



SPECIAL OLYMPICS
WORLD GAMES
BERLIN 2023



Press Release

15 May 2023

Airbnb Announces Partnership with Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023

Airbnb is the Official Hosting Provider of the World Games

Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sports event and will take place in Berlin from 17th to the 25th June, 2023. This global event celebrates the talents, abilities, and achievements of athletes with intellectual disabilities from all around the world and supports them not only through sports, but also through health, education and skills programs, on their way to greater recognition and empowerment.

This year's Special Olympics World Games are expected to attract more than 300,000 spectators from around the world, including some 7,000 athletes from 190 nations. There is great excitement for the World Games, which is also what the data show: search requests for Berlin for the period from 17 to 25 June have almost doubled, as compared to January and March. Airbnb will provide a platform for athletes, families, and fans to book accommodation in Berlin. As part of this partnership, Airbnb contributes additional funds to the Special Olympics movement for every stay booked through the [partner link](#).

Special Olympics Guests are warmly welcomed by Airbnb Hosts

Airbnb is proud to support this important event and provide accommodations for athletes, their families, and fans. The partnership follows Airbnb's wider efforts for fostering inclusivity and gender-equality. Airbnb has made a public commitment in 2021 and joined the Valuable 500 to show we prioritize inclusion at Airbnb.

1 in 7 people in the world have some form of disability. Airbnb has always been committed to making travel accessible to all, and the partnership with the Special Olympics World Games aligns with this mission. As the official hosting partner of the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023, Airbnb looks forward to bringing people together in Berlin to celebrate the power of inclusion, diversity, and athleticism.

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"We are pleased to have Airbnb as a strong partner for the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin. This opens up further opportunities for accessible accommodations and travel for people with intellectual disabilities. In this way, our aim is to promote societal participation and inclusion, even beyond the World Games.", says Albert Tuemann Chief of Marketing and Communication, Special Olympics World Games 2023 Organizing Committee.

"We believe that everyone, regardless of their abilities, should have the opportunity to travel, explore new places, and experience different cultures. As the official hosting partner of the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, we are proud to support inclusive travel and demonstrate our commitment to accessibility and inclusion. We are excited to welcome athletes, families, and fans from around the world to celebrate this momentous event in Berlin.", adds Suzanne Edwards, Standards Lead Equity & Accessibility, Airbnb.

Accessible Accommodations for All

Airbnb and Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 are encouraging Berliners to welcome the influx of visitors coming together to celebrate inclusion whilst also earning additional income amongst rising costs of living. Airbnb calls on Berlin locals who consider opening their homes to think of small features that can make a big difference in making their home more accessible for all. As a design-driven company, Airbnb is also committed to continuously improving the accessibility of its platform and user interface. The company has enhanced its accessibility features. [Last May](#), Airbnb introduced the Adapted category, including 1100 listings worldwide with confirmed accessibility features, as well as enhanced search filters.

"For the Special Olympics 2023, several 100.000 fans will travel to Berlin to cheer on the athletes. By opening their homes to Airbnb hosts, they enable fans to stay in affordable accommodations and experience the city in an authentic way. Airbnb guests who book their accommodations through the Special Olympics website are also doing a good thing, as the Special Olympics Movement receives a donation for each booking. We're excited to help make these Games the greatest yet.", says Kathrin Anselm, General Manager DACH, CEE & CIS at Airbnb

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Airbnb is committed to further improve the booking experience for guests with disabilities, and training its Hosts on accessibility best practices. With more Hosts recognizing the benefits of making changes in their listing that makes it more inclusive, Airbnb is looking forward for the Adapted category to grow and drive positive change in the travel industry.

"Berlin is looking forward to an international and colorful celebration of sports – for more recognition and social participation of people with intellectual and multiple disabilities. Guests traveling to Berlin can now find out about Berlin's opportunities as an inclusive destination in a new guide in simple language. The guide is available on the visitBerlin website," says Christian Tänzler, press spokesman for visitBerlin.

About Us

Special Olympics World Games

Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 are the world's largest inclusive sports event. 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities come together to compete in 26 sports. Nine days of exciting and inspiring competitions, festivities and celebrations by athletes and for athletes. Through the power of sport and the emotions of the athletes, Special Olympics and its programs contribute to positively influencing the everyday lives of people with intellectual disabilities. With the overarching goal of social change, our partners help promote acceptance and inclusion, ensure accessibility and healthcare, and shape attitudes and mindsets.

Airbnb

Airbnb was born in 2007 when two Hosts welcomed three guests to their San Francisco home, and has since grown to over 4 million Hosts who have welcomed more than 1 billion guest arrivals in almost every country across the globe. Every day, Hosts offer unique stays and experiences that make it possible for guests to connect with communities in a more authentic way.

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