

Invitation to

68th World Congress on Chess Composition

49th World Chess Solving Championship

(part of the WFCC & Fujairah Grand Prix 2025-26)

Location: Magdeburg (Germany, capital of the federal state of Saxony-Anhalt)

Dates: 8-15 August 2026

Venue: Maritim Hotel Magdeburg.

The hotel is a 3-5 minutes walk from the main train station.

It will host all the congress activities.

www.maritim.de/de/hotels/deutschland/hotel-magdeburg/unser-hotel

Congress facilities: (all at the hotel)

Otto-von-Guericke-Hall: 504 sqm (main solving events, banquet, lectures)

Hall Berlin: 241 sqm (WFCC assembly, lectures, lesser solving events)

Saloon Magdeburg: congress bureau (next to OvG)

Hotel lobby: catering during solving events

Accommodation: 93 EUR standard single room, 113 EUR double/twin (for two persons sharing), breakfast included (and use of swimming pool), +5% city tax

Congress fees: 125 EUR (if paid at the event)

100 EUR (discounted rate if paid in advance by bank transfer)

50 EUR surcharge for participants not staying at the congress hotel

Travel options: Magdeburg is located between Berlin, Hamburg, Hanover and Halle/Leipzig

car: motorways A2 and A13

railway: Magdeburg is on the main train line Hanover–Halle/Leipzig and frequent regional trains to/from Berlin with (at least) hourly services

airports: There is no international airport in Magdeburg – though there is an airfield close by if you are coming with your own private jet... Airports in the vicinity are:

Leipzig (nearest) 1:10 h to 1:40 h by train (2-3 trains per hour)

Berlin ≈ 2:30 h by train

Others airports further away include Dresden, Hannover, Hamburg and Frankfurt.

Schedule/programme: (tentative, but pretty much standard)

Saturday	8 August	arrival
Sunday	9 August	arrival, quick composing, WFCC opening session
Monday	10 August	open solving, retro solving, lectures
Tuesday	11 August	WCSC, 1st day, lectures, fairy solving
Wednesday	12 August	WCSC, 2nd day, lectures
Thursday	13 August	excursion
Friday	14 August	banquet, prize givings (official, unofficial)
Saturday	15 August	departure

Website: to be set up

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Magdeburg: From the middle ages to modernity

Magdeburg is one of Germany's oldest and most historically significant cities. Its importance reaches far back into the early Middle Ages and is closely linked to the formation of the East Frankish-German Empire. A central figure is **Otto I**, known as Otto the Great, who made Magdeburg his favored imperial residence. From here, he promoted the Christianization and political organization of the eastern territories of the empire. In 968, Magdeburg became an archbishopric and thus a spiritual center of European importance. Otto's father, **Henry I**, had already laid the foundations for this development by securing the eastern borders of the realm and integrating Slavic territories into his system of rule.

Not far from Magdeburg lies **Quedlinburg**, another key site of Ottonian history. Henry I was buried here, and under Otto I the town developed into an important royal palace and convent for women. To this day, Quedlinburg is shaped by this early period of prosperity and the cultural legacy of the Ottonians.

To the southwest stretches the **Harz Mountains**, which played an important role not only as a natural landscape but also economically and culturally. Ores were mined here as early as the Middle Ages, strengthening the wealth and power of regional rulers. At the same time, the Harz became a landscape of retreat and legend that still shapes regional identity today.

In the early modern period, Magdeburg gained renewed prominence through **Otto von Guericke**, a scientist and mayor of the city in the 17th century. With his famous vacuum experiments, such as the Magdeburg hemispheres, he became a pioneer of modern physics and brought international recognition to the city.

Dessau-Wörlitz is also part of the region's historical cultural landscape. The Dessau-Wörlitz **Garden Realm** was created in the 18th century under Prince Leopold III Frederick Franz of Anhalt-Dessau and is considered an outstanding example of Enlightenment ideals in architecture and landscape design. The ruling House of Ascania, an ancient German princely dynasty, shaped large parts of central Germany politically and culturally over many centuries.

In the 20th century, the region once again became a center of innovation. In Dessau, the world-renowned **Bauhaus** school revolutionized architecture, design, and art. At the same time, **Hugo Junkers** established his aircraft and engine works there, turning Dessau into a major industrial hub where technology, design, and social change were closely intertwined.

Finally, **Wittenberg** also belongs to the historical surroundings of Magdeburg. As the place where **Martin Luther** lived and worked, the town became the starting point of the **Reformation**, fundamentally transforming Europe in religious, political, and cultural terms.

Taken together, the history of Magdeburg and its surrounding region spans from the Ottonian imperial age through the Reformation and the Enlightenment to industrial and cultural modernity – a region in which German and European history is visible within a remarkably compact space.