

The German Go Federation proposes to hold the congress 2017 in

Oberhof

in the Thuringian Forest, the heart of Germany.

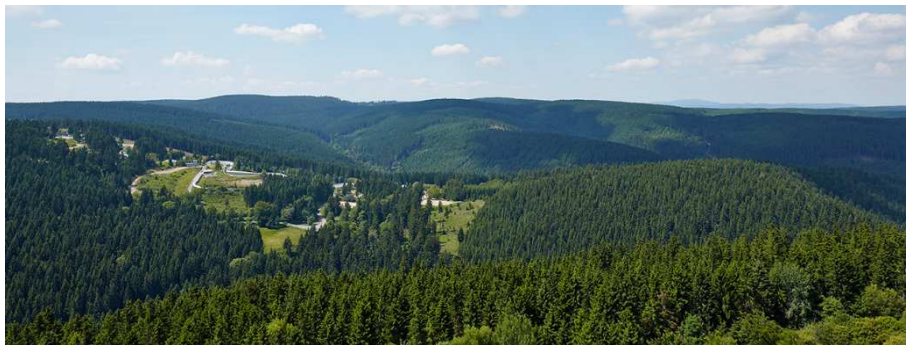
The date will be the same as planned for the congress in Ürgüp:

22 July to 6 August.

Although Oberhof is a small village, it is a famous Winter sports centre, being a regular host of World Cup Events in Ski Jumping, Nordic Skiing, Biathlon, Bobsleigh etc. Hence, there are plenty of restaurants in town.

Oberhof is also a popular place for summer holidays. Located at the **Rennsteig**, Germany's most popular **hiking**

trail, other possible summer activities besides hiking include **biking** and **mountain biking**, renting **Segways** as well as making use of the winter sports facilities such as **summer bob** (in



Thuringian Forest

real bobs!), **biathlon shooting** and **Nordic Skiing** in a huge skiing hall (open each summer day).

Congress Venue and Accommodation

In order to offer highest pleasure and enjoyment for the participants, a good congress venue needs to provide top-class playing areas as well as nice indoor and outdoor areas where you



Treff Hotel Panorama

Video: http://www.treff-hotel-panorama.de/fileadmin/user_upload/video/video-treff-hotel-panorama-oberhof.mp4

want to spend time, enjoy a drink or play some games. The proposed Treff Hotel Panorama in Oberhof fulfils these requirements perfectly. Its futuristic shape mimics a ski jump and the hotel provides sufficient space for more than 600 players within the main buildings and about 500 more in the

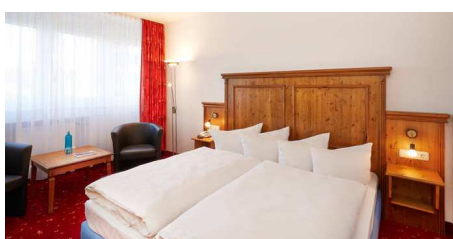


Medium sized playing room

'Event Hall' right next to it – in the picture the small building in the lower left. Many extra rooms, multiple bars etc. will be available to the congress participants. The top boards will be played at the top rooms with a magnificent view over the Thuringian Forest.

All participants can be accommodated in the Treff Panorama hotel. There are more than 300 double/twin rooms and 90 family rooms. In the building next door, there are more than 50 apartments for 4 to 6 persons and 28 'Rennsteigstuben', some kind of two-persons apartment.

After submitting our proposal to the EGF board, we carried on the negotiations with the hotel, **and we managed to get better rates for the hotel rooms.**



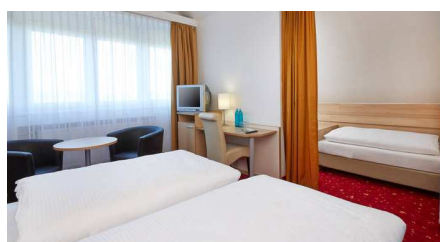
Comfort Room



Superior Room



Panorama Apartment



Family Room

Room Type (all rooms/apartments with breakfast included, separate bath room with bath tub/shower, telephone, SKY TV and free WiFi)		Daily Rate per adult person
Comfort Room	Size: ca. 22sqm, for two adults (plus one child)	32.50€
Superior Room	Size: ca. 22sqm, for two adults.	37.50€
Family Room	Size: ca. 28sqm for up to four persons (plus one child)	3 persons: 35.00€ 4 persons: 26.25€
Panorama Apartment	Size: ca. 45sqm, for up to six adults plus one child. Two separate rooms and a small kitchen unit.	2 persons: 47.50€ 3 persons: 35.00€ 4 persons: 28.75€ 5 persons: 25.00€ 6 persons: 22.50€

Besides, Oberhof has plenty of small hotels and B&Bs. There will be around further 80 places of accommodation for 15-30€/person in a twin/double room or holiday apartment within a walking distance of less than 5 minutes.

Finally, the camping ground offers very cheap accommodation (6€ per tent).

The Panorama Hotel offers plenty of special facilities:

- Swimming Pool,
- Wellness area,
- Sauna,
- Beach Volleyball,
- (9 pin) bowling alley,
- Squash pitches,
- Children animation,
- Indoor and outdoor playing areas for children, including
 - bouncy castles,
 - a small indoor football pitch,
 - basket for playing basketball,
 - mini golf.



Hotel swimming pool



Directly in/at the hotel -- your children will enjoy this!

There are a few bars within the hotel, and there is outdoor seating with a bar and BBQ facilities for the hotel guests. Everything is usable by the hotel guests **for free**. Although you will not be allowed to bring your own drinks to the tournament hall, we will make an arrangement to get simple food and drinks like water, tea, coffee etc. at very reasonable prices at the playing areas.



Play friendly games inside...



or outside in the hotel garden

Eat and Drink in Oberhof

Restaurants are plenty and very affordable in Oberhof. You can have a good lunch or dinner in a restaurant close to the tournament for around 6€. If you are into fast food, there is also a McDonald's in Oberhof. A good beer (0.3l) in a restaurant costs around 2€. Besides traditional German food, there are a number of international restaurants (e.g. Italian, Chinese, Swiss, Bulgarian) and also some nice upper-scale options with international cuisine.

Finally, Oberhof also offers a number of bars and pubs for those who don't only want to play Go until late at night...

Activities in and around Oberhof

There are plenty of things to do in and around Oberhof. Within walking distance from the hotel you will find an **Exotarium**, an **Aquapark** and a **high rope course**. You can visit the **Ski Jumps** and the **Bobsleigh Run**. Do you dare to take a seat in a real bob and try it out?

Or do you like **Nordic Skiing**? In Oberhof you can do this even in summer. If you are the **biathlon** kind of person, you can try some shooting as well.



Indoor skiing and biathlon in Oberhof

If this feels too wintery to you, you can also have a **swim** in the barrier lake next to the camping ground. And of course, there are plenty of **hiking trails** through the Thuringian Forest starting in Oberhof. Explore them yourselves or take part in a guided tour. There are also guided night walks with torches. After too much of hiking, you might consider making a trip by **horse carriage**.

Within Germany Thuringia is famous for two kinds of food: *Bratwurst* and *Klöße*. Want to know more about Germany's most famous sausage? Visit the **Bratwurst Museum** in a neighbouring town. Or learn how to make the original **Thüringer Klöße**, a special kind of potato dumplings in a cooking workshop with the current *Kloßkönigin*, the Dumpling Queen.



Thüringer Bratwürste



Thüringer Klöße

Excursions

We will also offer one-day trips to places with top tourist attractions around the Thuringian forest, such as Eisenach, Saalfeld, Weimar, Bamberg, etc.



Wartburg Castle near Eisenach (65km)



Feengrotten in Saalfeld (70km)



Goethe and Schiller in Weimar (75km)



Farbglasmanufaktur
(Coloured Glass Manuactory) in Lauscha (60km)



Old town hall in Bamberg (120km)

These places are of course also easily accessible by train or car for individual trips.

Access to Oberhof

The closest airport to Oberhof is Erfurt, however, you need to be lucky to find a direct flight from your place to Erfurt. If you travel by plane, Frankfurt International Airport is probably the best choice, Nuremberg Airport is also a good option.

The Oberhof train station provides connections to cities such as Erfurt, Würzburg etc. These are linked by high speed trains to major airports in Germany such as Frankfurt or Munich.

Distances from/to German airports by train:

Erfurt:	1:20 hours
Nuremberg:	3:00 hours
Frankfurt:	3:15 hours
Munich:	4:40 hours

We consider organising a shuttle bus from Frankfurt or Erfurt train station to Oberhof.

Regular train tickets in Germany are expensive. For instance, a regular one-way ticket from Frankfurt to Oberhof costs about 67€, from Nuremberg 57€. However, you can get cheaper tickets:

- You can get a special early-booking rate (29€), when you book early online. Early-booking rates become available three months in advance.
- There are discounts for group. As a member of a group of six persons, you can get a group-early-booking rate from only 19€ per person.
- If you are prepared to travel longer only by local trains (about 4:30 hours from Frankfurt, 3:30 hours from Nuremberg), there is a special weekend fare of 60€ for six persons. No early booking required for this kind of ticket.

Oberhof is located close to the motorway A71, so it easily accessible by car. Some estimated travel times to Oberhof by car:

- Praha: 3,5 hours
- Brussels: 5 hours
- Vienna: 6 hours

The Treff Panorama Hotel offers free parking.

Budget

This is our provisional budget plan. As most services to run a congress are covered by the contract with the hotel, there are not many points to consider so far. We do not expect to find one big main sponsor, but, just like in Bonn 2012, we consider it realistic and likely to find many sponsors who are willing to give around 1,000€, adding up to more than 10,000€.

Income		Expenditure	
Registration Fees 550 players à 100€ average, incl. 1-week participants	55,000€	Rent	23,000€
		Professionals	10,000€
		Helpers	5,000€
Expected sponsorship (various small sponsors)	10,000€	Prizes	20,000€
		Others	5,000€
German Go Federation	5,000€	10% Risk	6,500€
Sum	70,000€	Sum	69,500€

Please note that this budget does not contain any support from the EGF! The EGF announced to add another 10,000€ as prize money for the top European players of the European Championship. This will increase the overall amount of prize money to 30,000€.

Distribution of Prizes

We would like to set the prize money in relation to prizes of previous congresses and the EGF policy for awarding prize money. This year's AGM asked congress hosts to spend at least 20,000€ on prizes, and we shall respect this request. Including the 10,000€ from the EGF, our budget for prizes is double than from most recent congresses in the past up to 2015 (the numbers from St. Petersburg are not yet available to public).

There will be prizes for all side events as well as for 7/10 records for two-weeks players and 4/5 records for one-week players in the main tournament.

Go around the Clock!

Go is what it is all about at a Go Congress, and we will offer plenty of side competitions. Besides the main tournament we will offer at least 15 side tournaments in the afternoons and evenings, including a Midnight Madness tournament for those who cannot get enough of go.

The hotel offers to keep some rooms open as long as we want them.

So it is basically up to you to add some more games to your Midnight Madness tourney games.

Professionals will attend the congress and give lectures, open game commentaries and play simultaneous games.

Germany has a rising community of young go players. We hope to attract many of these as well as foreign go playing children and run various events dedicated to youth players.

And of course there will be some new event as a special surprise.

Organising Team

Just as at the Bonn congress in 2012, the congress will be run by an experienced organisation team, consisting of a core team and plenty of volunteers. About half of the organizers of 2012 agreed to take over the same job in 2016 in case the congress goes to Germany. Members of the core team will be in charge of certain areas, such as

- Webmaster
- Requests
- Marketing
- Professionals (Schedules, Looking after...)
- Registration
- Finance
- Information desk
- Tournaments
- Sport activities
- Excursions
- News
- Ceremonies
- Equipment and Rooms
- Any other business



Designated Congress Director:
Manja Marz

Despite the shortage of time since the EGF asked for options as substitutes for Ürgüp, we have so far already been able to find experienced volunteers to cover most of the main areas. The main Congress Director will be Manja Marz.

Project Plan

Seven months is a very short time to prepare a congress. To make sure that everything will run smoothly, proper planning is essential. This is the updated draft of our project plan for the first stage:

Task	Due Date
Sign contract with Panorama Hotel	23-12
Fix Registration Fees	24-12
Launch Website	24-12
Set-up Schedule	10-01
Open Registration	10-01
Contact East Asia for Sending Professionals	10-01
Set-up Core Team	10-01
Create Flyer	10-01
First Press Release to Attract Sponsors	10-01
Set-Up Biweekly Skype Meetings	15-01

As you can read in the open letter from the Russian and the German Go Federations, both associations agree to cooperate in running the congress 2017, may it take place in Sochi or Oberhof. Therefore, we will include members from the Russian Go Federation in our organisation team and hope to benefit in particular from their technical equipment and expertise

We also intend to make Kerem Karaerkek, the Turkish Congress Director, part of the organising team to run side events, thereby adding Turkish cultural elements to the congress.

Objectives and Merits of Running an EGC in Germany

After getting knowledge of the cancellation of the Turkish congress in Ürgüp, the Germany Go Federation spent much effort in finding a suitable congress place for the European Go players within only one week. We are convinced that we fully succeeded in doing so.

Congress participants include two important groups of go fans: Those who come to have a good holiday and those who fight for titles.

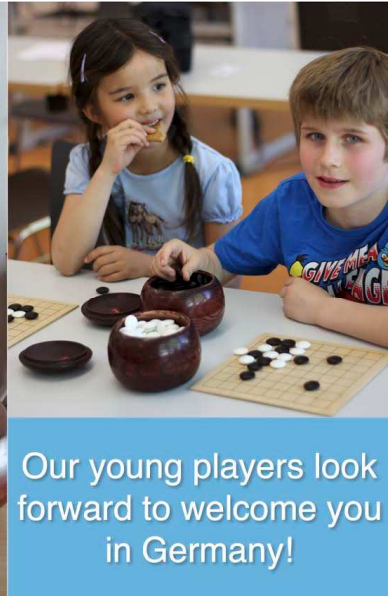
By choosing a modern congress hotel in a top touristic area surrounded by peaceful nature and clean air, Hotel Panorama in Oberhof addresses the needs of both of these groups.

In addition:

- Germany has a highly experienced organisation team, led by the official EGF Congress Advisor as Congress Director. This is a big advantage in preparing a congress in such short time.
- Both, the president of the German Go Federation as well as the assigned Congress Director live within a good one-hour drive from Oberhof, so we can show up to sort out issues during preparation of the congress with the locals face-to-face on site.
- Germany is a popular touristic country, in particular to go players from East Asia.
- It is easily accessible from all Western European and many Eastern European countries.
- Many EGC participants might have stayed in Germany several times before and have seen the Rhine gorge, Neuschwanstein Castle or towns like Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig or Munich, but most likely they have not yet experienced the hilly woods of the Thuringian Forest. A trip to the Thuringian Forest will provide a different, but also typical and by no means less interesting view of Germany.
- We received a very interesting offer to host the EGC from the Treff Panorama Hotel, and a visit on 25 November exceeded all of our expectations of a perfect venue.
- The German Go Federation is financially strong and able to cover deficits if necessary.

While it is our primary goal to keep our guests happy, an EGC in Germany shall also be used to promote Go in Germany and possibly in its surrounding neighbour countries.

- The AlphaGo boom raised the visibility of Go a lot and Go has become of interest to German media. A Go congress in Germany can feed this interest, making news and broadcasts of a Go event in German mass media likely.
- Some years ago, we started a special programme to promote Go among young players. At the last EGC in Germany, most of German go youngsters were too new at the time. Making them come to an EGC would raise their motivation in studying Go.



Our young players look forward to welcome you in Germany!