



ACO

AMATEUR CHESS ORGANIZATION

2023 ACO WORLD AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

11th - 20th May, 2023 / Kos (Greece)
5* All-Inclusive Atlantica Belvedere Resort

**Save one
of the
last places!**

**18th May
is a public
holiday in many
countries!**

**The event is limited to
around 150 players**

Hotel booking without risk!
No deposit payment upon booking
Free cancellation up to 14 days prior to arrival

Questions? Contact us:
amateur@amateurchess.com
+49 178 6746167

Back to Kos!

Dear participants,

we are relieved that we managed to keep our long-time venue on the island of Kos also for the year 2023. After both the ACO World Super Seniors (65+) Championship and the ACO World Amateur Championship were held here on Kos again in 2022 with great success, everyone was very hopeful that we would be able to stay here with our tournaments. Unfortunately, due to the extremely strong demand for Greece in general and this hotel complex in particular, the organization of the tournament was uncertain for a long time and the chances were unfortunately high that no ACO tournaments would take place in 2023.

Fortunately, we were able to find a possibility after all and are therefore very happy about the chance to meet with you again in 2023 on the island of Kos. The number of players is limited to about 150. For the reasons mentioned at the beginning, there are significantly fewer rooms available for our group in the main hotel, the 5-star Atlantica Belvedere Hotel. However, accommodation is available in the sister hotel, the 5-star Atlantica Beach Hotel, which is located directly next to the main hotel.

Last year, the event was fully booked months in advance. For 2023, too, a large number of players have already pre-registered. The anticipation is great for everyone! We are looking forward to the best playing conditions during the sporting competition for the world championship titles, delicious Greek cuisine, all-inclusive catering with everything your heart desires, wonderful sunsets directly on the sea and of course - to seeing you again!

GM Falko Bindrich & IM Tobias Hirneise
Organizers



The ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2023 will take place as an open tournament from 11 - 20 May 2023 on the Greek island of Kos. Any player with a rating below 2400 can represent his country and become ACO World Champion in his rating group!

Venue:

5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort on Kos. The hotel was formerly known as Helona Resort and the venue for the ACO events 2015-2018 and 2022. The playing hall is located inside the hotel, lifts are available. ACO will arrange the accommodation for all participants at the hotel.

The hotel is an Adults-only hotel, which means that only participants aged 16 and above can attend the chess tournament.

Players and accompanying persons can also stay in the sister hotel, the 5* Atlantica Beach Resort which is just a few hundred metres away and is open to guests below 16 years. More information on pages 26+27.

Division of rating groups (groups play separately)

Group A:	2201-2400
Group B:	2001 – 2200
Group C:	1801 – 2000
Group D:	1601 – 1800
Group E:	1401 – 1600
Group F:	1201 – 1400
Group G:	0 (no rating) – 1200

Each group plays separately meaning you only play opponents of similar playing strength in your group. For the division of groups we will use your ELO/national rating at the time of registration. For players having both an ELO rating and a national rating, the higher rating counts. Exceptions can be made by the organizers in case there is a big difference in these ratings or one of the ratings has been inactive for a longer period.

Players without rating:

Players without a national or international rating can only participate in group G (0 - 1200). For exceptions, see next point.

Playing in a higher group (voluntary):

Possible if a rating is achieved between the time of registration and the tournament which corresponds to the rating of a higher group.

Mode and time control:

9 rounds, Swiss-System / 90 minutes for 40 moves + 15 min. with an increment of 30 sec. per move starting from move 1. Default time: 30 min. Tiebreaks in case of a tie:

1. Buchholz score (number of points of your opponents added)
2. Buchholz sum score (number of buchholz scores of your opponents)
3. Direct encounter

Hotel booking:

All players and accompanying persons are required to stay in the official hotels. All booking must be made directly through the ACO.

Starting fee (for players only):

100 EUR

Prizes: EUR 5.000 (based on a minimum of 100 players)

Group A

2201-2400

1st place: 500 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

The winners of each group become ACO World Amateur Chess Champion 2023. Players achieving places 1-3 receive trophies. All players receive diplomas.

Group B

2001 – 2200

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group C

1801 – 2000

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group D

1601 – 1800

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group E

1401 – 1600

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group F

1201 – 1400

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group G

0-1200

1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

The venue

The 5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort Kos (former Helona Resort) was built by the Hilton Group and has 21 pools. The hotel is an Adults-only hotel, which means that the minimum age for all guests is 16 years.







ACO World Amateur Chess Championships 2022

After the years 2015-2018 our event returned back to Kos in the year 2022 with 140 players from more than 15 countries. Group picture above.

How to get to Kos?

From all European countries there are direct flights to Kos.

If you need help with your flight search you can send us an email at amateur@amateurchess.com and we will kindly assist you to find the best option. Free of charge.

For your own search we recommend:

<https://flights.ideal.com/>

In case you cannot find a direct flight there is always the option to fly via Athens or Thessaloniki.





Playing halls

There are 3 playing halls, all with carpet and lots of space for the players. During the games all players (and their accompanying persons) can enjoy free coffee, water, tea, cake and cookies.

Due to a limited number of available hotel rooms the tournament is limited to around 150 players.



Team blitz event

There is always a great atmosphere at our traditional team blitz tournament for teams of 2 players. Once, the event was combined with the broadcast of the Champions League final.





The organizers

GM Falko Bindrich and IM Tobias Hirneise have been responsible for the organisation of all ACO tournaments since 2012. They are personally on site at all events and are happy to answer all questions you may have.



GM Falko Bindrich (Germany)

learned chess at the age of six from his older brother and was coached by his father Oswald Bindrich at the beginning of his career. He was German Champion U12, U14, U16 and European Champion U18 with the German youth national team. At 12, he was the youngest German ever to win the FM title. At 16, he became Germany's youngest grandmaster at the time, after which he became an honorary citizen of his hometown of Zittau. He took part in the 2008 and 2010 Chess Olympiads as a member of the German national team and trained with former world champion Anatoli Karpov in preparation. During his career Bindrich took part in more than 20 European and World Youth Championships, in which he drew against Magnus Carlsen and won against World Championship challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi, among others. In 2008 he won the largest German Open in Deizisau with more than 700 participants. In 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009 Bindrich was voted „Player of the Year“ by the German Chess Youth, making him one of the players with the most awards. Bindrich played for years in the Swiss Team Championship for SG Luzern and with his Austrian team SK Hohenems and with his Belgian team Cercle d'Échecs Fontainois he became Austrian and Belgian team champion respectively. In 2017 Bindrich won the German Masters ahead of the best German players. His highest elo rating is 2610. In addition to chess, Bindrich completed a master's degree in psychology and works as a psychologist.

IM Tobias Hirneise (Germany)

comes from Stuttgart (Germany), learned chess from his grandfather and played his first chess tournament at the age of 11. After several state championship titles in the youth field, he became the Men's State Champion of Baden in 2008. Since 2009 Hirneise has held the title of International Chess Champion (IM) and played for many years in the German Chess Bundesliga for the team of SV Wattenscheid. His highest rating is 2481. In 2016, he achieved his first grandmaster norm. He was trained by the coaches IM Valeri Bronznik from Ukraine, GM and ACO coach Zigurds Lanka from Latvia, GM Boris Avrukh from Israel and GM Ognjen Cvitan from Croatia. In Switzerland he played for the clubs Reti Zurich and Herrliberg, in Austria first for the chess club Vöcklabruck and later in the Bundesliga for SK Götzis. As a trainer, he worked mainly with talented children from southern Germany. Several of his students achieved medal places in German championships and qualified for youth world championships. As a player and trainer, Hirneise took part in chess tournaments in more than 30 countries. He is a publishing merchant, graphic designer and former editor-in-chief of the German chess magazine Rochade Europa. Since 2018 he has been the publisher of the children's chess magazine Rochade Kids, which is used by more than 35 000 children. The magazines have been translated into Swedish, Norwegian and English language.



Get to know (y)our chess trainers on site

Zigurds Lanka from Latvia (left) is considered one of the best-known chess coaches in the world. Lanka is a multiple Latvian master and the author of several chess books. He is known above all for his extraordinarily broad opening knowledge, which he understands better than anyone else how to make accessible to amateur players. For Latvia, Lanka took part in three Chess Olympiads and several European and World Team Championships. His best-known students include the grandmasters Alexei Shirov, Viktor Bologan and Falko Bindrich.

Daniel King from England (middle) became a Grandmaster in 1989. Highlights of his career are winning the 1992 Goodricke Open tournament in Calcutta, India, defeating Vishy Anand along the way and representing his country on numerous occasions including the famous victory by England over the Soviet Union in Reykjavik 1990. After his professional playing career, he went into the media appearing on TV and online as a chess commentator and presenter. He has worked all over the world for channels such as the BBC, Channel 4 (UK), ESPN (USA), and Eurosport; and for websites such as chess.com, playchess.com, the ICC, and Chess24.

Spyridon Skembris from Greece (right) finished third in the World Junior Championship in 1977. In the following years he won the Greek championship four times and in 1990 he was awarded the grandmaster title. Skembris is one of the most respected team coaches. He is the national coach of Greece and also coached the national team of Cyprus. Skembris represented Greece in a total of eight Chess Olympiads. In 1992 he won the gold medal on the second board at the European Team Championship in Debrecen.



GM Zigurds
Lanka

GM Daniel
King

Train with world-class trainers

GM Daniel King, GM Zigurds Lanka, GM Spyridon Skembris

Get personalized advice from our grandmasters on site and analyze your games with them.

The following services are included in the tournament entry fee:

- ✓ **Participation in the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship**
- ✓ **Free game analysis with a grandmaster**
After your game, you can analyse it with a grandmaster
- Planned grandmasters for the ACO Tournaments 2023:**
GM Zigurds Lanka, GM Spyridon Skembris, GM Daniel King
- ✓ **Free grandmaster lectures**
In the afternoon of each day with a single round.

- ✓ **Free chess side programme**
Blitz tournaments (single or team), GM simuls etc.
- ✓ **English speaking organizing team**
- ✓ **Support**
We will support you at any time and in a timely manner with all questions regarding the tournament and your hotel booking, such as rebookings or changes of travel dates.
- ✓ **Flight search support**
We will be happy to help you find the most convenient and cheapest flight connection for your flight to Kos.

Schedule ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2023

Thursday	11 May		Arrival day
		18 - 20:00	Welcome-Drink
Friday	12 May	09:30	Pairings
		09:45	Opening ceremony
		10:00	Round 1
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Blitz tournament
Saturday	13 May	10:00	Round 2
		16:00	Round 3
Sunday	14 May	10:00	Round 4
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Team Blitz

Monday	15 May	10:00	Round 5
		16:00	Round 6
Tuesday	16 May		Free day
Wednesday	17 May	10:00	Round 7
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Grandmaster simul
Thursday	18 May	10:00	Round 8
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Blitz tournament
Friday	19 May	10:00	Round 9
		18:00	Prize-giving
Saturday	20 May		Departure

Participation in the side programme is voluntary. Schedule subject to change.

The image shows a spacious hotel lobby. In the foreground, there is a reception desk with a wooden counter and a blue LED light strip. To the left, a seating area includes a brown sofa, a tufted ottoman, and a wooden coffee table. Large windows on the left side offer a view of the outdoors. The floor is made of large, green and grey marble tiles. The ceiling is white with recessed lighting and a large, ornate chandelier. In the background, a long hallway with columns and a blue ceiling leads to another part of the hotel.

Reception

The hotel reception is staffed 24 hours a day.

Lobby

Enjoy the
magnificent
view.



Main pool

At the main pool you can relax before or after the games. Right by the pool is the pool bar, so a drink is always within reach. Same applies for the Ammos Beach Bar, where you can get drinks, snacks, coffee, cakes and ice cream.



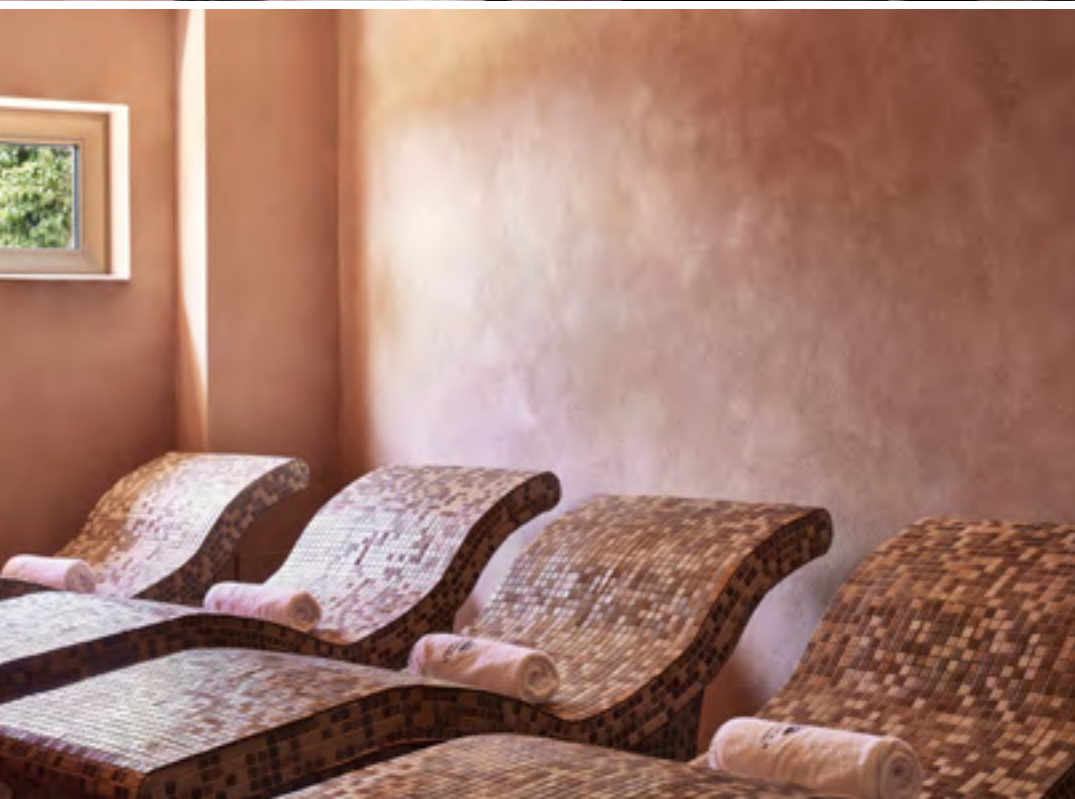




Sandy beach with a view

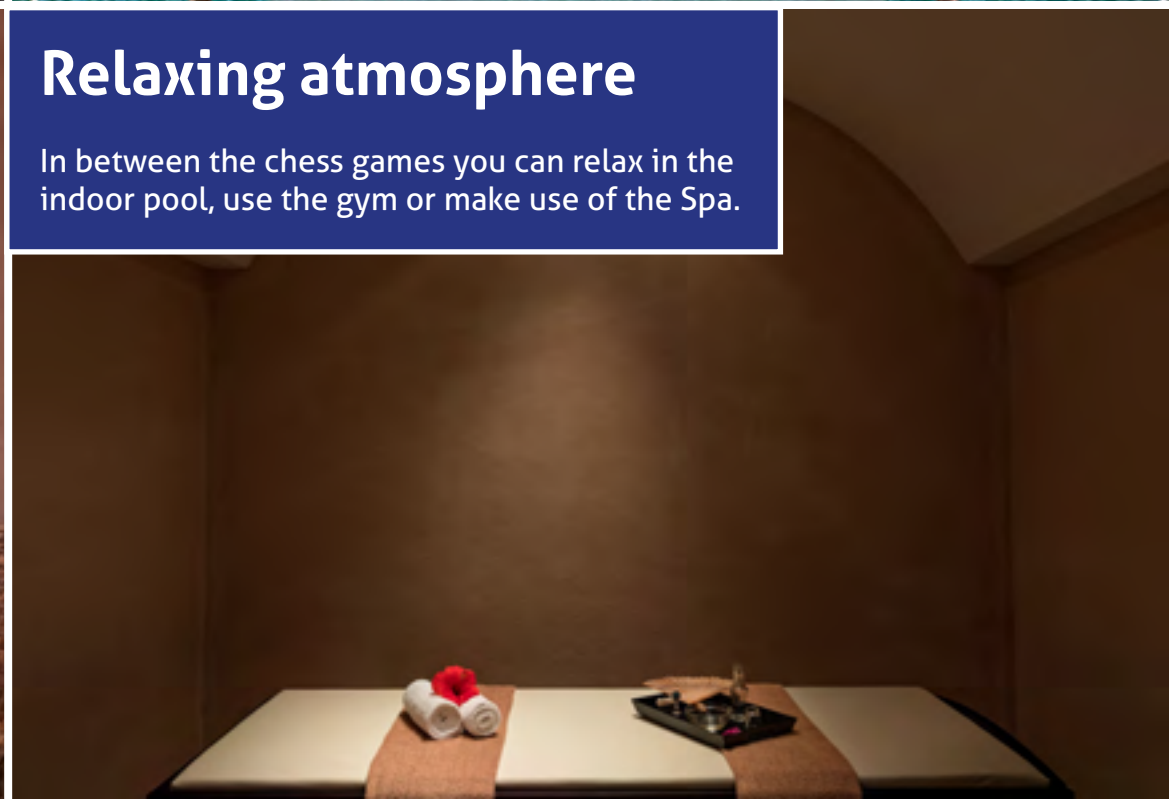
From the private sandy beach you have a magnificent view to the island of Nyssiros.





Relaxing atmosphere

In between the chess games you can relax in the indoor pool, use the gym or make use of the Spa.





Holiday feeling

21 pools and Mediterranean flair.



The image shows an outdoor restaurant terrace with a wooden pergola roof. Several tables are set with glassware and cutlery. In the foreground, there are dark wicker chairs with pink cushions. The terrace overlooks a blue sea and a distant island under a clear sky. A dark blue text box is in the top right corner.

Main restaurant of Atlantica Belvedere

The main restaurant is located one floor above the playing hall and one floor below the lobby and is thus optimally accessible.



A la Carte Restaurant

If you are looking for an extremely quiet and cosy place to dine, we recommend the Thallassa Restaurant by the main pool. Every guest can dine there once during their stay free of charge. A reservation is required.

ALL INCLUSIVE DETAILS

Main Restaurant: (Drinks included)

Meal times:

Breakfast:

7:30 -11:00 hrs

Lunch:

12:30 - 15:00 hrs
International Buffet

Dinner:

18:30 - 22:00 hrs
International Buffet
& Live Cooking

Ammos Beach Bar:

10:30 -17:30 hrs

Drinks, snacks + ice
cream, coffee & cakes

Thalassa A la carte Restaurant:

Opening times

19:00- 22:30 hrs
Reservation required,
free once per stay

Ulysses Lobby Bar:

17:00 -00:30 hrs

Local and selected im-
ported alcoholic and
non-alcoholic drinks.

Almyra Pool Bar:

10:00 -18:00 hrs

Local and selected im-
ported alcoholic and
non-alcoholic drinks.



Ulysses Lobby Bar

End the day with drinks and live music in the Ulysses Bar and the beautiful terrace. Chess boards included. One or two grandmasters can also be found there for a spontaneous round of blitz chess.

**Special feature:
The bar is open
until 0:30 a.m. !**



5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort
Main hotel with playing hall

5* Atlantica Beach Resort
sister hotel

NEW!

Stay at the nearby **5* Atlantica Beach Resort**

Due to limited availability in the main hotel, from 2023 onwards there will also be the possibility to stay at the sister hotel 5* Atlantica Beach Resort

From the hotel lobby of the Atlantica Beach Resort to the tournament hall in the main hotel Atlantica Belvedere it is only a 5-minute walk. Alternatively, a free shuttle service can be arranged. You will stay overnight and have breakfast at the Atlantica Beach. For lunch and dinner, you can choose between the two hotels. You can also use the facilities and the all-inclusive package of both hotels.



5* Atlantica Beach

Just a few hundred metres from the playing hall.





Prize-giving ceremony at a wonderful scenery

The best comes last. Celebrate with us the seven new World Champions of the different groups. Or even better, let yourself be honored as one of the winners! The prize-giving ceremony takes place at the pool terrace. In 2017 + 2018, the popular chess singer Juga from Chile performed for us.



Superstars visiting:

Judit Polgar & Alexei Shirov 2018 on Kos

At the 2018 ACO World Amateur Championship, guest of honour and best female chess player of all time, Grandmaster Judit Polgar, presented the winners with their trophies. For an exclusive group of chess enthusiasts, former Vice World Champion Grandmaster Alexei Shirov offered a private preparatory seminar prior to the event.



Free day – time to explore Kos island

Our free day offers you enough time to explore the lovely island of Kos. Visit the most interesting attractions of the island and enjoy the typical Greek flair in Kos town. You have the possibility to join a guided bus tour including a tourist guide or to discover the island on your own.

Asklepion

Besides the capital Kos with its many alleys and influences of different religions, the beautiful beaches of the island, the mountain village of Zia and the knight's castle of the Order of St. John, the ruin of Asklepion is a must for all friends of Greek history. Founded by the father of western medicine, Hippocrates, it was one of the first sanatoriums where the sick were treated.



Chess, chess, chess! Our side programme

Blitz chess:

The many highlights of ACO Championships include our blitz tournaments with five minutes per player. Our Welcome Blitz tournament always takes place in the evening after the first round. There is always a good atmosphere and it is very easy to make contacts. All participants play together in a single group.

Team blitz:

Equally popular is our Team Blitz tournament, where teams of 2 (on two boards) compete against each other. You may choose your partner, everybody is involved, from beginner to grandmaster!

Simultaneous exhibition:

There is always a big crowd at the simultaneous exhibition, too. Over 80 players competed against our team of title holders in 2019.



Break guaranteed! The bye rule

At the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship there will be 2 days with double rounds (days on which one round is played in the morning and one round in the afternoon). A few of our past participants have told us that they were quite exhausted after the double round. So we offer the opportunity to take 1 or 2 "breaks".

This is not mandatory, it is completely voluntary!

These breaks are called "byes" . A "bye" is when you as a player tell the arbiter before the next round that you do not wish to play in the next round . This means you will not be included in the pairings for the next round, but you will still receive half a point. So you can relax, and not slip down the table.

It is only possible to take a "bye" on days when a double round is played, meaning either in round 2 or 3 and in round 5 or 6.



TROPHIES FOR 5 OR 10 PARTICIPATIONS

Not only tournament winners receive trophies at our tournaments. It is our tradition that players receive a special trophy for their fifth or tenth participation.

**We are proud to say that
116 players already played at
least 5 tournaments with us!**



Enjoying chess - the ACO experience

Our goal is to offer you a chess tournament of a special kind. Of course the tournament takes priority, but we also want you and your companions to enjoy the tournament in the truest sense of the word. That's why we only select interesting locations and beautiful hotels with high 5 star standards for our tournaments.

Our team consists, among others, of Grandmasters and International Masters with huge tournament experience, so we know what matters at a chess tournament.

Beside you will find an overview of all previous ACO tournaments. Many more will follow!

2012 ACO WACC: Dubai 72 participants / 25 nations

Our first tournament took place in sunny Dubai in 2012. The venue was 5-star Jebel Ali Hotel. The highlight of the event was the prize-giving ceremony in the ballroom of the famous 7-star Burj-Al-Arab Hotel (photo)



2013 ACO WACC: Crete 168 participants / 26 nations

The 2nd ACO WACC took place on the Greek island of Crete in 2013. Compared to 2012, the number of participants more than doubled. The venue was 4-star Aquis Arina Sand Hotel with a beautiful hall with direct sea view.



2014 ACO WACC: Rhodes 240 participants / 26 nations

Our 3rd tournament took place on the „sun island“ of Rhodes in 2014. The playing hall stretched of over 1000 m² where 240 players from 26 countries fought for the titles. Players were accommodated in 4 & 5 star hotels.





ACO WACC 2015 to 2018 and 2022 on Kos (1200+ players)

Between 2015-18 and 2022 the ACO WACC took place on Kos. Venue was the 5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort (former Helona Resort). In 2017 + 2018 more than 300 players took part.

ACO World Super Senior (65+) Chess Championship

Our first Championship for players aged 65 and above took place beginning of May 2022 with around 50 players from 15 countries.



ACO World Senior Championships 2018 + 2019 + 2021: Crete

In 2018, 2019 and 2021, the first ACO Senior World Championships were held on the island of Crete. The venue was the 5* all-inclusive hotel Fodele Beach Resort. In total, over 500 players from 30 countries took part.

ACO WACC 2019 + 2021: Rhodes

366 participants / 29 nations

The 5* Sheraton Rhodes Resort was the venue and offered perfect playing conditions for more than 350 players from 29 countries.



Double & single room

The standard single and double rooms (with or without sea view) are spacious with 32m² of size with a roomy bathroom. The rooms have recently been renovated and improved.





Shared pool rooms **only very few rooms available!**

A room with a shared pool is a room with direct access to a swimming pool from the room's terrace. The pool may be shared among 3-6 guest rooms.

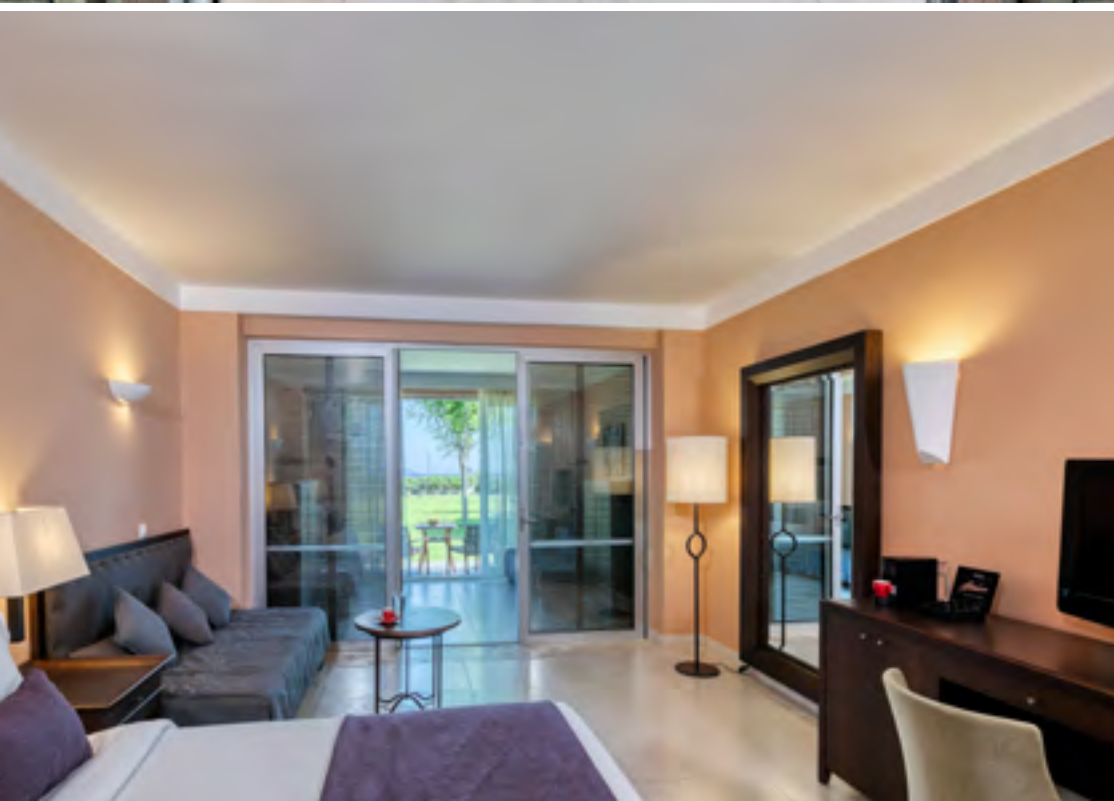




Junior Suite 43m² only 2 available

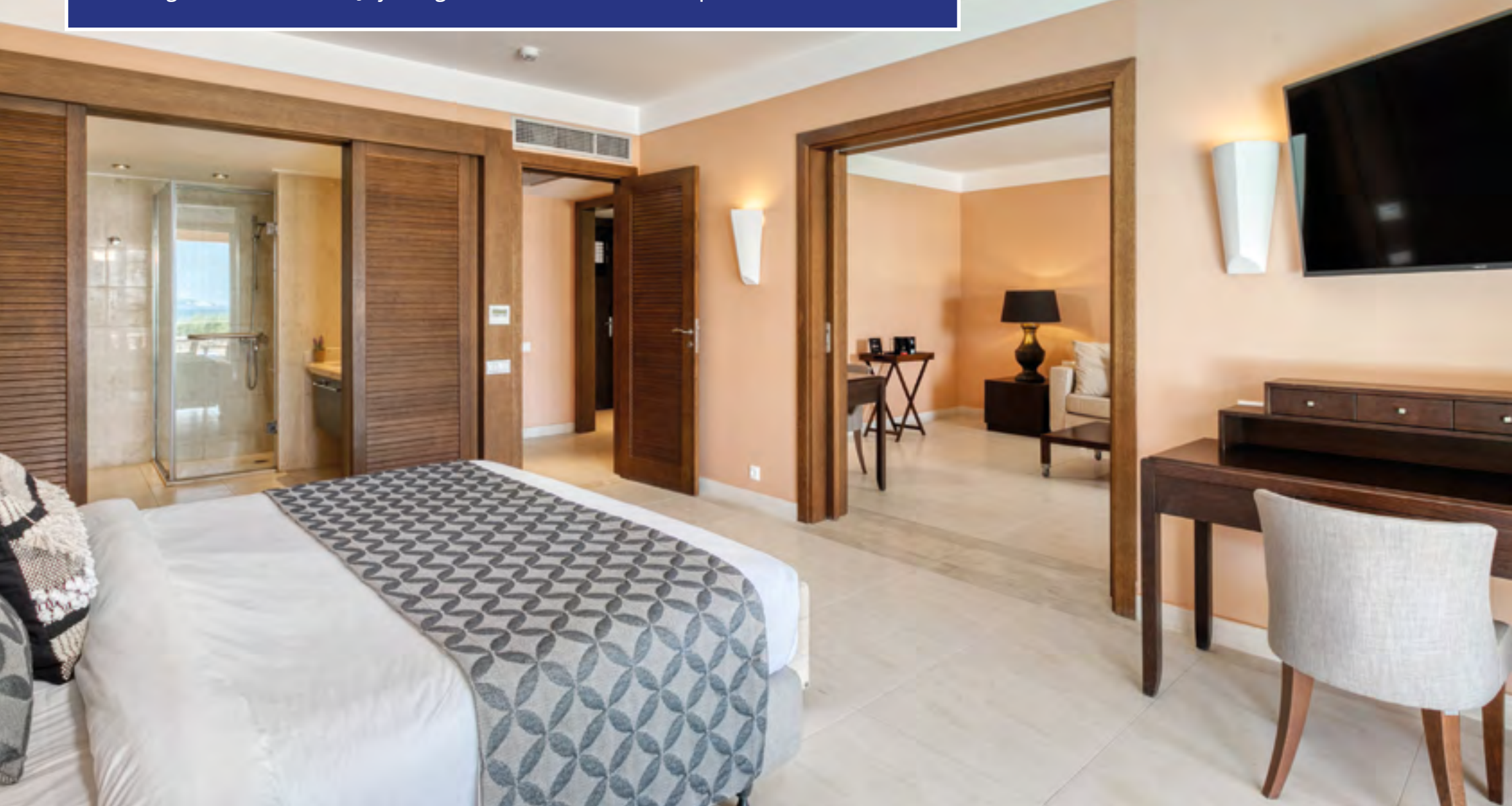
The rooms offer more space due to a separate, extra area with balcony.





Suite for 2 persons 63m² - **only 2 available**

The Suites are luxurious, ultra spacious units, each with one master bedroom, a living room, a marble-lined bathroom with an extra shower cabin, a separate wc, a walk-in wardrobe and a private swimming pool. All floor area is tiled. All Suites are located on the ground floor and enjoy a large, furnished terrace with spectacular sea view.





Private Villa (120 m²) **only 1 available**

Each villa is an independent building for up to 4 persons, with two floors (ground level and upper level), with great sea view and a private swimming pool (36 m²).





What participants say about the event and the hotel

This year was my third time at an ACO World Championship. The first time in Kos. It's a wonderful combination of chess and a holiday. Whether alone or with a companion, everyone gets their money's worth. We can only pay a big compliment to the ACO team. Everything is excellently organised. With Greece, a country was chosen that offers constant summer temperatures over a longer period of time and where there is definitely a holiday feeling. The hotel in Kos stands out from the other well-known hotels, which can be seen in the construction and architecture of the entire complex. You are pampered with an all-round carefree package.

Now to the chess tournament itself. Every participant has the chance to play for the world championship title in his or her group, which is not easy, as the competition is very strong and international. It's a challenging tournament, and you meet old faces and get to know new ones when you take part. You exchange ideas and look forward to seeing each other again. The social programme is also great.



Besides analyses with well-known grandmasters, seminars, blitz tournaments and simultaneous play, there is something for every chess enthusiast. Culinary delights are also well catered for. In conclusion, you can enjoy chess and a relaxed holiday in a great atmosphere. So, come to Kos, it's worth it!

Jens Wehrmann (GER) about the 2022 ACO World Amateur Chess Championship

In my experience, ACO chess tournaments take the concept „play chess while being on holidays“ to a very high standard. I like the tournament formula of playing games in groups with players of broadly equal strength. The conditions in the playing hall are nearly perfect. And after the games there is the possibility to analyze your game with a GM or go to one of their insightful lectures. If that isn't enough, you can also participate in blitz tournaments or a simultaneous game with



one of the GMs. So the chess is serious, but so is the relaxing. In Kos, the 5 star hotel is beautifully located near the sea, has nice pools and a good restaurant, and there is much more to enjoy. On the „free day“ I participated in a tour of the island passing by some of the highlights that Kos has to offer.

Bert Talloen (Belgium) about the 2022 ACO World Amateur Chess Championship on Kos

As a newcomer to your ACO tournaments, I would like to thank you very much: Perfect organisation regarding hotel and tournament, organisation team always present and yet discreetly in the background. Interesting chess social programme, family atmosphere, well-organised island tour and close GM analyses of one's own games. Great anticipation, also on the part of my partner, for the ACO tournament in October 22 on Crete!

Dr. Guntram Hilbenz (Germany) about the 2022 ACO World Amateur Chess Championship on Kos

The Wimbledon of Chess

An experience report by Uwe Ritter (Germany) about the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2018 on Kos



It is May and it already has a good tradition, embedded between two holidays and two weekends the chess players meet for **the most beautiful amateur event of the year.**

Like every year when the ACO calls, one travels from all over the world to the beautiful Mediterranean island KOS to meet at the 5-star Hotel Helona Resort. 307 participants

from 30 countries followed the call of the organizers and travelled with their wives and accompanying persons, in some cases the children were there as well.

As every year, the official reception with a glass of sparkling wine or wine on the eve of the tournament was very popular, as one always meets many good old friends again. Even if the last participants did not arrive until after midnight due to flight delays, all chess players sat on the board punctually the next morning at 10.00 a.m. 9 rounds were played, in 7 rating groups, A to G. The rating groups were formed starting with the group A Elo 2201 - 2400, downwards.

The time control was 90 minutes for 40 moves and 15 minutes for the rest. There is also a bonus of 30 seconds per move. There were no disputes due to the always very fair interaction between the players.

Similar to the legendary tennis event, many things here are already good old tradition. In addition to a full board wellness program, there is free catering during the game in a beautiful playing hall equipped with carpets.

Present grandmasters, with whom one can analyze one's own game, a free day, which is always used for an island excursion in the group or on one's own initiative and ends with a Greek evening in the hotel.

Simultaneous exhibition events of master players present and various Blitz events were also an integral part of the supporting program this time. All this always takes place in a very familiar atmosphere.

Even before the tournament started, world chess star Alexei Schirow was a guest and prepared 8 chess players from all rating groups for this tournament for 3 days. Furthermore he was a star to touch, who was not afraid to play a blitz match against other amateurs. The also present grandmasters Spyridon Skembris and Zigurds Lanka were always sought-after analysis partners, some amateurs could be helped with tips and tricks. Both grandmasters also gave chess lectures in German and English, an offer which enjoyed great popularity.

In the 8th round at the best lunchtime, many chess players were already at the table, the remaining participants in the tournament hall temporarily did not believe their eyes and some even suspected a „Hungarian mirage“ when surprisingly the best female chess player of all times appeared in the playing hall.

Judit Polgar, now 41 years old and long since retired from active tournament chess, visited her friend Maria in the tournament hall to keep her fingers crossed for her personally. Maria had only scored a modest three points last year, now she dominated her group for 8 rounds, was equal on points with Simon Faber from Germany before the final round and in the end, due to an unfortunate defeat, was only second behind Simon Faber, who won the F-group with 7.5 points. I can't prove it, but let's assume that Judit Polgar plays a not inconsiderable part in this positive development.

The highlight of the prize-giving ceremony with guest of honour Judit Polgar, was, as last year, the mini free concert of the Chilean artist Maria Jose Yurar Rescaglio, who is well known as an artist in South America, thus far beyond her own national borders, and performs under the artist name Juga de Prima. Even before the start of the 9th round, the artist gave all participants a little surprise. We heard and saw a music video with the title „Oh my dear Capablanca“ which she had recorded.

The concluding remarks were made by participants who were there for the first time.

„The participants are all very relaxed. Nothing is missing. A beautiful Holiday tournament in an ambience of a World Championship, plus a great prize performance ratio“. (Peter Trzaska, Group B)

„A perfect organization“ (Marco Siebarth, Group C)

**„All very well if only the defeats weren't.“
(Barbara Kroll, Group E)**

„It was my first holiday in Greece and my first participation in an World Amateur Chess Championship and I was looking forward to it for months. **My expectations of a wonderful time were exceeded in every respect. The fantastic hotel complex with the best conditions for such an event left nothing to be desired; the good service of the staff, the excellent kitchen as well as the hotel's own sandy beach rounded the thing off and one could really enjoy the stay in a wonderful feel-good climate.**

At this point I would like to praise the organizers, who had the preparation, management and execution of the tournament (including the side tournaments) up to the evaluation and the festive award ceremony completely under control and ensured a perfect and smooth process, this was also confirmed by the other participants! Many thanks to Falko Bindrich and the Hirneise family!

As a subscriber to the german chess magazine „Rochade Europa“, I have been following the tournament for years and have now decided to participate. I can highly recommend it to every chess friend who wants to play a tournament in a relaxed atmosphere (Chess and Beach) in combination with a holiday feeling.

Even my personally worst tournament result (there's even that) will not cloud my memory of this beautiful time. Professionally and family-wise it fits with me with a participation at the earliest again in two years, but I can look forward to it already now.“

Andreas Borchert about the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2018 on Kos



„A big thank you to the ACO team for the organization of the World Amateur Chess Amateur Championship on the Greek island of Kos.

The tournament, its realization, the complete side program as well as the entire hotel (team) had to show an enormously high quality, which absolutely lived up to the claim of a World Championship.

Also worth mentioning is the Mediterranean weather on Kos, which will remain positively in your memory with many hours of sunshine.

I am already looking forward to next year to participate in this great tournament, to meet the Greek sun as well as the food and the nice people I met“.

Marco Siebarth about the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2018 on Kos



Spring, sun, sea, wine and chess

An experience report by Dr. Jürgen Kraft (Germany) about the ACO World Amateur Chess World Championship 2017

Dear chess friends, this was a really successful holiday! Admittedly, the “Amateur Chess World Championship” is somewhat bombastic. But: 314 players from all over the world had come, including Chile and Australia making the longest journey. My opponents came from India, the Netherlands, England, Poland, Norway, France, Switzerland, and Germany. A member of the regional chess club Kosstadt was also there. The youngest player of the tournament was 6 years old, the oldest one was a whopping 92 years old! The Helona Resort, a beach hotel complex on the south coast of the island, was where the tournament was held. Rightly 5 stars. 9 rounds Swiss system, usual reflection time, rating groups staggered according to ELO 200. 7 game days, one day off, to explore the island in the spring bloom.

In the evening flashing tournaments - very recommended for imitation - teamblitz: A strong and a weaker player fight together. Enjoy! Who of you now thinks we have been playing holiday coffee house chess, has gotten quite another idea: Since we had all the time in the world - apart from the time of reflection – where the fighting was fierce: accepting a draw? Only with a Queen and a tower less ... A typical chess day: 7.30 getting up, at 8.30 Anne and I want to have breakfast. Since I have to swim in the sea before. After breakfast, a short walk along the sea, at 10 am it starts. Excitement ... After the game, Anne and I had arrangements for lunch at 13.30 - it was several times later. I had never played so many final games. In the evening: There are chess games in the hotel bar. But with the English people, one can also talk about music: Are Deep Purple or the Dire Straits the better band? If you have lost, you can comfort yourself with a glass of red wine and the Rolling Stones: “You can not always get what you want”; If you win, you can listen to Freddy Mercury at the pool bar... “We are the Champions!”

The off day was very nice: Bus trips over the island are offered. In addition to tourism, Kos-Stadt has a beautiful ancient market square in the middle of the city and a Kreuzritterburg. Two beautiful old mosques built peacefully next to orthodox churches.

A visit to the ancient hippocrates sanctuary is a much just like the journey to the mountain villages over narrow serpentines: flowers, forest and a wonderful view of the deep blue Aegean.

Back to Chess: 5,5 out of 9, Rank 19 of 88 in my rating group. Despite many mistakes I am satisfied. The most beautiful part was a black victory in the English four-knight game. Thanks to Bernd’s English tutoring course, the opening was clearly in my favor, and I had an opportunity for polychrome for the first time in my chess career, despite a mistake in the middle game: two black ladies were too much for my opponent. Thanks to the good hotelesses (Oh these calamares with garlic and caper-nmayonnaise!) My belly unfortunately increased more than my ELO. Now I have to switch to lettuce! My wife has now enjoyed the beach life and has become really tanned - perhaps the only disadvantage of the air-conditioned playroom.

We will be back next year! Highly recommended!

Dear Organizers,

I was there for the first time. And I’m thrilled. So many possibilities, as banal amateur chess to play and to experience, with free water, coffee and cake on the board, to exchange with so many from other countries, in such a beautiful place, with a super tour on the off day, with best and ample kitchen, and all this in a pleasant atmosphere that you can work with. A big big thank you!

Greetings from Switzerland

Ruth Huber (Group E)



Constantine Ananiadis, (USA, Group D) about the World Amateur Chess Championship Rhodes 2014

„I was fortunate enough to have the chance to participate in the 2014 ACO World Championship in Rhodes, Greece and I can easily say that it was the best organized event I have ever participated in!

The organizers made sure every detail was taken care of and made the players feel very special. The venue was great with ample space and good lighting.

I also enjoyed the side events (blitz tournament etc) that they made available to us and was able to participate in one of them.

The schedule of the games was well thought-out and allowed for family time as well as time to explore the island of Rhodes itself. The hotel was also great and considering that it was „all-inclusive“ it was very affordable.

All in all, a great event and great initiative by the organizers! Bravo!

I really hope I can make this an annual event for myself and my family and I hope that more and more people will support ACO and participate in future championships!”



Mikael Svensson, (Sweden, Group B) about the World Amateur Chess Championship Crete 2013

Hats off and a big round of applause to the entire ACO team for yet another brilliant performance! ACO is a young organization, now with its second World Championship organized for chess amateurs from around the world. Being a participant in both Dubai and Crete, it's natural for me to compare the two tournaments. Playing in Dubai was certainly a privilege. With the luxurious resort as both accommodation and playing hall for the participants, and with the prize giving ceremony in Burj Al Arab, it was truly a once in a lifetime experience. All things considered the tournament on Crete took the tournament one step further, even surpassing the experience in Dubai. While the hotel in Dubai was great, the climate on Crete was strongly preferable. While a decent amount of players around the world gathered in Dubai, the number of participants more than doubled on Crete. While I was having a good time in Dubai, **the friendly atmosphere in the tournament on Crete reached a level that I have never experienced before in any chess tournament. Ever.** That the organizers recognized me from last year was perhaps not that surprising. But that they all seemed to know everybody by name was truly impressive, and helped to make everybody feel part of the ACO family.



Harry Wubs, (Netherlands, Group D) about the World Amateur Chess Championship Dubai 2012

“For me the tournament in Dubai was great. Although I did not know what to expect, I would say that it succeeded all my expectations.

The group of participants was small, what gives an intimate atmosphere. After a few days you knew all players by face and most of them by name.

Despite the heat outside, there was warmth and friendliness inside the hotel. This friendliness was very strongly present in the persons who organized the tournament.

A great compliment for ACO for their ideas, their hard working, their friendliness and their professionalism.

The whole organization was just perfect. Their were no incidents, the sportsmanship was of a high level and there were a lot of contacts between the organizers and between the players.

These contacts continued even after the tournament in some cases. I personally will surely meet several players in Crete, Greece again next year in May.”

Four players from the Einsiedel (Switzerland) chess club at the World Amateur Chess Championship on Kos

The amateurs chose their new titleholder in Greece – away from the sport, the event was marked by a relaxed atmosphere.

The Einsiedler quartet returned from the World Amateur Chess Championship without a cup but with many experiences and memories. Peter Telser, Hans Forster, Meinrad Bettschart and Victor Kälin together have about 150 years of experience of competitions. But they had never before participated in such a tournament as this, of the Amateur Chess Organization (ACO). There were 250 chess players from 30 countries competing from 7 to 15 May on Kos for the crown of the amateur world championship. There were exactly 7 crowns, one per group. The programme was intense, with 9 rounds. It offered, however, enough time to relax.

The players' passion was inexhaustible. That can be said for Meinrad Bettschart (Brunnen/Einsiedeln), who was second oldest person at 82 years and who sat for a further 3 hours with his 14 years old opponent to analyse the game. One typical image for the occasion. "Chess is more than competition", said prudent ACO-president Lothar Hirneise (Germany) during the announcement of the rankings. Chess is also education and friendship, and encourages the Olympic spirit at such amateur championships, according to which taking part is more important than winning.

Very relaxed atmosphere

The four members of the Einsiedeln chess club were competing in three different groups. Hans Forster had the best performance, with 5.5 points from 9 games, which was excellent for rank 14. Peter Telser nevertheless succeeded in finishing the tournament without defeat. As well as the sport, the event had a relaxed atmosphere, a great hotel just by the sea, mild temperature as well as an organization, which translated the motto of World Chess Federation «Gens una sumus» (We are a family) perfectly from theory to practice.

Victor Kälin, (Switzerland, Elo 1876) participant group C

World Amateur Chess Championship 2016 on Kos

A report by the participants Rafael and Kevin Jaussi (Switzerland)

On Saturday May 7, our journey from home to Kos began. When we arrived there, we had already been overwhelmed by Greek hospitality. A small aperitif was organized in the five-star hotel Helona Resort. When it was over, we were desperately looking for our suitcases until someone from the hotel told us that they had already been taken to our room. Later we went to have dinner and we were astonished to see the big selection at the buffet. In the beginning we were as if paralysed.

The food was delicious and we didn't need to fear being hungry for these 10 days. On Sunday the first round began.

It was difficult to be focus on chess with the panoramic view and beautiful weather. After 2/3 of the tournament, Rafael Jaussi had started really comfortably in category E with 3 points from 6 rounds. With me, it did not run according to desire with 1.5 from 6 rounds in category C, the start was very modest. On Thursday May 12 a day trip was planned with a touring bus, which enabled us to learn a lot about the island, its history and attractions. Half the time the guide was telling us everything about olives, which were very delicious. There were theory evenings and blitz tournaments, where we both got 3 out of 7 and there was a blitz team where the brothers Jaussi also gained 3 points out of 7. Which was very strong for our ELO rating. The last round was on Sunday May 15 and Rafael ended the tournament at 22nd place, with 4.5 out of 9 points, of 36 participants in category E. I finished the tournament with 3 out of 9 points, 53rd out of 56 participants in category C. The tournament ended with a small aperitif and the announcement of the rankings. On Monday after breakfast, we began our trip home.

This was a great chess event, with great impressions of the trip and we can only recommend the 2017 tournament on Kos and give our thanks to tournament directors for the great organization.

Kevin Jaussi, (Switzerland, Elo 1833) participant group C

“What a great idea. Combining a beach holiday with chess. Don’t you just love them both. And the ACO putting that package together in the top-class Helona Resort in Kos was pure genius! As always the chess was tremendous. But we were on holiday too, so universally having a good time. It was a chance to meet new friends. Language isn’t a barrier. The conversation is conducted primarily in English. However, I spent a few minutes analysing my game with a Russian opponent, he pointed in Russian and I generally waved my arms in English. Perfectly understood on both sides! One of the nice little extras was having a genial Grand Master on hand to help with the after game post-mortem, that was a real boon for all the players. **Let’s just say a word about the Helona Resort. “Brilliant!”**. We were treated like Kings and Queens. The rooms are top of the range, bright, spacious and clean. My party was blown away by the food, and the desserts especially were a triumph! We were not alone in our praise. On the evening of the awards presentation the Chef took as much applause as all the winners put together. Even those on the strictest diet would surrender to his delights! Overall Kos 2015 was a glittering success. These are the Friendly Amateur World Chess Championships. **If you love chess, warm sun and good food, come and play. / David Gilbert, (ENG, 1899, Group D)**



„World Amateur Chess Championship 2015 on Kos was organised at the highest level and left only the most pleasant memories. I am very happy with this tournament, especially with the result. There was a lot of chess experience, a lot of fun and new friends. First of all I would like to say thank you to GM Falko Bindrich and Hirneise’s family for the organization of this really perfect tournament. Because of them everyone is getting a chance to play living chess with a different opponents from all over the world, and even become a chess world champion, as me. Secondly I would like to thanks all my opponents and participants for the friendly atmosphere during all period of the tournament. And finally I would like to wish all previous and future participants of the ACO tournament the success at the chessboard as well as in all life.“

Nikolay Gutsulyak, (RUS, 0, Group G) about the tournament on Kos 2015

Lovely atmosphere with ideal playing conditions, lots of interesting chess offers such as single blitz, team blitz, seminars, simultaneous exhibitions and excursions... in a nutshell: Kos forever!

Vladimir Paleologu, (SUI, 2152, Group B, President of Chess Club Lugano) about the tournament on Kos



I allow myself to express my feelings and my comments about your tournament Kos 2015 and its hotel, it’s not my habit to throw with flowers, but it’s true that I have never seen anything like this before, your team has not left any wishes open, at any time the team was there and everyone desired to play chess. The big playing hall, lots of space for the chess games, free cold drinks and coffee, cookies and several large screens for the seminars not to forget. This tournament and the 5 Star Hotel Helona Resort was the BEST TOURNAMENT in my amateur chess career, the place and the infrastructure was nice and clean, a warm welcome at the hotel reception and all the players and their accompaning persons had the same benefits. I cannot find enough words to express our satisfaction and to summarize it I would say it was just ABSOLUTELY AMAZING, AND EVEN MORE!!! WILL WE BE THERE NEXT YEAR? YES!! OF COURSE!

Arezki Bouchelaghem, (SUI, 1770, Group D) about the tournament on Kos

Prices 5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort

9 nights All-Inclusive: 11th - 20th May, 2023



The following services are included in the arranged hotel booking:

- 9 overnight stays on All-Inclusive basis
- Drinks and snacks during the games
- Private hotel beach
- Access to the gym
- Free internet in the guest rooms
- Extra nights before or after the tournament are bookable at the same conditions.

All prices per person on All-Inclusive Basis	Booking from 1 st January 2023	Availability
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 2 persons	3599 EUR	only 1 room
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 3 persons	3099 EUR	only 1 room
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 4 persons	2899 EUR	only 1 room
Suite (63 m ²) + private pool for 2 persons	2599 EUR	only 2 rooms
Junior Suite for 2 persons	1799 EUR	only 2 rooms
Single room Standard	2099 EUR	very low
Single room Sea view	2299 EUR	very low
Double room Sea view with Shared Pool	1949 EUR	very low
Double room Standard with Shared Pool	1749 EUR	low
Double room Sea view	1599 EUR	medium
Double room Standard	1449 EUR	medium

ACO is the organizer of the chess tournament ACO Amateur Chess Championship 2023 and arranges accommodation for all participants in the host hotel 5-star Atlantica Belvedere Resort. Contractual partner for accommodation is the hotel (Atlantica Hotels & Resorts, P.O. Box 52001, Potamos Yermasoyias, 4060 Limassol, Cyprus). The registration for the chess tournament is done separately after booking the accommodation via ACO, see procedure on the next pages.

Note: Since 2018 Greece has introduced a tourist tax for all hotels in the country. For 5 star hotels this tax is EUR 4 per room per night. The tax has to be paid directly at the hotel reception.

Important note:

The number of participants for the chess tournament is limited due to capacity reasons. In the last few years, the tournament at Kos was fully booked many months in advance! For this reason, we recommend early registration to be able to guarantee a place.

Prices 5* Atlantica Beach Resort Kos

9 nights All-Inclusive: 11th - 20th May, 2023



The following services are included in the arranged hotel booking:

- 9 overnight stays on All-Inclusive basis
- Drinks and snacks during the games
- Private hotel beach
- Access to the gym
- Free internet in the guest rooms
- Extra nights before or after the tournament are bookable at the same conditions.

All prices per person on All-Inclusive Basis	Booking from 1 st January 2023	Availability
Single room Standard	1899 EUR	medium
Single room Sea view	2099 EUR	medium
Double room Standard	1249 EUR	medium
Double room Sea view	1399 EUR	medium

Due to the limited room availability in the main hotel Atlantica Belvedere (where the tournament hall is located) you also have the option to stay in the sister hotel 5* Atlantica Beach Resort which is just a 5 minutes walk away from the tournament hall. It is also possible to arrange a shuttle service between the hotels without extra costs.

- You sleep in Atlantica Beach Resort and have breakfast there.
- For lunch and dinner you can choose between Atlantica Beach and Atlantica Belvedere (tournament hotel).
- You can use all facilities and the All-Inclusive packages of both hotels, Atlantica Beach and Atlantica Belvedere!
- In Atlantica Beach guests below 16 years are welcome so feel free to bring your family and kids with you. Please note that Atlantica Belvedere is an adults-only hotel in which only guests from 16 years of age are allowed.

ACO is the organizer of the chess tournament ACO Amateur Chess Championship 2023 and arranges accommodation for all participants in the 5-star hotels Atlantica Belvedere Resort and Atlantica Beach Resort. Contractual partner for accommodation is only the hotel (Atlantica Hotels & Resorts, P.O. Box 52001, Potamos Yermasoyias, 4060 Limassol, Cyprus). The registration for the chess tournament is done separately after booking the accommodation via ACO, see procedure on the next page.

Note: Since 2018 Greece has introduced a tourist tax for all hotels in the country. For 5 star hotels this tax is EUR 4 per room per night. The tax has to be paid directly at the hotel reception.

Important note:

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Registration & booking

ACO is the organizer of the chess tournament ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2023 and arranges accommodation for all participants in the 5-star Atlantica Belvedere Resort (or Atlantica Beach Resort) in Kos. Contractual partner of the booking is only the hotel.

The arranged hotel booking and the registration for the chess tournament take place in two separate steps:

Step 1: Hotel booking

You choose your desired room type through the ACO online booking form, see the following link:

<https://booking.amateurchess.com/amateur23>



Immediately after your hotel booking you will receive a booking confirmation by email on behalf of the hotel.

Step 2: Tournament registration

After your hotel booking you will receive a separate email from us with the link for the payment of the starting fee.



In the event that you need to cancel your participation, regardless of the timing, you will receive a 100% refund of your starting fee.

Hotel booking without risk!



**No hotel deposit is required upon booking.
Free cancellation of the hotel booking up to
14 days prior to arrival date!**



**If you test positive for Covid in the days prior
to arrival, you may cancel your booking free
of charge if you provide a proof of your test.**

Hotel payment procedure



20% of the total amount need to be paid latest 14 days prior to arrival by bank transfer directly to the hotel.



If the payment is not made on time, the hotel keeps the option to cancel your booking.



You will receive a reminder of the payment one month prior to the due date.



The remaining 80% need to be paid either by bank transfer prior to arrival or upon check-in by credit card or cash. You can also pay the total amount in one bank transfer 14 days prior to arrival.



In case of no-show, you will be charged 100% of the total amount the hotel.



Further information

Rooms with shared pool and rooms with sea view (limited) are particularly popular and often booked out early.

Room booking for accompanying persons:

The booking of rooms for accompanying persons who are not taking part in the tournament tournament is also possible.

Weather on Kos:

The weather in May is mild and sunny with temperatures up to 25 degrees. May is considered one of the most attractive months.

Transfer from the airport

The hotel is 15 minutes from the airport.
Taxis run at a fixed price (22 EUR).

Arrive earlier or depart later

Would you like to extend your stay on Kos? No problem, you are welcome to book as many days as you like at the hotel prior or after the event at the same conditions. The prices depend on the type of room you choose.

Sometimes it is cheaper to book extra nights in exchange for better or cheaper flight connections.

Tip:

When you register using the online form, the costs for extra nights are automatically calculated and displayed. Extra nights do not have to be specified directly when registering, but can also be booked at a later date. To do so, please send an email to amateur@amateurchess.com

REGISTRATION & BOOKING

ACO WORLD AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

11th - 20th May, 2023 Kos / Greece



ACO
AMATEUR CHESS ORGANIZATION



For hotel booking please use the
ACO online booking form



<https://booking.amateurchess.com/amateur23>

Questions? Send an email to: [**amateur@amateurchess.com**](mailto:amateur@amateurchess.com)

REGISTRATION & CONTACT

Online registration:

<https://booking.amateurchess.com/amateur23>

Email:

amateur@amateurchess.com

