

## **FAQ – THE MAROSTICA HUMAN CHESS GAME**

Welcome to the page dedicated to the Marostica Human Chess Game.

Here you will find all the useful information to enjoy the show best!

### **1. What is the Marostica Human Chess Game?**

The Marostica Human Chess Game is a historical reenactment that takes place in September of even-numbered years, in the city's main square. The legend, dated 1454, tells of two noblemen, Vieri da Vallonara and Rinaldo d'Angarano, who both fell deeply in love with Lionora, the beautiful daughter of Venetian governor Taddeo Parisio, and challenged each other to a duel for her. To prevent a deadly clash, Lionora's father ordered the suitors to settle the matter through a chess match, which was to be played in the square with living chess pieces.

After the parade of the castle's armed guards, the most extraordinary knightly challenge ever staged in the Veneto unfolds before the townspeople and ambassadors of allied cities. The winner is granted Lionora's hand in marriage, while the loser weds Oldrada, the governor's younger daughter, in a blaze of fireworks, dances, and music.

### **2. When does the event take place?**

The event is held in September of even-numbered years. The specific dates for each edition are officially announced by the Pro Marostica Association through the website and the event's social media channels. We recommend checking the official website for updated information.

### **3. When will the Marostica Human Chess Game be held in 2026?**

The 2026 edition will take place on September 4–5 and 11–12. Each performance begins at 9:00 PM.

### **4. Where does the chess match take place?**

The chess match takes place in Marostica, in Piazza Castello, the city's main square, which features a gigantic marble chessboard, famous for its geometric perfection and strong connection to the chess tradition.

### **5. Can spectators watch the event from different positions in the square?**

Yes, bleachers are set up around the square, divided into various sections. There are front and side areas, each offering different visibility. Some seats are closer to the chessboard, while others provide a panoramic view. Ticket prices vary depending on the seating area.

## **6. How can I purchase tickets for the event?**

Tickets can be purchased online from the official website <https://www.marosticascacchi.it/es> or at the authorized sales point inside the Lower Castle (Castello Inferiore) of Marostica. It is strongly recommended to buy tickets well in advance, as the event is extremely popular and seats sell out quickly.

## **7. Can I buy tickets on-site on the day of the event?**

Tickets may be available up to the day of the event, but it is highly recommended to purchase them in advance online or at local sales points, as tickets usually tend to sell out quickly. Additionally, certain areas may no longer be available at the last minute.

## **8. How long does the chess match last?**

The performance lasts about two hours and includes various moments: the human chess game, the parades of the ambassadors, the choreographies of armed guards and dancers, the medieval market, and the flag-waving shows.

## **9. Which performance concludes with fireworks and the “castle burning”?**

Each of the four evening performances has the same duration and ends with fireworks and the symbolic “burning” of the castle.

## **10. Is the event suitable for children and families?**

Yes, the event is suitable for families and children, thanks to its theatrical and visually engaging nature.

## **11. Does the event take place in case of bad weather?**

In case of bad weather, the performance may be postponed, rescheduled, or canceled. We recommend checking updates on the official website and consulting the Terms and Conditions of Sale: <https://www.marosticascacchi.it/it/pagina/condizioni-di-vendita>.

## **12. Can I bring my dog or other animals to the event?**

For safety reasons and out of respect for all participants, animals of any size or breed are not allowed inside the event area, except for registered guide dogs (subject to express authorization from the Organization).

## **13. What items are prohibited inside the event area?**

It is strictly forbidden to bring the following items (list not exhaustive):

1. Umbrellas of any kind, suitcases, trolleys, bags, backpacks, or other bulky containers (over 17 liters).
  2. Weapons, explosives, fireworks, smoke bombs, signal flares, stones, knives, or other sharp objects.
  3. Strollers, baby carriages, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, and hoverboards.
  4. Drones and remote-controlled aircraft.
  5. Video cameras, professional and semi-professional cameras, tripods, musical instruments.
  6. Drugs, poisons, harmful substances, flammable materials.
  7. Plastic bottles larger than 0.5 liters (smaller bottles without caps are accepted).
  8. Flasks of any kind or material, any glass/plastic containers, and any blunt objects (e.g., motorcycle helmets).
  9. Food and drinks.
  10. Animals of any size or breed (except registered guide dogs with prior authorization).
- No cloakroom service is available.

#### **14. What behaviors are prohibited?**

Inside the event area it is also prohibited to:

1. Smoke anywhere in the square, including electronic cigarettes.
2. Damage or tamper with structures, infrastructures, or services.
3. Climb on railings, barriers, or any structures not intended for the public.
4. Block access or exit routes, including evacuation paths.
5. Photograph the show with or without flash or make any audio/video recordings for commercial purposes without authorization.
6. Use selfie sticks.
7. Use electronic devices such as GoPros, tablets, or others capable of recording and transmitting audio/video or collecting data.
8. Use laser pointers.
9. Display banners, posters, or materials containing political, ideological, or religious propaganda, or any content inciting racial, ethnic, or religious hatred, or obstructing the performance or audience visibility.
10. Leave objects unattended that could obstruct escape routes or cause alarms.
11. Engage in aggressive acts towards staff.
12. Produce noises that disturb the audience, performers, or animals used in the show.

#### **15. Is parking available near the square?**

Yes, several parking areas are available near Piazza Castello. Some are paid, while others are free but may fill up quickly during the event. We recommend arriving early to secure a spot.

**16. Is the event accessible to people with disabilities?**

Yes, the event aims to be as inclusive as possible. Reserved areas are available for spectators with reduced mobility, and the square has accessible entry points. It is recommended to contact the organizers in advance to ensure suitable arrangements. More details are available in point no. 8 of the Terms and Conditions of Sale on the website.

**17. Is there a recommended dress code for the event?**

There is no specific dress code, but since the event takes place outdoors in the evening and lasts a couple of hours, it is advisable to wear comfortable clothing and, if desired, a light jacket for cooler temperatures.

**18. Can I take photos or videos during the event?**

Generally, photography and video recording are allowed, but restrictions may apply in certain areas or moments for safety reasons or out of respect for participants. Please do not disturb other spectators and respect the organizers' guidelines regarding professional cameras. Specifically, the following are prohibited: video cameras, professional and semi-professional cameras, wearable devices (e.g., GoPro), tripods, selfie sticks, tablets, professional binoculars, or birdwatching equipment.

**19. Is food and drink available during the event?**

In the immediate vicinity of the show, there are numerous bars and restaurants offering food and drinks. You will find typical dishes of Venetian cuisine, quick dishes, and desserts. There is no catering service inside the event area itself.

**20. How can I get to Marostica?**

Marostica is easily accessible by car or bus. The town is about 30 km from Vicenza and is well connected to major Veneto cities. The nearest train station is in Bassano del Grappa. More transport details are available on the City of Marostica tourist portal at [Come arrivare a Marostica e dintorni](#).

**21. Where can I stay during the event?**

Marostica offers a variety of accommodations, including vacation homes, hotels, farmhouses, and B&Bs. Booking in advance is strongly recommended, as the event attracts many visitors and lodging fills up quickly. For more information, consult the City of Marostica tourist portal at: [Dove dormire a Marostica](#).

## **22. Can I buy souvenirs related to the event?**

Yes, during the event days, there are sales points offering souvenirs related to the Chess Games, such as artistic chessboards, T-shirts, gadgets, and local products are perfect for taking home a memory of the event.

## **23. Can I participate as a performer?**

Yes, you can participate as a performer by applying through calls for applications usually published around April. Applications are announced on the official website <https://www.marosticascacchi.it/es> and on the official Facebook and Instagram channels.

## **24. What else can I do in Marostica besides attending the Chess Game?**

Marostica is rich in art, history, and natural beauty. Besides the Human Chess Game, you can visit its medieval castles, walk along the historic walls, explore the town center, and enjoy typical Venetian cuisine. The area is also famous for the Marostica cherry, which can be purchased or tasted in various dishes and local desserts. For more information on visiting the Lower Castle and the Cammino di Ronda, or to book a guided tour, contact: [info@marosticascacchi.it](mailto:info@marosticascacchi.it).

## **25. Are guided tours available during the event days?**

Yes, it is possible to book a guided tour to learn more about the history of the city and the event. Tours usually include the Lower Castle, the Chess Game costume exhibition, and the Historic Center. For more information, contact: [info@marosticascacchi.it](mailto:info@marosticascacchi.it).


## **26. Can I visit Piazza Castello with its giant chessboard at other times of the year?**

Yes, the Marostica chessboard is one of the city's main tourist attractions and can be visited all year round, even outside the event days. The square is open to visitors and offers a spectacular view of the chessboard, the Lower Castle, and the Upper Castle.

For more details, consult the **Terms and Conditions** on <https://www.marosticascacchi.it/es>.

For further information, please contact:

 Email: [info@marosticascacchi.it](mailto:info@marosticascacchi.it)

 Phone: +39 0424 72127

Or fill out the form available in the Contacts section

<https://www.marosticascacchi.it/es/contactos>