

London Marathon FAQs

General Information

Q: When is the 2026 London Marathon?

A: The 2026 TCS London Marathon is scheduled for **Sunday, 26 April 2026**.

Q: What is the distance of the marathon?

A: The marathon covers **26.2 miles (42.195 KM)**, following a scenic route through London's iconic landmarks.

Entry and Registration

Q: What is the difference between Hospice and Own Place?

A: Hospice Place

If you are offered a *hospice place*, this means we have secured your entry into the London Marathon through our charity's allocated places. These are limited and highly sought-after. In return for this guaranteed spot, you'll be asked to commit to a registration fee and a minimum fundraising target to support our vital work. We'll be here every step of the way with fundraising support, branded running gear, and encouragement on race day.

Own Place

If you secure your *own place* in the London Marathon (for example, through the public ballot entry), you're very welcome to run for our hospice too. There's no minimum fundraising target – you can set your own goal – and you'll still receive our full support, materials, and team benefits. Since your place isn't costing the hospice anything, every penny you raise goes directly to help local patients and families.

Q: How can I enter the marathon?

A: There are two main ways to secure a place:

- **Public Ballot:** Open from **Friday, 25 April 2025**, to **Friday, 2 May 2025, at 4:00 PM (BST)**. Successful applicants will be notified by **July 2025**.
- **Hospice Place:** Please see above our links to sign up for a Hospice Place.

Q: When will I find out if I've been successful in getting a hospice place?

A: We'll let all applicants know the outcome of their application as soon as possible to avoid keeping you waiting. We aim to contact our successful participants on the **1st August** after the official ballot places have been announced. If you are offered a place, we'll be in touch with next steps and to officially welcome you to Team St Barnabas House/ Team Chestnut / Team Martlets!

Q: I haven't heard anything yet – does that mean I haven't got a place?

A: Not necessarily! If you haven't heard from us straight away, please don't worry. Some of our applicants may also be successful in the public ballot. If they choose to take up their ballot place, we'll then be able to reallocate their hospice place to someone else on our waiting list. We'll keep you updated as things progress and let you know the outcome as soon as we can.

Race Day Details

Q: What time does the race start?

A: Start times vary based on your allocated wave and category. Detailed information will be provided in your race pack closer to the event.

Q: What should I do with my belongings on race day?

A: The London Marathon provides a bag drop facility. You'll receive a numbered kit bag as part of your race pack to store your belongings.

Q: Do I need to book accommodation?

A: It's advisable. Hotels in London fill up quickly around marathon weekend, so early booking is recommended.

Post-Race Information

Q: Will I receive a medal and finisher's pack?

A: Yes. Every finisher receives a medal, T-shirt, and goody bag at the finish line.

Fundraising

Q: How do I submit my fundraising?

A: You can use your online fundraising page or send funds via bank transfer, cheque, or

other methods specified by your chosen charity.

Q: Why is there a registration fee as well as a minimum sponsorship target for a hospice place?

A: The registration fee helps cover some of the upfront costs involved in securing your place, such as entry fees charged to the hospice by the event organisers, supporter materials, and your running vest. The minimum sponsorship target ensures that the hospice can raise vital funds after these costs are covered. Every pound raised helps us continue providing care and support to people in our community facing terminal illness – and we'll support you every step of the way to help you reach your goal.

Additional Support

Q: Where can I find more information or get assistance?

A: For general marathon details, visit the [official London Marathon website](#). For more information about your hospice place please visit the contact us page of this website to find out contact details.