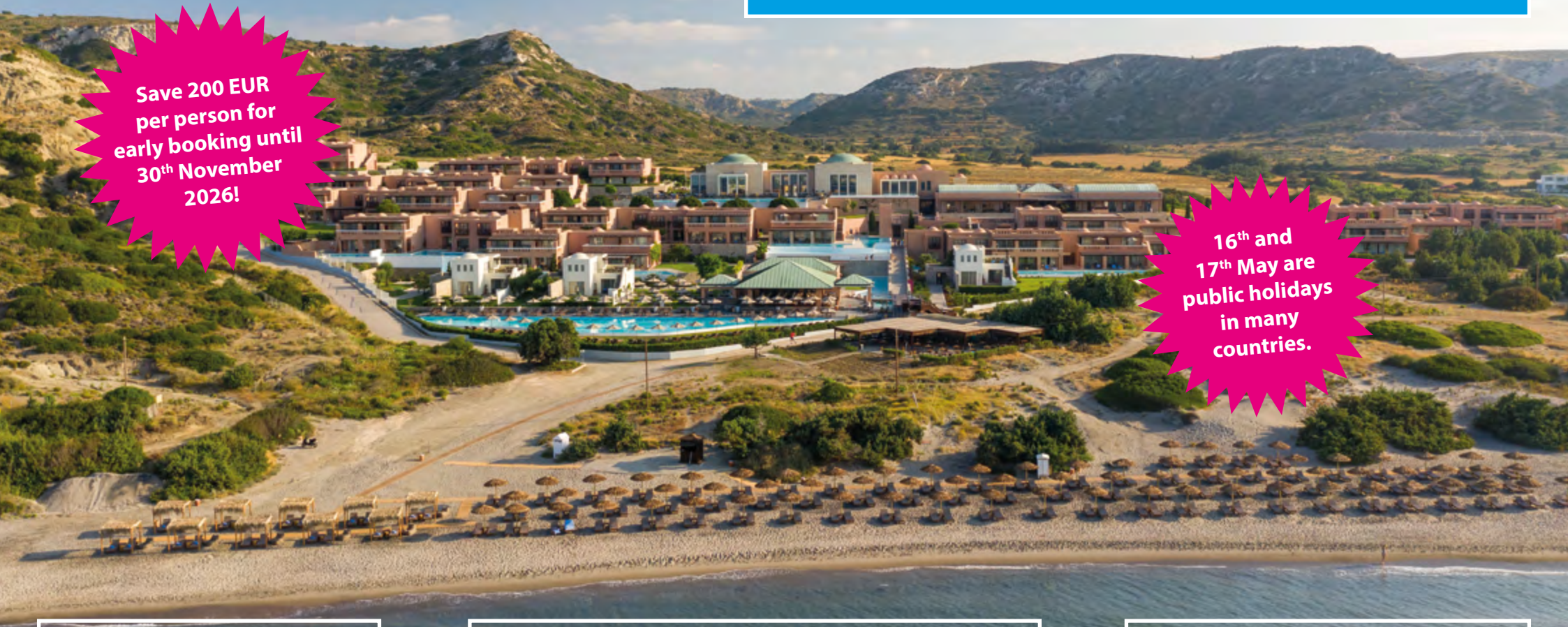
ACO

AMATEUR CHESS ORGANIZATION

2027 ACO SUPER SENIOR (65+) CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

15th - 24th May, 2027 / Kos (Greece)

5-Star All-Inclusive Atlantica Belvedere Resort



Save 200 EUR per person for early booking until 30th November 2026!

16th and 17th May are public holidays in many countries.

The event is limited to around 80 players

Hotel booking without risk!
No deposit payment upon booking
Free cancellation until 20 April 2027

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

Back to Kos in 2027!

We are delighted to announce that we have once again been able to secure our trusted and popular venue on the beautiful island of Kos.

Since 2022, both the ACO World Super Senior (65+) and the ACO World Amateur Chess Championship have been held on Kos with great success. We were therefore especially keen to continue this wonderful tradition in 2027.

Due to the consistently high demand for holidays in Greece – and particularly for our much-loved hotel complex – it remained uncertain for quite some time whether we would be able to hold the tournaments at the same venue again. We are therefore all the more delighted that we have succeeded in securing our "favourite chess destination" for 2027!

As in previous years, the number of participants is limited to approximately 80 players due to the restricted availability of hotel rooms. Accommodation will once again be provided at the 5-star Atlantica Belvedere Resort and the neighbouring 5-star Atlantica Beach Resort.

The 2026 event was already fully booked many months in advance, and we have once again received numerous pre-registrations for 2027. The anticipation is already tremendous!

Join us for excellent playing conditions in the battle for the world championship titles, exciting training sessions with grandmasters, delicious Greek cuisine, comprehensive all-inclusive hospitality, and breathtaking sunsets directly by the sea.

We very much look forward to welcoming you back to Kos in 2027!

GM Falko Bindrich & IM Tobias Hirneise
Organizers

The ACO World Super Senior (65+) Chess Championship 2027 will take place as an open tournament from May 15–24 2027, on the Greek island of Kos. Any player with a rating below 2400 can represent his country and become the ACO World Super Senior (65+) Champion!

Venue:

5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort on Kos. The hotel was originally known as Helona Resort and was the venue of the ACO events in 2015–2018 and 2022–25. The playing hall is located inside the hotel, and lifts are available. ACO will arrange the accommodation for all participants at the hotel.

The hotel is an adults-only hotel, where only guests aged 16 and above can stay.

Players and accompanying persons (also under the age of 16) can stay at the sister hotel, the 5-star Hotel Atlantica Beach Resort, just a few hundred metres away. More information on this can be found on pages 26+27.

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

Division of rating groups (groups play separately)

Group A:	2201+
Group B:	2001 – 2200
Group C:	1901 – 2000
Group D:	1751 – 1900
Group E:	1651 – 1750
Group F:	1501 – 1650
Group G:	0 – 1500

Please note the explanation regarding the new rating groups on the next page.

Tournament committee:
GM Falko Bindrich, IM Tobias Hirneise and FIDE arbiter Peter Frei.
Decisions of the committee are final.

Mode and time control:

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

Tiebreaks in case of a tie:
1. Buchholz score (number of points of your opponents added)
2. progress score (adding up your points after each round)
3. Direct encounter

If there are fewer than 11 players per group, a round-robin tournament (everyone against everyone) may also be played. In case of a tie the Sonneborn-Berger scoring system is used. For this you receive all the points of the opponents against whom you have won and half the points for draws. If this tiebreak is also equal, the direct encounter decides.

Starting fee (for players only):

50 EUR

Prizes: EUR 5.000 (based on a minimum of 80 players)

Group A
2201+
1st place: 500 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

The winners of each group become ACO World Super Senior Chess Champion. 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
1901 – 2000
1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group D
1751 – 1900
1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group E
1651 – 1750
1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group F
1501 – 1650
1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

Group G
0 – 1500
1st place: 400 EUR
2nd place: 200 EUR
3rd place: 100 EUR

New rating groups without effect! (Starting from 2025)

Our tournament is traditionally played in 7 separate rating groups. This means that you only play against opponents of a similar level. The rating at the time of registration applies. For players with an international rating (Elo) and a national rating, the higher number applies.

Adjustment of rating groups necessary due to FIDE Elo bonus
As of 1 March 2024, FIDE has given all players with an Elo below 2000 an Elo bonus. The Elo minimum for players receiving their first Elo has also been set at 1400. For this reason, we have to adjust the rating groups C to G accordingly (see also next page).

	Previous groups		New groups (from 2025)
Group A:	2201+	→	**2201+**
Group B:	2001 – 2200	→	**2001 – 2200**
Group C:	1801 – 2000	→	**1901 – 2000**
Group D:	1601 – 1800	→	**1751 – 1900**
Group E:	1401 – 1600	→	**1651 – 1750**
Group F:	1201 – 1400	→	**1501 – 1650**
Group G:	0 – 1200	→	**0 – 1500**

How is the Elo bonus calculated?
Difference of 2000 minus your old Elo (from Feb. 2024) times 0.4.

Example for a player with an Elo rating of 1700:
2000 minus 1700 = 300 difference. 300 x 0.4 = 120 points bonus.
The new Elo is 1820 (1700 + 120 points)

This means that a player who previously played in Group D (1601 - 1800) remains in the same Group D (1751 - 1900).

Players with Elo
For players who only have a national rating and no Elo, the before-mentioned formula is used for grouping. Example: if a player has a national rating of 1700 and no Elo, he will be assigned to Group D with a virtual rating of 1820 (see calculation on the left). This means that the same standards apply to all players.

Note for players in Group G
Although the G group now extends up to a rating of 1500 instead of 1200 as before, the playing strength of the opponents does not change. No players from the former F group (1201-1400) can play in the new G group (0-1500), as these players now have a rating of 1501+ due to the rating adjustments and therefore play in the new Group F.

Players without rating:
Players who do not have a national or international number can only participate in Group G.

Playing in another group (voluntary):
Possible if a rating corresponding to that of another group is achieved between the time of registration and the start of the tournament.

The tournament organisers reserve the right to change the grouping of individual players in exceptional cases. Similarly, two groups may be merged if the number of participants is low. In this case, however, the final ranking and prize money distribution will take place separately.

Do you have any questions about the new group division? Please contact us!
By e-mail: supersenior@amateurchess.com or by phone: +49 (0) 178 6746167

Overview of the new division of groups (Starting from 2025)

Old rating		New rating	Old group	New group
1000	→	1400	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1025	→	1415	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1050	→	1430	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1075	→	1445	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1100	→	1460	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1125	→	1475	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1150	→	1490	G (0-1200)	G (0-1500)
1175	→	1505	G (0-1200)	F (1501-1650)
1200	→	1520	G (0-1200)	F (1501-1650)
1225	→	1535	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1250	→	1550	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1275	→	1565	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1300	→	1580	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1325	→	1595	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1350	→	1610	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1375	→	1625	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1400	→	1640	F (1201-1400)	F (1501-1650)
1425	→	1655	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1450	→	1670	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1475	→	1685	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1500	→	1700	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)

Old rating		New rating	Old group	New group
1525	→	1715	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1550	→	1730	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1575	→	1745	E (1401-1600)	E (1651-1750)
1600	→	1760	E (1401-1600)	D (1751-1900)
1625	→	1775	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1650	→	1790	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1675	→	1805	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1700	→	1820	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1725	→	1835	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1750	→	1850	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1775	→	1865	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1800	→	1880	D (1601-1800)	D (1751-1900)
1825	→	1895	C (1801-2000)	D (1751-1900)
1850	→	1910	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
1875	→	1925	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
1900	→	1940	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
1925	→	1955	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
1950	→	1970	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
1975	→	1985	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
2000	→	2000	C (1801-2000)	C (1901-2000)
2000+	→	2000+	B	B

The venue

The 5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort Kos (formerly Helona Resort) was built by the Hilton Group and has 21 pools. The hotel is an adults-only hotel, which means that only guests aged 16 and above stay there. The hotel has already hosted several ACO events in the years 2015–18 and 2022–2026.

ACO WORLD SUPER SENIOR (65+) CHAMPIONSHIP 2026 ON KOS

For the fifth time, an ACO tournament was organised exclusively for senior players aged 65 and over. With 68 participants, a record number of participants was achieved.

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 supersenior@amateurchess.com and we will kindly assist you to find the best option. Free of charge.

For your own search we recommend:
https://flights.idealo.com/

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

Photo: Rainer Lesniewski/shutterstock.com/

Playing halls

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

Due to the limited number of available hotel rooms, the tournament is limited to around 80 players.

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 any 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 50 000 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 former 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.

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 Super Senior Championship**
- ✓ **Personal game analysis with a grandmaster**
  After your game, you can analyse it with a grandmaster

  Planned grandmasters for the ACO Tournaments 2027:
  GM Zigurds Lanka, GM Spyridon Skembris, GM Daniel King
- ✓ **Grandmaster lectures**
  In the afternoon of each day with a single round.
- ✓ **Chess side programme**
  Blitz tournaments (single or team), GM simuls etc.
- ✓ **English speaking organizing team**
- ✓ **Personal 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 most affordable flight connection for your flight to Kos.

Schedule 2027 ACO World Super Senior (65+) Chess Championship

Saturday	**15 May**		Arrival day
		18 - 20:00	Welcome-Drink
Sunday	**16 May**	09:30	Pairings
		09:45	Opening ceremony
		10:00	Round 1
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Blitz tournament
Monday	**17 May**	10:00	Round 2
		16:00	Round 3
Tuesday	**18 May**	10:00	Round 4
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Grandmaster simul

Wednesday	**19 May**	10:00	Round 5
		16:00	Round 6
Thursday	**20 May**		Free day
Friday	**21 May**	10:00	Round 7
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Team Blitz
Saturday	**22 May**	10:00	Round 8
		16:00	Grandmaster lecture
		18:00	Blitz tournament
Sunday	**23 May**	10:00	Round 9
		18:00	Prize-giving
Monday	**24 May**		Departure

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

Reception

The hotel reception is staffed 24 hours a day.

Lobby

Enjoy the magnificent view.

Main pool

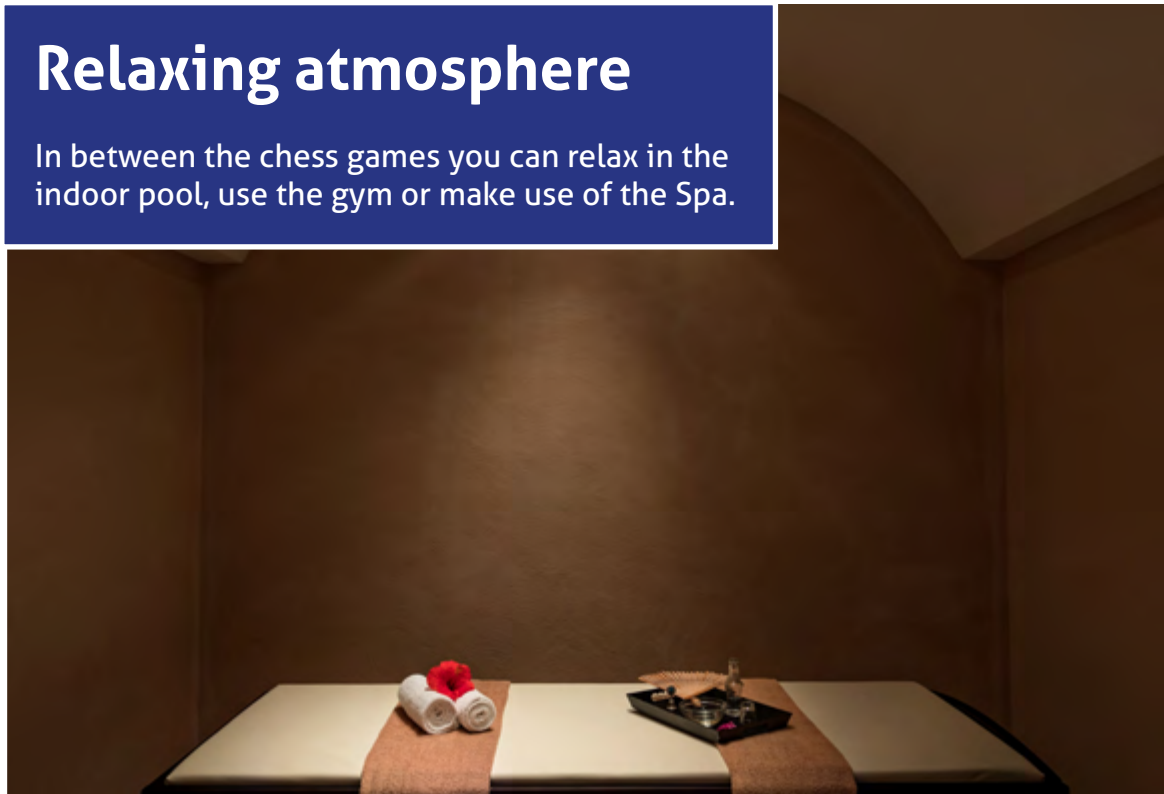
At the main pool you can relax before or after the games. Right by the pool is the pool bar, so a drink is always within reach. Same applies for the Ammos Beach Bar, where you can get drinks, snacks, coffee, cakes and ice cream.

Sandy beach with a view

From the private sandy beach you have a magnific nice 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.

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.

À-la-carte Restaurant

If you are looking for an extremely quiet and cosy place to dine, we recommend the Thalassa 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 -10:30 hrs

Lunch:
12:30 - 14:30 hrs
International Buffet

Dinner:
19:00 - 21:30 hrs
International Buffet
& Live Cooking

Ammos Beach Bar:

10:00 -18:00 hrs

Drinks, snacks + ice cream, coffee & cakes

Thalassa A la carte Restaurant:

Opening times
18:30- 21:00 hrs
Reservation required, free once per stay

Ulysses Lobby Bar:

10:30 -00:30 hrs
Local and selected imported alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

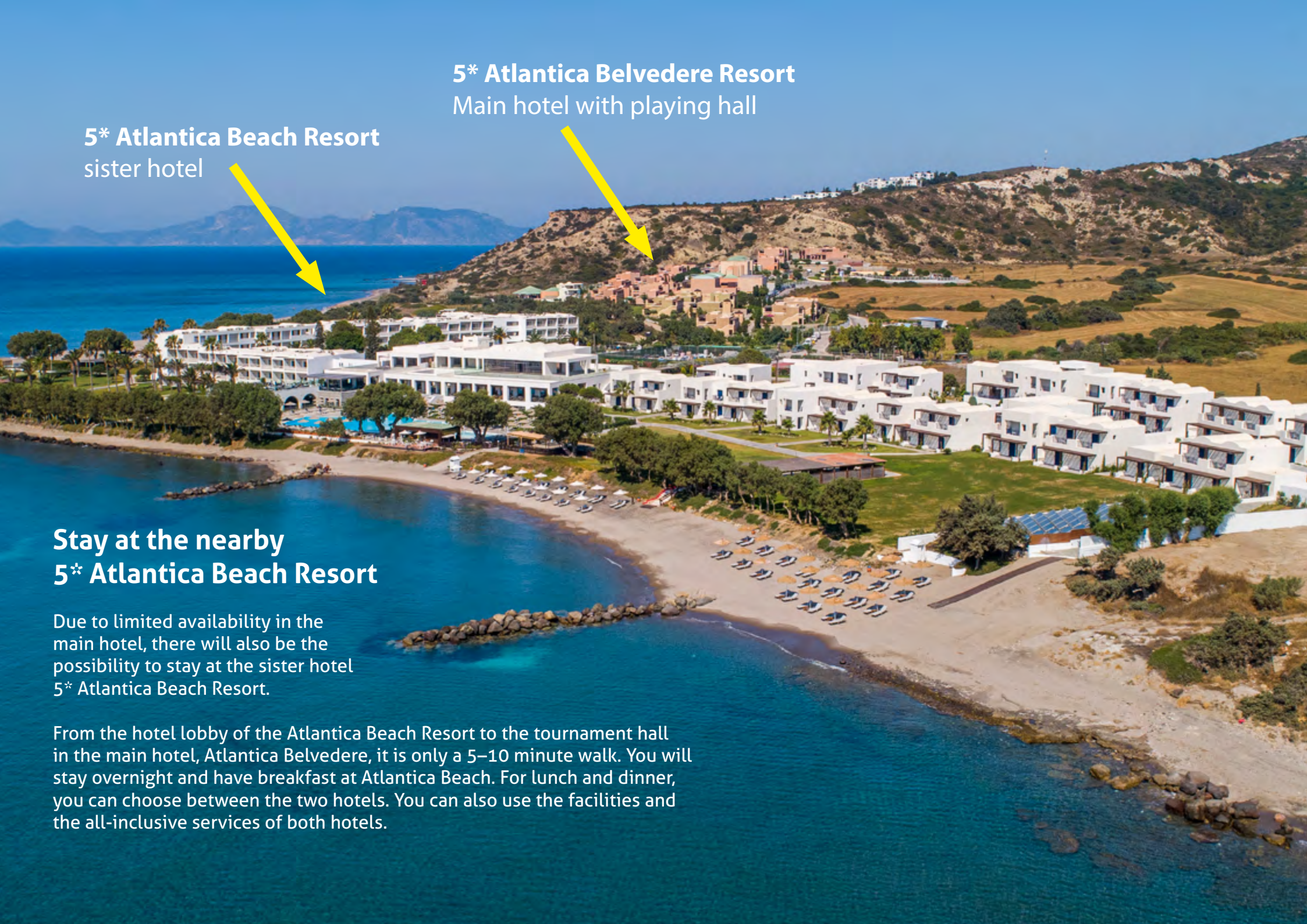
Almyra Pool Bar:

10:00 -18:00 hrs
Local and selected imported 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 grand-masters can also be found there for a spontaneous round of blitz chess.

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



Stay at the nearby 5* Atlantica Beach Resort

Due to limited availability in the main hotel, 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 5–10 minute walk. You will stay overnight and have breakfast at Atlantica Beach. For lunch and dinner, you can choose between the two hotels. You can also use the facilities and the all-inclusive services 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 and 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.

Special guest 2025: IM Eric Rosen

The well-known chess streamer, YouTuber and International Chess Master from the United States was part of the coaching team on site in Kos in 2025. He is one of the most successful chess streamers in the world with over 1 million followers. He analysed games with the participants, gave seminars and a simultaneous and played in the blitz tournaments.

No or hardly any tournament chess experience? No problem - play in our group G!

The G Group is designed for chess players with a rating below 1500 or no official Elo rating at all. Many participants in this group are playing in their very first tournament—often filled with curiosity, and sometimes a little nervousness. That's exactly what the group is for: a welcoming, supportive environment for those who love chess but have little or no experience.

A particularly lovely aspect is that partners of more experienced players—who are competing in the higher groups—often decide to take part themselves. What begins as a simple accompanying trip frequently turns into a shared tournament experience. The relaxed and open atmosphere of the G Group invites newcomers to give it a try, even if they've never played in an official event before. You will only compete against other participants with similar playing strength.

This ensures balanced, fair games without pressure—perfect for anyone taking their first steps in tournament chess. And if questions arise—about the clock, notation, or procedures—the organizing team and the tournament arbiter are always ready to help with patience and understanding. Support is always available, and every question is welcome.

At the heart of it all is the joy of playing, the courage to try something new, and the shared experience across the chessboard. The event is accompanied by a carefully designed program featuring grandmaster lectures, simultaneous exhibitions, and many opportunities to connect with fellow chess enthusiasts from around the world. The G Group offers much more than just a tournament—it creates a warm, inclusive community and the ideal setting for an unforgettable introduction to the world of tournament chess.

Do you have questions about the tournament?
Please feel free to contact us!
supersenior@amateurchess.com
+49 (0) 178 6746167

Photo: S.Borisov/shutterstock.com/

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 lovers 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:
One of 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

In our tournaments we play 2 double rounds. As this can be very exhausting, we offer all participants the chance to take 1 or 2 'rest breaks'. **This is totally voluntary!** These rest breaks are called 'byes' in chess language. A bye is when you sit out a round but receive half a point in return. This allows you to rest and still not slip down the table. Afterwards, you can play in the tournament again as normal.

You can take up to 2 byes in rounds 1–6. Byes are not possible in a round-robin tournament (everyone plays against everyone) or if a group has a low number of participants and this would cause problems with the pairings.

A 'bye' is also included in your Buchholz score (the second tiebreak in the event of a tie, where the points of all opponents are added together). According to the current FIDE rules (subject to change), for an unplayed or forfeit game, your own final tournament score is used for the Buchholz calculation, up to a maximum of 4.5 points in a 9-round tournament.

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 already more than 200 players played at least 5 tournaments with us!

ACO
AMATEUR CHESS ORGANIZATION

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 1.000 m² where 240 players from 26 countries fought for the titles. Players were accommodated in 4- and 5 star hotels.

ACO WACC 2015-2018 + 2022-2026 on Kos (1500+ players)

Between 2015-18 and 2022-2026 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 Championships for players aged 65 and above took place beginning of May 2022-2025 with a total of more than 200 players from 20+ countries.

ACO World Senior (50+) Championships 2018 + 2019 + 2021 + 2022 + 2023 + 2024 + 2025: Crete

Since 2018 we host our 50+ events on the island of Crete. Venue is the 5* all-inclusive hotel Fodele Beach Resort. A total of over 900 players from 30 countries took part.

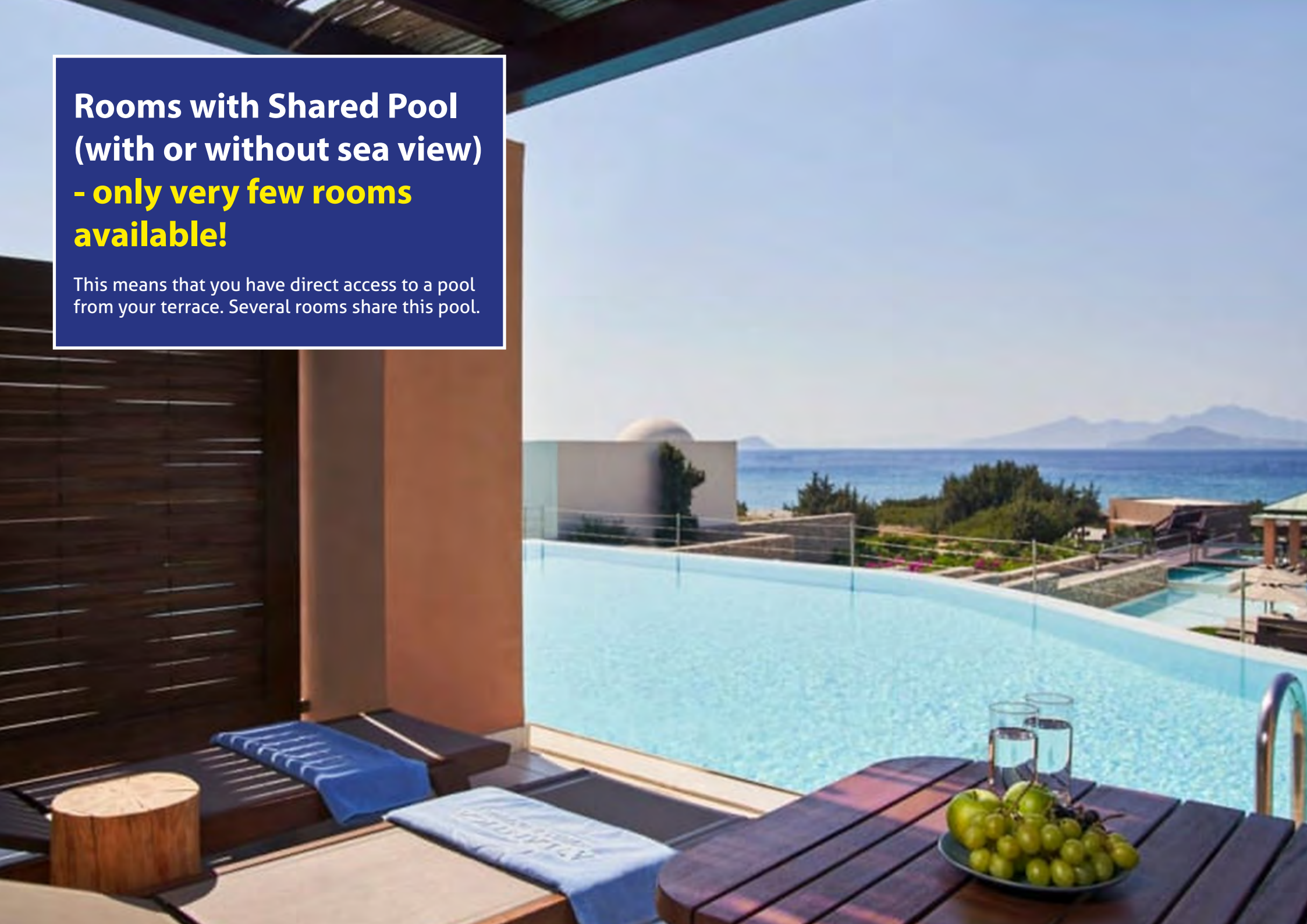
ACO WACC 2019 + 2021: Rhodes

366 participants / 29 nations

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



Rooms with Shared Pool (with or without sea view) - only very few rooms available!

This means that you have direct access to a pool from your terrace. Several rooms share this pool.

Rooms with Shared Pool (with or without sea view) - only very few rooms available!

This means that you have direct access to a pool from your terrace. Several rooms share this pool.

Junior Suite 43m²
only 2 available

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

Suite for 2 persons 63m² - only 2 available

The spacious 63 m² suites feature a separate bedroom, a living room, a stylish bathroom and a private pool. All suites are located on the ground floor and offer a beautiful terrace with spectacular sea views.

Private Villa (120 m²)
only 1 available

The 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).

Testimonials Kos 2026

This was my fourth visit to an ACO event and again it was very well organised, with a good balance between competitive play and time for analysis, practice, lectures and fun evening competitions. The hotel on Kos was fabulous, especially with its own private beach, and the all-inclusive package which offered an excellent choice of breakfast, lunch and dinner in the main restaurant, as well as snacks in the bars around the pool.

Altogether, it created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere where it was easy to focus on chess while also making the most of the beautiful surroundings. Thanks to all the on-site grandmasters who patiently analysed our games and particularly to Falko and Tobias for a most enjoyable event.

David Helps (England)

This is my 4th year in a row at the event. It never fails to disappoint, the location is amazing and totally worthy of a 5-star holiday. My wife doesn't play chess but still loves the event, and there's plenty of free time for me to enjoy too. The chess programme itself is brilliant and has a competitive feel worthy of a World Championship, combined with the friendly atmosphere of being able to go over the game with your opponent and a GM coach afterwards. It's great to see so many returning faces and I look forward to coming back next year.

Andrew Todd (Scotland)

A wonderful, friendly and well-organised event combining a sunshine holiday on a lovely Greek island with a very competitive chess tournament. And to receive a beautiful trophy for my 5th participation just goes to show the appreciation from the organisers towards those who take part.

Give it a go – you will love it!

Gary White (England)

The ACO organizes and delivers a superb chess experience in an idyllic setting. The Kos event was no exception. I deeply appreciate the accommodations made for my wife such that I could play with relative peace of mind.

Mark Hoshor (USA)

A fantastic event. The organisation and the venue are simply outstanding. The opportunity to analyse games with a grandmaster is second to none. The GM lectures and simultaneous exhibitions were simply excellent. From a competitive point of view, I thought everything was very good. Opinions may differ regarding the „bye" rule and the tie-break system, but everyone can decide for themselves whether to focus more on the holiday or the tournament aspect. Simply superb. It is no surprise that so many players return year after year.

Ulf Stoy (Germany)

ACO Amateur World Championship: A tournament where you compete within your own playing strength group! An international event with excellent playing conditions and a fantastic atmosphere. A hotel worth every one of its stars: a superb location, outstanding food, and excellent service in every respect. An organisation that values every individual participant and makes everyone feel appreciated. You'll definitely want to come back!

Bruno Comes (Germany)

The Super (65+) World Championship Tournament 2026 in Kos was once again excellently organised. Attractive group divisions, an excellent social programme and an elegant playing hall made for a wonderful experience. The Atlantica Belvedere Hotel is also first class – the best hotel we have experienced in Greece so far. The ACO tournaments deserve to be recommended. Thank you!

Jürg Morf (Switzerland)

Testimonials Kos 2026

Playing conditions, in particular the lengthy spacing between boards, were exemplary and ideal. Players were courteous and respectful. The tournament shills describing the interactions as familial was no exaggeration. Daniel King was a thrill for me to meet as he is affable, witty and entertaining while delivering his incisive post-mortem analysis with the combatants.

Steven Young (USA)

It is a pleasure to play here. Thanks to the age restriction of 16+, there was always a calm and focused tournament atmosphere, which is essential when playing nine rounds against opponents of similar strength. The opportunity to analyse games immediately after they finished with grandmasters was extremely helpful. Their advice helps every player improve. A fantastic tournament concept.

Markus Büchele (Germany)

A fantastic tournament for anyone who wants to combine chess and a holiday. Even as a solo traveller, I immediately felt welcome and made new friends. The international exchange with people from all ove the world is something you do not find everywhere.

Michael Brunsch (Germany)

The tournament is organised to the highest possible standard, and the atmosphere was absolutely fantastic. The all-inclusive accommodation at the Atlantica Beach Resort was wonderful, especially as guests could also enjoy their meals at the Atlantica Belvedere Resort.

Matthias Schmidt (Germany)

The hotel was perfect. **Thierry Plard (Luxembourg)**

As always, the tournament was perfectly organised, and we will of course be back next year. Sunshine, perfect accommodation, and a tournament that leaves nothing to be desired!

Michael Nölle (Germany)

The tournament was excellent, the playing halls were spacious and bright. The hotel was magnificent and very comfortable.

Ricardo Gamboa (Argentina)

It was great to meet so many familiar faces again. The hotel was excellent, with clean and comfortable rooms and very good food. It is not the cheapest holiday, but it offers a wonderful vacation without a moment of boredom. The beach was beautiful and well maintained. If all goes well, I will definitely be back.

Peter Steiger (Switzerland)

The hotel and the service were, as in previous years, excellent. I will be happy to return next year.

Hans-Joachim Spieker (Germany)

This is a great opportunity for many adults to escape from their daily routines and indulge in the game. The venue and hotel are truly wonderful. You will be able to relax, enjoy chess and meet many interesting people.

Oleksii Herashchenko (Ukraine)

Testimonials Kos 2025

Like you, I checked before the tournament to see if it was for me. With the experience I have now, I can only say that it was the right decision to take part! The following reasons were decisive:

1. excellent general conditions at the Atlantica Belvedere: Rooms, food, pool, beach, service top.

2. excellent conditions at the tournament: space at the board, draws and referees, relaxed atmosphere and good organisation.

3. you definitely learn something from the uncomplicated encounters with the 3 grandmasters after your own games and their analyses or in training in a small group or during blitz or simultaneous. No engine can replace that.

4. there are lots of nice people to meet around the tournament, e.g. in the restaurant.

If your partner wants to relax, go to the pool or the beach, bring him or her along. If not, maybe wait for your next holiday ;-), but take part yourself!

Klaus Fischer (Germany)

I really enjoyed the tournament and my trip to Greece. The playing conditions were excellent. The food at the hotel was of a high quality. The lectures and simul were very enjoyable too. To top it all, I made some friends and contacts.

Vimal Simha (Canada)

Unique - every chess fan must have experienced it!
Bruno Spälti (Switzerland)

As always, the tournament was well organised, and if it hadn't been, this would certainly not have been my 8th participation. I can only recommend it!
Helmut Löffler (Switzerland)

We see many (chess) friends here year after year. More praise is hardly possible!
Dr. Andreas Gerlach (Germany)

The tournament is excellently organised, with no waiting times, plenty of space, hot coffee and endless treats. If playing chess anywhere is really fun, then here on Kos. Great ambience in a 5-star environment, 4 charismatic grandmasters to help analyse and give tips, lots of additional events such as grandmaster lectures, blitz tournaments, partner blitz and so on! My wife and I usually start looking forward to the next tournament as soon as we fly home. Tobias and Falko: Please keep up the good work!
Michael und Lisa Nölle (Germany)

Attractive grouping of the players and therefore an exciting tournament. Everything was perfectly organised and therefore a complete package at a great tournament venue.
Michael Hoferichter (Germany)

Testimonials Kos 2025

A wonderful tournament in an excellent hotel. The organisation is fantastic, and what can you say about the hotel... great surroundings, lovely rooms and more food than you could eat in a lifetime! Kos 2025 was my tenth ACO tournament and it's so lovely to reunite with chess friends from other countries. If you love chess and love holidays then this is for you!
Andy Proudfoot (England)

The completely calm and professional organisation of the tournament was just so perfect that all participants always knew where they were in the group ranking, which opponents they had next, etc. So it couldn't have been better, I think. Thank you and especially Peter Frei.
Hans-Peter Lorenz (Austria)

Everything was perfect arranged: Very nice location, Great hotel, comfortable playing hall, Interesting side Program, and friendly atmosphere. We will join next year. Many thanks to the organisation team.
Bert van Oudvorst (Netherlands)

It was a really great atmosphere that swept you away. You only experience something like that once a year or once in a lifetime. There were many great moments, whether it was the narrow victory or the defeat. I am always thrilled and excited before the tournament/game. Many thanks also to all the participants, the hotel and the organiser for the great success. Congratulations also to the tournament winners. As we all know, after the tournament is before the tournament, and I would be delighted to take part again in 2026.
Olaf Rückstieß (Germany)

As always, the tournament was perfectly organised, which ensured that everything ran smoothly. The hotel is perfect for a senior chess tournament (quiet location without a riverside road, good food, spacious tournament rooms). The 3 accompanying grandmasters were always friendly and patiently available to analyse games. I'll be back next year!
Dr. Reinhold Schnelzer (Germany)

The tournament was excellently organised and as far as I could see there was not a single problem among the players. In addition, both the hotel and the food were excellent. I would also like to emphasise the punctuality and the very good willingness of the grandmasters to analyse our games!
Dr. Daniel Chan (Argentina)

A big compliment to the organisers: a perfectly organised chess tournament with a noticeable wealth of experience and great skill: the best playing conditions in the playing rooms with plenty of space, great grandmaster support during the game analysis, lectures, simultaneous chess, blitz tournaments - there really was everything on offer! Plus a first-class hotel right by the sea (I had a very nice, spacious room with a sea view!), with a private beach and excellent, extremely varied food, which you can eat on the terraces or indoors, depending on your choice. I took advantage of the flexible time allocation, took advantage of a so-called bye and had - in addition to the very knowledgeable and interesting all-day island excursion - several beautiful afternoons on the beach and in the neighbouring village of Kardamena.

(Anonymous testimonial)

Testimonials Kos 2024

I took part in an ACO tournament for the first time because friends had recommended it to me. I can only pass this recommendation on to other chess friends. Everything was perfect!

GM Lothar Vogt (Germany)

The „chess-life balance“ is perfect, and we can fully utilise and savour the chess game with the participants even after the end of the game thanks to the very relaxed atmosphere at dinner or in the evening round. This not only emphasises the sporting decision but also the social interaction, which tends to wither away in today‘s very entertaining times. The chess days are an experience, and each participant can set their own „chess horizon“—how much and which chess activities they take part in. My wife, who doesn‘t play chess, enjoys the „tournament surroundings“ and can also develop freely thanks to the various leisure activities (spa & co. send their regards...)

Ariane und Thomas Fernandez (Germany)

I look back on ten great days that I wouldn‘t want to have missed. I will not only have fond memories of the competitive yet relaxed atmosphere but also of the attractive supporting programme, in particular the entertaining and informative grandmaster lectures. But there was also plenty of time to relax. In any case, there was enough time to splash around in the sea and the pool, and after a drink or two at the pool bar, any displeasure about my own shortcomings at the chessboard quickly disappeared.

Michael Seiler (Switzerland)

It was really a great tournament. The combination of holidays by the sea and playing chess was great fun!

Pascal Kaeser (Switzerland)

The ACO World Amateur Championship never fails to disappoint. Held on the beautiful Greek island of Kos, with a welcoming feeling from the staff and many returning participants. The chess event is exciting and challenging (I finished 3rd in group E), and it combines well with the sunny beach and plenty of free time. The programme supporting the event, from grandmaster simuls and lectures to Blitz tournaments, ensures that it’s the best holiday experience for keen chess players. I will definitely be back annually.

Andrew Todd (Scotland)

Testimonials Kos 2024

It was my first ACO tournament after many years out of competition. The fact that you play in performance groups gave me the courage to take part. And it was the right thing to do. And when I was pretty exhausted after the first double round, I took a bye the next time. I hadn't heard of it before, but it's a great idea. But I realised what I needed to learn and practice again. I want to do better next time. I've met some great people here, and I'm enjoying playing again. Even my husband (who was not playing in the tournament) was enthusiastic and got infected. He will also be playing next time and is already practicing hard. Many thanks to the team.

Carsta Göring (Germany)

I like the combination of holidays and the hobby of chess. Perfect tournament conditions and a wonderful holiday environment with enough time to relax.

Florian Puchner (Germany)

The combination of holiday and chess is very nice - everyone can decide on the spot and at short notice whether they want to play the double rounds or take some time off to have more time for non-chess holiday pleasures.

Uwe Töllner (Germany)

It's a fantastic tournament series organised by the ACO, with perfect organisation and great hotel and resort facilities. You can combine a nice chess tournament with a nice holiday, it doesn't get any better than that. And where else is it possible to analyse the game with a nice grandmaster after the round? That's absolutely unique!

Frank Schröder (Germany)

This was the most AMAZING tournament I've ever attended in my life! The schedule was well organized, the chairs were comfortable, the spacing between boards was adequate, and the lighting was sufficient. The all-you-can eat snacks and drinks truly were delightful! The GM lectures were very insightful, and the blitz tournaments were very fun!! I've told all my friends and fellow local tournament players back home about it, recommending that they attend!! Very well done, everyone!!

Damon Rucker (USA)

Testimonials Kos 2023

The ACO 2023 Chess tournament in Kos provided the perfect environment for chess amateurs to enjoy 10 days of professionally organized tournament games at very nice 5 star resort in Greece. The opportunity to attend chess lectures taught by GMs combined with the option to get your chess games analyzed and reviewed by a GM makes this event a truly unique chess experience unlikely to be found anywhere else.

Attached a picture of a „Hand & Brain evening“ at the pool.

Dr. Oliver Werther (USA)

Dear Falko and Tobias,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for organizing this amazing tournament in the past week. This was my second time on the ACO World Championships and however I'm not very satisfied with my overall performance (only 4 points), I'm extremely satisfied with the organization: it has been an amazingly friendly, chess-centered environment taken place on an absolutely awesome enviromnent. I thought I prepared properly for the tourmanent in the past year (or at least I did everything to do so), but this is the nature of sports - sometimes you just can't perform well enough in competitive situtations, maybe next time - because there will definitely be a next time! :)

Viktor Somogyi (Hungary)

Testimonials Kos 2023

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

Prices 5* Atlantica Belvedere Resort
9 nights All-Inclusive: 15 - 24 May 2027

ATLANTICA
HOTELS & RESORTS

All prices per person on All-Inclusive Basis	Booking till 30th November 2026	Booking till 31st December 2026	Booking from 1st January 2027	Availability
Single room Sea view	2,699 EUR	2,799 EUR	2,899 EUR	very low
Suite (63 m²) + private pool for 2 persons	2,499 EUR	2,599 EUR	2,699 EUR	only 2 rooms
Single room Standard	2,399 EUR	2,499 EUR	2,599 EUR	very low
Villa (120m²) + private pool (36m²) for 4 persons	1,999 EUR	2,099 EUR	2,199 EUR	only 1 room
Double room Sea View with Shared Pool	1,799 EUR	1,899 EUR	1,999 EUR	only 2 rooms
Junior Suite for 2 persons	1,649 EUR	1,749 EUR	1,849 EUR	only 2 rooms
Double room Sea view	1,649 EUR	1,749 EUR	1,849 EUR	medium
Double room Standard with Shared Pool	1,599 EUR	1,699 EUR	1,799 EUR	only 2 rooms
Double room Standard	1,499 EUR	1,599 EUR	1,699 EUR	medium

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 access in the whole hotel
- Extra nights before or after the tournament are bookable at the same conditions.

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.

ACO is the organizer of the chess tournament ACO World Super Senior (65+) Chess Championship 2027. The registration for the chess tournament is done separately after booking the accommodation via ACO, see procedure on the next pages.

Note: Since 2024, Greece has introduced a Climate Resilience Tax for all hotels in the country.
As of 2026, for 5-star hotels, the rate amounts to €15 per room per night. The fee must be paid directly at the hotel reception.

Prices 5* Atlantica Beach Resort
9 nights All-Inclusive: 15 - 24 May 2027

ATLANTICA
HOTELS & RESORTS

All prices per person on All-Inclusive Basis	Booking till 30th November 2026	Booking till 31st December 2026	Booking from 1st January 2027	Availability
Single room Sea view	2,399 EUR	2,499 EUR	2,599 EUR	very low
Single room Standard	2,199 EUR	2,299 EUR	2,399 EUR	very low
Double room Sea view	1,549 EUR	1,649 EUR	1,749 EUR	medium
Double room Standard	1,399 EUR	1,499 EUR	1,599 EUR	medium

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 access in the whole hotel
- Extra nights before or after the tournament are bookable at the same conditions.

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-minute walk away from the tournament hall.

- 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!
- Families with children under the age of 16 are also welcome at Atlantica Beach.

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Registration & booking

ACO is the organizer of the ACO World Super Senior (65+) Chess Championship 2027. The hotel booking and registration for the chess tournament are completed in two separate steps:

Step 1: Hotel booking

You select your preferred room type via the ACO online booking form at the following link:

https://booking.amateurchess.com/supersenior27

✓ Immediately after your hotel booking, you will receive a booking confirmation by email.

Step 2: Tournament registration

You will then receive a separate email from us with the link to pay the tournament entry fee.

✓ If you cancel, the tournament entry fee will be refunded in full, regardless of the time of cancellation.

Hotel booking without risk!

✓ **No hotel deposit is required upon booking.**

✓ **Free cancellation until 20 April 2027.**

Payment of the hotel booking

- ✓ The total amount is due by 20 April 2027.
- ✓ One month before the payment deadline, you will receive a payment reminder from us by email.
- ✓ If payment is not received by the deadline, the booking will be automatically cancelled by the hotel.
- ✓ For cancellations after 20 April 2027 or in case of a no-show, a 100% cancellation fee applies.

Questions? Send an email to: **supersenior@amateurchess.com**

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 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 (25-30 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 before 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, send an email to **supersenior@amateurchess.com**

Special hotel offer: stay 14 nights - pay 13 nights!

The chess tournament lasts 9 nights. Relax after the event and enjoy Greece - whether alone or in company.

If you are interested, please contact us by email at supersenior@amateurchess.com or by telephone on +49 178 6746167

REGISTRATION & BOOKING

ACO WORLD SUPER SENIOR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2027

15th - 24th May 2027 Kos / Greece

ACO
AMATEUR CHESS ORGANIZATION

ATLANTICA
HOTELS & RESORTS

For hotel booking please use the
ACO online booking form at the following link:

https://booking.amateurchess.com/supersenior27

Questions? Send an email to: **supersenior@amateurchess.com**

REGISTRATION & CONTACT

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