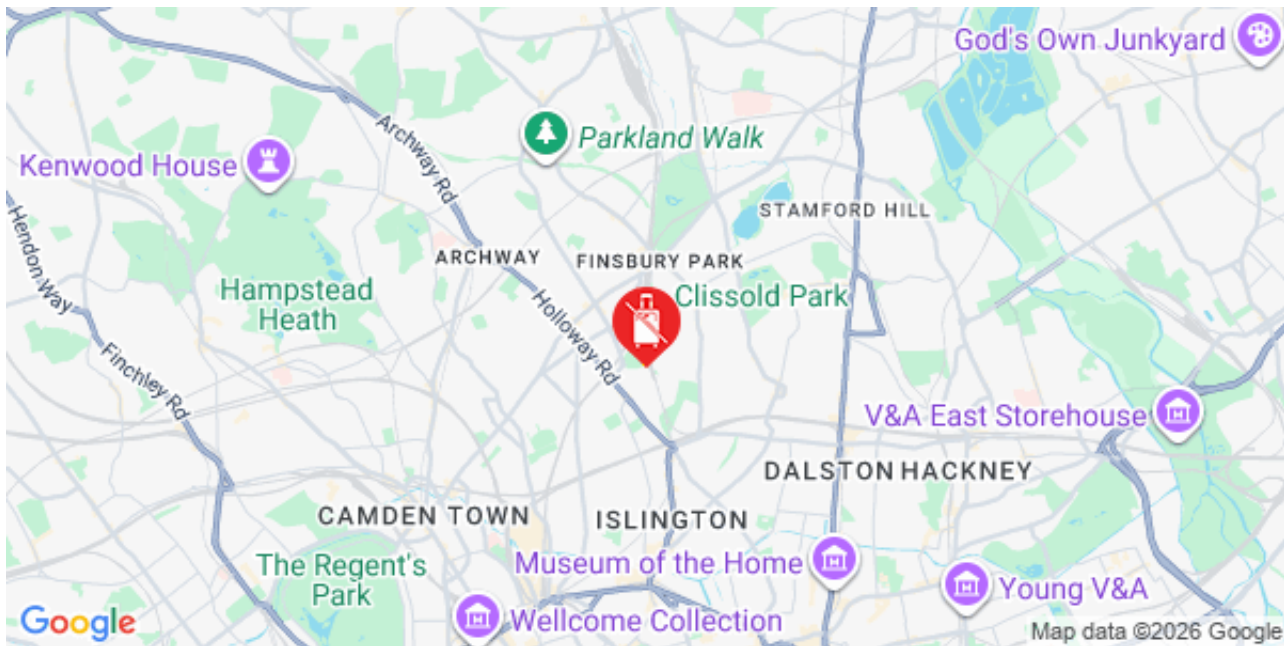


Travel

**30**

MAY

6:44 UTC

UK Tactical: Arsenal parade through Islington, London, to cause widespread travel disruptions on May 31; keep abreast of updates

Current Situation

- Arsenal will parade the Premier League trophy through the London Borough of Islington on May 31, with four open-top buses scheduled to depart from the Emirates Stadium area at approximately 14:00 (local time).
- The parade will follow an approximately five-mile route through Islington, passing through Highbury, Canonbury, and Upper Street before returning to the Emirates Stadium. From the stadium, the procession will travel via Holloway Road, Seven Sisters Road, Blackstock Road, Mountgrove Road, Green Lanes, Petherton Road, Beresford Road, Newington Green Road, Essex Road, and Upper Street before returning through Highbury & Islington and Holloway Road. A detailed map is available [here](#).
- The Emirates Stadium, Drayton Park, and adjacent streets will be no-pedestrian-access zones, with Arsenal advising supporters not to gather in these areas as the team will not be visible from those locations.
- Highbury Fields, located within the parade loop, is expected to attract particularly large crowds. Nearby transport hubs include Finsbury Park, Arsenal, Holloway Road, Highbury & Islington, and Angel stations.
- To facilitate the event, Islington Council will implement extensive road closures and parking suspensions along the parade route and surrounding streets from approximately 04:00 until 20:00,

with restrictions potentially remaining in place for longer if required.

- Parking will be prohibited along the route and adjoining roads, and any vehicles left in restricted areas will be removed.
- Authorities are anticipating significant transport disruptions, with some London Underground and National Rail stations reportedly operating under temporary closures, non-stopping measures, or exit-only restrictions. Several bus services will also be diverted. Transport for London (TfL) and National Rail are advising passengers to check before travelling and to allow extra time.
- Security measures will be extensive, with barriers, cordons, and club stewards deployed along the entire route. The Metropolitan Police stated that the event will be one of its largest policing operations to date, with more than 500 officers, along with specialist search and UAV teams, expected to be deployed. Flares, fireworks, and other pyrotechnics will be prohibited during the celebrations.

Source: [Arsenal](#)

Assessments & Forecast

1. Given Arsenal's large supporter base, the parade is expected to attract attendance in the low to mid hundreds of thousands. The large crowds are likely to result in overcrowding at popular viewing locations and lengthy queues at nearby transport hubs. Additionally, if Arsenal defeat PSG in the UEFA Champions League final on May 30, spontaneous celebrations and gatherings are likely across parts of London during the evening and overnight hours preceding the parade. This would likely contribute to larger-than-expected attendance and increased transport disruptions. Detailed risk assessment for events associated with the UEFA Champions League Final is available [here](#).
2. Significant travel disruptions are expected across parts of Islington and north London due to extensive road closures, parking suspensions, bus diversions, and potential access restrictions at some rail and Underground stations. Congestion is likely to be most severe around Highbury & Islington, Angel, Finsbury Park, and Arsenal stations, particularly before and after the parade. While disruptions are expected to remain largely confined to the immediate area, travel times are likely to be considerably longer than usual throughout much of the day.
3. While football trophy parades in the UK generally transpire peacefully, the combination of large crowds and widespread alcohol consumption creates a credible risk of public-order incidents. Such incidents are likely to manifest as anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related disorder, vandalism, flare usage, attempts to breach barriers, and associated altercations, accidents, or reckless driving, particularly during the latter stages of the celebrations. This was highlighted during Liverpool FC's Premier League victory parade in May 2025, when a vehicle drove into a crowd of supporters on Water Street, injuring more than 50 people. Eyewitness accounts indicated that the driver was surrounded by supporters who were reportedly banging on and rocking the vehicle moments before it accelerated into the crowd. The incident underscores how overcrowding, heightened emotions, and interactions between vehicles and large crowds can quickly result in serious safety incidents, even during events that are otherwise intended to be celebratory and peaceful.
4. **FORECAST:** Although no specific terrorism threat linked to the parade has been publicly identified, the event remains a potential target due to the large crowds, high visibility, and symbolic significance. Major sporting events and associated celebrations have historically been attractive targets for jihadist actors seeking mass casualties and media attention. Recent examples include a foiled suspected Islamic State-linked plot targeting fan zones during UEFA Euro 2024 and multiple disrupted attack plots linked to the Paris Olympics in 2024. Also, opportunistic criminal activity, including theft, pickpocketing, phone snatching, and assaults targeting intoxicated individuals, is likely to increase.
5. **FORECAST:** Authorities are expected to maintain an enhanced security posture throughout the event, with more than 500 police officers, specialist search teams, drone units, stewards, barriers, and crowd-control measures deployed along the route. Police are likely to respond rapidly to suspicious activity, public disorder, overcrowding, pyrotechnic use, or other safety concerns. As a

result, localized access restrictions, temporary road closures, crowd dispersal measures, and short-notice transport disruptions remain possible, including in response to precautionary security checks or unverified reports.

Recommendations

1. Those operating or residing in London on May 31 are advised to monitor updates from local authorities and transport operators regarding parade-related disruptions. Allow additional time for journeys, as significant road and public transport disruptions are expected from the early afternoon onwards. Allot for significant disruptions to travel from the noon hours onwards.
2. Avoid nonessential travel near the parade route and other celebration areas due to expected overcrowding, transport disruptions, and an elevated risk of alcohol-related disorder, vandalism, verbal and physical altercations, reckless driving, and accidents.
3. Those attending the parade should avoid confrontational behaviour, provocative chanting, political discussions, or engaging with intoxicated or aggressive individuals, as such interactions may increase the risk of altercations or police intervention.
4. Maintain heightened vigilance in crowded public areas, including fan zones, bars, nightlife districts, metro stations, screening venues, and transport hubs, due to increased risks of theft, pickpocketing, phone snatching, scams, and opportunistic assaults targeting intoxicated individuals and tourists.
5. Remain alert to suspicious behavior, unattended items, sudden crowd movements, or signs of panic, particularly in densely crowded gathering areas