



ACO
Amateur Chess Organization

WORLD AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

6th - 15th May 2017 Kos / Greece

Enjoying chess




HelonaResort
Kos Island, Greece ★★★★★

The ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2017 takes place from 6th -15th May 2017 on the island of Kos (Greece) as an open tournament. Any player with a rating below 2400 can represent his country and become ACO World Champion in his rating group!

Accommodation for all players and accompanying persons:

5-star Hotel Helona Resort Kos. The hotel is brandnew (built in 2009). The playing hall is located inside the hotel.

Division of groups:

The tournament is played in the following rating groups:

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 (unrated) – 1200

Every group plays separately meaning you only play opponents of similar playing strength in your group. For the division of groups we consider your ELO/national rating at the moment of registration.

For players having both an ELO-rating and a national rating, the higher rating counts for the group classification.

Mode and time control:

9 rounds Swiss System.

Rate of play:

90 minutes for 40 moves + 15 minutes for the rest of the game with an increment of 30 seconds per move starting from move 1. Default time: 30 minutes.

Starting fee (only for players)

50 EUR

Prizes: 5.000 EUR (based on 100 entries)

Group A

2201 – 2400

1st place: 500 EUR

2nd place: 200 EUR

3rd place: 100 EUR

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

1st place of each rating group becomes ACO World Champion. Places 1-3 receive trophies.

Tournament Rules and Regulations:

The ACO cannot provide any conditions for titled players. All players and accompanying persons are obliged to stay in the official hotel. All booking must be made directly through the ACO.

Weather:

The temperatures in May are mild and sunny with temperatures up to 28 degrees Celcius. May is considered to be one the most beautiful months.

Extra nights:

If you wish to arrive prior to the event or want to extend your stay in Helona Resort, please send us an email to kos@amateurchess.com

Transfer from the airport:

The hotel is 10 minutes away from the airport. The costs for a taxi are ca. 20 EUR, the costs for a busticket ca. 3 EUR.

The following services are included for all players & accompanying persons:

✓ **9 overnight stays in 5-star Helona Resort Kos**

✓ **Fullboard Plus**

Includes:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Non-alcoholic beverages are included during all meals.

Normally Helona Resort Kos is a half-board only hotel. Fullboard Plus will be served especially and only for the players and accompanying persons of the World Amateur Chess Championship 2017.

If you would like to enjoy alcoholic drinks during or after the meals the hotel offers special vouchers only for ACO guests at a discounted rate. (2 EUR per drink) One voucher costs 20 EUR and is valid for 10 drinks, such as beer, red or white wine, longdrinks etc. You can buy as many vouchers as you like on site at the reception.

✓ **Unlimited free drinks (water, coffee) during the chess games!**

✓ **Private hotel beach (sandy beach)**

✓ **Free internet access**

✓ **Access to the playing hall**

Contact:

Mrs. Marianne Volk:

Email: kos@amateurchess.com

Schedule ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2017

Saturday	06.05.2017		Arrival
Sunday	07.05.2017	10:00	Round 1
Monday	08.05.2017	10:00	Round 2
		16:00	Round 3
Tuesday	09.05.2017	10:00	Round 4
Wednesday	10.05.2017	10:00	Round 5
		16:00	Round 6
Thursday	11.05.2017		Free Day
Friday	12.05.2017	10:00	Round 7
Saturday	13.05.2017	10:00	Round 8
Sunday	14.05.2017	10:00	Round 9
		18:00	Prize-giving
Monday	15.05.2017		Departure

How to get to Kos?

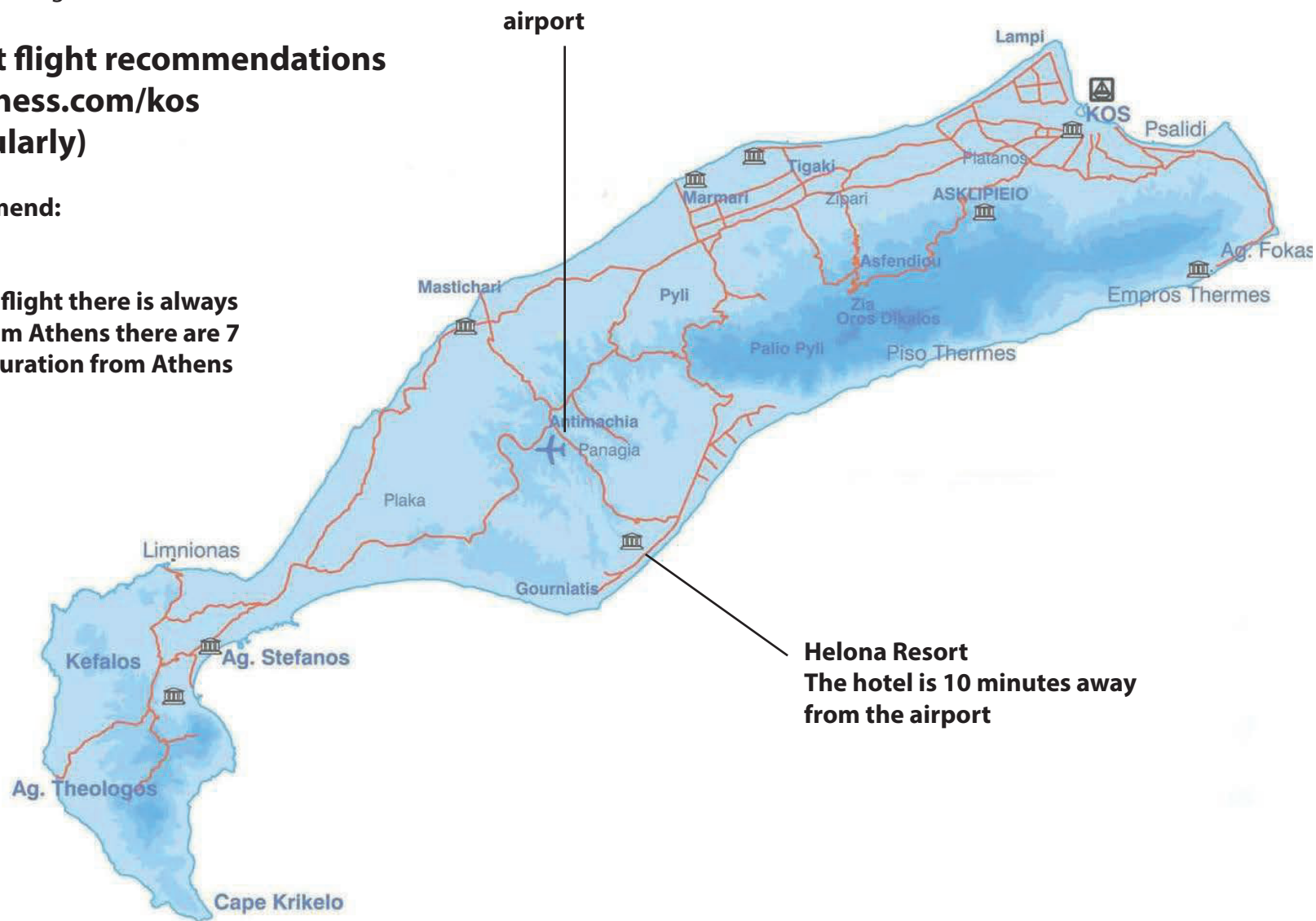
From all European countries there are direct flights to Kos.

If you need help with flight search send an email to kos@amateurchess.com
We kindly assist you to find the best flight.

**You can find our current flight recommendations under: <http://amateurchess.com/kos>
(We update the list regularly)**

For your own search we recommend:
<http://flights.ideal.com/>

In case you cannot find a direct flight there is always the option to fly via Athens. From Athens there are 7 daily flights to Kos. The flight duration from Athens to Kos is ca. 30 minutes only.



ACO Experience

It is our aim to offer you a chess event of a special kind. Of course, the chess tournament is at the heart of the event but we also want everyone, players and accommodating persons, to have a wonderful time. This is why we always choose interesting places and nice hotels with high standards. Our team consists, among others, of GMs, IMs and FMs with huge tournament experience, so we know what matters at a chess tournament.



2012 we were in Dubai, one of the most fascinating cities in the world. We played in one of the world's best family resorts, a 5-star hotel and had our prize-giving ceremony at 220 meters in the most luxurious hotel in the world, the 7-star Burj-Al-Arab.

2013 we visited the famous Greek island Crete and enjoyed a spectacular playing hall with direct sea view.

2014 the championship took place on the „Sun Island“ Rhodes, with 4 very nice hotels and the longest private beach of the island.

2015 and 2016 the tournament took place in the newly built 5-star hotel Helona Resort on the Greek island Kos, with the best cuisine of the island!

Great people

Meet new friends from all over the world! We have more than 25 nations competing in the tournament.

Diploma for every player

We at ACO go with the olympic motto - „It is the taking part that counts.“ Therefore at the prize-giving ceremony every player gets a diploma on stage.

Free drinks during the games

Especially for our participants, we arranged that all of us can have free drinks (water, coffee) during the games and also some small snacks (cookies) to refill energy for the hard-fought games.

Blitz tournaments

Our blitz tournaments (5 min per player for the whole game) are a good way to get in touch with other chess players. In Kos 2015 from 240 players more than 100 players participated in the „Welcome-Blitz“ tournament.



We also host a „Team-Blitz“ where players compete in teams of 2.

Free-day trips

In every tournament we have one free day with no chess game. Usually we take this opportunity for some sight-seeing. With a professional guide and a big bus we visit the most attractive places of our destination.

Beach

For us chess does not mean to sit in a hall all day. If you play an ACO tournament, a beach is not far away. Relax in between your games and enjoy some quality time with your family and friends!

Chess - game of generations

In our championships we were glad to welcome players from the ages 7 up to 94(!) years. The above right picture shows the game between the year old Anna against Mrs. Eggebrecht (94 years).

2012: Dubai

72 participants from 25 countries

Our first tournament took place in sunny Dubai in 2012. The venue was 5-star hotel Jebel Ali. The highlight of the event was the prize-giving ceremony in the ballroom of the famous 7-star hotel Burj-Al-Arab (photo) at 220 meters height.



2013: Crete (Greece)

168 participants from 26 countries

The second ACO World Amateur Chess Championship took place on the Greek island Crete in 2013. Compared to 2012, the number of participants more than doubled. The venue was 4-star Aquis Arina Sand with a beautiful playing hall, with direct sea view.



2014: Rhodos (Greece)

240 participants from 26 countries

Our third tournament took place on the Greek „Sun Island“ Rhodes in 2014. The playing hall had a size of over 1000 square meters where 240 players from 26 countries fought for the titles. Players were accommodated in 4 & 5 star hotels of Esperia Group.



ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2015 + 2016

5*****Helona Resort Kos

2015:
240 players
27 nations

2016:
249 players
29 nations



ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2016 on Kos

Participant Uwe Ritter from Germany reports

In 2016, the ACO (Amateur Chess Organization) sent out invitations to the five-star hotel Helona Resort and 249 chess fans from all over the world accepted. This was a new record.

The organizers were pleased that 6 chess fans were there for the fifth time, among them Rene Tückmantel and Dr. Thomas Kummle from Germany, as well as Swiss chess icon Dr. Christian Issler, the long-time chairman of the oldest chess club in the world, well-known for organizing many tournaments. Many participants this year took the opportunity to travel early or to stay on a few days longer. Full board, reduced prices for drinks, free food during games, all were at affordable prices in the off-season. As one participant from Heidelberg told me: "Here there is no need to spend additional euros, everything that one needs to feel good is there."

The tournament was played in 7 rating groups. There were numerous additional events in the form of blitz tournaments or simultaneous events. GM Spiridon Skembris supported chess-players with analysis of their games and was always on the spot with tips. He held lectures on middle- and endgames. On the day free from games, two tours on the island were offered, which the chess players gladly accepted. The participants came from 29 nations, among them Singapore, Chile, Argentina and Siberia. It wasn't obvious that they were going to attend. It is interesting to know that the event mainly lives from mouth to mouth propaganda, since in these countries, due to the organizational structures of the local chess associations, an advertisement is not financially feasible.



Pleasant Argentine participant Andrea Duernhoefer explained to me that there weren't any big tournaments in Central and South America, so her only choice was to go either to the USA or to Europe. Besides, most chess players are organized and live in Europe. The route of her outward flight to the tournament was: Buenos Aires, Santiago, Madrid, Munich, Kos. I admit, I didn't dare to ask about the route of her return flight. The youngest participant was 9 and the oldest 82 years old.

The organizers were also well prepared for the needs of participants with disabilities. They did not spare any effort in order to offer to participants the top tournament. So it's no surprise that they were the only ones that, after 9 days, still didn't have a little colour in the face. During the closing event, the chairman Lothar Hirneise recalled the 5 years of ACO. He mentioned that chess players that are not organized are also welcome. For example, the oldest participant in the tournament on Crete (in 2013) was 94 years old and, whether you believe it or not, she learned to play chess at 93.

Despite that, she won 3 games. At the tournament on Rhodes (in 2014), there was a sporting performance of a special kind. A Swiss participant arrived by bicycle and was on the road across Europe for 3 months. In the end, one participant from Russia wrote a book about the tournament on Crete. As Lothar Hirneise humorously commented, this might have been the only time that he was mentioned in chess history. I think we should wait a while.

At the closing event, the participants thanked the organizers, with long applause, for an extraordinarily, well organized achievement, that deserves iconic status after only 5 years. The Olympic motto also applies here, "Taking part is more important than winning".

In this sense, my warm thanks go to the organizers for a top organization, which is unique in this field. The only disappointment was that you were not there.

If I may make a suggestion, just give it a try next year!

Four players from the Einsiedel (Switzerland) chess club at the Amateur Chess World 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 Amateur Chess World 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-year-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

Amateur chess world 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 (Schweiz, Elo 1833, Teilnehmer Gruppe C

5 stars – what else could you ask for?

An experience report from Uwe Ritter about the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship Kos 2015

Surely you know this situation: you are chatting with friends and start to talk about your last holidays. You have been diving, sailing or skiing. Only I, once again, have been at the Mediterranean Sea and did not have anything better to do than to play chess. You may wonder what is so great about this. Well, in case you are really interested, here is the recipe. Take the sea in a sunny area, a hotel with 5 stars, above-average Mediterranean cuisine and, as dessert, a small but fine framework program.

Then you pack all this in an affordable price-performance ratio and get a feel-good package of highest quality. You may now think I am exaggerating. Well, then I have to convince you a bit. For the fourth year of their existence, the ACO has invited to the island Kos. The playground was the Helona-Resort Hotel in the Eastern part of the island that had been built in 2009.

As always when the ACO is calling, a hotel is quickly booked out, so that once again registrations had to be closed early. 240 participants are an unequivocal prove of trust for the organizer, who has already established an excellent reputation after only four years.

Participants do not mind effort and costs for this event, and some travel halfway around the world. They come from countries including Argentina, Ecuador, Australia, and, not to forget, Siberia – and for their effort, they are rewarded with a top accommodation and a very familiar ambience with good friends. The reception on the evening before the start of the tournament alone was something really special you hardly get to experience these days – on the highest terrace, with a glass of wine or champagne.

The same holds for the closing ceremony, which also starts with a reception at the pool and includes a group picture of all participants, an appetizer and an awards ceremony for everybody. Yes, the ACO even honors the participants who unselfishly promote the event in their home countries.



During my flight from Munich to Kos, a seat neighbor told me about a recommendation of his club mate who had participated on Rhodes last year. Also during the event, when one started talking to other participants, it got clear that word of mouth is the best promotion for the organizer. One day after the event was over, there was one question that everyone heard sooner or later: “Will you join again next year?”

Of course, time will tell what the next 12 months bring and if colleagues and bosses agree to your vacation plans, but if all this works out, I will surely be part of this event on Kos again next year. All in all, it was more than a successful event, not least because of the island trip to all sightseeing spots that was offered for participants during the only free day. All participants made the impression to be very satisfied with the framework program. It is only a pity that you have not been there.

If I may give you a recommendation, maybe just try it yourself next year!

Uwe Ritter – SV Osnabrück / Germany
Participant on Kos 2015

ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2015 on Kos

From Michael Bolduan (Germany, participant)

Very important: coffee and water as much as you like. During the chess game, the only thing you have is your concentration on the board and your hand to the glass, to the cup next to the board. This year for 240 players from 27 countries on Kos, the Greek island located higher than Rhodes. In May, Lothar Hirneise, supported by his sons Jens and Tobias (both FM and IM), organized this year's Chess Amateur World Championship for the Amateur Chess Organization (ACO) in the perfect 5 star hotel Helona Resort on the island Kos. Grandmaster and ACO manager Falko Bindrich also was a point of contact.

The complete package for the world championship included not only the games, but also nine nights and full board. And coffee and water as much as you desire. This fourth tournament meeting of the chess amateurs (after Dubai, Crete and Rhodes) started in the extremely welcoming hotel with a get-together and champagne reception. The participants – partly with family – should get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere and without competitive thinking. A first occasion to build friendship that cross country borders and are meant to last beyond tournament days.

Chess creating understanding between nations

Of the 240 participants, Germany contributed the largest share with 70 persons, followed by Switzerland and Austria. Distant countries were also represented, for instance by players from Argentina, Australia or near Novosibirsk. Carla Heredia Serrano, female chess grandmaster (WGM) travelled from far Ecuador. She became world champion in her group. There were 9 chess games (with the chess clock) and everybody had the chance to become Chess Amateur World Champion in his class. The so-called Swiss system is a special form of round tournament that should ensure that the respective best players play against each other.

The overall results in the groups from A to G (without rating) were as international as the whole tournament. In group A, which only had 4 participants, the German grandmaster Thomas Pähz won; in group B the female grandmaster Carla Heredia Serrano from Ecuador. Kim Heiner-Larsen from Denmark came first in group C, Ojars Petersons from Lithuania in group D. The Argentinian representative Antonio Maset won in group E. The youngster Michal Redzisz from Poland triumphed with 100% in group F. Coming all the way from Novosibirsk, Nikolay Gutsulyak from Russia became world chess champion. Participants took breaks in between – also with coffee and water – and during the tournament free day, an island trip was on the program. I was astonished standing in front of all the famous historical sites.

The Sycamore of Hippocrates

Hippocrates, the famous practitioner and founder of the oath which bears his name, is said to have been born here in 460BC and planted a sycamore. As it is supposed to be more than 2400 years old, it is assumed that this one is a cutting of the original plant. The Asclepius of Kos is an important archaeological site and is worth a visit with marvelous weather. The English speaking travel guide introduced us to the history of the island Kos in a timelapse.

Chess as a whole package

The whole package of the world championship was made complete with a last chess game: a speed tournament in the evening and a simultaneous performance of the grandmaster Spiridon Skembris. Skembris also had commented the inished games during the two previous days. There was a lot to learn! By the way, common language amongst the participants was English. At the end, not only coffee and water, but, as it all began, a class of champagne for everybody.

The anticipation for the award ceremony in the evening was growing on the highest terrace of the hotel with a panoramic view above the sea. The new chess world champions (until place 3) were honored with a trophy and a money prize; special prizes were given to the youngest participant (9 years) and the oldest (85). Everybody could take a certiicate with his name home. The same goes for me, even if I was not satisfied with my result of 50% against nominally stronger competitors. Next year, I will go for the title. A group picture of all participants made a great end of the event. As everyone was so impressed by how smooth the organization went and how hospital the place was, it was decided that next year's Chess Amateur World Championship 2016 will also be held on Kos.



“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)**

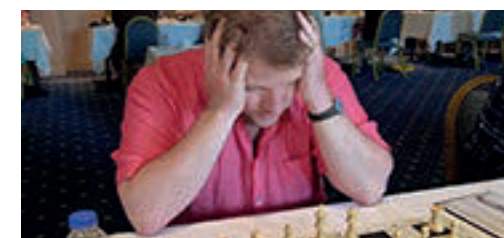


„World Amateur Chess Championship 2015 on Kos was organised at the highest level and left only the most pleasant memories. I am very happy with this tournament, especially with the result. There was a lot of chess experience, a lot of fun and new friends. First of all I would like to say thank you to 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 inally 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 Gutsulak, (RUS, 0, Group G) about the tournament in 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 in 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 lowers, 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 in Kos



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. There 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.“



I really liked the tournament. It was a nice experience. With best wishes to play another tournament organized by ACO."

WIM Elizabeth Paola Moreno García, Venezuela, 2077 Elo
About the WACC 2013 in Crete

"Dear chess friends. I'm very very glad, with the nine days in the world championship in Crete, with all. Great chess atmosphere, great Chessplayers, great people, and great friends. Thank you for creating that one marvelous event, and also for the blitz tournaments! I really enjoyed them! Thanks again for so much chess, chess, and more chess on Greek islands! Go on for more!"

Antonio Maset, Argentina, 1500 Elo, about the WACC 2013 in Crete



Kudos to the ACO team, which looked after all participants with great dedication. It was my first participation, and I will always remember it, not only because of the final result. :-)
 Everything was perfectly organized, the tables and boards were always neatly prepared. Despite the huge number of participants, we had enough space in the playing hall to roam around and check out the other games. Every evening they organized an event, be it a blitz tournament or a chess tutorial by the fantastic and always funny Latvian GM Lanka, who speaks fluent German. Inviting him to Rhodos was a great idea. I take my hat off to the organizers, who untiringly ensured a great playing atmosphere every single day. Can't wait for next year in Kos!

David Moreno Rivilla, Spain, 1588 Elo About the WACC 2014 in Rhodes





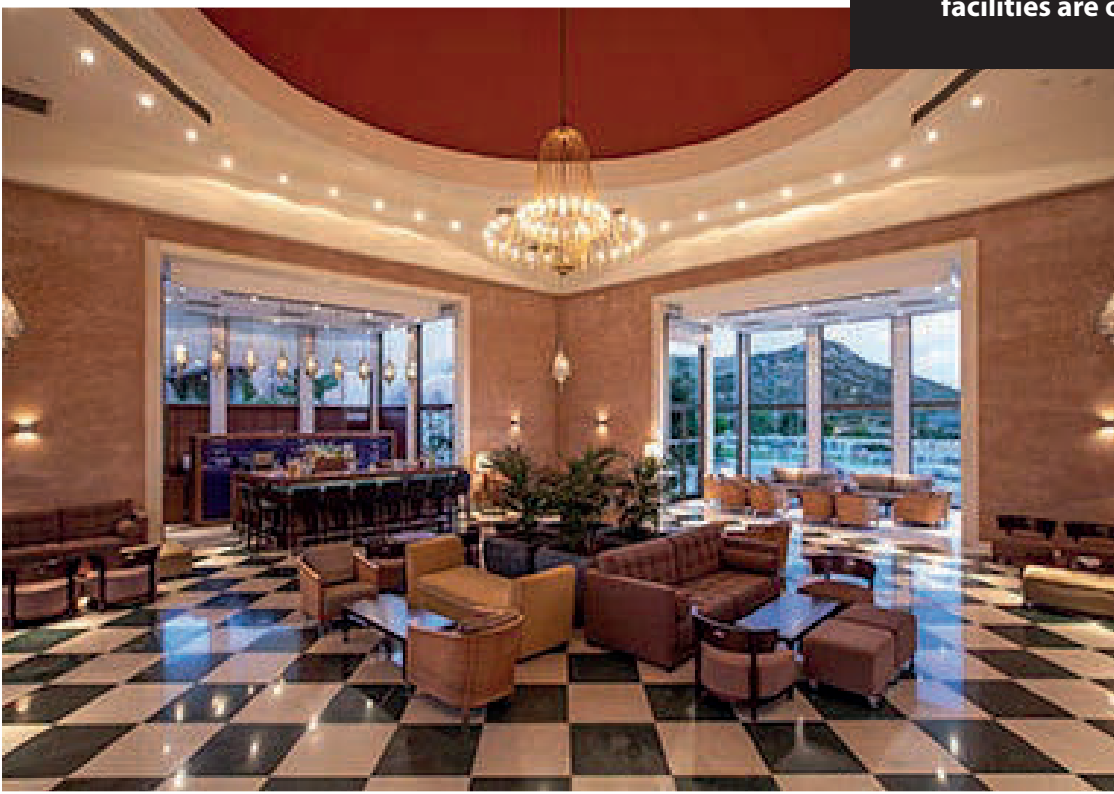
The venue

5***** Helona Resort Kos
Built in 2009 by Hilton Group
Has 21 pools

The main restaurant is located one floor below the reception. The playing hall is located two floors below the reception. Elevators are available for easy access. From the playing hall there is direct path to the private sandy beach of the hotel.



At both night and day the hotel facilities are of splendid sight





Finish off the day with
a drink at the bar





Generous playing conditions

- carpet (no noise!)
- Digital chess clocks
- Unlimited free water and coffee!



Great atmosphere during the Team-Blitz 2015 including soccer broadcast



Second playing hall

Shared pool rooms

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. Only a few rooms are available.



Double and single room

The standard single and double rooms (with or without sea view) are spacious with 32 square meters of size with a roomy bathroom





Suite for 2 persons
63m² - only 3 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.

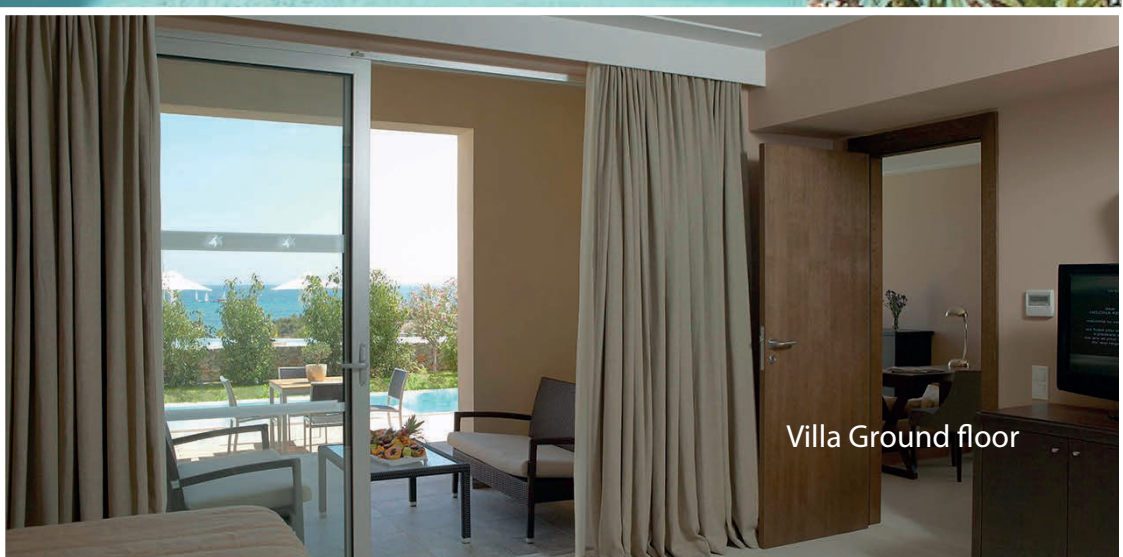
Private Villa for up to 4 persons
120 m²

Each villa is an independent building, with two floors (ground level and upper level), with spectacular sea view and a private swimming pool (36 m²).

Only 3 Villas available.



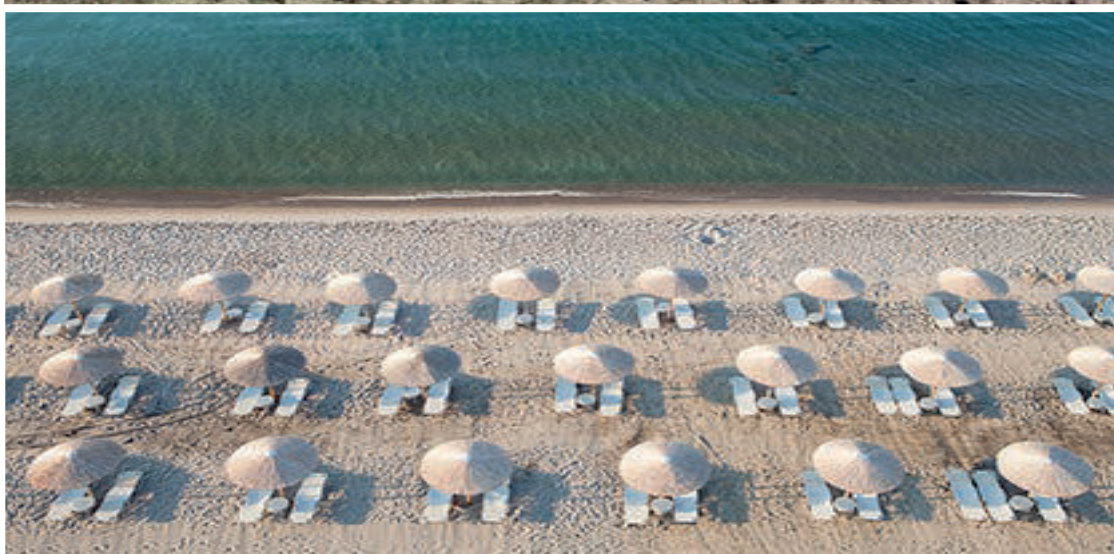
Spectacular sea view from
the upper level Villa terrace



Villa Ground floor

Sandy beach with magnificent view

You can relax in one of the 21 pools or at the hotel own private sandy beach. From there you have a nice view to the volcano island Nyssiros.



New

„Break guaranteed“

At the World Championship we will have 2 double rounds (days with one round in the morning and one round in the afternoon). A few of our past participants have informed us that they were quite exhausted after the double round. So we offer all participants the opportunity to 1 or 2 „breaks“. This is not mandatory for any participant, it is a choice! These breaks are called „BYE“s in chess language.

A „BYE“ is when you as a player tell the arbiter before the next round that you want to pause the next round. Then you will not be included in the pairings for the next round, but still get half a point. So you can relax, yet not slip off in the table.

It is possible to take a „BYE“ exclusively at the two match days when a double round is played. So you can come after the morning round to the arbiter and tell him that you want to take a „BYE“ for the next round, which is played in the afternoon.

Then you are not included in the pairings and get half a point. The next rounds you will be paired regularly. The possibility of a „BYE“ is only possible twice, only at the 2 match days with double rounds.

A „BYE“ gives you a break which you can use to relax and recharge your batteries. At the same time you get half a point for the missed round. This leads to an even more relaxed tournament for many players.

Questions? Send an email to kos@amateurchess.com

A typical day at the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship:

09.00 hrs: Enjoy the famous Helona breakfast buffet with an international breakfast on the terrace. Our secret tip is the fresh pressed orange juice!

09.55 hrs: 5 minutes to go. As usual there is music playing before the start of the games. And if the music stops, the games are openend.

10.00 hrs: First move, let's go!

13.30 hrs: The game is finished, you can analyse your win with your opponent and the grandmaster. Of course with a glass of orange juice or a cup of coffee in your hand. There is no hurry, lunch will be served until 15.00 hrs, so that everyone gets something to eat.

14.00 hrs: Lunchtime! Try the Greek Salad (what else?), some pasta or fresh made Gyros and Souvlaki. And as a winner you are allowed to eat 3 scoops of ice cream.

15.30 hrs: Beach is calling. Or the pool (or even your private pool if you have a Shared Pool room). Chess players and chess boards are all over the hotel area, so there is always a chance to play or analyse a game of chess. Enjoy the warm sea and sunshine with a great view of the Mediterrean Sea.

17.00 hrs: A little break from the beach.

19.00 hrs: Dinner time. You need energy before the blitz tournament. And who said you can't have ice cream twice a day!?

20.30 hrs: Blitz tournament. 7 rounds. No entry fee. More than 100 players participating. Even the ACO-Team takes part: Grandmaster Falko Bindrich, International Master Tobias Hirneise, FIDE-Master Jens Hirneise and ACO President Lothar Hirneise take part (all of them out of competition). Finished at 22.00 hrs. Material prizes for the winners.

22:00 hrs: Not yet too late to meet chess friends at the bar.



Greek night with dancers and live music

We kindly invite all players and accompanying persons to join us to our Greek night. Besides the Greek buffet there will be a live band playing. In addition we will invite a famous dance group from Kos who will perform both traditional and modern Greek dances.

It wouldn't be a Greek night without the famous Sirtaki dance to see chess players dancing! Look forward to an amazing evening! We are probably the only tournament in the world where you will be able to see chess players dancing!

Spa

Relax before or after the games in the hotel own Spa. Especially and only for the participants and accompanying persons of the chess event the hotels provides a 30% discount on all treatments.

Free pilates courses

In the sister hotel Lakitira resort (only 200m apart) here will be a daily Pilates course which is free to all of the accompanying persons.

BEAUTIFUL Kos



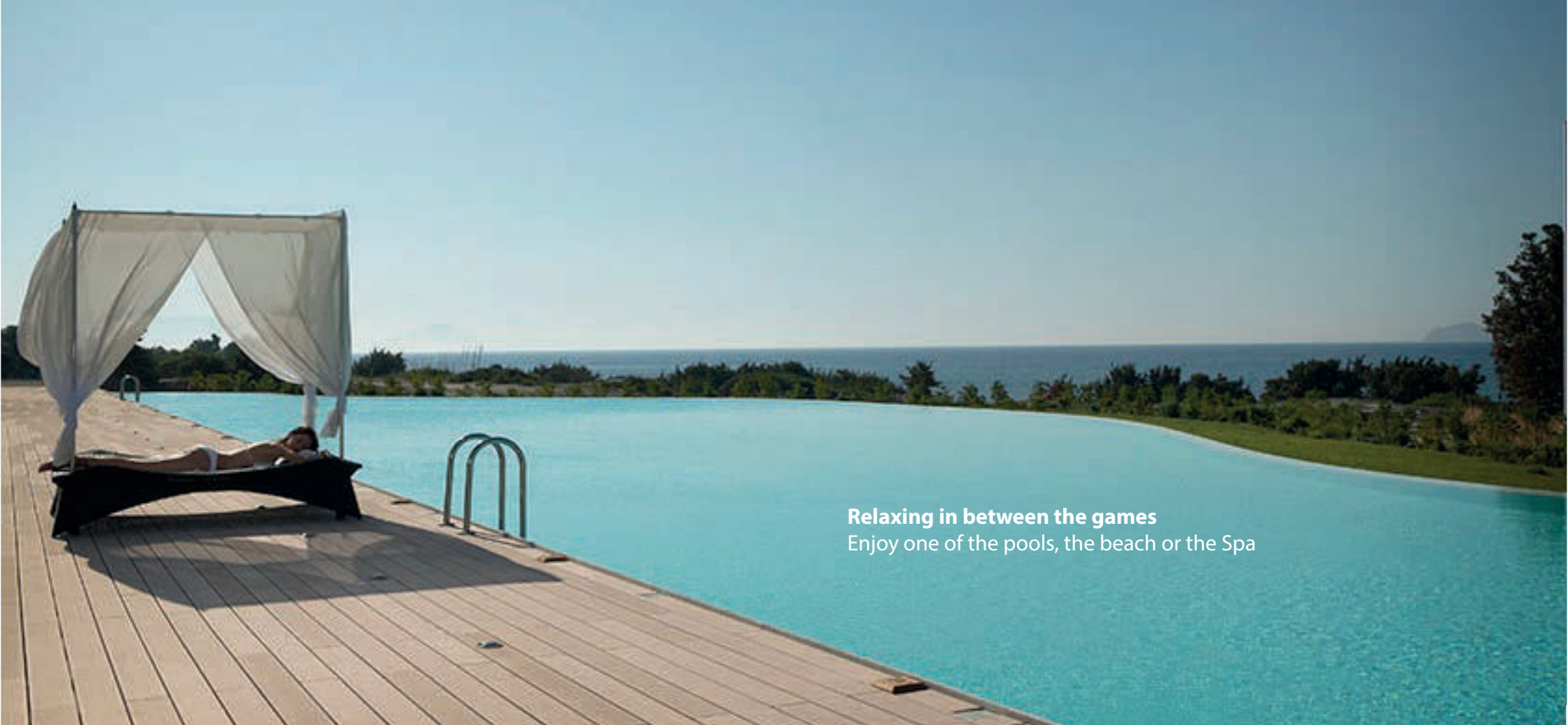
Did you know
that
Hippokrates,
father of western
medicine,
was born on Kos?



Free day

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.





Relaxing in between the games
Enjoy one of the pools, the beach or the Spa



The main restaurant

Enjoy your meals with a nice view - outside or inside.





Enjoy
Greek
hospitality



Price list 5***** Helona Resort Kos

All prices per person (except family room)
Double room Standard
Double room (Sea view)
Double room Standard with Shared Pool
Double room (Sea view) with Shared Pool
Single room Standard
Single room (Sea view)
Single room Standard with Shared Pool
Single room (Sea view) with Shared Pool
Family room 2 adults + 1 child up to 16 years
Family room 2 adults + 2 children up to 16 years
Suite (63 m ²) + private pool for 2 Persons
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 2 Persons
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 3 Persons
Villa (120m ²) + private pool (36m ²) for 4 Persons

Registration from 01.01.2017
849 EUR
929 EUR
1049 EUR
1149 EUR
1149 EUR
1249 EUR
1449 EUR
1549 EUR
2199 EUR (Total price)
2399 EUR (Total price)
1749 EUR
2449 EUR
1949 EUR
1749 EUR

Following services are included for players & accompanying persons:

- **9 overnight stays** in 5 star Helona Resort Kos
- **Fullboard Plus**
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Non-alcoholic beverages are included during all meals.
- **Free snacks and beverages (water, tea, coffee) during games**
- **Private hotel beach**
- **Free internet**
- **Access to the playing hall**

Side program:
Blitz tournaments
Team Blitz tournament
Greek night with live music and dancers

In case of any questions regarding the hotel or extra nights please send us an email to:
kos@amateurchess.com

Note: 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. Only a few rooms available. Only 3 suites and 3 villas available.

Registration form

ACO World Amateur Chess Championship 2017

Organizer: Amateur Chess Organization GmbH, Cannstatterstr.13, 71394 Kernen, Germany

Step 1: Fill out this form (one form per person, also accompanying persons)

Fill out this form and send it either

by email to: kos@amateurchess.com

by fax to: 0049 7151 910221 (if possible please provide an email address)

Step 2: Confirmation

You will receive a confirmation from ACO or the tournament and for your hotel booking

Step 3: Transfer money

Transfer the **initial payment of 20% of the total amount**

free of bank charges, to following bank account:

Bank:	Postbank
SWIFT/BIC:	PBNKDEFF
IBAN:	DE65 6001 0070 0951 5937 03
Address of bank:	70148 Stuttgart, Germany
Beneiciary:	Amateur Chess Organization GmbH
Reason for transfer:	Kos, Your name

The remaining amount has to be transferred till 8th April 2017.

To register, please tick the following box:

☐ Yes, I agree to the below terms and conditions (on the next two pages)

Please indicate if you are a:

☐ Player **Rating:** _____

☐ Accompanying person

Date, Signature

Name: _____ First name: _____

Land: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

If so, with whom are you sharing your room? _____

Please choose your accommodation (tick the box on the right)

Helona Resort (6th - 15th May 2017) Registration starting from 1.1.2017	Price per person	Price per room	
Double room Standard	849 EUR	1698 EUR	☐
Double room Sea view	929 EUR	1858 EUR	☐
Double room Standard / Shared Pool	1049 EUR	2098 EUR	☐
Double room Sea view / Shared Pool	1149 EUR	2298 EUR	☐
Single room Standard	1149 EUR	1149 EUR	☐
Single room Sea view	1249 EUR	1249 EUR	☐
Single room Standard / Shared Pool	1449 EUR	1449 EUR	☐
Single room Sea view / Shared Pool	1549 EUR	1549 EUR	☐
Family room 2 adults + 1 child up to 16 years		2199 EUR	☐
Family room 2 adults + 2 children up to 16 years		2399 EUR	☐
Suite (63m ²) for 2 persons	1749 EUR	3498 EUR	☐
Villa (120m ²) for 2 persons	2449 EUR	4898 EUR	☐
Villa (120m ²) for 3 persons	1949 EUR	5847 EUR	☐
Villa (120m ²) for 4 persons	1749 EUR	6996 EUR	☐

General Business Terms For Travel Contracts

The following terms will come into effect when agreed upon the content of this travel contract between the client and us (the tour operator). They will add the lawful clauses of §§ 651a-m BGB (Civil Law Code) as well as the information guidelines for tour operators according to §§ 4-11 BGB-InfoV (regulations for information and obligation to produce proof according to civil law code) and fill those in.

1.Conclusion of travel contract / Client obligations

1.1

By booking (registering) the client offers us binding conclusion of the travel contract. The basis of this offer are the travel tender as well as our additional information for each respective tour as far as this is available to the client.

1.2

Travel agent (such as tourist office and service provider (such as hotels, shipping company) are not entitled to make agreements, disclose information or issue warranties which change the agreed upon content of this travel contract or to offer additional services outside those agreed upon or in disagreement with this tour tender.

1.3

We are not bound by place and hotel brochures, as well as internet tenders which were not issued by us, unless they were expressly declared to be agreed upon by the client, or became the content of our duty to perform.

1.4

The booking may be made orally, in writing, via phone, via telefax or via digital means (e-mail, internet). We will immediately confirm reception of booking with electronic bookings. This confirmation of receipt does not constitute acceptance of booking agreements yet.

1.5

The client is bound by all contract duties for those travelling with him, if he has issued booking for them. He is also bound by all contract duties for himself, as long as he has expressly and separately declared his duty to do so.

1.6

The contract becomes binding once access to our declaration of acceptance has been made possible. This is not bound by any particular form. During or right after completion of contract, we will send written confirmation to the client. We are not bound by this if the booking by the client was made less than 7 days prior to the start of the tour. Special wishes and registrations are only valid if they are confirmed by the host in written form.

1.7

If the content of our declaration of acceptance deviates from the content of the booking, then this is considered a new offer by us, to which we are bound for the duration of 10 days. The contract will be based on the basis of this new offer, if the client issues acceptance through express declaration, deposit or final payment.

2.Payment

2.1

To secure client money insolvency insurance will be made.

2.2

After completing the contract, a deposit of 20% of the travel price will become due. The deposit will be redounded to the cost of the tour. The rest of the payment must be made at least 28 days prior to the beginning of the tour (declaration of reception of payment), as long as the insurance certificate has been handed over and the journey can no longer be cancelled due to the reason stated in Nr.7. Payments have to be made based on the bill number stated on the travel confirmation agreement.

2.3

If the client fails to make deposit or payment until the agreed upon payment dates, then we are entitled to step back from the travel contract after admonition and to debit the client with any associated costs according to Nr. 5.2 Sentence 2 until 5.5. Without full payment of the tour price, there is no claim for a fulfilment of the tour services.

3.Changes Of Service

3.1

Changes of essential tour services of the agreed upon content of the travel contract, which become necessary after making the conclusion of contract and are not brought about against belief or faith are only permitted if the changes are not severe and they do not inhibit the overall terms of the tour.

3.2

Eventual warranty demands remain untouched, as long as the changed services are not subject to deficiencies.

3.3

We are bound to inform the client about essential changes of services immediately after determining the reason of change.

3.4

In the case of a severe change of any essential tour services, the client is able to step back from the tour contract or to demand participation in a tour of at least the same value, if we are able to offer such a tour without additional cost to the client from a selection of our offers. The client has to make these claims immediately after our declaration of changing the tour services or cancellation of the tour.

4.Client Resignation prior to begin of tour / Cancellation costs

4.1

The client can resign from the tour at any given time. The resignation has to be made in written form at our business address of Cannstatter Straße 13, 71394 Kernen, Germany. It is recommended to make this declaration in written form.

4.2

If the client resigns prior to the beginning of the tour, or if he does not enter the tour, then we will lose claim over the price of the tour. If the resignation cannot be justified or is a case of an act of nature, we may demand appropriate compensation for all travel preparations or expenses in connection with the tour costs prior to the tour.

4.3

We have tiered compensation claims in a chronological way, according to consideration of the proximity of date of the resignation compared to the agreed upon tour start. This is done in percentual relation compared to the cost of the journey. During the calculation of the compensation possible additional usage of the travel services will be taken into account. The compensation is calculated after the date of reception of the declaration agreement. This occurs in the following way:

Until 31 days prior to tour start 25%

starting from 30 to 25 days prior to tour start 40%

starting from 24 to 18 days prior to tour start 50%

starting from 17 to 11 days prior to tour start 60%

starting from 10 to 4 days prior to tour start 80%

starting from the 3rd day prior to tour start up until the start of tour or if tour is not entered 90% of the price of the tour.

4.4

Under these circumstances, the client has to prove, that no damage or less damage than expected came about than the flat fee that was demanded by him. We remain the right to demand higher and concrete compensation as long as we can prove that the damage incurred was higher than the respective and applicable flat fee. In this case we are bound to make available the demanded compensation with consideration of the saved expenses as well as other usage of the travel services. The lawful right of the client, to find a suitable replacement according to § 651 b BGB is not touched due to these terms.

5. Change Of Reservation

5.1

Client claims after completion of contract concerning the tour date, tour destination, the accommodation and type of transportation will not go into effect. If a client chooses to change their reservation, we will demand a EUR 50.00 fee in order to process the change.

5.2

Changes of reservation by the client which are made more than 30 days prior to start of the tour may only be carried out after stepping back from the travel contract according to Nr.4.2 to 4.4 and according to the terms mentioned there. In addition the client would need to register again for these changes to take effect if indeed they are plausible to make. This does not apply for changes of reservation which only cause minor costs.

6.Undrawn Services

If the client chooses not to utilize individual services which were offered to him, especially if this is due to reasons that were produced by him (such as premature return journey) then he will not be able to file claims on partial reimbursement of the tour cost. This duty is not applicable if the services concerned are irrelevant or if lawful or regulatory provisions have been made against them.

7.Resignation due to non achievement of a minimum number of participants

The minimum number of persons for the World Amateur Chess Championship 2016 on Kos (6th-15th May 2017) is 300 persons (sum of players and accompanying persons until 1st of April 2017.)

We may only resign from the travel contract due to not achieving a minimum number of participants if:

a) we specifically defined a minimum number of participants in our travel brochure as well as the date until which the client has to forward a declaration prior to the beginning of tours.

b) if the travel confirmation document specifically mentions the minimum amount of participants as well as the latest date for return, and reference is made to the appropriate data inside the tour announcement.

Resignation has to be made apparent to the client at least 5 weeks prior to the agreed upon date of the tour. If at an earlier date it becomes apparent that the minimum number of participants will not be reached, then we will immediately be forced to utilize our right to resign. If the tour is not being carried out due to this reason, the client shall receive back all the tour payments he has thus far made. Any additional claims for compensation are ruled out.

8.Cancellation based on behavioral reasons

We may cancel the travel contract in compliance with our terms, if the client continues to disturb or if he decides to act against the terms issued in this document in such a way, that our cancellation can be justified. If we decide to cancel, we remain the right to keep the amount of the tour price; we must however calculate the value of any saved expenses, as well as those advantages which were not utilized as part of any alternative usage, including the amounts made by service providers.

9.Contribution duties of the client

9.1 Announcement of deficiencies

If the tour is not being delivered according to our terms, the client may demand remedy. The client is however bound to announce any deficiencies concerning the tour immediately. If the client fails to do so it becomes impossible to lower his tour price. This does not apply when the announcement is apparently pointless or is unacceptable for any other reasons. The client is bound to make his announcement to tour guides immediately upon arriving at destination. The client will be instructed on our description of services through our tour documents. The tour guides are instructed to ensure remedy if possible. They are however not entitled to recognize any claims filed by the client.

9.2 Setting deadlines and cancellations

If a client decides to cancel his travel contract due to important, recognizable or unreasonable circumstances, he must set an appropriate deadline to receive remedy according to § 615 c BGB. This does not apply when remedy is impossible or is being denied by us or the immediate cancellation of the contract becomes appropriate due to a recognizable client interest.

9.3 Travel documents

The client is bound to inform us, if the appropriate travel documents (such as hotel vouchers) are not received within the date range specified by us.

10.Limitation of liability

10.1

Our contractual liability for damages, excluding bodily harm, is limited to triple the tour price.

- a) as long as harm to the client was not caused on purpose or due to negligence or
- b) as long as the damages incurred to the client were merely due to the service provider.

10.2

Our delictual liability for damages which are not based on purposeful destruction or negligence, is limited to triple the tour price.

This highest amount of liability always accounts for client and journey. Any additional potential claims in connection with travel luggage are based on the treaty of Montreal and remain untouched by the limitations.

10.3

We are not responsible for disturbances of service, personnel or property damage, in connection with the service, which are merely being referred (such as tours, theater visits, exhibits) if these services are not expressly made apparent in the travel ad as well as the bookings confirmation and are not declared specifically as foreign services so that the client may recognize that they were not a part of our tour services. We are liable for

- a) services which concern the transport of the client from the stated beginning of the journey to the point of destination. Intermediate transportation during the tour as well as accommodation during the tour.
- b) if and as far as any damages of the client become apparent due to hints, investigation or organizational duties.

11.Exclusion from claims

Claims due to not receiving the tour as described in the contract must be filed within a month after the contractual start date of the end of the tour. The assertion can be made only towards us through our business address at Cannstatter Straße 13, 71394 Kernen. After expiration of deadline, the client may only make claims if he was not responsible for not being able to file the claims within the necessary time frame.

12.Lapse of time

12.1

Claims by the client according to §§ 651 c-f BGB based on injury of life, the body or health or such which are based on purposeful or negligent violation of duties through us or a lawful representative lapse within two years. This also concerns claims for the replacement of any additional damages, which are based on purposeful or negligent violations of duty caused by us or a lawful representative.

12.2

All other claims according to § 651 c-f BGB expire after one year.

12.3

Lapse of time according to Nr.12.1 and 12.2 starts on the day which follows the day of the start of the tour.

12.4

If legal cases between us and the client exist due to claims being filed based on reasonable circumstances, then the usual lapse of time is inhibited until we or the client refuse the continuation of the legal case. The lapse of time occurs at the earliest date of 3 months after the inhibition.

13.Passport, visa and health regulations

13.1

We will instruct EU members within the respective country in which the tour is being offered, about any terms concerning passport, visa and health guidelines prior to completion of contract as well as any eventual changes prior to the start of the tour. For members of other nations the respective consulate is available for information. We are assuming that no oddities are apparent with regards to the client (such as double passports, statelessness).

13.2

The client is responsible for purchasing and carrying the lawfully required travel documents, any necessary vaccinations as well as adherence to any customs and currency laws. Disadvantages which result from now obeying these terms, such as the payment of resignation costs, must be paid by the client. This is not the case, if we have failed to inform the client appropriately.

13.3

We are not responsible for timely issuance and reception of the required visa through the respective diplomatic representatives, if the client has commissioned us with the purchase, unless we have violated our duties on purpose.

14.Choice of law and jurisdiction

14.1

The lawful relationship between us and the client is solely based on German law. This also accounts for all of the legal proceedings. Therefore only the Original German Version of this General Business Terms For Travel Contracts is legally binding.

14.2

If a client files claims or legal cases concerning the liability of the tour host against us abroad, this must be done based on German laws. Especially in regards to legal consequences, and particularly in the way, the amount and the size of the claims filed by the client, German law is applicable.

14.3

The client may only sue us within our jurisdiction.

14.4

For claims filed by us against the client, his current residence is decisive. For claims against our clients or contractual partners, entrepreneurs, lawful person of the public or private sector, who have their main residence abroad, or whose residence and usual residence during the time of the lawsuit is not known, our jurisdiction will be used.

14.5

The following terms about the choice of law and jurisdiction do not apply,

- a) if and insofar as contractual or negotiable terms based on international treaties, which are based on a travel contract between the client and the tour host, anything else results in favor of the client or
- b) if and insofar as may be applied to the travel contract, negotiable terms within the Eu state the client belongs to, are more favorable than the regulations within these terms or the applicable German laws.

Notification of cancellation due to acts of nature:

Cancellation of travel contracts must be referred to regulations within the BGB, which are as follows:

„§ 651 j:

- (1) If the journey is made severely difficult or impossible due to unforeseeable circumstances, the tour host as well as the participants

may cancel the contract based on these terms.

- (2) If the contract is cancelled based on paragraph 1, then regulations from § 651 e paragraph 3 sentences 1 and 2, paragraph 4 sentence 1 is applicable. Additional charges for travelling back are to be half shared by each party.

In addition all additional charges are to be made by the participant.”