

BLED CHESS
FESTIVAL
2026



9th – 15th of March, Hotel Rikli Balance ****

Bled Chess Festival 2026

www.chess-festival.com ↗

We are delighted to announce the **Bled Chess Festival 2026** – an international chess festival that will, after many years, bring chess back to **Bled**, one of the most legendary locations in the history of the game.

Bled has previously hosted some of the greatest chess events like the Chess Olympiad in 2002 and has left an indelible mark on the global chess scene. With this new edition, we aim to continue that rich tradition – in a modern spirit, yet faithful to its heritage. The congress hall of **Hotel Rikli Balance**, offering a magnificent view of Lake Bled, together with a comprehensive festival program and an experienced organizing team, guarantees that all chess players will feel truly grandmasterly in Bled.

The festival will combine competitive spirit, social interaction, and the magical setting of Bled.



Who is the festival for?

- individual players of rating up to 2300 FIDE.
- chess enthusiasts who wish to combine competition with a relaxing holiday,
- youth players and their parents or coaches
- anyone looking for new knowledge, social interaction, and an unforgettable experience.

Why participate as an individual player?

- compete in delightful conditions worth of a Super Grandmaster
- combine chess, travel, and relaxation,
- become part of the historic revival of a legendary chess event in Bled,
- leave the organization to us and focus fully on your game and experience.

More information about the event is available on the official website:

www.chess-festival.com ↗

Main Tournament

The **OPEN tournament** in classical chess (Swiss system, 9 rounds) is open to players with a rating up to **2300**. The tournament will be **FIDE-rated**.

The prize fund amounts to an impressive **€6,000!**

The winner will receive **€1,000**, with many additional prizes awarded across various rating groups, as well as for women, seniors, and juniors.

The **best team** will be rewarded with a dinner with a grandmaster and practical prizes. Awards will also be given for **fair play** and for the **most fighting player**.



Side Events

This multi-day chess festival offers a complete, unique, and unforgettable experience. A rich accompanying program has been prepared for participants; participation in these activities is optional and depends on the selected package:

- social events with grandmasters (GMs),
- simultaneous exhibitions, game analyses, and lectures,
- accompanying activities for players and companions,
- opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, and relaxed chess socializing.

Festival Ambassadors

This year's festival ambassadors are grandmasters **Laura Unuk** and **Markus Ragger**, who will spend the entire week with festival participants.



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How to reach us

The festival will take place in **Bled** at the **Rikli Balance Hotel Congress Centre**, located approximately a **30-minute drive from Ljubljana Airport**. For participants arriving by air via Ljubljana Airport, we recommend taking a taxi directly to the Rikli Balance Hotel Congress Centre, the official venue of the Bled Chess Festival.

For participants arriving by car and staying at one of the hotels included in our event packages (Hotel Park or Rikli Balance Hotel), **parking is available in front of the hotel**. If your package does not include hotel accommodation, there are several **public parking options nearby**.

For participants arriving to Slovenia **via the capital city, Ljubljana**, Bled is **approximately a 45-minute drive away**. Travel can be arranged by **taxi or by bus**, both of which offer **direct and convenient connections** to Bled.

Registration

For registration and further information:
+386 31 321 518

bled@sah-ljubljana.si

www.chess-festival.com

Tajfun Chess Club Ljubljana Team