



Under the arch: The biggest names from sport and music will be on show at Wembley this year

More than a match

London's sporting venues are among the most iconic in the world, but it's not just sport that attracts the crowds.

THIS is MetroTravel's guide to some of the big events taking place across the capital's famous stadiums this year and advice on how to get there.

Wembley Stadium

The current Wembley Stadium, with its prominent arch, was opened in 2007. The Football Association organises tours, which take you into the changing rooms, through the players' tunnel and pitch side of the hallowed turf.

If you want to catch Wembley in its full sporting glory, big matches coming up include England against Italy on March 27, SSE Women's FA Cup Final on May 5, the FA Cup Final on May 19, and England versus Nigeria on June 2.

There is plenty in store for music lovers too, with both Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift performing at the stadium in June.

How to get there: Wembley Park station (Jubilee and Metropolitan lines) or Wembley Central station (Bakerloo line and London Overground). Bus routes 18, 83, 92 and 224 stop near the stadium.

Wimbledon

The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, at the famed All England Lawn Tennis Club, is open all year round. It looks back at the history of the most renowned tennis championship in the world. There is also a chance to get closer to the scene of some of the most epic battles in the sport with a visit to Centre Court. This year's Championships take place between July 2-15.

How to get there: Southfields and Wimbledon stations (both District line). Wimbledon is also on the London Trams network.

London Stadium

It's known today as the London Stadium, home to West Ham United, but for many, this will always be seen as the Olympic Stadium: purpose built for the 2012 games.

Official tours offer you views of the venue, home changing rooms and indoor running track.

There are several events at the stadium this year, including West Ham against Manchester City on April 29, Saracens against Harlequins on March



Scrum down: The 6 Nations may have finished but there's more to come at Twickenham

24, the newly-launched Athletics World Cup on July 14, and rock legends Foo Fighters, who play two dates on June 22 and 23.

There's also the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to explore, and plenty of food and shopping options at the neighbouring Westfield Stratford.

How to get there: Head for Stratford station (Central and Jubilee lines, London Overground, TfL Rail and DLR). Bus routes 388, 308, 339 and D8 run close to the stadium.

Twickenham Stadium

This is the biggest rugby stadium in Europe and remains one of the jewels in the capital's sporting crown.

Regular tours take in the Royal Box, players' tunnel and England changing rooms - and include entrance to the World Rugby Museum in the South Stand (which reopened last month after a year-long relocation process).

Big games coming up include the RFU Cup Finals (May 6) and AVIVA Premiership Rugby Final (May 26).

How to get there: Bus routes 281, 481 and 681 will drop you right outside the stadium. Hounslow East (Piccadilly line) and Richmond (District line) are the nearest Tube stations.

Lord's Cricket Ground

Lord's in Marylebone is known as the Home of Cricket. It is also the biggest



cricket ground in the UK. Tours take in the dressing rooms, the famed Long Room, which serves as both a watching area and art gallery, and the Lord's Museum - home to the original Ashes Urn.

Upcoming sporting fixtures begin in April, with highlights including England against Pakistan (May 24-28) and England versus India (July 14). If you want to explore more of the area, Lord's (pictured above) is sandwiched between Regent's Park and the legendary Abbey Road Studios.

How to get there: St John's Wood (Jubilee line) and Maida Vale (Bakerloo line) are both about five to ten minutes' walk away.

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