 or by accessing the [Traffic England website](#).

Further information regarding current and planned roadworks in the South West region plus neighbouring regions can be found on the [Highways England website](#).

More details on the Severn Bridge half-marathon and 10k can be [found on their website](#).

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

Press release: Environment Agency tests flood sirens in Grimsby and Cleethorpes

The Environment Agency is conducting its annual test of the flood sirens in Grimsby and Cleethorpes on Friday 25 August.

Installed in 2007, the 18 sirens help warn over 25,000 households and local businesses of imminent tidal flooding. The siren on the Willows Estate in Grimsby is used to warn residents about flooding from the New Cut Drain and the River Freshney, while the others warn of flooding from the Humber.

Testing will take place on Friday 25 August between 10am and 12pm. If you hear the sirens during this time, you do not need to take any action. If flooding is expected on the day, the test will be rescheduled and flood warnings will be issued through the Environment Agency's free Flood Warning System.

Environment Agency staff will be present together with representatives from North East Lincolnshire council at Freshney Place shopping centre in Grimsby between 9am and 5pm on 25 August. They'll be able to answer questions about the sirens and provide information about your own flood risk, including what steps you can take to prepare for an emergency.

The sirens in Grimsby and Cleethorpes are a secondary flood warning tool to the Environment Agency's free Flood Warning Service, which provides targeted flooding warnings via phone call or text to mobile landlines or through email.

Luke Dawson, Flood Resilience team leader with the Environment Agency, said:

The flood sirens we own and operate in Grimsby and Cleethorpes help us warn over 25,000 households and local businesses. It's important that we conduct these annual tests to make sure the sirens will work during an emergency.

We'd like to remind people in the area that our free Flood Warning System provides as much notice as possible ahead of a potential flooding incident. While the sirens are a vital secondary flood warning tool, we encourage everyone to check their flood risk and sign up for flood warnings. You can sign up for our free, targeted flood warnings by calling 0345 988 1188 or by visiting www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings.

Our flood defences reduce the risk of flooding to thousands of homes and businesses in Grimsby and Cleethorpes, but we cannot remove the risk of flooding entirely. This is why it is important that everyone plays their part to protect themselves from the risk of flooding. If you are in the area on 25 August, please do come along to Freshney Place to learn more about flood risk and how you can protect yourself and your property.

Cllr David Watson, portfolio holder for environment and energy at North East Lincolnshire Council, said:

On the flood siren testing day, North East Lincolnshire Council staff and its partner Engie will be joining the Environment Agency in Freshney Place Shopping Centre between 9am and 5pm. Officers will be available to answer any questions on flood risk and how you can prepare.

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[News story: Position papers published](#)

ahead of third round of negotiations

The position papers outlining the UK's negotiating approach to goods on the market and to confidentiality and access to official documents have been published today ahead of the third round of negotiations.

The documents make the case for why it is in the interests of both the EU and the UK that our exit is as smooth and orderly as possible for UK and European businesses and consumers.

The EU exports goods worth €314 billion (around £257 billion) to the UK, more than to Brazil, Russia, India and China combined, which is why it is in no-one's interest to see disruption and uncertainty.

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis said:

These papers will help give businesses and consumers certainty and confidence in the UK's status as an economic powerhouse after we have left the EU.

They also show that as we enter the third round of negotiations, it is clear that our separation from the EU and future relationship are inextricably linked.

We have already begun to set out what we would like to see from a future relationship on issues such as customs and are ready to begin a formal dialogue on this and other issues.

The UK has been clear that exporters and businesses need to be able to plan ahead with certainty which is why we want to seek an agreement with the EU which allows the freest and most frictionless trade possible in goods and services.

The UK enters these discussions with this in mind, and the proposals set out in this paper are designed to ensure the millions of consumers and businesses across Europe have the certainty they have asked for.

The papers lay out the following UK positions:

Goods on the market

Our ambition is to seek an agreement with the EU which allows the freest and most frictionless trade possible in goods and services, to the benefit of all. The paper outlines four key principles for ensuring a smooth and orderly withdrawal from the EU in regard to the availability of goods.

- Firstly, we want to ensure that goods which are placed on the market before exit day can continue to be sold in the UK and EU, without any additional requirements or restrictions.

- Secondly, we want to avoid unnecessary duplication of compliance activities that have been undertaken by businesses prior to exit. This means that where products have gone through an authorisation process prior to exit, for example a type approval for a car, this approval should remain valid in both markets after exit.
- Thirdly, we are clear that patient safety and consumer protection in the EU27 and UK are paramount, which means that any agreement will need to facilitate the continued oversight of products to ensure the necessary action can be taken for non-compliant or unsafe goods.
- Finally, the provision of goods and services is increasingly interconnected. Services are essential for production of goods, for their sale, distribution and delivery, and for their operation and repair. Where goods are supplied with services, we believe there should be no restriction to the provision of these services.

These four principles demonstrate that the UK is getting on with the job of negotiating. Taken together, they would prevent bureaucracy and unnecessary duplication of effort by business, or restricted supply of certain products to consumers, which might otherwise occur. But our position remains that the best way to address these risks is through discussions on a deep and special future partnership which enables our close trading relationship to continue to flourish.

The link to this paper can be found [here](#).

Confidentiality and access to documents

This paper shows that we are getting on with negotiations by directly responding to the EU's paper on "Issues relating to the Functioning of the Union Institutions, Agencies and Bodies."

As the UK leaves the EU, it will be important to establish a framework for the continued respect of obligations of confidentiality and the protection of official documents exchanged while it was a Member State. The UK considers that any agreement on confidentiality and access to official documents produced or exchanged while the UK was a Member State should be reciprocal, affording an equivalent level of protection to the UK and the EU after the UK's withdrawal. The necessary protections concerning both UK and EU data should be on equivalent terms to those laid out in existing regimes.

The link to this paper can be found [here](#).

[News story: San Marino v Northern Ireland football match – travel advice](#)

Introduction

The following advice is intended to help all those planning to visit San Marino for the San Marino v Northern Ireland football match to be held on Friday 1st September. Kick-off is 20:45hrs local time.

As well as this advice, please check out our travel advice for [Italy](#).

Passports and visas

You do not need a visa to travel to Italy but you must hold a valid passport. For stays of up to three months your passport must be valid for the proposed duration of your stay; you do not need any additional period of validity on your passport beyond this. However, it is always sensible to have a short period of extra validity on your passport in case of unforeseen delays to your departure.

Remember your [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) though please be aware that this is not valid in San Marino so please ensure you take out good travel insurance – it could save you a lot of money if you get into difficulties.

In San Marino and in Italy it is obligatory to carry ID with you at all times – you will also need your ID to enter the stadium.

Travel Arrangements

The nearest airport to San Marino for commercial flights is Bologna. From there it is a 90 minute car journey. Alternative airports are Milan and Venice.

Stadium – how to get there

There will be a shuttle bus service between Rimini (Piazza Alberto Marvelli) and San Marino – both to the stadium and to the old town, on match day. The service will start at 09:15 and continue until 19:15. The transport will remain at the stadium to facilitate the return of supporters post match with a departure back to Rimini at 22:45 from the stadium. Tickets will cost €15, valid for all shuttles taken.

Alternatively there are regular buses that travel from Rimini to San Marino or taxis. The journey time by bus is around 45 minutes.

Visiting fans will be seated in the South Stand (exclusive to Irish supporters). Fans will enter through an initial cordon with a visual ticket check 50 metres from the stadium. Here police will examine all tickets and direct you to the relevant entrance gate. Supporters will enter the South Stand through one of four points, where a pat-down search and bag search will take place by stewards and a further ticket check by police. To avoid a last minute bottleneck you should get to the stadium early. Remember to bring your passport and your supporters members' card.

Stadium Security

Entry tickets to the Stadium are holder specific, and cannot be passed to other parties. The ticket holder is required to produce an identity document (passport) to enter the stadium and the name on the ticket must match that on the passport. They should also bring their Irish Supporters members card. Spectators are not permitted to take the following items into the Stadium: alcohol, weapons, (or any item that could be used as a weapon), drums, megaphones, fireworks, plastic bottles with tops, glass bottles and cans containing liquid, belts with large buckles, large umbrellas, large flags.

Personal Security

As in any other city beware of pickpockets and bag snatchers at airports, railway stations, around the town centre and when using public transport. Only carry what you need, leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposits. Carry a photocopy of the personal details pages of your passport and keep it in a safe place separate from your passport.

Keep in mind that most of the seats in the San Marino stadium are not under cover, so dress appropriately.

Stolen passports

If your passport is stolen report the loss to the local police as soon as possible and obtain a copy of the police report. Please be aware that you cannot travel back to the UK without a valid travel document. You will need to apply to the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Rome during opening hours for an Emergency Travel Document (4 hours by train) or to the British Consulate in Milan (3 hours by train). This will mean applying for an Emergency Travel Document at the British Embassy or the British Consulate on the Monday after the game.

The Emergency Travel Document is a temporary one-way travel document which will allow you to return to the UK or back to your country of residence. You will need to produce the following:

- a copy of the police report reporting the passport stolen;
- an acceptable form of identification, if possible (e.g. driving licence and/or photocopy of your lost passport);
- one passport-size photograph. We are able to provide a photo at the Embassy for a cost of €5 paid only in cash;
- a fee of €117 or £100 (payable in cash or by credit card except American Express)
- any details you may have of your return travel arrangements
- authorisation from both parents if you are under 16

Lost wallets

If you lose your wallet please try to cancel your credit cards as soon as possible. British consular officials cannot give you money to help you return home. You can transfer money from relatives or friends in the UK using many

of the reputable commercial money transfer agencies in Italy including Western Union and Moneygram and Consular staff can assist you in this. You can also use most major credit cards (and debit cards carrying the Maestro and EC logos) to obtain money from Italian cash machines if you have your PIN. Consular staff can provide you with telephone and internet facilities during opening hours.

If you are arrested

British consular officials can visit you in prison (if you request it) and can put you in touch with local lawyers if you need one. They cannot get you out of prison, represent you in court or pay your bills. If you wish to see a consular official please make this request clear to the local police authorities.

Consular Assistance

The Consular Section of the British Embassy in Rome is open to the public from 09:00 – 12.00 and 14.00-15.00 Monday-Fridays. Milan Consular Section is open from 09.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 16.00 Monday-Fridays.

The contact number for those requiring consular assistance including emergencies during your visit to San Marino is 0039 06 4220 0001.

The address for the British Embassy Rome is Via XX Settembre 80/a, 00187 Rome, Italy.

The address for the British Consulate in Milan is Via S. Paolo, 7 20121 Milan, Italy.

Local Emergency Services:

- 118 Medical Services
- 113 Police
- 112 Carabinieri
- 115 Fire services

We hope you enjoy the game and your visit to San Marino!