PROTARAS
19 APRIL
2026

EUROPEAN
AQUATICS
OPEN WATER SWIMMING
MASTERS TOUR 2026
PROTARAS~CYPRUS

BULLETIN INFORMATION

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European Aquatics' President Welcome Message

Dear Friends,

It is a real pleasure to welcome athletes, officials and partners to the historic first edition of the 2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour, which is being organised alongside the Open Water Swimming Cup, in the lovely setting of Protaras, Cyprus.

The Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour will take place across three stages, with men and women competing 3km distance at each event. To be included in the final Tour ranking, athletes must compete in all three legs, with points accumulated across the season. Full rules and regulations for the 2026 Tour are available on the European Aquatics website.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my friend Alexandros Christoforou, President of the Cyprus Swimming Federation, whose team has once again demonstrated outstanding dedication. Working closely with the Paralimni Deryneia Municipality and key local partners organisers and hosts they are working tirelessly to bring this tour to life. I would also like to thank all the members of European Aquatics' Masters Committee for their dedication and creative ideas.

Their commitment, attention to detail and enthusiasm are what make events like these possible, creating not only high-quality racing environments but also the welcoming atmosphere that masters' athletes value so highly.

This new initiative is an exciting chapter for masters open water swimming, bringing together swimmers from across Europe in a spirit of competition, camaraderie and shared passion for the sport. We look forward to a fantastic Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour season ahead.

Antonio Silva

President of European Aquatics

EUROPEAN AQUATICS
2026 MASTERS' OPEN WATER SWIMMING TOUR LEG 1
(PROTARAS – CYPRUS)
19th April 2026

Host Federation and Organizing Committee's Welcome Message

Dear Friends,

The Cyprus Swimming Federation, in cooperation with the Municipality of Paralimni–Deryneia, has the honour to invite your Federation to participate in the European Aquatics 2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour – Leg 1.

The event will be hosted in Protaras, Cyprus, on 19 April 2026, and will be held the day following the European Aquatics Open Water Swimming Cup – Leg 1, offering an excellent competitive opportunity for athletes.

We would be honoured by welcoming the master open water swimmers to Protaras, for this international event.

All relevant information concerning the competition, accommodation, and logistical arrangements is included in the attached bulletin.

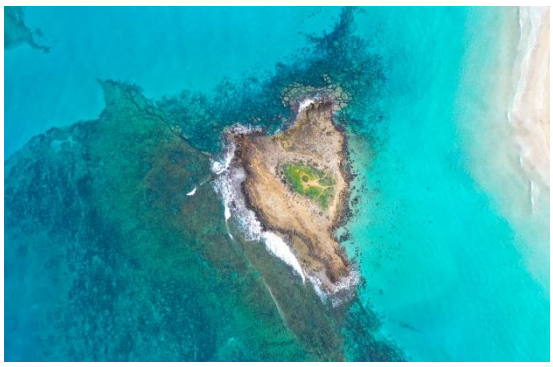
We remain at your disposal for any further clarification and look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely,
Alexandros Christoforou
President - Cyprus Swimming Federation

PROTARAS

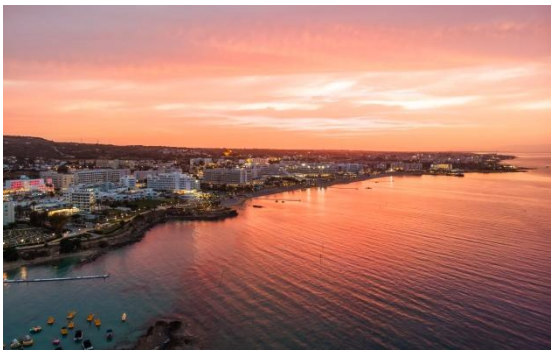
Nestled on the southeastern coast of Cyprus, Protaras is a jewel in the Mediterranean that offers a blend of serene natural beauty, thrilling adventures, and vibrant cultural experiences. Renowned for its pristine beaches with golden sands and crystal-clear waters, Protaras is a destination that promises unforgettable memories for travelers of all kinds.

The beaches of Protaras are among the finest in Europe, consistently earning Blue Flag awards for their cleanliness and amenities. Fig Tree Bay, the crown jewel of the region, enchants visitors with its turquoise waters and idyllic surroundings. The shallow, calm sea is perfect for families, while the abundance of water sports ensures endless excitement for thrill-seekers. From jet skiing and paddleboarding to windsurfing and banana boat rides, the options are as diverse as they are exhilarating.



For diving enthusiasts, Protaras offers some of the best underwater experiences in the Mediterranean. The clear waters provide exceptional visibility, revealing a vibrant underwater world of marine life and intriguing rock formations. The iconic Green Bay and the Cyclops Cave are must-visit sites for divers, with opportunities to explore reefs, caves, and even ancient artifacts. Whether you're a seasoned diver or a beginner, the area's professional diving schools provide expert guidance and equipment.

Protaras is also an emerging hub for sports tourism. Its excellent weather, with over 340 days of sunshine annually, creates perfect conditions for outdoor activities year-round. Cycling enthusiasts will find scenic routes that weave through the picturesque coastline and lush countryside, while runners and hikers can explore nature trails that lead to breathtaking viewpoints. For athletes seeking training facilities, the region offers modern sports complexes and accommodations tailored to active lifestyles.



Beyond its natural allure, Protaras boasts a rich cultural and gastronomic heritage. The region is dotted with traditional taverns and contemporary restaurants that serve a delightful fusion of Cypriot and international cuisine. Fresh seafood, local cheeses, and wines are highlights of the culinary offerings, providing a true taste of Mediterranean flavors. Visitors can savor meals by the sea while enjoying spectacular sunsets that paint the sky in hues of orange and pink.

The cultural charm of Protaras extends to its historical sites and local traditions. The charming chapel of Prophet Elias, perched at top of a hill, offers panoramic views and a glimpse into the area's spiritual heritage. Seasonal festivals and events celebrate Cypriot customs, music, and dance, allowing visitors to connect with the island's vibrant culture.

Protaras is more than just a destination; it is an experience that captures the essence of Mediterranean living. Whether you're seeking relaxation, adventure, or cultural enrichment, this captivating coastal town invites you to discover its treasures and create memories that will last a lifetime.

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2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour Calendar

LEG	DATE	PLACE	DISTANCE
1	19 April	Protaras (CYP)	3 km
2	24 or 25 July (TBD)	Sukoro (HUN)	3 km
3	28 August	Šamorín (SLO)	3 km

Event Info

The first leg of the tour will be organised by Cyprus Swimming Federation in collaboration with the Paralimni – Deryneia Municipality.

Event Contacts

HOST Federation	Cyprus Swimming Federation Address: P.O. Box 23931, 1687 Nicosia, Cyprus Phone: 00357 22449841 E-mail: koek@logos.cy.net
LOC Contact	Maria Loizidou Kyriacou E-mail: koek@logos.cy.net
European Aquatics Contact	E-mail: masters@europeanaquatics.org

Key Dates - Event

18/02/2026	Registrations start
08/04/2026	Registrations deadline
17/04/2026	Earliest arrival date
18/04/2026	Warm-up Day
19/04/2026	Competition Day
20/04/2026	Latest departure date

Key Dates - Logistics

25/02/2026	Preliminary Accommodation Form Deadline
25/02/2026	50% prepayment for official hotel booking
16/03/2026	Final hotel booking and Travel Form
16/03/2026	Final hotel payment

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2026 MASTERS' OPEN WATER SWIMMING TOUR LEG 1
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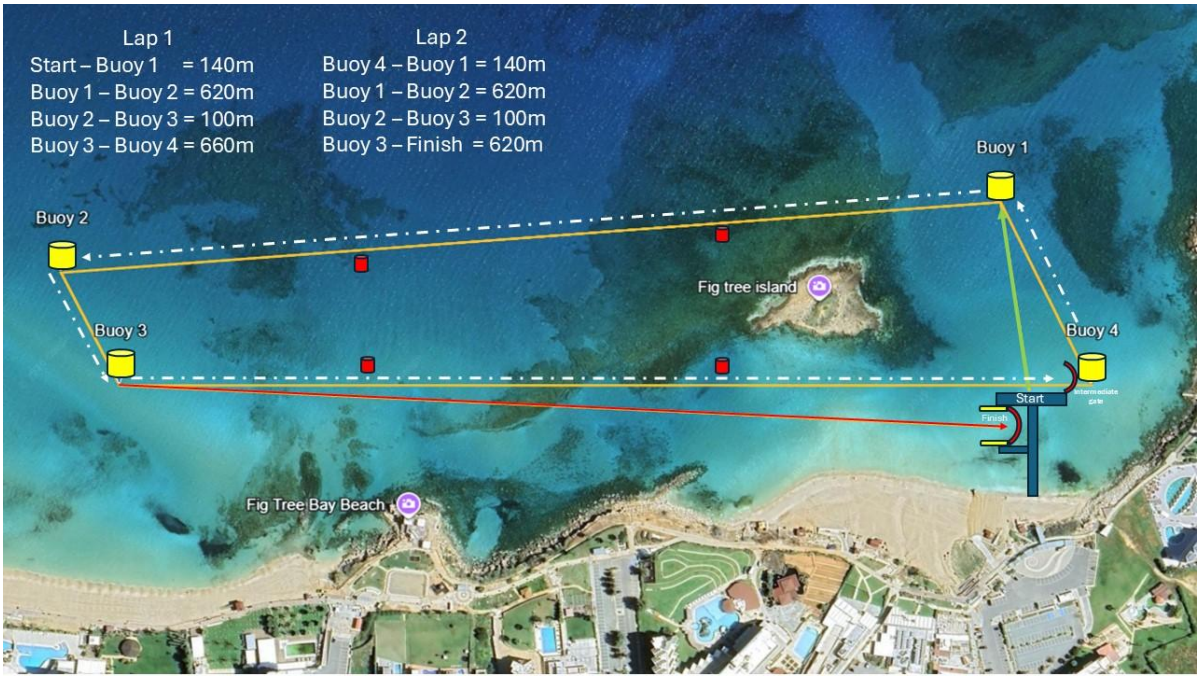
Event Location

Fig Tree Bay - Protaras

Course Info



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Regulations

2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour - Leg 1 and 2 - will be organized under the same rules as is stated in each provided bulletin.

2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour - Leg 3 will be organised as part of the European Aquatics Masters Championships. The bulletin will be published separately, and the respective championship rules will apply.

More information can be found on the website:
https://europeanaquatics.org/sports/masters/masters-tour/

Events

3km Men and Women

Age Categories

20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 ,70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90+.

Age category shall be determined solely based on the athlete's year of birth.

Event Entries, Entry Fees and Accreditation

Competitors are not required to hold membership in a club affiliated with a Member Federation or in a Federation registered with European Aquatics.

Entries may be submitted directly by competitors or by any authorized person until circulated deadline. No amendment is possible after Technical Meeting. There are no restrictions regarding citizenship or residence of competitors.

Registrations will be done through the event website: https://protarasopenwater.com/etn/master-3k/

A participation fee of **€50** must be paid to LOC's account. Once the payment is completed, the fee is non-refundable.

Each competitor may obtain their Accreditation Card upon arrival at the event, following verification of identity. **Release of Liability** should be signed and brought to the Accreditation Centre.

Awards & Prizes

The best three ranked male and female in each category will be awarded with medals.

Master' Open Water Swimming Tour Final Ranking

Participation in all three legs is mandatory for inclusion in the Masters Tour Final Ranking.

Ranking and Ranking System is available on the Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour website: https://europeanaquatics.org/sports/masters/masters-tour/

Water Temperature

The water temperature shall be measured within 30 minutes before start of race and must be a minimum of 16°C and maximum of 31°C. The water temperature shall be certified by the Safety Officer as measured in as near to the middle of the course as possible at a depth of 40 cm. If multiple measurements are taken, these must be averaged.

Swimwear

All competitors will receive and must wear a brightly coloured numbered cap according to the seeding.

If measured water temperature is below 18°C, the use of wetsuits is compulsory.

All swimsuits (also wetsuit) must be according to World Aquatics rules.

Waves

Competitors will be seeded in waves according to age groups.

Start

Men and Women race shall be organised separated.

OTL (out of time Limit – cut off time)

For the 2026 Masters' Open Water Swimming Tour Leg events, a cut off time of 30 minutes per kilometre may be applied.

The application of cut off times and OTL procedures shall be presented at Technical Meeting.

Technical Meeting

Technical Meeting shall be held at competition venue between **16:00 – 17:00 on Saturday 18th, 2026**.

Training Schedule

Training at competition venue shall be held between **15:00-16:00 on Saturday 18th, 2026.**

Provisional Competition Schedule

SUNDAY 19/4/2026	**08:00h**	Registration start
	09:15h	Registration closing
	10:00h	Men Competition start
	12:00h*	Women Competition start

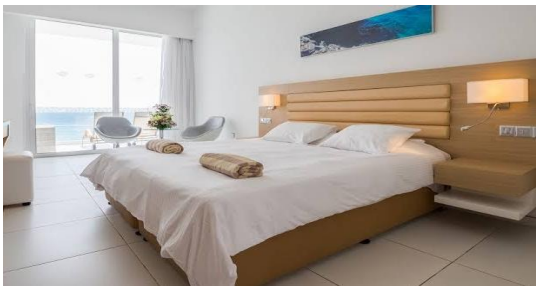
Competition Schedule is subject to change based on final entries and will be presented at the Technical Meeting.
Medal ceremonies will be held right after the race is finished.

*Men and Women competition may be combined into one race based on number of entries.

Accommodation and Booking

VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL ****

(Location : 8 minutes' walk from the venue)



Vrissaki Beach Hotel is a luxurious 4-star hotel in Protaras. Amenities include spa, gym, bars & restaurants, pools, jacuzzi and massage.
It is positioned on the main beach of Protaras and along the Protaras board walk.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €220.00
FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON €205.00
FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT PERSON €190.00

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PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL***

(Location : 5 minutes' walk from the venue)

Protaras Plaza is a 3-star stylish hotel positioned in the center of Protaras, just a few minutes' walk from souvenir shops, bars and restaurants.
Fig Tree Bay is nearby for fancy watersports, seafront sunbathing and swimming.
Hotel amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, bars and restaurants.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€200.00**
FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€180.00**
FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€170.00**

KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL***

(Location : 10 minutes' walk from the venue)

Kapetanios Bay Hotel is a 3-star hotel located in Protaras, a tourist point on the Eastern Coast of Cyprus. This area offers an amazing "resort-like" experience with famous beaches, bars and restaurants at a walking distance from the Hotel. Fig Tree Bay beach, the infamous spot recognised as one of the top 25 beaches in the world is just a 2 stop distance by bus.

FULL BOARD / SINGLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€190.00**
FULL BOARD / TWIN ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€170.00**
FULL BOARD / TRIPLE ROOM / PER NIGHT / PERSON	**€160.00**

Hotel rooms will be allocated on a strictly first come, first served basis.

The hotels are not available for direct booking.

For hotel reservations please return the "Preliminary Accommodation Form" by **25 of February 2026.**

The reservations will be confirmed officially only after receiving the duly signed form, and payment of the 50% deposit of the total amount due.

Reservations will be finalized upon receipt of the balance due and "Final hotel booking and Travel Form" by **16th March 2026.**

Payments for accommodation

Please submit payments to the following account:

Name:	CYPRUS SWIMMING FEDERATION
Bank:	Bank of Cyprus
IBAN:	CY02 0020 0195 0000 3570 0983 4929
SWIFT BIC:	BCYPCY2N
Subject:	PROTARAS OPEN WATER 2026

Cancellation and Refunding Policies

Cancellations made prior to **16th March 2026** will not be penalized.

Cancellation requests between **16th March 2026 and 3rd April 2026**, will have 50% penalty of the total booking cost.

There will be no refunds for cancellations made after **3rd April 2026**.

Official Airport and Transfers

Larnaca International Airport "Glafcos Clerides" (LCA) is located 66 km from Protaras - approximately 50 minutes' drive.

The Organizing Committee will provide free of charge transfer to and from Larnaca airport for participants, who book accommodation through the Cyprus Swimming Federation.

Visa

Information about visa requirements to enter Cyprus can be found at the link below:
https://www.gov.cy/mfa/en/documents/categories-of-persons-and-countries-whose-nationals-do-not-require-a-visa/

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PRELIMINARY ACCOMMODATION FORM

Please fill and return this form not later than the 25th of February 2026
by email to koek@logos.cy.net

CONTACT DETAILS (please fill in with capital letters in English)

Name	Surname
Nationality	
Address	
Phone Number	
E-mail	

HOTEL RESERVATION

VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL **** PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL*** KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL***

Please select your choices

1st choice		**2nd choice**	

Check-in Date	Check-out Date	Single	Double

(50% prepayment for official booking must be paid until 25/2/2026)

Date: Signature:

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FINAL HOTEL BOOKING AND TRAVEL FORM

Please fill and return this form not later than the 16th of March 2026
by email to koek@logos.cy.net

CONTACT DETAILS (please fill in with capital letters in English)

Name	Surname
Nationality	
Address	
Phone Number	
E-mail	

FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

	Airport-Departure	Airport-Arrival	Flight No	Time
Arrival				
Departure				

HOTEL RESERVATION

VRISSAKI BEACH HOTEL **** PROTARAS PLAZA HOTEL*** KAPETANIOS BAY HOTEL***

Please select your choices

1st choice		**2nd choice**	

Check-in Date	Check-out Date	Single	Double

(Final payment for official booking must be paid until 16/3/2026)

Date: Signature: