



 **WORLD**
SYNCHRONIZED
SKATING
CHAMPIONSHIPS® 2019
HELSINKI • FINLAND • 12-13 APRIL

FIRST INFORMATION



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Grand Celebration on and off the ice

The Finnish Figure Skating Association and the City of Helsinki welcome skaters, officials, judges and guests to the ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships in Helsinki, Finland, on 12th-13th April 2019.



Helsinki

Helsinki, the beautiful capital of Finland, is a unique and diverse city, where interesting history meets contemporary Scandinavian style - a city whose urban cosmopolitan lifestyle exists in perfect harmony with nature. Helsinki has something for everyone. Helsinki is a compact and lovely city that offers visitors an endless number of possibilities.





Seasons in Helsinki and urban nature

April will be beautiful and crispy spring time in Helsinki. You'll see the city waking up after long dark winter. Urban nature is around wherever you go in Helsinki, a third of the city is covered green areas. Sea is close by and there are lots of nice parks and relaxing nature around. Finland offers the fresh air and greenery just above the water.

Culture-filled trip

Helsinki offers plenty to experience for cultural people. The city offers a wide range of high quality happenings including top Finnish and international names, enough to satisfy even the most demanding connoisseur of culture. Helsinki has many concert halls where you can enjoy either traditional or contemporary classical music. Helsinki's stunning range of visual arts can be admired in a number of quality museums and galleries – over 80, in fact!

There are many interesting museums near the official hotel, the Natural History Museum, Kiasma and Ateneum. Opera and ballet lovers must visit the Finnish National Opera and Ballet near the Töölönlahti Bay. The Winter Garden, with over 200 plant species, has been a recreational meeting place for the residents of Helsinki for over a century. Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a fascinating destination also in the spring time. The short ferry ride through the ice is an experience itself! Enjoy the sauna and swimming in the cold sea in Löyly or Allas Sea Pool, the most Finnish thing ever!

A traditional sightseeing tour in a bus is a convenient and enjoyable way to begin an acquaintance with a new city. In a short time, you get at least a brief glance at most of the essential sights and features.

Helsinki as a city of design

Design culture is really strong in Helsinki and there are multiple design shops around. Helsinki offers the best and widest range of shopping opportunities in Finland. Favourite items to bring home from Finland include designer products and high-quality food and confections. Fans of fashion and interior design can explore the city's Design District.

The main shopping streets in Helsinki are Aleksanterinkatu, both sides of the Esplanade and Mannerheimintie. Stockmann department store offers a wide selection of products and services. The biggest shopping centre in the city, Kamppi, is located right next to the official hotel. Department stores and shopping centres are usually open: Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, Sat 9am-7pm and Sun 12am-6pm.

Food in Helsinki

In just a short time Helsinki has developed into the home of good food. “New Nordic Cuisine” has taken over the scene and found a truly receptive audience among the trendy small restaurants that have been established in recent years by up and coming chefs.

Finnish cuisine is based on fresh and natural ingredients that vary according to the season. In addition to vegetables, mushrooms, berries and fish, Finnish food is typified by simplicity and purity of taste. Helsinki’s own cuisine also features influences from both the East and the West. Helsinki offers a vast range of alternatives for everyone.

For further information, please visit the official tourist web-sites of Helsinki
<http://www.visithelsinki.fi/en> and www.myhelsinki.fi





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Venue

The competition venue Helsinki Ice Hall is a nice and cozy entertainment arena for ice and other sport events, conferences and concerts. The oldest ice rink of Helsinki was built in 1966 and has up to 8 000 seats.

The World Synchronized Skating Championships will return to the Helsinki Ice Hall after seven years to celebrate on ice. The Arena will welcome the ISU family and the spectators to enjoy the beauty of the synchronized skating under its superb facilities.



Transportation

The arena is located in the Taka-Töölö area in Helsinki, 2,5 km from the Helsinki city centre and the official hotel Sokos Hotel Presidentti. Taka-Töölö is a district with plenty of green space and sports facilities, including the Helsinki Olympic Stadium, near the Töölönlahti bay.

Helsinki Arena is easily accessible with public transportation: From the city centre the most convenient is to take a tram 2, 4 or 10 from city center (stop number 0101 "Lasipalatsi") to Töölö (stop number 0641 "Kansaneläkelaitos") and just walk couple of minutes to the arena. Also several bus routes goes near the arena and there are 150 city bike stations in Helsinki. Travel time from the city center to the arena is approximately 15 minutes. For further information about public transportation, please visit <http://www.reittiopas.fi> Driving time from the airport to Helsinki Ice Hall is 20-35 minutes depending on the traffic conditions.

Practice rinks

Official practices will take place both at the Helsinki Ice Hall (main rink) and at the Elisa Arena (practice rink). Both rinks are indoor, heated, air conditioned and artificial ice rinks with an ice surface of 30m x 60m. The main arena and the practice arena are located in the same complex with an easy access.



Accommodation

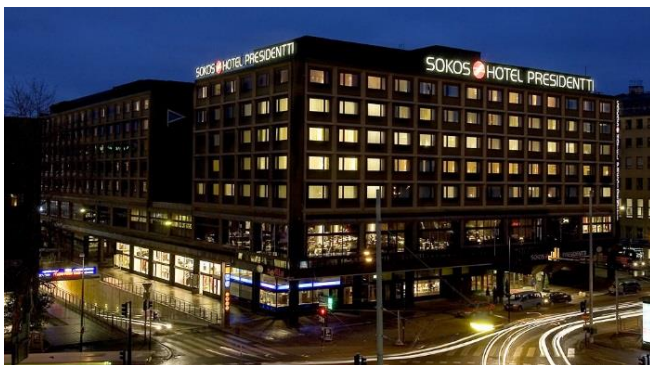
Official hotel for ISU/Judges/Teams/OC

Sokos Hotel Presidentti

Eteläinen Rautatiekatu 4, Helsinki

<https://www.sokoshotels.fi/en/helsinki/sokos-hotel-presidentti>

Wonderfully revamped Original Sokos Hotel Presidentti showcases Finnish phenomena in an innovative way right in the city center and close to excellent traffic connections. In the hotel rooms, designed by Paola Suhonen from Ivana Helsinki, you can immerse yourself in Finnish Sisu, Midsummer, a Fairy Forest, the Sound of Silence or a Blizzard right in the heart of Helsinki. Finnishness is the driving force in the entire hotel – from the conference floor's Kultaranta room to the tasty meals with Finnish ingredients at Bistro Manu, and from Midsummer flowers pillowcases to deer shelves in the hotel lobby.



Sokos Hotel Presidentti provides quick access to local cultural events, shopping and sightseeing. The hotel is located right next to the Kamppi Shopping Centre, which is the biggest shopping center in the city with more than 40 cafeterias and restaurants and more than 120 stores, open from Monday to Sunday. The extensive culture and leisure activities of Helsinki area just a short walk away. Close to the hotel you'll find the Parliament House, the Natural History Museum, Kiasma Museum, among other attractions. In the hotel, you can relax by the swimming pool and sauna or the hotel's street level restaurants serving guests with a masterly touch. The hotel offers free WiFi in all areas and there are several computers intended for guest use in the lobby.



The comfortable standard rooms have been decorated in a modern Nordic style by Ivana Helsinki.

Double/Twin rooms, 25 m²: King-size bed or twin beds

Single room 145 € per night, double room 95 € per night per person and triple room 75€ per night per person. Breakfast and VAT are included in the prices.



General Accommodation Information

Room reservations of the Teams and Officials

The hotels will not accept room reservations directly. The Organizing Committee will assign the hotel to the Teams in accordance with their rooming list once the request is received. Hotel will be reserved on the first come – first serve basis.

The Organizing Committee will not guarantee any rooms for reservations requested after Dec. 1, 2018.

For further information, please contact Ms Minna Fernelius, minna.fernелиus@stll.fi , Tel: +358 50 543 6898.

Extra Services, Incidentals and Damages

Mini bars will be blocked upon check-in and can only be activated when a personal credit card is presented at the hotel front desk. All hotel extras, including services such as room service, mini bar and dry cleaning are to be settled directly at the hotel upon checkout. Each Member federation is responsible for incidentals and the Team Leader for each Member federation is the appointed contact person.

PAYMENTS

DUE DATE

Deadline for 50% for hotel reservations from Federation	November 1, 2018
Refund of 100% hotel deposit for cancellations up to	December 22, 2018
Refund of 50% hotel deposit for cancellations from December 23 until	March 21, 2019
No refund for cancellations after	March 22, 2019
Federation to pay balance of hotel payment latest at	Registration



Meal services at Official hotel

Teams

All accredited persons that do not receive meal vouchers from the Organizing Committee need to pre-order their lunches and dinners. The Teams, Coaches and Team officials are encouraged to utilize the meal service negotiated by the Organizing Committee. The use of the services is upon Teams' discretion and at their own cost. The price for lunch is 18€ and for dinner 20€.

ISU Event Officials and Judges

The judges and other ISU competition officials entitled to the full board will receive vouchers for daily meals. Breakfast, lunch and dinner (or late dinner) are served at the Sokos Hotel President. Meals will be served in buffet style. On the day of evening events the persons provided with the meal tickets may choose either dinner or late dinner. The serving for the both buffet will be equal.

Dining Time

Breakfast: 06:00-10:00

Lunch: 11:30-15:00

Dinner: 18:00-22:00 (on competition and non-competition days)

Late dinner: 22:00-00:30 (on competition days)

The meals will consist of three optional main courses to choose from; meat, fish and vegetarian with pasta, rice or potatoes including a salad buffet, fresh fruit and beverage. If you have lost a meal ticket, you will have to buy a new ticket at your own expense. The OC will sell meal tickets to other accredited persons. Price: Lunch 18€ or dinner 20€ per person.



Registration and Accreditation

All ISU Office Holders, ISU Event Officials, Judges and Team Delegation Members are registered in the accreditation office located at Sokos Hotel Presidentti (2nd floor).

In order to make the accreditation process faster and smoother for your convenience, OC will contact you in order to pre-arrange an appointment for accreditation.

The operating hours of the accreditation office will to be confirmed in accordance with arrival schedule. No accreditation will be issued without presentation of a valid travel ID (passport or Schengen travel ID). Forgotten, lost or stolen accreditation cards must be reported and can only be replaced for a cash fee of 150 Euros. The replacement is upon approval of ISU and the organizing committee.





Travel and Transportation

Visa to Finland

Citizens from all countries will need a valid travel ID (passport or Schengen travel ID) and in some cases a visa to enter Finland. Please verify with the Embassy or Consulate of Finland in your country on whether you need a Visa.

You can visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland - website to obtain information: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15720&contentlan=2>

Arrival

Based on the arrival and departure information received in a timely manner from the teams, the OC will provide transportation at arrival and departure only between the Official Hotel, Sokos Hotel President and the Helsinki-Vantaa Airport, Helsinki Railway Station and harbour.

The transportation will be provided for Teams, ISU Office Holders, and Event Officials. The accredited members of the Official Team Delegation will only have transportation provided if they travel with the team.

The OC requests that teams schedule their arrivals for Wednesday, April 10, as this will be the primary transportation day. Furthermore, the OC will provide departure shuttle buses on Sunday, April 14, only. Please note that teams arriving prior to April 10, or leaving after April 14, will be responsible for all transportation charges.

The driving time from Helsinki-Vantaa Airport to Helsinki Ice Hall is around 20-35 minutes and to Sokos Hotel Presidentti around 30-45 minutes depending on the traffic conditions. All trains from the airport stop at Helsinki Railway Station, from where it is 5 minutes' walk to the official hotel.

Event Shuttles

There will be one shuttle bus line between Sokos Hotel President and Helsinki Ice Arena. An accreditation card or bus permit must be presented prior entry into the shuttle bus. Up-to-date event and transportation information will be uploaded to the ISU "Inside Events" application, which is available free of charge on Android and Apple systems and compatible with both tablets and smartphones.



Useful Information

Climate

April in Helsinki Average high (°C) +5 Average low (°C) +2.

Clothing

April is considered early springtime in the City of Helsinki. Visitors and guests are advised to dress in layers so as to be prepared for all weather. Despite listed average temperatures, days can be warm, evenings are cool and spring showers are always possible. Most nightlife and dining places do not require formal attire.

Credit Cards

All major credit cards are accepted in the Finland. Most hotels, shops, restaurants and taxi accept VISA and Master Card. American Express, Diners Club and Discover may not be accepted in all places.

Taxes

Taxes are included in the price presented to customers/guests in shops, hotels, restaurants, etc. As of August, 2018, the general sales tax (VAT) is 24%.

Tipping

While tipping is not mandatory in Finland, it is customary in many circumstances for good service, especially in sit-down restaurants, which offer table service.

Electricity

Electrical sockets are 220 V plug type C. Visitors with appliances of different voltages should bring adapters.

Exchange Rate

As of August, 2018: EUR/USD 1.14 (subject to change)

ATM

ATM machines are readily available throughout the city of Helsinki. There is no ATM at Helsinki Ice Hall.

Grocery Store

There are several grocery stores around the city. K-market, S-market and Alepa are the names of the grocery stores.

Tap water

Finland's tap water is among the highest quality in the world and it is safe to drink.



Schedule of Events *(Subject to change)*

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, April 11	All day	Official Practice
	18:30	Opening and Draw Ceremony
Friday, April 12		Official Practice
	16:30	Opening Ceremony on Ice
	17:00	Competition – Short Program
Saturday, April 13		Official Practice
	13:45	Competition – Free Skating
		Victory Ceremony

Event tickets

All-Event Tickets will be on sale in October through the ticket agency www.lippu.fi. More information from our website: : www.helsinki2019.fi



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Organizing Committee Contacts

For further information, please contact:

ISU WORLD SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS® 2019
Finnish Figure Skating Association
Valimotie 10, 00380 Helsinki, FINLAND

Entry Forms

Email: WSSC19.OC@stll.fi

Visa Invitations

Ms Elina Kalminen

Email: WSSC19.OC@stll.fi

OC Media

Ms Mila Kajas-Virtanen

Email: WSSC19.MEDIA@stll.fi

OC Hotel Rooms

Ms Minna Fernelius

Email: WSSC19.OC@stll.fi

OC Sales and Marketing

Ms Outi Wuorenheimo

Email: outi.wuorenheimo@stll.fi

Other OC General Event Questions

Email: WSSC19.OC@stll.fi

Welcome to Helsinki!

