

# Olympic torch arrives at the Wonderful City before heading for Baixada Fluminense

## Sailing idols will take the Olympic flame through Guanabara Bay to Rio de Janeiro

This Wednesday (03), the Rio 2016 Olympic Torch Relay arrives at Rio de Janeiro, coming from Niterói through Guanabara Bay. The retinue stops at Duque de Caxias, São João de Meriti, Nilópolis, Belford Roxo and Nova Iguaçu, which closes the day. In the third to last day of the event of the event, 207 people will carry the Olympic torch and the retinue will travel around 120 kilometres.

- In a tribute to sailing, the sport that earned most medals to Brazil, the Olympic flame starts the day at the Rio Yacht Club, in Niterói, and the torch will be lit in the centenary sailboat Aileen, which earned a silver medal in Stockholm 1912.
- At 8:00AM, the flame departs to Rio de Janeiro on-board the Lady Lou sailboat, with Torben Grael, Lars Grael, Clínio Freitas, Isabel Swan, Nelson Falcão, Marcelo Ferreira and Ronnie Senfft at the tripulation, all of them Olympic sailing medalists.
- The flame arrives at the Naval School carried by Torben and Lars Grael in a paddling boat, led by then paddlers from the Navy.
- The flame will be welcomed by mayor Eduardo Paes in a ceremony at the Naval School, with the presence of the governor in exercise Franciso Dorneles and of Carlos Arthur Nuzman, president of the Rio 2016 Committee.
- - Paes will be the first torchbearer in Rio, and he will run with the symbol until the proximities of Bossa Nova Mall, nearby Santos Dumont airport. He will pass the Olympic flame to Rebeca Moraes dos Santos, a student of the 9th year of the Experimental Olympic Gymnasium Juan Antonio Samaranch, in Santa Teresa, who will run until the Santos Dumont VLT (tram) Station.

- The VLT (tram) will carry the Olympic flame until Cinelândia, where the relay proceeds with garbage collector Renato Sorriso, who will light up the first Olympic monument. After passing by the Municipal Theatre, the retinue heads for Cidade do Samba. From there, it departs to Duque de Caxias.
  
- The torch's course passes through the city centre's main streets in Duque de Caxias, until arriving at Praça do Pacificador (square). The Olympic Village also welcomes the retinue. At Praça do Pacificador there will be cultural and artistic presentations. The Acadêmicos do Grande Rio Samba School and singer San Oliveira end the programme in the city.
  
- In São João de Meriti, the relay starts at José Alves Lavoura Square, where students from the municipal net will form a human corridor to salute the Olympic symbol. José Amorim Square, located in front in the City Hall, will be the ending point of the Olympic torch's visit to the county. At this location, the musical presentation will be carried by the Padre Paul Jean Guerry Municipal School band, and sports will be represented by these modalities: basketball, football, gymnastics, handball and volleyball. Circus presentations by the TEPIR project and saloon dancing, with members from the Melhor Idade group, will make the celebration even more special.
  
- In Nilópolis, the Olympic torch will be lit for the first time at Antônio José Bittencourt Street, underneath Via Light, starting the relay that proceeds through the street's full length. In several points of the course, students from municipal dance, arts, theatre and circus schools will perform. At the Municipal Events Park, there will be a new edition of the Muito+Social event, which will promote several services such as dental assistance, verification of pressure and glucose, juridical assistance, jobs balcony, haircuts, exemption from second issuing of documents, among others. The pagode group Só Schock ends the programme.
  
- Belford Roxo will celebrate the passing of the Olympic flame with several activities and live shows at Praça de Areia Branca (square), such as performances by DJs and local bands. The square, located at Benjamin Pinto Dias Av., in the centre, will be the relay's starting point.
  
- The relay in Nova Iguaçu starts at Jardim Tropical Square, going through the city centre, towards Largo dos Laranjais, at Via Light, where the Outro Eu band, third place at the SuperStar TV programme, will perform the ending show.

## Check out some of the day's torchbearers:

### In Rio de Janeiro

**Arnaldo Niskier**, journalist, writer and seventh occupier of the number 8 chair of the Brazilian Letters Academy.

*Almirante Barroso Av.*

**Carla Camurati**, actress, filmmaker and director of the Rio 2016 Games Culture Programme.

*Municipal Theatre*

**Jorge Perlingeiro** is the official announcer of the ascertainment of the samba school parades of Grupo Especial. He also presents a programme about samba.

*Rio Branco Av.*

**José Junior** founded the Afro Reggae Group, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that acts in the Vigário Geral community, one of the most violent in the city of Rio de Janeiro. He's also godfather of the Time Brasil.

*Saúde*

**Lohaynny Vicente**, 20 years old, is of the Brazilian representors of badminton at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. She carries the torch along with her sister Luana, 22 years old, also a badminton athlete.

*Mauá Square*

**Milton Cunha** is a carnival artist, carnival TV commenter and college teacher.

*Cidade do Samba*

**Nelson Sargento** is a samba artist and honorary president of Primeira de Mangueira Station.

*Acre Street*

**Orlando Duque** works on Confeitaria Colombo (bakery store) since 1952, serving some Brazilian presidents and international authorities, such as Queen Elizabeth II.

*XV de Novembro Square*

**Rebeca dos Santos**, a student of the Experimental Olympic Gymnasium.

*Escola Naval –VLT*

**Renato Luiz Lourenço, 'Renato Sorriso'**, is a popular figure of Rio de Janeiro's Carnival. A garbage collector, he has worked at Comlurb for 21 years. In the carnival of 2006, right at the Marquês de Sapucaí (arena), he wore the uniform of former Argentinian football pro Maradona. He was one of the stand outs of the ending ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games. He will be torchbearer in Rio de Janeiro.

*Cinelândia*

**Selma Rocha, 'Selminha Sorriso'** is the flag holder of one of Rio de Janeiro's most important samba schools, Nilópolis' Beija-Flor.

**In Duque de Caxias, São João de Meriti, Nilópolis, Belford Roxo and Nova Iguaçu:**

**Antônio Carlos Gouveia, 'Carlão'**, is a former volleyball athlete. He was captain of the national team that achieved the first Brazilian volleyball gold, at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. Duque de Caxias.

**João Ribeiro** competed at the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, becoming one off the first Brazilian gymnastics athletes to participate at an edition of the Olympic Games. The following year, he received an invitation to study at the University of Indiana, to where he moved and never came back to Brazil. Today he lives in New Jersey, where he is the owner of a gym with three professional level gymnasiums, in which North-American Olympic athlete train. He carries the torch in Duque de Caxias.

**Emerson Sheik** is the only athlete in the history of Brazilian football to achieve three Brazilian Championship titles playing for three different teams, in three consecutive years. He was part of Flamengo in the championship of 2009, of Fluminense in 2010, and of Corinthians in 2011. He also scored two goals at the final match of the Libertadores 2012, at Corinthians' unprecedented title, becoming one of the greatest idols of the team's history. For having gone away to play in Arab football before getting to be known in Brazil, he received the nickname Sheik. He carries the torch in Nova Iguaçu.

**Luiz Marcondes, 'Neginho da Beija-Flor'**, has a 40 year-old career as a singer, composer and samba artist. He carries the torch in Nilópolis.

**Lucila Vianna** was the centre-forward and captain of the Brazilian national handball team. She participated at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008. She achieved three gold medals at the 1999 Winnipeg Pan-American Games, Santo Domingo 2003 and Rio 2007. She will be torchbearer in Nova Iguaçu.

**Sebastian Pereira** is a former lightweight judo athlete. In 1996, being a member of the adult Brazilian national team, he achieved the fifth position at the Atlanta Olympic Games and was elected Best Athlete of the Year on the modality by the Brazilian Olympic Committee, an award he was given again in 2002. He carries the Olympic torch in Nova Iguaçu.

**Cassius Duran** is a former diving athlete. He was the first Brazilian to obtain a medal, on male category, in the history of Pan-American Games, with the achievement of a silver medal at Santo Domingo 2003. He carries the torch in Nova Iguaçu.

**Aline da Conceição da Silva** started to play handball aged 13 after trying to play volleyball. She earned the nickname 'Chicória' after the character from Daniel Azulay's Turma do Lambe-Lambe. Bi-champion of the Pan-American Games, titles she earned at Winnipeg 1999 and Santo Domingo 2003. She competed at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. She will carry the torch in Nova Iguaçu.

**Jordhan de Faria** is the first transgender guard in the Municipal Guard. He carries the torch in Nova Iguaçu.

**Marcelo Dias Jucá** is a former Brazilian swimming athlete, who participated at two editions of Olympic Games acting for Brazil. At the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games, he swam on 400m and 1500m freestyle categories. At the 1983 Caracas Pan-American Games, he won two silver medals for 1.500m freestyle and 4 x 200m relay freestyle. He will be torchbearer in Nilópolis.

**Evelyn Carolina dos Santos** is an athletics athlete. She carries the torch in Nilópolis.

**Matheus Duas** always studied at public schools, and in the year of 2005 he had the opportunity to participate at the 1st Brazilian Mathematics Olympics, winning a bronze medal and ending up acquiring the taste for competitiveness. He was awarded with gold medals in 2006, 2007 and 2008, with an honorary mention in 2009 and a silver medal in 2011. He will be torchbearer in São João de Meriti.

**Michel Pessanha** is a Paralympic athlete for Clube de Regatas do Flamengo (team) and is the greatest name in the history of Paralympic sports in the city. Standing out in several competitions, he became a member of the Brazilian canoe sprint national team in 2013. In 2015, the year of his greatest achievements, he earned a spot at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. He carries the torch in Duque de Caxias.

**Suzana da Silva** is a former football athlete. She was summoned for the national team for the first time in 1998, when she achieved the South-American championship. In 1999, she earned bronze at the USA World Cup. She competed at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, where Brazil ended up in 4th place. She carries the torch in Duque de Caxias.

**Rosilane Motta** is a former football athlete, and she earned the nickname 'Fantasma' ('ghost') for never being present at the moment of the trainer's instructions. In 1991, she participated at the first edition of the female football World Cup. She competed at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. Currently she is a football teacher and acts at the social project Rio em Forma Olímpica. She carries the torch in Duque de Caxias.

**Paulo Becskehazy** is a former Brazilian swimming athlete, who participated at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, ending up at 4th place on 4 x 100m medley, beating the South-American record by 6.5 seconds. He carries the torch in Duque de Caxias.

**Jean Garcia** is a taekwondo athlete, a sport on which he achieved 15 gold medals in 18 championships. Currently, he competed on adult category up to 74 kilos. He will be torchbearer in Nilópolis at Coca-Cola's invitation.

**Ygor de Oliveira** always dreamed of participating at the Olympic Games, and he is classified for Rio 2016 on badminton. He will be torchbearer in Duque de Caxias at Nissan's invitation.

**Adriel de Souza Salina**, 18 years old, is a swimming athlete who was achieved more than 10 titles at national and international championships. When he was born, he was diagnosed with dwarfism, and told he wouldn't go beyond 70cm if he didn't practice swimming. At 12 years old, he started to compete. At 17, with 1.10 metres, he broke his first record and took home three gold medals and two silver ones earned at the School Paralympics, which took place last year in São Paulo. Invited by Bradesco, he carries the torch in Nova Iguaçu.

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