Venue Guide
Regattastrecke Grünau
Open Water Swimming

#UnbeatableTogether

WWW.BERLIN2023.ORG/EN
Welcome to the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023!

This guide will give you all the information you need for your visit to the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023. Including how to get there, our services, and information about our venues.

We invite you to join us as we work towards a more inclusive future. From cheering on our athletes in the stands, to learning and broadening your horizons at our festival and cultural program. At the end of your visit, you will not only have watched our athletes in action, but you will also have become an active part of a movement.

This is not just an event to attend, but an event to join. Be part of the inclusion revolution!
Regattastrecke Grünau
Venue for Open Water Swimming

Address to Regattastrecke Grünau
Regattastrecke 191-233
12527 Berlin

Find it on Google Maps.

Find more information on transport here.

The open water swimming competitions are non-ticketed.
# Spectator Venue Guide

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Venue Overview

1. Olympiapark
2. Messe
3. Wannsee
4. City
5. SSE
6. Bowling
7. Grünaun
8. Bad Saarow
Sports Information

Why do we Play Sport?

At Special Olympics, a more inclusive world begins with sports, and the impact extends far beyond the playing field. Athletes learn skills like discipline and teamwork, which are directly transferrable to schools, workplaces, healthcare, and communities.

What is Divisioning?

Special Olympics competitions are structured so that athletes compete with other athletes of similar ability in equitable divisions. This practice marks one of the fundamental differences between Special Olympics competitions and those of most other sports organizations.

What is Unified Sports® Experience?

Special Olympics Unified Sports® Experiences are a series of non-official Special Olympics sports exhibition activities that bring together Special Olympics athletes with professional and Olympic sports personalities, dignitaries, celebrities, and fans in fun and competitive sports events.
Sport Specific Information

Open Water Swimming

- Number of athletes that are participating: **26**
- Unified Sport? **Yes**

Special Olympics Feature:
All competitions are freestyle, and any swimming style is allowed, including backstroke, breaststroke, or sidestroke. In Special Olympics open water swimming, the swimmers are allowed to walk and stand in the water during the competition. They may rest and hold on to, for example, boats, paddle boards, ropes, and safety personnel in the water if they are tired, nervous, or need help or encouragement. They may not improve their position in the competition while using any of the above means to rest or recover.

**We have two competitions:**

1. 1500m open water swim
2. 1500m Unified Sports open water swim
Checklist & Prohibited Items

To ensure your visit to Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 is an unforgettable experience, please consider the following points and plan your journey well in advance:

☑ Please remember your ticket & credentials
☑ In the case of a discounted ticket, please have ID proof ready
☑ If you have a mobile ticket, please remember to charge your phone sufficiently beforehand.
☑ Plan your journey in good time and in a sustainable way: public transport (VBB-ticket) is included in all paid tickets
☑ Please bring appropriate clothing for the weather, as not all venues are covered (consider rainwear, sun protection, etc.)
☑ Install the official “Berlin2023” App on your mobile phone to keep up to date with all the latest information

To ensure on-site safety and uninterrupted competition, you are not allowed to take certain items into the venues. Please make sure to observe the following rules:

☒ Weapons of any kind (e.g., pepper spray)
☒ Glass containers or bottles
☒ Water bottles larger than 500ml
☒ Bags and backpacks bigger than 50 x 35 x 20 cm
☒ Alcoholic beverages/drugs
☒ Straight umbrellas (non-collapsible)
☒ Smoking is not permitted at all our venues

On our website, you will find a complete overview of all prohibited and permitted items!
“Berlin 2023” Games App

Download our official Berlin 2023 App to help plan your visit and always have the most up-to-date schedules!

— Customize the app according to your needs: Follow athletes and mark venues & sports as favorites
— Want to know what is going on at the moment? Find all competitions, events, and awards ceremonies at a glance
— Stay up to date with push notifications and announcements, for example when there are changes to the schedule

The App is available in German, English, Easy Language German, and Easy Language English as a free download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store under the name “Berlin 2023”
## General Competition Schedule

### Divisioning
Which athletes have got the same abilities? These athletes then compete against each other.

### Preliminary Competition
The athletes can qualify for the Finals.

### Finals & Awards Ceremony

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<td>Badminton</td>
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<td>Cycling</td>
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<td>Equestrian</td>
<td>Reitclub at Olympiapark</td>
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<td>Gymnastics-Artistic</td>
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<td>Gymnastics-Rhythmic</td>
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<td>Handball</td>
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<td>Kayaking</td>
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<td>Tennis</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
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</tbody>
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### Divisioning

- **Which athletes have got the same abilities?** These athletes then compete against each other.

### Preliminary Competition

- The athletes can qualify for the Finals.

### Finals & Awards Ceremony

- Ceremonies take place on Sunday 25 June.
## Competition Schedule – Open Water Swimming

### Sunday June 18th

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Divisioning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>1500m (m/f)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>1500m Unified Sports *(f/m/mixed)</td>
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### Monday June 19th

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>1500m (m/f)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>1500m Unified Sports *(f/m/mixed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.45</td>
<td>1500m (m/f)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.10</td>
<td>1500m Unified Sports *(f/m/mixed)</td>
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<td><strong>Finals</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Awards Ceremonies</strong></td>
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On Site Services

**Info Point**

An Info Point for Open Water Swimming can be found at the spectator entrance. The following services are provided:

- Lost and Found
- Storage of Personal Items
- Accessibility Information
- Wheelchair Loan
- Sensory Backpack Loan

**Food & Drinks**

There will be catering stands beside the viewing area.

**First Aid**

The location of the first aid station is marked on the venue map, which you find [here](#).
On Site Services

Toilets

The location for toilets (including accessible toilets) can be found on the venue map. They are located close to the catering stands and the accessible seating area.

Lost and Found

All found items can be handed in at the Info Point. If you have lost an item, you can fill out a report at the Info Point or online.

Merchandise

A Fan Truck is located near the grandstands and the catering stands. The Fan Truck will be at Grünau on June 21 and 22. Opening hours:
- June 21: 9:00-16:30
- June 22: 9:00-14:00
Accessible On-Site Services

Accessibility toilets

The accessible toilets are located outside close to the female toilet near the accessible seating area.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

We are members of the global Hidden Disabilities Sunflower network, and our staff and volunteers will be prepared to assist Sunflower wearers. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower helps to discreetly indicate that the wearer has a health condition that is not immediately obvious to others and highlights the potential need for support. For more information or to purchase Sunflower products in advance of the games, visit Hidden Disabilities Sunflower.
Accessible On-Site Services

Accessible Viewing Platform
An accessible viewing platform can be found in front of the grandstand. The exact location is marked on the venue map for Open Water Swimming. Chairs for companions can be provided as needed at the venue.

Walker
Should you require a walker, you are permitted to bring it to the venue. Once you have found your seat, our team can assist to find a safe place to store the walker and return it to you when required.

Assistance Animals
Guide and assistance animals are allowed at the Regattastrecke Grünau as support for people with disabilities if they are required for medical purposes.
Inclusive Services

- Sensory backpacks will be available for loan at each Info Point. The packs include earplugs, sensory toys, wayfinding maps, and other tools.
- Wheelchairs will be available for loan at the Info Point if required. They can be pre-booked via visit@berlin2023.org.

Quiet and Prayer Room

Being in a crowded and busy environment can be overwhelming. There is a place for you to assist with sensory overload, meditate, pray, or just be by yourself for a minute. Each room is barrier-free and contains some yoga mats, ear defenders, and sensory toys.

You can find the room near the grandstand. You can ask at the Info Point for assistance and access to the room.
Transport Information

Special Olympic World Games Berlin 2023 supports the idea of a sustainable society in all spheres of life. It is therefore highly recommended to use sustainable travel methods.

Arrival by public transport (the entire VBB network is included in every paid ticket):

S-Bahn

- “S Grünau” with operating lines S8, S9, S45, S46 & S85
- Walking from the station to the venue will take approximately 15 minutes.
- Alternatively, you can catch the M68 tram from S Grünau station to the station Regattatribünen (Berlin).

The station “S Grünau” is fully wheelchair accessible.

Active travel – by bike, e-bike & e-scooter

- Grünau is also easy to reach by bike. Bicycle racks are available free of charge at the venue.
- Another option is to arrive by Bolt e-scooter or e-bike to and discover Berlin at your own pace. Please keep in mind e-scooters can only be used to reach Grünau. In the venue itself, using and parking is prohibited.

Did you know:

If you come to the Games with your bike or a Bolt e-scooter or e-bike, you have the chance to win merchandise from the Special Olympics World Games 2023 or one of two Bolt ride credits of 30€ each! To find out how, go to Greener Games!
**Transport Information**

Please keep in mind road closures and limited parking areas while planning your trip.

**Arrival by taxi or carpooling**
Recommended drop-off and pick-up location: along Regattastrecke (coming from Wassersportallee).

**Arrival by car**
The Special Olympics does not provide parking for spectators (please see accessible parking for those with permits).
If you do arrive by car, there are paid parking spaces near the Regattastrecke, for example, Park & Ride S Grünau or Parkplatz at Rabindranath-Tagore-Straße. From both parking spots, you can reach the venue in 10 to 15 minutes on foot.

**Accessible parking**
Parking can be found at the spectator entrance. If you need accessible parking and are a blue badge holder, please contact us at visit@berlin2023.org or +49 (0)30 62933 6084.

**Helpful tools along the way**
— The app GuideMeGo helps to find your way around the city when you need assistance. Several functions are available including video chat.

![GuideMeGo App Store](#)  ![GuideMeGo Google Play](#)

— The app VBB Easy is aimed at cognitively impaired people to help them navigate through Berlin and the region. It shows you possible routes, you can save different locations and you receive tips during your journey. You can also request help via the app.

![VBB Easy App Store](#)  ![VBB Easy Google Play](#)
Greener Games

A sustainable world for all is our commitment and we do our best to be as environmentally conscious as possible. Greener Games is our way to work altogether:

— We have water fountains at most of the venues. You can find them on the map. You can simply refill your water bottle (not larger than 500ml) for free.

— Be part of Bolt’s Cycle to the Games promotion. Take a picture of you and your vehicle safely parked in the designated parking zones, use the QR code visible at all Info Points, and share the photon with us. Feel free to post your photo with your Bolt e-scooter or e-bike in your Instagram story and tag #CycleToTheGames and @bolt.Deutschland

— Get 5 free minutes off your first ride with Bolt now using promo code SOWGBOLT

— We prioritize a vegetarian and vegan menu for our athletes and honored guests and encourage you to also try out meatless options at the food stalls.
Berlin WelcomeCard Special

Get the limited WelcomeCard from visitBerlin for just 9€ and discover the city with their attractive offers!

- **Get a discount of up to 50%** with more than 180 partners, including highlights such as the TV Tower or the DDR Museum
- **Online guide** with all partners, tour recommendations and much more
- **Valid for 72h** from 12 June until 25 June

Get your ticket [here](#)
Special Olympics Festival

The Special Olympics Festival is a unique and inclusive experience for all: colorful stage programs, many participatory offers and sports activities invite all Games' attendees, visitors and Berliners to locations spread throughout the city, bringing sport and culture together. Come along and look forward to a varied program!

We invite you to try out our join-in activities, enjoy great performances, dance in front of the stages and learn more about Special Olympics.

Find more information on our website.
Special Olympics Festival

Festival at Neptunbrunnen

The Special Olympics Festival at Neptunbrunnen brings the World Games to the centre of the city. You are invited to come by and experience a colorful, public and inclusive festival program. Come along and enjoy music and stage performances, try out join-in activities in exhibitor booths and cheer on our athletes in the official 3x3 basketball competitions, which are taking place right next to the festival. Admission is free.

When: from 15 to 25 June
Daily from 14:00 to 22:00. Exceptions: On 17, 22 and 25 June, the festival closes already at 19:00

Where: Neptunbrunnen, Rathausplatz 1, 10718 Berlin

Find more information on our website.

Festival at Sommergarten, Messe Berlin

Messe Berlin's Sommergarten will come alive this Summer! Join us for our outdoor celebration at our largest sport venue. Athletes, delegations and ticket holders can enjoy a stage program, performances, join-in activities at our exhibitor booths, and award ceremonies. Admission only with ticket and accreditation.

When: from 18 to 25 June
daily from 11:00-19:00, Exception: on the 25th the festival already closes at 14:00

Where: Sommergarten at Messe Berlin, Messedamm 22, 14055 Berlin

Find more information on our website.
Highlight Events at Brandenburg Gate

A wide-ranging and diverse program awaits you at the Special Olympics Festival Highlight Events at the Brandenburg Gate – Berlin’s most famous landmark, right in the middle of the city. Admission is free!

**When:**
- Sunday, 18 June: Family sports festival
- Monday, 19 June: Concert Evening as part of the Kultursommer 2023
- Wednesday, 21 June: Fête de la Musique

**Where:** Brandenburger Tor, Pariser Platz, 10117 Berlin

Find more information on our [website](#).

Cultural Program

The cultural program includes inclusive top cultural offerings from various artists, collectives, and institutions. From theatre plays to guided tours, special museum offers, and musical highlights. Don't miss out on the best of Berlin's cultural scene. You can get your ticket information directly from the organisers.

**When:** 10 to 25 June

**Where:** various locations around Berlin

Find more information on our [website](#).
Visit The Torch

Do you want the chance to take a photo with our official Olympic Torch?

Be sure to visit our Torch Experience booths at the following venues to see the torch up close and create a memory of your visit!

- Basketball Hall at Messe Berlin (thanks to Coca-Cola)
- Athletics at Hanns-Braun-Stadium at Olympiapark (thanks to Toyota)
- Equestrian at Reitclub am Olympiapark (thanks to Schufa)
FAQ

Where can I find the sports schedule?
The schedule (all subject to change) is available [here](#). We also recommend you download our [app](#).

How do I leave a comment or ask a question?
We love to receive feedback both positive and constructive. To leave a comment or ask a question, you can contact us at [visit@berlin2023.org](mailto:visit@berlin2023.org) or you can visit one of our Info Points and the team will be happy to listen and assist.

Can I leave and come back? Are there pass outs?
Yes, you can re-enter at all our events. Please make sure to scan before entering and leaving the venue to ensure a safe re-entry process.

How can I be sure if I get free public transport with my ticket?
All paid tickets include free public transport within Berlin zones A, B and C. If you are not sure whether you can use public transport, you can check whether your ticket has the VBB logo on it. The ticket must be personalized with the traveler's name. Please make sure you have valid identification with you for possible ticket checks on public transportation.

For more information and general question, please see our FAQs on our [website](#).

Did you enjoy your experience?
We would love your feedback. Please scan the QR-Code and tell us how we did!
How to Stay Involved

Become an active part and join as a volunteer. Have a look and see the possibilities for your home region:

Become a Volunteer
(specialolympics.org)

Help us to transform a life and give people a chance to receive health and education:

— Donate | Special Olympics
— Spende | Special Olympics Projekte

Thanks for cheering and celebrating our athletes!

We hope you had a great time at the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023! Stay tuned for more and be a part of the inclusion revolution via social media:

— Instagram
— Facebook
— Youtube
— Twitter
— LinkedIn
The content of this handbook reflects the planning status at the end of April 2023, subject to change.