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Story Headline: The Olympic Flame officially handed over to Rio 2016 - 100 days before the Opening Ceremony at Maracanã Stadium on 5 August


Location: Panathenaic Stadium, Athens, Greece.

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STORY SCRIPT
The Olympic Games Rio 2016 Torch Relay will begin its next chapter after the Olympic flame was handed to the delegation of the Olympic Games Rio 2016 on Wednesday night.

After a six day journey across Greece covering 2,235km the Olympic flame was handed to the delegation which included President of the Olympic Games Rio 2016 Organising Committee Carlos Nuzman at the Panathenaic Stadium – the site of the first Modern Olympic Games in Athens back in 1896 – exactly 100 days before the Opening Ceremony in Rio.

The Olympic Flame was handed to the Rio 2016 delegation by the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee Spyros Capralos to mark another milestone in the countdown to Rio 2016 whilst the ceremony was attended by President of the Republic Prokopis Pavlopoulos.

With the Brazilian leg of the Olympic Torch Relay beginning next month, Carlos Nuzman said: “it’s a great honour and a great emotion and today is 100 days until the opening ceremony and it’s a pleasure to be with my friend Spyros (Capralos) to celebrate here the lighting of the flame and having the flame.”

Upon the flame’s departure from Greece, HOC President Spyros Capralos said: “We think that sport brings peace and brings a better world to the people.”
He continued: “Today with the flame going to Brazil we think it will bring success to the thirty first Olympic Games which are going to happen 100 days from today.”

The Olympic flame will visit the United Nations in Geneva before briefly going on display at the Olympic museum in Lausanne, home of the Olympic movement, before the Brazilian leg of the Olympic Torch Relay begins on the 3 of May in the country’s capital Brasilia.

On its journey across Brazil the Olympic flame will be carried 20,000km to every state by 12,000 torchbearers reaching 90% of the population as it takes the spirit of the Games to every corner of the world’s fifth largest country.

After its nationwide journey the flame will light the cauldron at Maracanã Stadium on 5 August during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

The Games of the XXXI Olympiad will be held from 5 to 21 August 2016. Approximately 10,500 athletes from more than 200 countries will compete in 28 sports, comprising of 98 medal events.