

# European Go Congress 2017

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When Russian Go Federation was made aware of the possible need for The European Go Federation to reassign the venue for EGC 2017 on short notice, we have volunteered to offer support in case of such emergency. We are extremely sorry that the congress in Turkey was cancelled. To save the event, we intend to put our maximum effort into organizing of the substitute congress, wherever it will be chosen to be held.

Although Russia did hold EGC in 2016, and it is not usual for a country to hold the congress for two years in a row, we think the circumstances may call for a special case. To make sure that the substitute congress will be a success we have the experienced team, we have the know-how, the resources, and our proposal for the venue is *the best* that Russia can offer.

## Sochi

Sochi is often called the unofficial 'Summer Capital' of Russia, or the Black Sea Pearl. This is the country's biggest and busiest summer sea resort, attracting more than four million visitors annually with its amazing mountainous coastline, endless shingle beaches, warm sunny days, and bustling nightlife. Sochi belongs to that tiny part of Russia, which is happily located in the subtropical climatic zone, enjoying 300 sunny days annually. The temperature of the Black Sea at the coast in summer sometimes reaches 30°C.

Sochi, and specifically The Olympic Park, has the entire infrastructure ready for the congress: venues, residence, food, transport, you name it. But it also offers limitless possibilities for recreation: amusement parks, aqua parks, pools, hiking, biking, bowling, all kinds of sports, night clubs, excursions, and, of course, beaches! This is *the* perfect place to spend your summer holidays, play Go and have lots of fun.

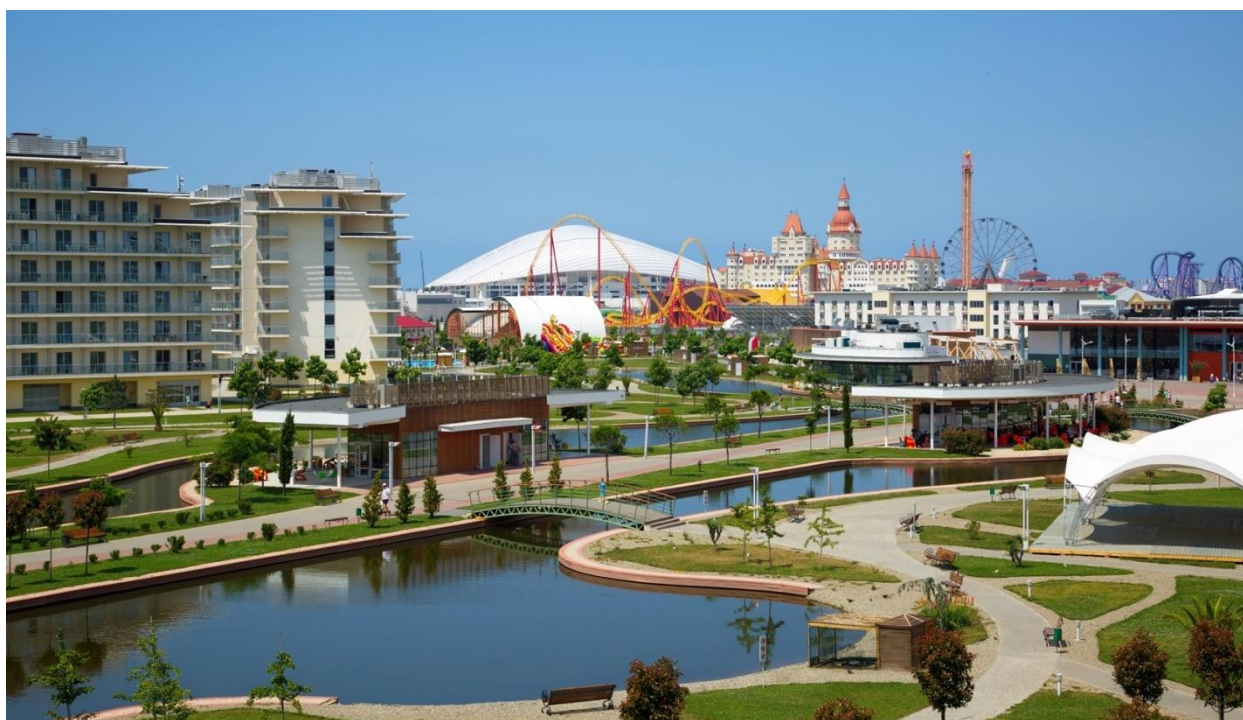


## The Venue

We offer AZIMUT Hotel Sochi 3\* as the main venue for the congress. The hotel grounds provide both indoors and outdoors areas that will be used for tournaments, free games, side events, recreation, registration/information desk and congress administration.

Name	Purpose	Area, m <sup>2</sup>
Amphitheater*	Main game hall	735
Conference hall "AZIMUT"	Top group game hall	300
Meeting room "Moscow"	Administration	70
Meeting room "Vladivostok"	Broadcast room	50
Meeting room "St. Petersburg"	Lecture hall	75
Meeting room "Novosibirsk"	Lecture hall	92
Meeting room "Astrakhan"	Information desk	75
Meeting room "Murmansk"	Free game hall	92

*\* It's not really an amphitheatre, it's flat and spacious.*



**AZIMUT Hotel Sochi grounds overview**

The hotel services and facilities that will be accessible to the congress participants include:

- Free Wi-Fi
- Gym, tennis courts, soccer and basketball fields
- Vehicle rent (bicycles, segways, cars)
- SPA, sauna
- 5 outdoor pools & an equipped beach
- Diving centre, Sailing academy (rent jet skis, boats, etc.), Fishing
- Children playgrounds, rooms and animation
- Numerous bars and restaurants



There is a good history of partnership between Russian Go Federation and AZIMUT Hotel group, which ensures good terms, smoothness of all organizational procedures and quality service. We believe that such assurance is necessary to guarantee the success of the event within the given time constraints. This particular hotel has already hosted The Russian Go Cup this year, so both the organizers and the hotel staff know exactly what goes where and should be able to solve all of the possible problems before they even arise.



**Some randomly scattered pictures of various facilities around AZIMUT Hotel Sochi**

## Residence

Players and guests will have three main options for accommodation, all have very good price to quality ratio, and most are very convenient. For the first two options we have negotiated special prices for the congress participants.

### AZIMUT Hotel Sochi

The congress venue itself. Very convenient!

	Euro per person per night
<b>Single*</b>	72 €
<b>Double*</b>	39 €
+ Dinner	8 €
+ Supper	8 €

*\*Includes breakfast*



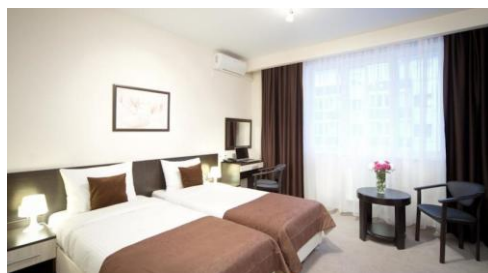
<https://youtu.be/yruql5ZP6Tg>

### BARKHATNYE SEZONY Aleksandrovsky Sad\* Resort

Adjacent to the congress venue, just across a road in fact! Best quality for the lowest price.

	Euro per person per night
<b>Single*</b>	32 €
<b>Double*</b>	<b>20 €</b> <i>Best Price!</i>
+ Dinner	8 €
+ Supper	8 €

*\*Includes breakfast. 'Sad' means 'a garden' or 'a park' in Russian. Just so that you know.*



<https://youtu.be/4VzRpFbagmY>

Like AZIMUT, BARKHATNYE SEZONY also has restaurants, children playgrounds, equipped beaches and other useful facilities and services.

### Large variety of cheap hotels all around the Olympic Park

The prices and quality may differ, but there are a lot of small cheap hotels, apartments and hostels within walking distance of the congress venue. Such offers are available on sites like <http://www.booking.com/> and will provide the best money saving options, allowing participants to stay for cheaper than **5 € per person per night**. We are working to arrange safe and guaranteed ways to book such accommodations via the congress staff upon request, if need be.

## Food

The congress participants will have no short supply of choices of where to eat. Aside from dinners provided by the hotels, here are few other options:

### Inside AZIMUT Hotel Sochi

	Cuisine	Avg. bill, Euro
<b>Bruderschaft</b>	German, Czech, Russian	9 €
<b>Graf Orlov Russian</b>	Russian, Caucasian	10 €
<b>Il Basilico</b>	Italian	12 €

### Inside BARKHATNYE SEZONY Aleksandrovsky Sad Resort

	Cuisine	Avg. bill, Euro
<b>Aleksandrovsky</b>	Buffet	8 €
<b>Sushi &amp; Pizza</b>	Italian, Japanese	7 €
<b>Shashlychnaya</b>	Caucasian	9 €

### Within walking distance of the venue

	Cuisine	Avg. bill, Euro
<b>Stolovaya</b>	Special	4 €
<b>Morskoy bereg</b>	Soviet Union	5 €
<b>Kavkaz</b>	Caucasian	10 €

There is many more! Also there are a number of mini-markets (in Aleksandrovsky Sad, for one) that sell a variety of food, drinks and other products that you can carry with you into the congress venue if you wish. We'll put all these restaurants, cafes, markets, along with nearby pharmacies and other crucial services on a detailed map.



Meanwhile, have another picture of Sochi



## Recreation

The hot sunny summer days are at their peak in late July in Sochi. There is no better time to go to the beach! The Black Sea is so warm, that you can even go swimming at night. It's the perfect way to relax after all of the games. If casual swimming is not exciting enough for you, there is jet skiing, boating, fishing, riding a water banana, wind surfing, parachute surfing, you name it! Both AZIMUT and BARKHATNYE SEZONY have well equipped beaches, which will be free to use for congress participants.



Tired of leisurely lying in the sun? Take a ride on one of these! 'Sochi Park' is an amusement park within 15 minutes walk from AZIMUT Hotel. It features Russian themed decorations, a number of breathtaking roller coaster rides and more. The entry fee is about 20 € per person.

Still not good enough? Okay, you asked for it. Enjoy your drop from 207 meters on a bungee rope at Skypark AJ Hackett Sochi, you crazy person!



Rafting, altitude adventure parks, aqua parks, hiking, horse riding, sports, excursions into museums, landmarks and natural wonders, Sochi offers all of this and more!



Really, it's simply impossible to list everything. To ensure maximum ease of partaking in such activities for the congress members we will arrange booking, transport and guides.



## Accessibility & Transport

Most of the congress participants from outside Russia will have to get to Sochi by plane.

Common flight routes	Current best prices for round trip flights (Jul-Aug)
Your place — Moscow — Sochi	<b>Berlin</b> 270 €
Your place — St. Petersburg — Sochi	<b>Prague</b> 270 €
Your place — Berlin — Sochi*	<b>Munich</b> 285 €
	<b>Vienna</b> 285 €
	<b>Frankfurt</b> 300 €
	<b>Warsaw</b> 300 €
	<b>Brussels</b> 330 €
	<b>Paris</b> 345 €
	<b>Bucharest</b> 350 €
	<b>Helsinki</b> 350 €
	<b>London</b> 390 €
	<b>Amsterdam</b> 400 €
	<b>Rome</b> 400 €

\* Direct flights from Berlin are currently available for February only, but it is expected that they will be scheduled for summer.

We have negotiations underway regarding arranging a charter flight from one of the Central European countries (probably Germany), but the results will be clear no sooner than in May.

Not in the list? Find yourself a flight on

<https://avia.yandex.ru/>

The guests will arrive to Sochi International Airport (AER), from there we'll arrange free transfer to AZIMUT Hotel. If they somehow miss it, there are buses that can get them to the Olympic Park.

Sochi also has one of the cheapest taxi services in Russia (UBER-like). Getting from the airport to AZIMUT Hotel would cost you around 5 €.

The transport infrastructure of Sochi is well developed, featuring regular buses, minibuses and trains. Their routes and schedules will be made fully available in English, along with maps and other essential information. Free transport for EGC-supported events, excursions and tours will be arranged by the organizers.



# Visa

Acquiring visa is a standard procedure which is necessary when travelling between countries that haven't established some kind of visa-free agreement. Visitors from most European countries will need visa to enter Russia.

Visitors will have to choose their desired visa type, for example we recommend:

- Tourist visa – valid up to 30 days and allows a maximum of two entries. Invitation from the Russian Go Federation is not necessary
- Humanitarian visa – up to 365 days with no limit on the number of entries. This type of visa is intended for cultural, sports and charity purposes. Invitation from the Russian Go Federation required (and we will provide it upon request)

Regardless of the type of visa visitors are applying for, they will need to submit:

- original passport,
- application form,
- a recent passport-size photo,
- booking form.

Additional documents that may be required:

- bank statement,
- flight booking confirmation.

Standard processing time is 20 days.

Visa fee for EU citizens is 35 €.


We have substantial experience of helping individual visitors to get visa, so we will provide full support to everyone who would need it.

To learn more details about visa, find your closest consulate using this site:

<http://www.russianembassy.net/>

## Visa-free

### Unlimited period



-  [Belarus<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [South Ossetia<sup>1</sup>](#)

### 90 days

-  [Abkhazia<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [Armenia](#)
-  [Azerbaijan](#)
-  [Kazakhstan<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [Kyrgyzstan<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [Moldova](#)
-  [Tajikistan](#)
-  [Ukraine<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [Uzbekistan](#)

1 – internal passport/national identification card accepted.

Stateless persons who were citizens of the [Soviet Union](#) and who now reside in the following countries are visa-exempt:

-  [Estonia](#) (holders of an [alien passport](#))
-  [Latvia](#) (holders of a [non-citizen passport](#))






### Non-commercial purposes

-  [Argentina](#)
-  [Bolivia](#)
-  [Brazil](#)
-  [Chile](#)
-  [Colombia](#)
-  [Ecuador](#)
-  [El Salvador](#)
-  [Fiji](#)
-  [Guatemala](#)
-  [Guyana](#)
-  [Honduras](#)
-  [Israel](#)
-  [Nicaragua](#)
-  [Panama](#)
-  [Paraguay](#)
-  [Peru](#)
-  [Uruguay](#)
-  [Vanuatu](#)
-  [Venezuela](#)

### 60 days for non-commercial purposes

-  [South Korea](#)
-  [Mauritius](#)

### 30 days for non-commercial purposes

-  [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)
-  [Cuba](#)
-  [Macao](#)
-  [Macedonia<sup>1</sup>](#)
-  [Mongolia](#)
-  [Montenegro](#)
-  [Serbia](#)
-  [Seychelles](#)
-  [Thailand](#)

1 – if holding a letter of quarantine/invitation and a tourist voucher.

### 14 days for non-commercial purposes

-  [Hong Kong](#)
-  [Nauru](#)

Credit to Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa\\_policy\\_of\\_Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Russia)



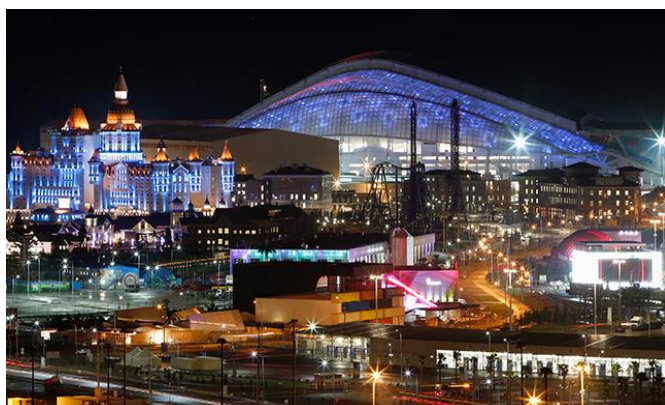
## Safety

We are aware that certain players consider visiting Russia or even Sochi in particular undesirable due to political or safety reasons. Although we expect the number of such individuals to be fairly low, we will be working together with European Go Federation to eliminate such concerns where it is possible.

Since Sochi held the XXII Olympic Winter Games in 2014, it has been utilizing its newly acquired infrastructure to hold numerous sports events and international conferences. It attracts a few million tourists (mostly from Russia) every year. The city authorities manage to ensure safety for all these proceedings without any major issues.

Speaking of the Olympics, the Olympic Park and Krasnaya Polyana house a number of sight worthy objects that remained from the games and are still occasionally used, definitely check those out. There is also Formula-1 track in the Olympic Park, which offers rides in sport cars, driven by you\*, or by a professional racer.

*\*If someone wants to drive the car himself, they'll have to pass a medical check, on-site extreme driving test and so on. Safety first!*



**Few more photos of what we have in Sochi.**

## Know-how

During the organizing of EGC 2016, our team has established numerous know-hows. These valuable pieces of knowledge, gained from the direct experience that is still fresh in the memory, will become the key assets in our race against time to make sure that all pieces of the huge puzzle, that EGC is, are in place. Here are some elements of our plan:

- Launch the congress website with all necessary information and open registration before 01 January 2017
- The minimal congress entry fee will not be raised until at least 01 May 2017
- Transfer registration of players that have already signed up for the Turkey's congress to our substitute congress upon their request
- Invite professional players from East Asia
- Provide support for congress participants that require visa
- Arrange direct charter flight to make it easier for players from Central Europe and organizers from joint European organizing team to get to the congress
- Put substantial effort into EGC opening and closing ceremonies, to make the congress unforgettable experience from the very beginning till the end
- Release an app that tracks congress schedule, tournament pairings and results
- Organize excursions, master-classes and other entertainment
- Organize sports side events
- Arrange free transport where possible
- Provide translators and guides where possible

And, of course, lots and lots of Go:

- European Go Championship
- Main tournament
- Weekend tournament
- Youth and children tournaments
- Blitz tournaments
- 9x9, 13x13 tournaments
- Pair Go and rengo tournaments
- Surprise tournaments
- Professional lectures and free reviews for all players
- Underwater Go board
- Online game broadcasts with live commentary
- Computer Go
- Around the clock free game zones



**Natalia Kovaleva,**  
**Designated Congress Director**

The standing agreement is to join our efforts with organizing teams from Germany and Turkey, so they would definitely be able to incorporate their ideas into the congress too. We are looking forward to that!

# Budget

Income		Expenditure	
Registration fees	50 000 €	Rent	47 000 €
Sponsorship	150 000 €	Prizes	32 000 €
		Advertising and promotion	25 000 €
		Professionals	20 000 €
		Helpers	20 000 €
		Opening and closing ceremony	20 000 €
		Transport	15 000 €
		Misc.	20 000 €
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 000 €</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>199 000 €</b>

Sponsorship is guaranteed by our long-standing partnership with Polymetal International plc, which consistently supports Go in Russia, among many other sports.

Our top priority is to make use of these resources to provide great memorable experience for our guests. We will arrange translators, guides and transport wherever it is possible. Every participant will receive official EGC 2017 equipment, such as bags, notebooks, etc. We also intend to give out many prizes and souvenirs for players of various strength levels: for good win rates, for side tournaments and for sports events.

Here we have performed an estimation of a few variants of a budget for a visiting player:

	Minimal but decent		Standard		Lavish	
<b>Travel+Visa</b>		310 €		360 €		430 €
<b>Residence*</b>	20 € x 8 d	160 €	20 € x 16 d	320 €	39 € x 17 d	663 €
<b>Entry fee</b>	before May	50 €	before May	90 €	in July	120 €
<b>Food</b>	10 € x 8 d	80 €	16 € x 16 d	256 €	25 € x 17 d	425 €
<b>Drinks</b>	2 € x 8 d	16 €	4 € x 16 d	64 €	10 € x 17 d	170 €
<b>Excursions</b>	a couple	20 €	a few	50 €	didn't come to play Go actually	100 €
<b>TOTAL</b>	1 week + 1 d	636 €	2 weeks + 2 d	1140 €	2 weeks + 3 d	1908 €

\* Residence in one of the two official hotels has been considered. Cheaper options are available.



**The future of Go is in our kids. We think the EGC should be as much for them as it is for us.  
Children 12-16 y. o. have 50% discount on entry fee, children before 12 y. o. are free to enter.**



## Conclusion

We understand that the above proposal is by no means perfect for everyone. In our opinion, the perfect EGC 2017 would have been the one in Cappadocia, if only there were no such grievous obstructions set in the path of Turkish organizing team. But we do think that our proposal is worth a fair chance as a substitute, despite all of its perceived drawbacks.

You may wish to know why we are so eager to hold the congress. Every person who organized at least one small tournament in their life will know that carrying out an event may be a hard work, but the reward — seeing players come together under your roof and enjoy their favorite game — is truly satisfying. If you know how that feels, we're on the same page!

Regardless of which country will hold the congress, we will work hard together with the joint European organizing team, but to be able to fully utilize our own team's potential and resources and to provide the best experience for our guests, we need the congress to happen in Sochi.

We'd like to reiterate our plusses again:

- Great venue at the sea, perfect for sunny summer holiday
- Affordable residence options, possibly redeeming somewhat costly travel expenses
- Food and drinks that will satisfy any taste, for very low prices
- Virtually limitless possibilities to have fun in Sochi
- Solid sponsor and decent budget, allowing for greater prize pool and better service
- The team with experience and know-how, already working even as you read this

Give Sochi a 'Go', and we won't disappoint!

Thank you for considering our proposal,

Sincerely,

Natalia Kovaleva

and the organizing team.

