

BLED CHESS
FESTIVAL
2027

8–14 March 2027 · Bled, Slovenia

Bled Chess Festival 2027

www.chess-festival.com/bled ↗

Following the successful first edition in 2026, the **Bled** Chess Festival returns from **8 to 14 March 2027**, bringing together players from around the world for another week of chess, shared experiences and life beyond the board.

Bled holds a special place in chess history. Over the decades, it has welcomed some of the greatest names in the game, including Mikhail Tal and Bobby Fischer, and hosted major international events such as the 2002 Chess Olympiad. Today, the **Bled** Chess Festival continues this remarkable tradition in a modern festival setting.

The first edition welcomed players from **22 countries**, and in 2027 we look forward to bringing together an even wider international chess community.

We warmly invite you to join us in Bled and become part of the next chapter of its chess story.



BLEDED CHESSE FESTIVAL 2027

Who is the festival for?

The **Bled** Chess Festival welcomes:

- players with a FIDE rating of 2300 or below, including titled players,
- youth players travelling with parents, coaches or clubs,
- chess enthusiasts looking to combine competition with travel and relaxation,
- accompanying guests who want to experience Bled and the festival atmosphere.

Main Tournament

The central event of the festival is the OPEN tournament in classical chess (**Swiss system, 9 rounds**). The tournament will be FIDE – rated.

Prize fund: €6,000

The winner will receive **€1,000**, with substantial prizes also awarded across different rating categories, as well as for women, juniors and seniors.

Time Control: 75 minutes + 30 seconds per move, with an additional 15 minutes after move 40.

Location: Rikli Balance Hotel Congress Centre, Bled, overlooking Lake Bled.



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Side Events

A varied programme of chess and social activities will accompany the main tournament throughout the week.

Participants can choose from:

- Late Night Blitz
- Chess960 tournament
- Dr. Janez Barle Memorial Blitz Tournament
- simultaneous exhibition with a Grandmaster
- Psychology in Chess seminar
- Evenings with Grandmasters, including game analysis, conversations and informal chess gatherings
- wine tasting experience
- trips to Bled Island
- visits to Bled Castle

Festival Ambassadors

We are delighted to welcome back **IM/WGM Laura Unuk** and **GM Markus Ragger** as the ambassadors of the **Bled Chess Festival 2027**.

Throughout the week, participants will have opportunities to meet them through simultaneous exhibitions, game analysis, conversations and informal festival activities.



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How to reach us

The festival will take place at the **Rikli Balance Hotel Congress Centre** in **Bled**.



Ljubljana Airport

Approximately **30 minutes by car** to Bled.



Ljubljana train & bus stations (Slovenia's capital)

Approximately **45 minutes by car** to Bled.



Official festival accommodation is available at **Rikli Balance Hotel ★★★★★ Superior**, the festival venue, and at **Hotel Park ★★★★★**, located just a short walk away.

Registration

Choose your festival package, **with or without accommodation**, and register online. Explore the full programme, hotel options and package details on our website.

→ www.chess-festival.com/bled/

Questions? We are happy to help.

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We look forward to welcoming you to **Bled in March 2027**.

More than chess.

Bled Chess Festival Team

BLED CHESS FESTIVAL 2027

Voices from Bled

Experiences shared by participants in the 2026 festival.



"Playing in a beautiful, spacious hall with a view of Lake Bled, combined with flawless organization and a rich accompanying programme, creates a special experience that should not be missed."

Teja Vidic · Slovenia



"The festival is the best tournament experience I've ever played in. From the venue and playing hall to the beautiful location and activities available, everything is stunning. It is the closest to feeling like you're playing at an elite Grandmaster event."

Kelvin Finke · Australia



"The venue with its magnificent view of the lake, church and mountains was fantastic. The spacious playing hall, live broadcasts and commentary were impressive, while the warm approach of the organizers and arbiters created a very pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. Bled Chess Festival 2026 was a very successful first edition."

Gerhard Pichler · Austria



"The playing hall was very spacious and pleasant to play in, and the view of Lake Bled was beautiful as well. I also enjoyed having the opportunity to compete alongside strong players. What I will remember most, though, is I did my first interview with Laura Unuk."

Ema Jakša · Slovenia