

GRAZ



ŠAMORÍN



EUROPEAN AQUATICS
MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026
ŠAMORÍN-BRATISLAVA-GRAZ

BRATISLAVA



INFORMATION
BULLETIN NO. 2
NEW EVENT DATES
19-30 AUG 2026

HOST CITIES OF THE EUROPEAN AQUATICS MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS ALL AQUATICS DISCIPLINES INCLUDING WATER POLO 5 SPORTS, 3 CITIES, 2 COUNTRIES, 1 SPIRIT

Start of a new era in Masters Aquatics

The European Aquatics Masters Championships 2026 will unite athletes from all aquatics disciplines – swimming, open water swimming, artistic swimming, diving, and water polo – in an exceptional multisport celebration in the heart of Central Europe. The host cities Šamorín, Bratislava, and Graz combine top-class competition and training venues with a rich cultural experience, scenic river landscapes, and a welcoming atmosphere for athletes and families. Connected by the Danube and a shared history, they form a vibrant Central European corridor of sport, discovery, and community.

HOST CITIES



The 2026 Masters Championships connect three remarkable destinations — each with its own identity, yet united by water, tradition, and modern sporting excellence. Together, they create a unique tri-city championship setting where nations, athletes, and fans meet in a spirit of joy, celebration, and lifelong passion for aquatics.

Three cities. Three experiences. One Masters community.
United by Water, Driven by Passion.

ŠAMORÍN, SLOVAKIA

Šamorín, located on the Danubian Plain only 17 km from Bratislava, is a peaceful yet dynamic town where nature, culture, and elite sport meet. It is home to the world-renowned x-bionic® sphere, one of Europe's most advanced multi-sport complexes, offering Olympic-level training venues, recovery zones, a full wellness centre, restaurants, and family leisure facilities.

The surrounding landscape – shaped by the Danube and the Little Danube – provides ideal conditions for running, cycling, paddling, and outdoor relaxation. With its welcoming atmosphere and high-performance infrastructure, Šamorín serves as a perfect base for athletes and families during the Championships.



BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

Bratislava, Slovakia's capital, blends historic charm with modern energy. The Danube riverfront, castle hill, vibrant streets, and open-air summer culture offer an enjoyable environment for athletes, friends, and families.

The city is home to the renovated Pasienky Aquatics Complex, a venue with a respected tradition in aquatic sports, offering excellent conditions for artistic swimming and water polo. With its cultural richness, green spaces, and close connection to Šamorín and Austria, Bratislava is a key hub in the Masters 2026 ecosystem.



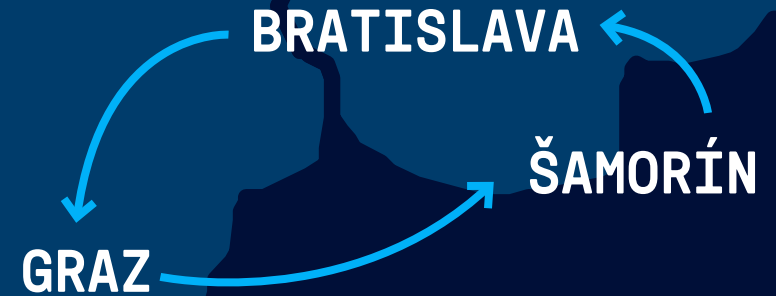
GRAZ, AUSTRIA

Graz, the capital of Styria, is a city where history, culture, and innovation meet. Its UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town invites visitors to discover Renaissance courtyards, vibrant city squares, and the iconic Schlossberg.

For the Masters Championships, Graz proudly presents the Auster Sport- und Wellnessbad, a modern, technically advanced venue ideal for diving competitions. Combined with cycling paths, river promenades, and a lively cultural scene, Graz becomes an inspiring and accessible part of the 2026 journey.



A CONNECTED CENTRAL EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE



The tri-city concept links Šamorín, Bratislava, and Graz into a single, flowing Masters experience. Their shared history along the Danube, their proximity, and their complementary sports venues form a unique European championship landscape where sport and travel blend seamlessly.

The 2026 Masters Championships offer athletes, supporters, and families much more than competition – they offer a journey through the heart of Europe.

A swimmer is shown in a pool, performing a backstroke. The swimmer is wearing a black swim cap and goggles, and their arms are extended back in the water. The water is dark blue, and there are some splashes around the swimmer. In the background, there are three large, stylized, wavy blue shapes that look like waves or abstract patterns.

VENUES AND DISCIPLINES

ŠAMORÍN – HOME OF CHAMPIONS

X-bionic® sphere – European Aquatics Certified Training Centre

Disciplines hosted:

Swimming, Water Polo, Open Water Swimming

Facilities:

Pools:

- 50 m Olympic-size outdoor pool
(site of David Popovici's European record, 2025)
- 25 m indoor pool for warm-up and training
- Danube backwater canal for Open Water Swimming events

Infrastructure:

- State-of-the-art timing, LED screens, modern sound
- Grandstands, fan zone, athlete recovery and service areas

Gym & Wellness:

- Two-floor gym, saunas, steam rooms, hydrotherapy
- Massage, spa, and recovery services

Dining:

- Athlete-standard buffet restaurant
- Cafés and snacks for visitors

Accommodation:

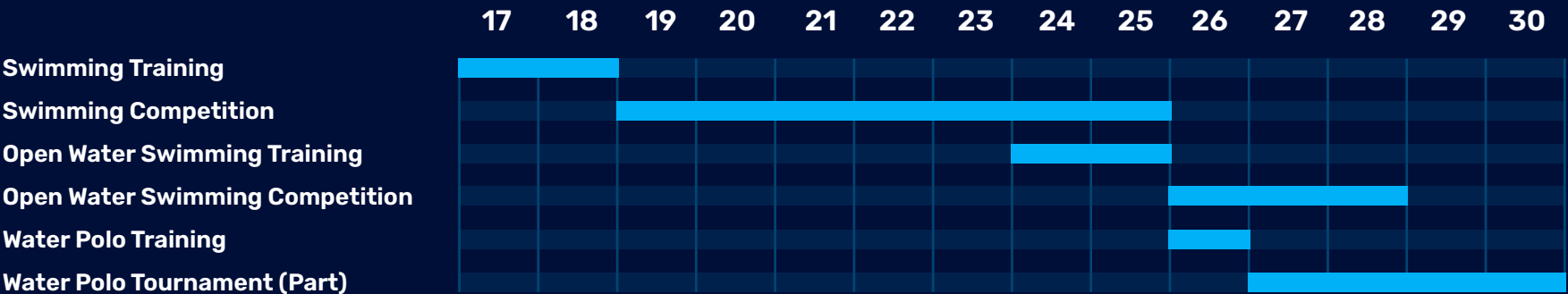
- On-site lodging with modern rooms
- Walking distance to pools and sports zones

Additional:

- Meeting rooms
- Beautiful natural surroundings

Schedule:

August 2026



Pasienky Swimming Complex

Artistic Swimming, Water Polo

- 50 m indoor pool for competition & training
- 25 m indoor pool for warm-up
- Support areas for teams & spectators
- Easy access to city transport

August 2026

[illegible]

Auster Sport - und Wellnessbad

Diving

- Outdoor diving towers: 1m, 3m, 5m, 7.5m, 10m
- Training and warm-up pools
- Spectator facilities

August 2026

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WATER POLO TOURNAMENT OVERVIEW

Competition Venues:

- X-BIONIC Sphere (Šamorín)
- Pasienky Pool (Bratislava)

Training (XBS & Pasienky):

- 24–25 August 2026
- 26 August 2026 (XBS only)

Tournament:

- 26 August – Start at Pasienky (two fields)
- 27–30 August – Both venues in parallel (four fields total)
- 30 August – Finals at X-BIONIC Sphere

Transportation will be organized for all accredited teams.

LOCATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The European Aquatics Masters Championships 2026 take place in the heart of Central Europe, offering exceptional accessibility from major European cities by air, road, and rail. With Bratislava and Vienna serving as key transport hubs, participants can expect smooth and efficient travel connections.

Central European Connectivity

All three host cities – Šamorín, Bratislava, and Graz – are located within short travel distances of one another, making transfers between competition and training venues fast and convenient.

Airport Accessibility

Three international airports provide excellent flight connections, with Vienna and Bratislava offering the fastest access:

Airport	City	Distance to Bratislava	Approx. Drive Time
Vienna International Airport (VIE)	Vienna	55 km	~1 h
Bratislava Airport (BTS)	Bratislava	10 km	~15 min
Budapest Ferenc Liszt Airport (BUD)	Budapest	200 km	~2 h 15 min
Graz Airport (GRZ)	Graz	260 km	~2 h 40 min

CONNECTIVITY

Rail Connectivity

Frequent and reliable train services connect Bratislava and Vienna with major European capitals:

Vienna	→	Bratislava	≈	1 h
Vienna	→	Budapest	≈	2 h 30 min
Vienna	→	Prague	≈	4 h
Vienna	→	Munich	≈	4 h
Vienna	→	Berlin	≈	8 h
Vienna	→	Warsaw	≈	8 h

Car Connectivity

Easy Access Between Host Cities

Bratislava	→	Šamorín	≈	25 min by car
Bratislava	→	Graz	≈	2 h 15 min by car
Šamorín	→	Graz	≈	2 h 30 min by car

LOC SERVICES: ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT & ALL-IN-ONE EXPERIENCE

The **Local Organising Committee (LOC)** is preparing a complete and athlete-focused service system for the 2026 European Aquatics Masters Championships.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES AT PARTNER HOTELS

The LOC is working closely with partner hotels across Šamorín, Bratislava, and Graz to offer:

- convenient, competitively priced options
- packages for individuals, families, teams, and clubs
- transportation between hotels, venues, and training sites included with many offers

These hotels will provide comfortable stays with easy access

Helpful Reminder – Official Accommodation Packages Coming Soon

Although you are welcome to book your own stay, we strongly suggest waiting for the upcoming LOC hotel packages, which are tailored to offer the best value and convenience.

Exclusive Accommodation at the Competition Venue

X-BIONIC® Sphere, Šamorín

A unique highlight of Masters 2026 will be exclusive accommodation packages directly at XBS, available only via the official booking channel (to be announced soon).

Packages being prepared include:

- Family packages with childcare and entertainment
- High-performance packages with recovery & nutrition focus
- Couples packages with comfort & wellness
- Group packages ideal for clubs or larger delegations

Staying at XBS means living in a fully integrated championship environment where accommodation, training facilities, wellness, dining, and competition spaces are all connected.

All accommodation packages will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.





X-BIONIC® Sphere, Šamorín

All-In-One Championships Concept

The LOC is preparing a complete experience including:

- coordinated accommodation + training + competition + wellness
- on-site presentations, expo & partner zone
- medical services & performance testing
- race and match analysis
- athlete support during competitions
- additional services to be announced

**MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON
STAY TUNED!**



For the first time in history, the European Aquatics Masters Championships will be fully inclusive, welcoming athletes with physical, visual, hearing, and intellectual disabilities across all disciplines.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS
WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY**



REGISTRATION:

Comprehensive registration details for all disciplines will be published in the upcoming Information Bulletin. Participants are kindly asked to stay tuned for the next release.



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