



**Baku 2015**  
1st EUROPEAN GAMES

# Baku 2015

## European Games

### Media Factsheet

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### The Games

- Baku 2015 will be the first ever European Games – an exciting and innovative new multi-sport event for the continent
- Baku was awarded the Games at the European Olympic Committees General Assembly in December 2012
- The Games will take place from 12 – 28 June 2015, a total of 17 days of competition
- More than 6,000 athletes from around the Olympic nations of Europe are expected to compete
- There will be a total of 20 sports, including new disciplines such as Basketball 3x3, Beach Soccer, Karate and Sambo
- Eleven sports will offer qualification opportunities for Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.
- There will be 18 competition venues including newly-built venues for Gymnastics, BMX, Aquatics and Shooting and a purpose-built 68,000-seat stadium for Athletics and Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- There will be 253 medal events in total

### The Sports

A total of 20 sports will be represented: 16 Olympic sports and four non-Olympic sports.

#### **Aquatics – Diving - Baku Aquatics Centre**

160 athletes – 80 men, 80 women

4 days of competition

8 medal events

Competition starts: 18 June

The competition will feature eight medal events across the 1m Springboard, 3m Springboard, Synchronised 3m Springboard and Platform.

The Baku Aquatics Centre is being constructed for the Games and is set to be an iconic sporting venue for Azerbaijan. Located in the Flag Square Cluster, the venue will host three Aquatics disciplines at Games time - Swimming, Diving, and Synchronised Swimming. The venue will have a seating capacity of 6,000.

#### **Aquatics – Swimming – Baku Aquatics Centre**

526 athletes

5 days of competition

42 medal events

Competition starts: 23 June

It is one of three sports that will be making a splash at the new Baku Aquatics Centre, located in the Flag Square Cluster. At Baku 2015, Swimming will feature 526 athletes competing across a total of 42 medal events with Olympic qualification standards for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games available. Located in the Flag Square Cluster, the venue will host three Aquatics disciplines at Games time - Swimming, Diving, and Synchronised Swimming. The venue will have a seating capacity of 6,000.

### **Aquatics – Synchronized Swimming – Baku Aquatics Centre**

150 athletes

5 days of competition

4 medal events

Competition starts: 12 June

The five days of competition will see 150 athletes gather in Baku to showcase their talent and attempt to win gold. Medals will be available across Solo, Duet, Team and Free Combination events in Synchronised Swimming.

Located at the southern end of the Flag Square Cluster within the European Games Park, the venue is equipped with two 50m swimming pools and one pool for diving.

### **Aquatics – Water Polo – Water Polo Arena**

364 athletes

10 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 12 June

More than 360 competitors will battle it out for gold as they go head-to-head at the Water Polo Arena, new venue located in the European Games Park. The competition will feature increased team numbers from the traditional Olympic programme with 16 men's teams and 12 women's teams competing.

The Water Polo Arena is a temporary outdoor venue located at the southern end of the Flag Square Cluster within the European Games Park. Two Water Polo pools will have the ability to host two games at the same time.

### **Archery - Tofiq Bahramov Stadium**

128 athletes

7 days of competition

5 medal events

Competition starts: 16 June

The European Games format will follow that of the Olympic Games with 64 men and 64 women competing in the recurve division, in Individual and Team events as well as in a mixed team event. Archery will also offer the opportunity to win ranking points for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games qualification.

The Tofiq Bahramov Stadium is home to the Azerbaijani national football team and will host 3,000 spectators for Archery at the European Games. It is part of the City Cluster and was first built in 1951, before being extensively renovated and reopened in 2012.

### **Athletics – National Stadium**

500 athletes

2 days of competition

1 medal event

Competition starts: 21 June

The spectacular National Stadium will be the setting for the 40 men's and women's Athletics events that will also be the European Athletics Team Championships Third League. Athletes will compete over two days for points in each event, which will then be combined for a final team score as they chase gold, silver and bronze. Athletics at the European Games offers possible qualification standards for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Situated close to the Athletes Village, the spectacular National Stadium will host two days of Athletics events as well as the Opening and Closing ceremonies. The multi-function venue has capacity for 65,000 spectators

### **Badminton – Baku Sports Hall**

160 athletes

7 days of competition

5 medal events

Competition starts: 22 June

The competition will be held over a seven day period and include five medal events in men's and women's singles, men's and women's doubles, and mixed doubles. Approximately 160 athletes will be going for gold in front of 1,700 spectators. The Baku Sports Hall is an existing venue that will receive a permanent upgrade for the Baku 2015 European Games. Located close to the Baku Boulevard, this City Cluster venue will have a capacity of 1,700 at Games time for spectators to enjoy the Table Tennis and Badminton competitions.

### **Basketball 3x3 – Basketball Arena**

128 athletes

4 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 23 June

The innovative Basketball 3x3 competition will be one of the most popular sports at the Games, thanks to high scores, high drama and high tempo. The game is played on a half-court between two teams of three players and is estimated to be enjoyed by more than 250 million players worldwide. The Basketball Arena will be located in the European Games Park as part of the Flag Square Cluster. The temporary venue will have capacity for 2,500 spectators to watch every slam dunk that takes place throughout the European Games. Construction is set to be completed on the outdoor venue in March 2015

### **Beach Soccer – Beach Arena**

96 athletes

5 days of competition

1 medal event

Competition starts: 24 June

Beach Soccer is played on a sand pitch roughly a quarter of the size of a traditional football pitch but with larger goals. The result is a fast-paced clash with an emphasis on attack, which means a shot on goal every 30 seconds and an average of nine goals per game. Eight men's teams, comprising of 96 athletes, will go head-to-head over five days of competition.

The Beach Arena is a temporary venue being constructed for the Games and will be part of the Flag Square Cluster. Located on the edge of the Caspian Sea, the outdoor venue will have capacity for 2,900 spectators during the Beach Soccer competition.

### **Beach Volleyball – Beach Arena**

128 athletes

6 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 16 June

Beach Volleyball will be played at the Beach Arena, with 64 teams competing for medals in the men's and women's tournaments. Athletes will dive to keep the play alive and score points against their opponents as they aim for gold. The competition will begin on 16 June and provide an opportunity to gain valuable ranking points for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The outdoor venue will have capacity for 3,900 spectators during the Beach Volleyball competition, to enjoy one of the world's most popular beach sport. Construction will be completed in March 2015.

### **Boxing – Crystal Hall**

330 athletes

12 days of competition

15 medal events

Competition starts: 16 June

Hugely popular in Azerbaijan, Boxing will be held over a 12-day period and feature 296 athletes and 15 medal events. There will be 10 weight categories for men and five weight categories for women, which for the first time at a major Boxing tournament is an increase from the usual three weight categories for women.

The Crystal Hall is located in the centre of the Flag Square Cluster on a dramatic peninsula jutting out into the Bay of Baku in the Caspian Sea. This multipurpose venue was originally built for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2012 and will receive an additional upgrade ahead of Baku 2015. The Crystal Hall will host five sports during the Games.

### **Canoe Sprint - Mingachevir**

350 athletes

3 days of competition

15 medal events

Competition starts: 14 June

The historic city of Mingachevir will host the Canoe Sprint competition, with more than 350 athletes taking to the water over three exciting days of competition. In total, there will be 12 kayak events (men's and women's) and three canoe events (men's only).

Mingachevir – known as the City of Lights – is around 250 kilometres from Baku. Home to the Azerbaijan Canoe Sprint and Rowing teams, the Kur Sport and Rowing Centre is the national Olympic training centre. Located on the picturesque banks of the Kur River, the venue has capacity for 1,350 spectators.

### **Cycling – BMX Velopark**

48 athletes

3 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 26 June

The BMX Cycling competition at Baku 2015 will see 32 men and 16 women take to the outdoor track at the new BMX Velopark venue. The men's and women's final runs will both take place on 28 June, offering important ranking points for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The BMX Velopark is a temporary venue built for the Baku 2015 European Games, although the BMX track will remain as part of the Games legacy. Located close to the Baku city centre, the venue will form part of the Western Venues. Construction will have capacity for 1,600 spectators.

### **Cycling – MTB Velopark**

77 athletes

1 day of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

There will be no shortage of riveting moments during the cross-country Mountain Bike competition. The competition will see 46 men and 31 women take on the challenging course at the Mountain Bike Velopark. At Baku 2015, both the men's and women's medal events will take place on 13 June.

Ranking points will be available for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The Mountain Bike Velopark will be a temporary venue built for the Games, located in the hills immediately south of the Baku Shooting Centre. It will be the first purpose-built Mountain Bike course in Azerbaijan.

### **Cycling – Road – Freedom Square and Bilgah Beach**

221 athletes

3 days of competition

4 medal events

Competition starts: 18 June

The classic Road Cycling events at the European Games will undoubtedly draw large crowds as more than 220 of Europe's finest cyclists take to the roads of Baku. Four medals are available between the Road Race and the Time Trial. Important ranking points will be available to competitors for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The Cycling Road Race will start in the forecourt of the Government House at Freedom Square. The race route itself consists of a 13.5km circuit throughout the city of Baku and will comprise of 16 laps of the course for the men and nine laps for the women. A temporary purpose built venue will have capacity for 1,000 spectators.

### **Fencing – Crystal Hall**

216 athletes

5 days of competition

12 medal events

Competition starts: 23 June

Over the five days of competition, more than 200 fencers will take part in men's and women's individual and team bouts in epee, foil and sabre events. There will be a total of 12 medal events. The Fencing competition will be held at Crystal Hall, which was built to host the Eurovision Contest in 2012. Crystal Hall is located in the centre of the iconic Flag Square Cluster on a dramatic peninsula jutting out into the Bay of Baku in the Caspian Sea.

### **Gymnastics – Acrobatics - National Gymnastics Arena**

55 athletes

3 days of competition

6 medal events

Competition starts: 17 June

Dynamic and spirited in nature, Acrobatic Gymnastics is guaranteed to wow crowds with its breathtaking balances and throws throughout the European Games. It is one of two non-Olympic Gymnastics disciplines included in the Baku 2015 programme and will feature a total of six medal events. More than 50 athletes will be competing for gold in mixed pairs and women's group events. The National Gymnastics Arena is located directly south of the Athletes and Media Villages. Construction of the arena was completed in February. A purpose-built facility with a capacity of 7,000, the venue is home to the Azerbaijan Gymnastic Federation and hosted the 30th European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in June 2014.

### **Gymnastics – Aerobic – National Gymnastics Arena**

67 athletes

3 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 17 June

Combining aerobic choreography and gymnastics elements, the sport of Aerobic Gymnastics is another competition in a series of newly introduced non-Olympic disciplines on the Baku 2015 programme.

The National Gymnastics Arena is located directly south of the Athletes and Media Villages. Construction of the arena was completed in February. A purpose-built facility with a capacity of 7,000, the venue is home to the Azerbaijan Gymnastic Federation and hosted the 30th European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in June 2014.

### **Gymnastics – Artistic – National Gymnastics Arena**

179 athletes

4 days of competition

14 medal events

Competition starts: 15 June

Artistic Gymnastics - often the most closely-followed of all the Gymnastic disciplines - will be held at the National Gymnastics Arena. The four-day competition will feature 14 medal events and play host to 180 gymnasts from around Europe.

The National Gymnastics Arena is located in close proximity to the Athletes' Village. During the Baku 2015 European Games, it will host events in five of the Gymnastics disciplines at once.

### **Gymnastics – Rhythmic – National Gymnastics Arena**

93 athletes

3 days of competition

8 medal events

Competition starts: 17 June

Athletes will have the opportunity to compete in both team and individual events throughout the three-day competition as they work with the ribbon, clubs, ball and hoop at Baku's National Gymnastics Arena. The competition will see 92 women compete in eight medal events.

The Arena is primarily assigned to host competitions in different gymnastics disciplines and it has the ability to stretch from 5,000 to 9,600 seats, depending on the scale and a nature of the event it hosts.

### **Gymnastics – Trampoline – National Gymnastics Arena**

53 athletes

3 days of competition

4 medal events

Competition starts: 17 June

Trampoline gymnasts will be set to impress with their aerial skills over the three days of competition at the National Gymnastics Arena. The high-energy discipline will feature 53 athletes from around Europe competing for medals in the men's and women's individual and synchronised events.

All VIP and functional room hospitality spaces are located between these two levels. While hosting large-scale international competitions, it has the ability to meet the requirements for international media and sponsors expected of today's world class sporting venues, including interview rooms, media control centre, sponsor rooms and media press rooms

### **Judo – Heydar Aliyev Arena**

366 athletes

18 days of competition

4 medal events

Competition starts: 25 June

More than 350 judokas will compete over four days of individual and team bouts in men's and women's competition. In a first for a major multi-sport continental event, Blind Judo will also be



contested with medals in the men's over 90-kilogramme category and in the women's under 57-kilogramme category.

The Heydar Aliyev Arena is part of the City Cluster venues and is located on Tbilisi Avenue in the centre of Baku. Named after the former President of Azerbaijan, the venue was opened in 1990 and has held over 30 sporting events in that time. The venue will receive extensive upgrades before the European Games and will host 7,800 spectators for the Wrestling and Judo competitions.

### **Karate – Crystal Hall**

96 athletes

2 days of competition

12 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

The Karate competition will take place over two days on 13–14 June and feature a total of 12 medal events; 10 in individual kumite and two in individual kata. Europe's best performing athletes - 48 men and 48 women - will showcase their talents on the strikingly beautiful tatami of Crystal Hall. The Karate competition will be held at Crystal Hall 3, which was built to host the Eurovision Contest in 2012. Crystal Hall is located in the center of the iconic Flag Square Cluster on a dramatic peninsula jutting out into the Bay of Baku in the Caspian Sea. Crystal Hall 3 will be located in the area to the east of the main hall.

### **Sambo – Heydar Aliyev Arena**

77athletes

1 day of competition

8 medal events

Competition starts: 22 June

The Sambo competition at the Baku 2015 European Games will be held on 22 June at the Heydar Aliyev Arena in Baku. The competition will consist of eight medal events. A total of 77 athletes, including 41 men and 36 women, may take part in the Sambo competition.

The field of play for the Sambo competition at Heydar Aliyev Arena will consist of a platform, 0.8m in height and with a special Sambo sponge-floor surface. The venue first opened in 1990 and since then has held over 30 international events in several sports.

### **Shooting – Baku Shooting Centre**

330 athletes

7 days of competition

19 medal events

Competition starts: 16 June

There will be seven days of competition for the estimated 330 male and female athletes. Medal hopefuls will have opportunities at 19 individual and team events covering pistol, rifle and shotgun firearms. Expect high tension when competition begins as a grand total of 15 Olympic places for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games will be awarded to the winners of the individual events.

The Baku Shooting Centre is a brand-new purpose built shooting facility for the Baku 2015 European Games, and will form part of the lasting legacy left by Baku 2015. This new facility is due for completion in December 2014.

### **Table Tennis – Baku Sports Hall**

128 athletes

7 days of competition

4 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

The seven days of action will see a total of 128 athletes competing. Men's and women's singles and team matches will culminate in four exciting medal events. The gold medal winners in the individual events will secure a place at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, so expect fierce competition in the pursuit of first place.

The Baku Sports Hall is an existing venue that will receive a permanent upgrade for the Baku 2015 European Games. Located close to Baku Boulevard, this City Cluster venue will have a capacity of 1,700 at Games time for spectators to enjoy the Table Tennis and Badminton competitions.

### **Taekwondo – Crystal Hall**

128 athletes

4 days of competition

8 medal events

Competition starts: 16 June

Competition in the Crystal Hall will be held over four days and will include four weight categories for both men and women, resulting in a total of eight medal events. Approximately 128 athletes will compete, and there will be vital ranking points available as fighters seek qualification for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

This multipurpose venue was originally built for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2012 and will receive an additional upgrade ahead of Baku 2015. The Crystal Hall will host five sports during the European Games.

### **Triathlon – Bilgah Beach**

130 athletes

2 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

The ultimate test of determination and desire, Triathlon will see competitors swim, cycle and run their way through Baku to glory. With 130 participants in the men's and women's events, the competition will be fierce, especially as the gold medal winners will gain their NOC direct qualification for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The two-day competition will take place at the Bilgah Beach, located just north of the Baku city centre. The Bilgah Beach is one of Baku's most beautiful and exclusive seaside resorts, popular among both the local population and foreign guests.

### **Volleyball – Crystal Hall**

336 athletes

16 days of competition

2 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

The discipline consists of two medal events, with 12 teams competing in both the men's and women's tournaments, and will take place at the seafront Crystal Hall. Crucial ranking points will be available for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

This multipurpose venue was originally built for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2012 and will receive an additional upgrade ahead of Baku 2015. The Crystal Hall will host five sports during the European Games.

### **Wrestling – Heydar Aliyev Arena**

480 athletes

6 days of competition

24 medal events

Competition starts: 13 June

The most popular combat sport in Azerbaijan, Wrestling will be a highlight of the European Games and will be fought in front of a capacity crowd of 7,800 spectators in the Heydar Aliyev Arena. A grand total of 18 weight categories ensures a busy competition agenda, with several medal events being held on each of the six days of wrestling action. Competition in both freestyle and Greco-Roman events will give 400 athletes the chance to claim the title of European champion in front of a passionate crowd.

The venue was opened in 1990 and has held over 30 sporting events in that time. The venue will receive extensive upgrades before the European Games and will host 7,800 spectators.

## Athletes Village

- 1,042 Village apartments
- 7,351 beds
- 80,000 kg of food served
- One of the largest kitchens in Europe

## Transport

- Over 500 taxis and sedans
- 330 coaches
- 1,970 drivers, driving more than 12 million km
- A Games Route Network of 47 km
- Over 20 major transport infrastructure projects

## Human Legacy

- Estimated 1,600 Games-time workforce
- Currently 1,356 BEGOC members of staff (including 431 internationals)
- Diverse workforce – 43 different nationalities currently employed, from five continents
- 20,000 contractors have been hired to prepare Baku for hosting the Games
- Significant international senior level expertise in delivering Olympics, Winter Olympics and major global sporting events
- Currently over 800 Azerbaijani BEGOC staff
- Transfer of Knowledge Programme from international to local staff
- Games Academy Programme ensuring local legacy for future events
- 188 Games Academy graduates - 162 Azerbaijani and 26 from around Europe-

## Ceremonies

- The Opening Ceremony will be a celebration of traditional Azerbaijani culture that will reflect the host city's role in modern Europe
- Dimitris Papaioannou, Artistic Director of the Opening Ceremony, highly regarded for his spectacular work of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games ceremonies
- A cast of over 6,000 involved in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Global leading production company FiveCurrents will create the opening and closing ceremonies

## Sponsors

- 7 Official Partners announced: AZAL, BP, Coca-Cola, Nar Mobile, P&G, SOCAR, Tissot
- 7 Official Supporters announced: Azersun Holding, Bazarstore, McDonald's, Tickethour, Sitecore, Milla and Motorola Solutions

## Broadcasters

- International Sports Broadcasting (ISB) is the Host Broadcasting Agency
- Broadcast deals signed with TV stations for 47 countries to date, with more announcements to be made in the coming weeks
- 800 hours of planned broadcasting
- Approximately 750 media agencies will show highlights of the Games

## Games Statistics

Dates of the Games	12 – 28 June 2015
European Olympic Committees	50
<b>Sports</b>	
Sports	20
Rio 2016 Olympic qualification sports	11 (Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Cycling, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Triathlon, Volleyball, Wrestling)
Medal events	253
Competition days	17
Approximate Athletes	6,076
Approximate Team Officials	3,038
Approximate International Technical Officials	1,000
Approximate National Technical Officials	650
<b>Venues</b>	
Venue clusters	4 (Flag Square, City, Village, Western venues)
Competition Venues	18
Permanent Venues	12 (5 new builds – National Gymnastics Arena, BMX Velopark, Baku Aquatics Centre, Baku Shooting Centre, National Stadium)
Temporary Venues	6 (Water Polo Arena, Beach Arena, Basketball Arena, Mountain Bike Velopark, Triathlon, Cycling road race and time trial)
Non-Competition Venues	32
Training Venues	10
<b>Communications</b>	
Host Broadcaster	International Sports Broadcasting (ISB)
Anticipated hours of broadcast coverage	800



**Baku 2015**  
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Approximate spectators	1 million
Approximate press	750
<b>Accommodation/ Arrivals and Departures</b>	
Approximate hotel nights	110,000
Planned air travel network (at Games time)	54 airports, 54 cities and 22 countries
<b>Transport</b>	
Games fleet	871 cars and coaches, and approximately 1970 drivers
<b>Athletes Village</b>	
Average size of 3-bedroom apartment	190m <sup>2</sup>
Average size of bedroom	22m <sup>2</sup>
Residence blocks	13
Number of bedrooms	3,755
<b>Media Village</b>	
Residence blocks	4
Number of bedrooms	1,464