

World Masters Orienteering Championships 2011

Pécs, Hungary

Invitation

Pécs-Baranya

This southern county of Hungary allures every year thousands of tourists by its marvellous natural resources, the world-famous spa of Harkány, the full bodied red wines of Villány, the romantic Dráva river and the caves of the Mecsek. The karstic structures of the Mecsek Mountains form one of the most geographically versatile terrains in Hungary. Thus, lovers of orienteering are recurrent visitors as well.

With 2000 years of history, the city of Pécs is the jewel of this region. Its early Christian cemetery forms part of the UNESCO's World Heritage. The Turkish mosques and baths with the inner city of a Mediterranean character evoke the atmosphere of the early modern period and are guaranteed to astonish the visitor. One of first universities of Central Europe was founded in Pécs in 1367 and is today the largest institution in Hungarian higher education.

Due to its historical and cultural monuments Pécs will be the European Capital of Culture in 2010 www.pecs2010.hu/eng. By then, a motorway will connect Pécs to Budapest, and the city airport will be enlarged; new cultural establishments constructed, public places in the city centre renewed and reshaped. The downtown area will be freed from passenger cars and characterized by reduced traffic. The number of accommodations will increase considerably.

Approach

The city can be approached on public road, on the newly built motorway connecting Budapest and Pécs. Travelling by train is also possible, mainly from the direction of Budapest.

Competitors can also arrive by air as there are direct flights from every larger European cities to Budapest and from several cities to Sármellék. The Pécs-Pogány airport is capable of receiving charter flights.

The planned locations of the event (event centre, assembly area, accommodations, banquet) are easily accessible within 30 minutes of travelling from each accommodation by car or by bus. On the terrains, assembly areas and connected to them car-parks of adequate size and infrastructure can be found which are suitable for the reception and service of thousands of persons. In the assembly area, facilities satisfying the demands of the competitors will be available in the form of changing rooms, bathing, eating and recreational facilities including also kindergarten and medical aid.

Accommodation

For the European Capital of Culture series of events, the renewal of the university student hostels will be completed, so competitors will be offered in every student hostel double rooms with shower. Moreover, several 4 or 5 star hotels will be constructed. By the aid of the new establishments and the nearby tourist centres (Orfű, Harkány), the region will be suitable for the simultaneous reception of 25 000 guests.

To ease the booking process, an on-line booking possibility will also be available on the homepage of the event.

Competition centre

The impressive establishment of the Expo Centre, built 2 years ago, is situated 2 km-s from the city centre, it is easily accessible and suitable for the reception and for the service of thousands of competitors arriving simultaneously. Besides the thousands of parking places

belonging to this multifunctional institution, a conference hall, offices, a restaurant, buffets and an open-air theatre are also available. Next to the registration and to the information office open during the whole length of the competition, the opening ceremony is planned to take place on the open-air stage of the building.

Competitions

The terrains chosen fulfil the requirements of the World Masters Orienteering Championships as far as technical difficulty is concerned and render possible high-quality courses in the same location for competitors of diverse physical performance.

Sprint: medieval historic city centres, park and forest park areas

Long: hilly forest situated between 200-500m above sea level

The unique karstic area of the Mecsek deserves special interest due to the numerous smaller or larger sink-holes, depressions; it is typical hilly country with several versatile valley systems.

Planned competition programme

Day 1: Opening ceremony Pécs, Expo Centre, Sprint model event

Day 2: Sprint qualification

Day 3: Sprint final

Day 4: Long distance model event

Day 5: Long distance qualification I.

Day 6: Long distance qualification II. / Banquet

Day 7: Rest day, free programme

Day 8: Long distance final / Prize-giving ceremony

Additional activities

In 2010 Pécs will be the European Capital of Culture. The establishments completed for this occasion, the World Heritage monuments, the gifts of the city and the programmes of the traditional cultural events in the beginning of July will offer numerous possibilities for cultural, gastronomic and active recreation. Treasures of Baranya County, the world-famous spa of Harkány, the thermal baths in Szigetvár, Bikal and Sikonda, the renowned cellars of Villány and Siklós, the romantic and intact natural resources of the river Dráva and East Mecsek will also offer an unforgettable experience for the competitors.

On rest days, several programmes will be organized so that the competitors could discover this beautiful region of Hungary (Harkány - Siklós - Villány tour, cruise on the Dráva river, Orfű - Abaliget cave tour, Mecsextrém Park).

Organizers

Pécs is of the centres of orienteering in Hungary

Member clubs of the Baranya County Orienteering Federation (PVSK, PVM, POEÜ) have been active for 50 years. Among them, PVSK achieved outstanding results, having being for 30 years one of the most prominent orienteering clubs in Hungary. Currently, it occupies a leading role in supporting first-class athletes, several members of the national team among them, and in training the new generation.

Many orienteers living in the city, who have actively been involved with sport for 20 to 50 years, have contributed as competition officials to the organisation of local, national and international events.

Besides the Mecsek Cup organized every year since 1959, the county hosted the qualification race for the World Championships in 1982, the European Junior Championships in 1986, and a World Cup race in 1992.

The five-day long Hungária Cups of 1997 and 2007 organized in Baranya were the two largest orienteering competitions in Hungary over the past decade. On both occasions we were able to host around 1500 competitors from over 20 countries.

The organisation of the World Masters Orienteering Championships will be prepared by an organizing committee, composed of 8 to 10 leading officials of the county. Each member of the committee is responsible for a particular set of tasks. The event will be organized by the aid of 300-400 officials.

Welcome

We would be glad to host orienteers from all over the world during the competitions of the World Masters Orienteering Championships.