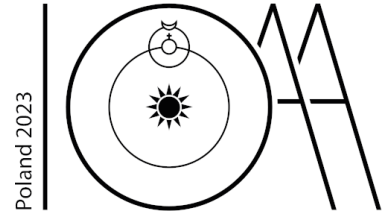


16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics 10th—20th August 2023, Chorzów, Poland



Third Announcement (corrected)

27 June 2023

We are now less than 2 months away, so here are some more updates and reminders:

Sky Atlas

Prior to one of the rounds, the students will have time to read the questions and prepare. During this time, they will have copies of a sky atlas which they may consult if they wish. The atlas is quite standard and should not present any difficulties, however some labels are in Polish. The meaning should be obvious to anyone who has used a sky atlas, but to avoid any confusion we have sent an explanatory PDF which with this announcement, and which will be on the website. Please explain the labels to your students. (The general instructions to the students which you will translate will also include a section with this information.)

Student Hotel

The student hotel is now confirmed, they will be accommodated in:

Hotel Villa Verde Congress & Spa,
Mrzygódzka 273,
42-400 Zawiercie
Poland

<https://www.villaverde.pl>

The team leader's hotel should be confirmed shortly.

Transportation form

[IOAA 2023 POLAND Arrivals and departures \(office.com\)](https://www.ioaa2023poland.com)

A reminder to please complete the transportation form as soon as you have booked your journey. We will pick you up on arrival on 10 August and take you to the student and leader's hotels. If you are planning on arriving in Poland earlier than 10 August, you will need to arrange transport to the hotel or arrange with us to be at one of our pickup points (Katowice or Krakow airports or train stations) at a designated time on 10 August.

Facebook Page

The IOAA 2023 Facebook page is live, we will be posting updates and photos during the event. Please share with all your friends and family!

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093561406244>

Poster deadline

The team posters presenting the **students'** astronomical work (observations, outreach, local culture or history, etc.; 49cm (width) x 74cm (height) as a PDF, PNG ~~or CorelDraw file~~) should be sent to us by 31 July.

Correction: previously we said that we could accept CorelDraw, this is incorrect. PNG or PDF only, PDF is preferred.

Telescope, calculator and stopwatch manuals

A reminder that the manuals for the 20cm/8" telescope and the Casio FX-350 calculator as well as a stopwatch are on the <https://ioaa2023.pl/index.php/downloads/> website.

Weather

Typical average temperatures are usually about 25°C/77°F during the day but can drop to 16°C/61°F on a clear night, especially in the locations where the hotels are, well outside the "heat island" of the city. However, if there is a heatwave, peak temperatures can reach 36°C/97°F. It is advisable to bring hats and sunscreen if you are not used to hot weather. It is likely that there will be a few thunderstorms.

Night sky

While we cannot guarantee clear skies, the area of both hotels is Bortle Class 4 in terms of light pollution and the New Moon is on 16 August, so there may be some opportunities for personal observing / photography. The Milky Way should be visible and the Perseids peak on 12 August.

Cultural Evening

As is now traditional at the IOAA, we will be holding a cultural evening on 17 August at which teams are invited to perform any kind of entertainment they like (music, songs, dances, comedy skits ...) for each other. The guides will coordinate this with the teams once they arrive.

Sundays and Holidays

August 13 and 20 are Sundays and August 15 is a holiday. Most ordinary shops will be closed.

Money

The Polish currency is the Złoty (PLN). Cashless payments using Visa or Mastercard contactless cards or chip & PIN cards are accepted essentially everywhere, even at vending machines and small shops and in taxis and buses. However, if your card is in a foreign currency your bank/card provider will charge a fee which may be more than the value of a small transaction. For larger transactions there is usually a fee cap (check with your bank). Cash machines (ATMs) are quite common and you should have no problem using them as they offer menus in several languages. Cash can be exchanged at exchange bureaus (“kantory”) in any larger shopping center or train station or city centre, these include the transaction fee in the displayed exchange rate so there are no extra fees. Exchange rates are much better in the local shopping centre or train station than at the airport. Currencies commonly accepted reflect popular destinations for Polish travellers, aside from the ‘obvious’ EUR, USD, CAD, GBP and other European currencies, you can often exchange currencies like Thai Baht or Japanese Yen. You may also want to look into a pre-paid international currency card. Payments via an NFC capable phone are also common.

Electricity

Poland uses 230V/50Hz power the same as the rest of Europe. Plugs and sockets are compatible with the European standard Type C (2-pin Europlug), Type E (French) or type F (German Schuko). Universal sockets are **not** common and you will need a pin adapter if you do not use the same plugs. If you are coming from a 100/110/120V region make sure your devices can handle 230V or bring a voltage converter.

Phones

Cellular (mobile) phones mostly operate on the 4G standard with 5G common in cities. Check your cell phone provider for roaming agreements with Polish cellular operators and **please** if you are not from Europe check your roaming charges and possibly turn off roaming data. Especially tell your students as they may not be aware and may incur considerable charges.

Further information will be updated on the 16th IOAA website <https://ioaa2023.pl>. The contact email address is ioaa2023@planetarium.edu.pl.

Looking forward to seeing you in Poland!