WORLD AQUATICS



SWIMMING WORLD CUP

BAKU (AZE)
1-3 / OCTOBER / 2026

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

TASHKENT (UZB)
8-10 / OCTOBER / 2026

ASTANA (KAZ)
15-17 / OCTOBER / 2026

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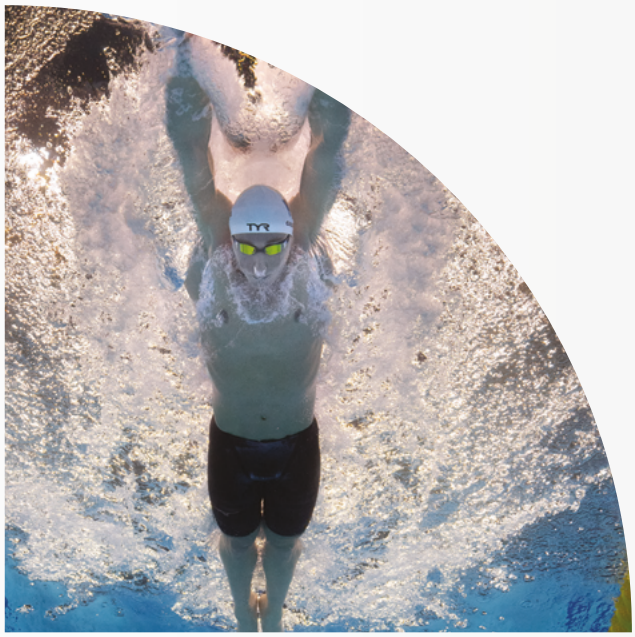
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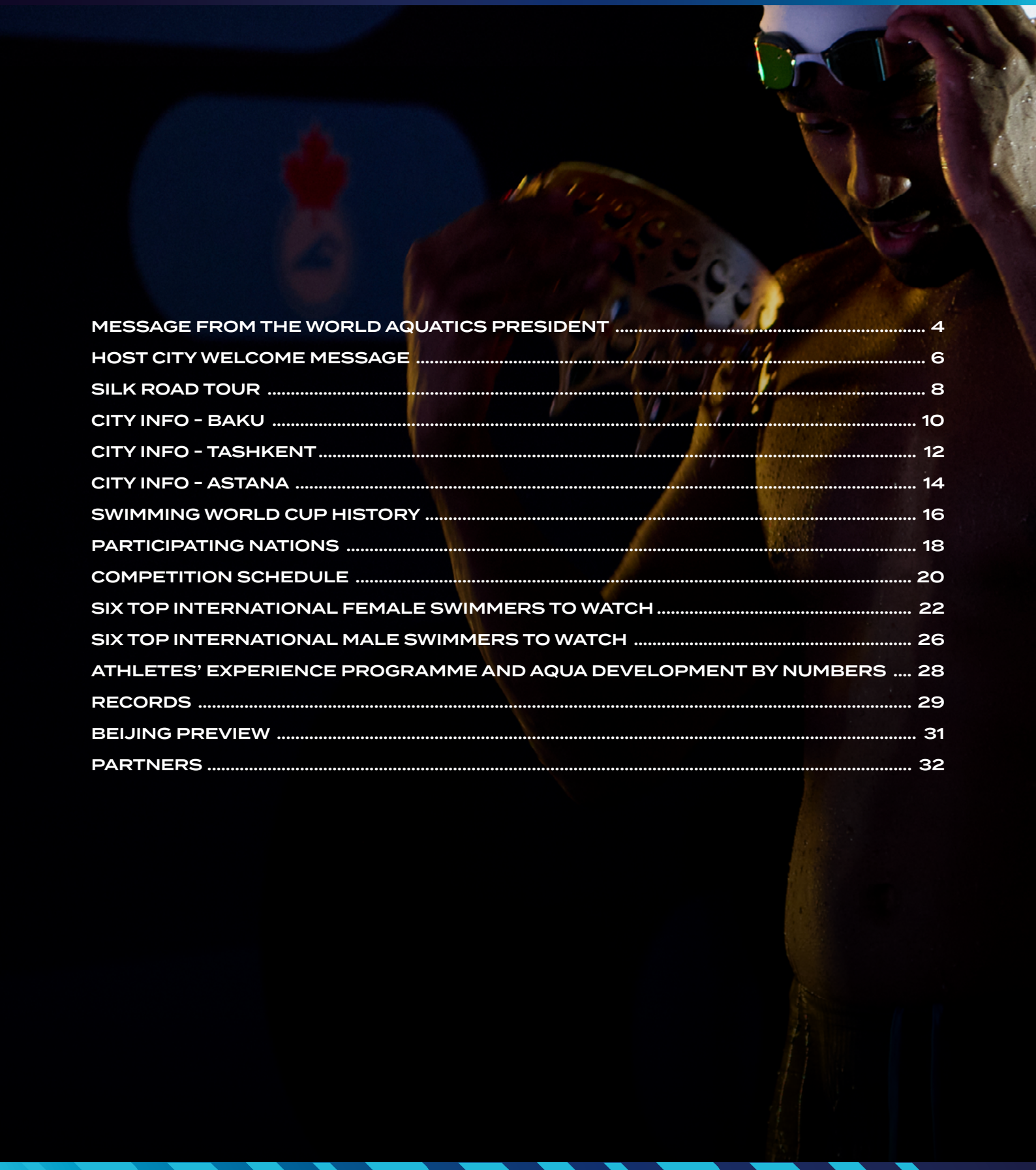
WE SEE GREATNESS FROM EVERY ANGLE





WORLD AQUATICS

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MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD AQUATICS PRESIDENT



Dear athletes,
Dear swimming fans,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2026, as the series embarks on a historic journey along the Silk Road. This year, the Swimming World Cup travels to three remarkable cities across the Caucasus and Central Asia for the first time: Baku, Azerbaijan (1-3 October), Tashkent, Uzbekistan (8-10 October), and Astana, Kazakhstan (15-17 October).

Each stop will host three days of fast-paced short-course (25m) racing, tracing a route once travelled by merchants and traders and now home to some of the fastest swimmers on the planet.

World Aquatics is proud to partner with each of our host cities as we bring world-class competition to new audiences and new corners of the aquatics world.

The Swimming World Cup has always given athletes a stage to shine and fans a front-row seat to world-class racing, and this year's series is no exception. A prize purse of USD $1.2 million, together with bonuses for World Records and Crown-winning performances, will once again reward standout swimming as the road to the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Beijing takes shape.

For the first time, a new wildcard system will offer swimmers direct qualification opportunities for the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) at each stop, while a trial expansion to ten lanes in select semi-finals and finals will give even more athletes the chance to race on the biggest stages.

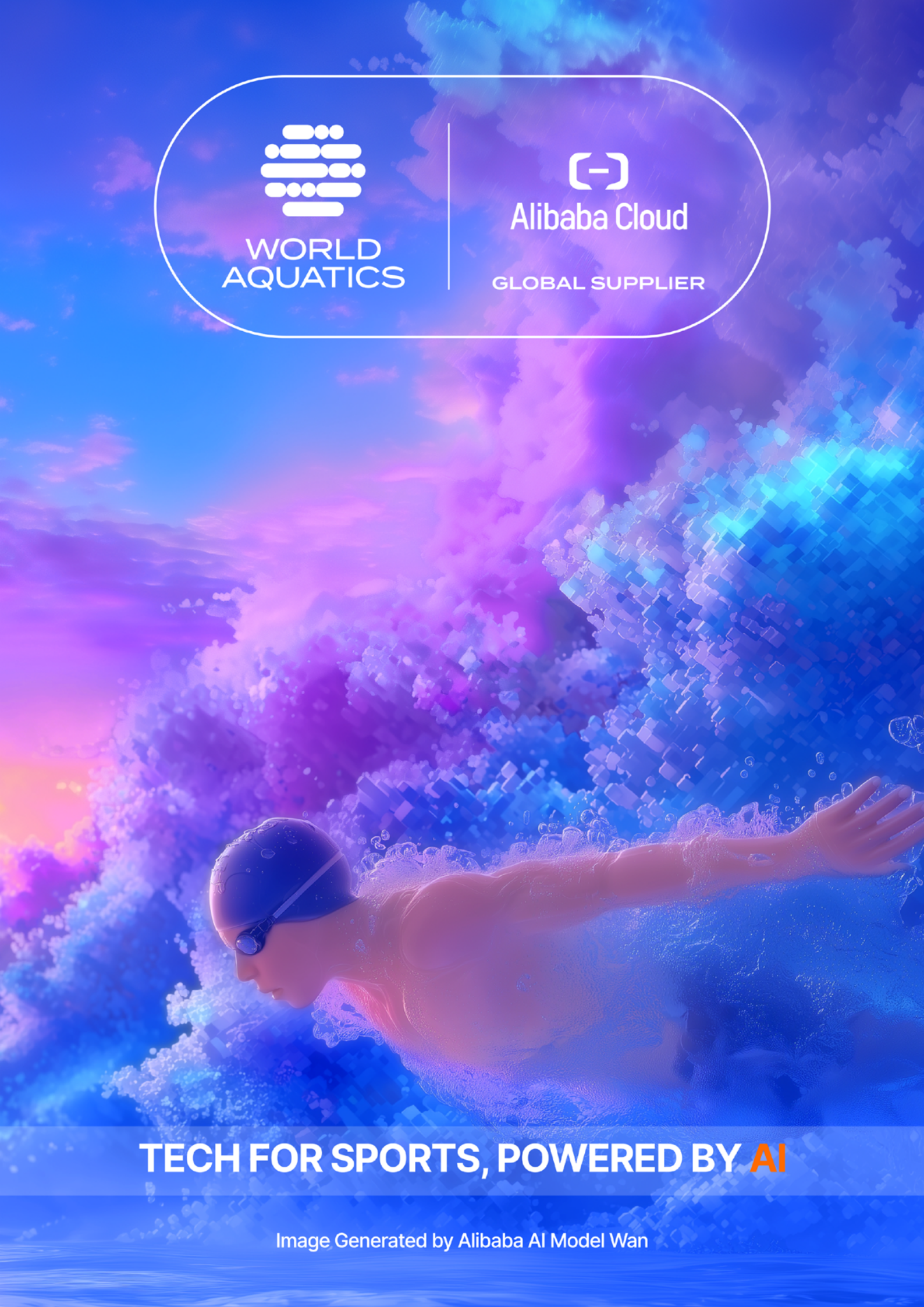
I extend my sincere thanks to our host cities and their Organising Committees for their warm welcome and tireless preparation. I wish all athletes the very best of luck in their competitions and a memorable Silk Road Tour.

Husain Al Musallam
World Aquatics President

WORLD AQUATICS

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TECH FOR SPORTS, POWERED BY AI

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HOST CITY WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear ladies and gentlemen,

We are witnessing a landmark event for Azerbaijani sport. For the first time, our country is hosting the Swimming World Cup. Baku has brought together athletes, coaches, and representatives of the swimming community from different countries around the world.

A total of 216 athletes from 44 countries are taking part in the tournament. This is a reflection of our country's experience in hosting major international events and of the trust placed in our state. This year, Baku is also the Capital of World Sport, and the World Cup is truly a competition worthy of such an occasion.

One of the main goals of the ASF is to ensure the sustainable development of aquatic sports in our country. Having renowned athletes from various countries compete here in Baku, giving our local swimmers the opportunity to compete at such a high level is extremely important for the future development and growing popularity of swimming in Azerbaijan.

The Silk Road-themed competition is also a reflection, through modern sport, of Azerbaijan's historic role as a geographical crossroads connecting different peoples and cultures. Sport is about more than competition and results, being also an important means of strengthening cooperation, mutual respect, and friendship between countries. Baku has once again become an example of this.

I wish all the athletes fair competition and success, and hope that this event will be remembered for new records, outstanding performances, and memorable sporting moments.

Zaur Aliyev

Azerbaijan Swimming Federation President

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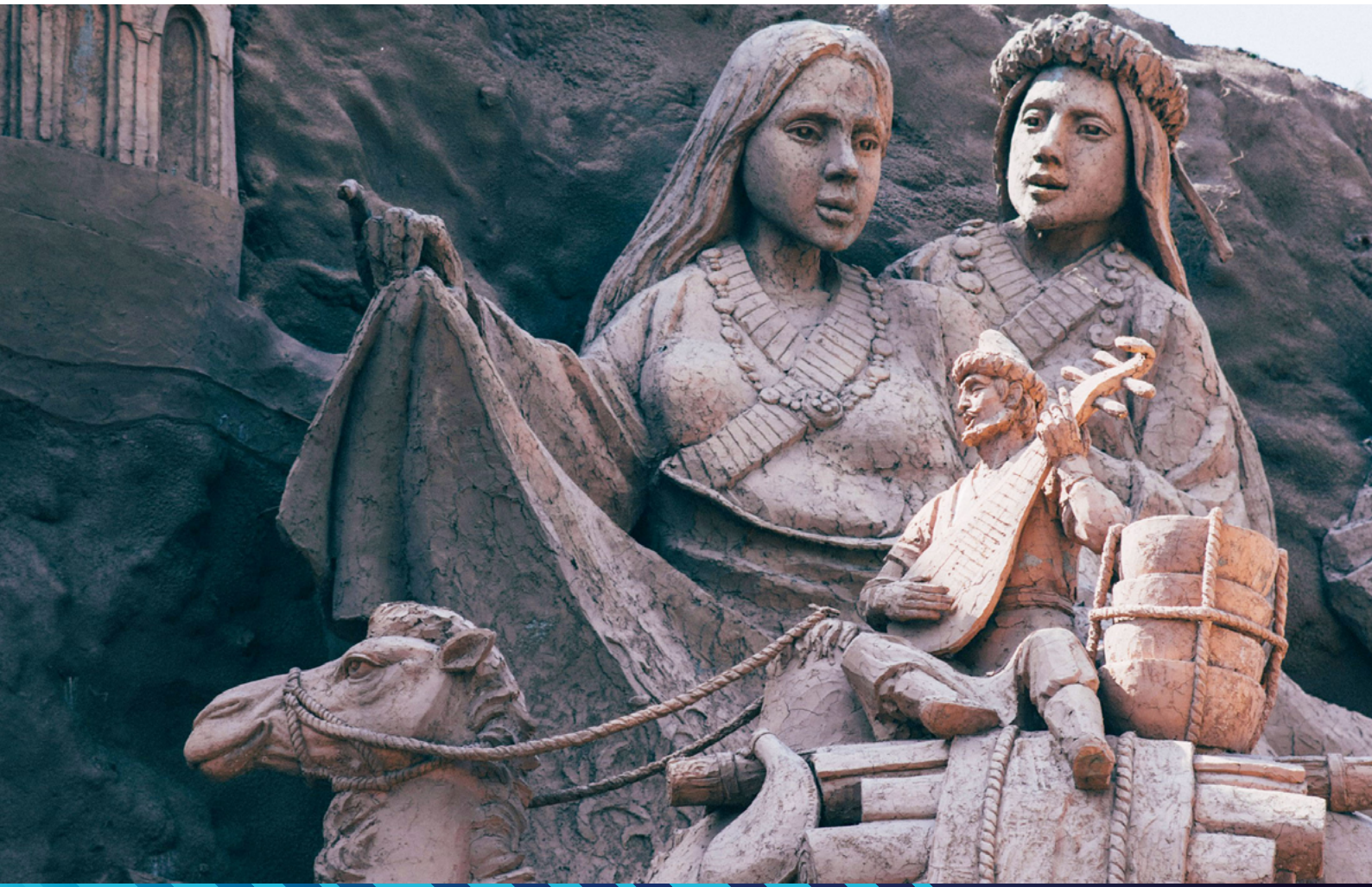
SILK ROAD TOUR OVERVIEW

Three Cities. Three Weeks. One Extraordinary Journey.

THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026 will bring together swimmers for an action-packed three-city series of short-course racing. For its 18th edition, the Swimming World Cup takes an extraordinary journey along the historic Silk Road, connecting three remarkable cities across the Caucasus and Central Asia: Baku, Tashkent and Astana.

OVER THREE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IN OCTOBER, each destination will host three days of world-class competition in a 25-metre pool, creating a unique sporting journey that moves from the shores of the Caspian Sea through the heart of Central Asia to Kazakhstan's futuristic capital.

AT EVERY STOP, the world's best swimmers will compete for valuable World Cup points and prize money, with all roads leading to Beijing and the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) from 1-6 December 2026.



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WORLD AQUATICS
SWIMMING WORLD CUP

BAKU

BAKU, THE CAPITAL OF AZERBAIJAN, is located on the western shore of the Caspian Sea. Known as the "City of Winds", Baku is a fascinating blend of ancient heritage, rich cultural traditions and striking modern architecture. Its location at the crossroads of East and West has helped make it an important historic centre of trade between Europe, the Middle East and Asia along the Silk Road. With an historic centre dating back centuries, the city's architecture, culture, and archaeology show a fascinating timeline through ancient settlements, medieval times and up to the modern day.

Baku experienced major transformation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The growth in industry has attracted people from all over the world, hosting large events and demonstrating its modern architecture. Today, the historic buildings stand alongside impressive contemporary landmarks, giving Baku its unique character, both historic and modern.

A hub for major sporting events, the first stop of the Swimming World Cup will head to the Baku Aquatics Palace. The Palace hosted the European Games in 2015 and the Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017. With three swimming pools and capacity for 10,000 people, the venue provides a fitting setting to start to the Swimming World Cup.

FIVE MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS IN BAKU

THE OLD CITY

Icherisheher (Old City) is a walled medieval settlement with narrow streets, stone buildings, mosques and historic monuments that demonstrates the traces of ancient settlements. The Old City became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000. Wander through the ancient walls and narrow streets of this historic centre to experience the city's medieval character. Be sure to see the important landmarks of the Maiden Tower and The Royal Palace of the Shirvanshahs, whose architecture reflects the rich history of Baku.

MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOGRAPHY

The city's museums provide an opportunity to discover Azerbaijan's history and cultural heritage, dating back centuries. Archaeological and ethnographic collections illustrate the country's ancient settlements, traditional lifestyles, crafts and customs.

FLAME TOWERS

The iconic Flame Towers are emblematic of Baku as a modern city. The distinctive flame-shaped design is particularly impressive when viewed from the Highland Park, while the illuminated towers create a spectacular sight after dark.

HEYDAR ALIYEV CENTRE

Designed by architect Zaha Hadid and opened in 2012, this spectacular wave-shaped building is one of Baku's most recognisable landmarks. It is also Baku's cultural centre and houses exhibitions and cultural collections.

BAKU BOULEVARD

Stretching along the Caspian Sea, Baku Boulevard is a popular place for walking and enjoying the waterfront. Nearby attractions include the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum to see fantastic examples of skill and design, as well as the Baku Ferris Wheel.

STATISTICS

- Population – 2.3 million
- Time zone - AZT (UTC+4)
- Elevation - -28m (below sea level)
- Distance to next stop (Tashkent) – 1,630km
- Venue opened – 2015
- Venue capacity – 10,000



WORLD AQUATICS
SWIMMING WORLD CUP

TASHKENT

TASHKENT IS THE LARGEST CITY IN CENTRAL ASIA and a significant historical centre, connecting the Eastern and Western worlds. Acting as a crossroad for over 2000 years, the capital of Uzbekistan has developed from an ancient stop on the Silk Road into a modern and vibrant capital. Tashkent features a fascinating combination of cultures, from stunning Islamic architecture and historical sites to a very modern and vibrant cityscape.

The recently built Olympic Aquatic Center within Tashkent's Olympic Village is the leading aquatics facility in Uzbekistan and a flagship sporting venue. The facility serves as a training complex for elite athletes and includes a 50 x 25m pool with ten lanes. With state-of-the-art sports equipment and infrastructure, this is an exciting second stop for the Swimming World Cup tour.

FIVE MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS IN ASTANA

CHORSU BAZAAR

Located in the Old City, Chorsu Bazaar is a large market where you can find everything from local cuisines and freshly baked goods to spices and souvenirs. It has been associated with trade since the medieval period.

HAZRATI IMAN COMPLEX

One of Tashkent's most important religious and historic sites, the Hazrati Imama complex includes Tillya Sheikh Mosque, Barak Khan Madrasah and the Mausoleum of Kaffal Shashi. It is especially atmospheric when lit up in the evening.

ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION CENTER

Opened in March this year, the highly anticipated Islamic Civilization Center is a major cultural and educational complex which explores the history of Islam in Central Asia. Its exhibitions cover pre-Islamic scholarship, the Timurid era and Uzbekistan's modern development.

TASHKENT CITY PARK

Tashkent City Park is a modern area in the heart of the city that combines landscaped spaces, fountains, entertainment and restaurants. A fantastic space to relax and enjoy a more contemporary side of the city.

KUKELDASH MADRASAH AND THE OLD CITY

Wander through the picturesque and quiet lanes of the old city before admiring the traditional architecture of Kukeldash Madrasah. This impressive medieval madrasa was built around 1570.

STATISTICS

- **Population – 2.8 million**
- **Time zone - UZT (UTC+5)**
- **Distance to next stop (Astana) – 1,100km**
- **Venue opened – April 2025**
- **Venue capacity – 2,000**



WORLD AQUATICS
SWIMMING WORLD CUP

ASTANA

ASTANA, THE CAPITAL OF KAZAKHSTAN, is one of the most striking cities in Central Asia. Located on the banks of the Ishim River, Astana is known for its futuristic skyline, impressive monuments and wide boulevards. The city has developed rapidly since becoming Kazakhstan's capital in 1997 and is an important political, cultural and economic centre.

Having had several names throughout its history, including Akmola and Nur-Sultan, it was renamed Astana in 1998 and again from 2022.

Hosting the third leg of the Swimming World Cup is the Barys Arena Pool, a multi-functional Olympic-standard swimming facility located on the southern edge of the city and designed to host elite international events.

FIVE MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS IN ASTANA

BAYTEREK TOWER

One of the most recognisable symbols of Astana, its name means the "Tree of Life" and it is inspired by ancient Turkic mythology. The monument represents a tree connecting the underground, earthly and heavenly worlds. Go to the observation level for fantastic panoramic views across the capital.

KHAN SHATYR

Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the giant transparent tent-shaped building is an entertainment and shopping centre. Opened in 2010, it contains shops, restaurants and leisure facilities, including an indoor beach and resort area that can offer an escape during the cold winters.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

The National Museum is one of the country's largest cultural institutions. Its collections cover Kazakhstan's history from ancient times to the present, including archaeology, ethnography, traditional culture, art and Golden Man discoveries.

PALACE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The pyramid-shaped building is one of Astana's most recognisable landmarks. It was designed as a symbol of peace, harmony and dialogue and is used for cultural and international events.

NURZHOL BOULEVARD

Nurzhol Boulevard forms the central axis of modern Astana and connects many of the city's important landmarks. The Boulevard provides views of futuristic buildings, public spaces and the Bayterek Monument.

STATISTICS

- **Population – 1.6 million**
- **Time zone - ALMT (UTC+6)**
- **Distance to Beijing (World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)) – 3,600km**
- **Venue opened – Augustus 2015**
- **Venue capacity – 1,800**
- **Olympic swimming medals – 1 gold (Dmitriy Balandin, Men's 200m Breaststroke, Rio 2016)**



SWIMMING WORLD CUP HISTORY

THE EARLY YEARS

During the 1970s and 1980s, many National Federations hosted successful swimming meets that welcomed top-class athletes, including. the Arena Festival (Bonn, GER), the Speedo Meet (Amersfoort, NED, 50m), the Coca-Cola International (London's Crystal Palace, GBR, 50m), the NOK Schwimmfest (East Berlin, GDR, 50m) and the Meet de la Ville de Paris (FRA).

World Aquatics also launched the World Aquatics Championships in 1973 in Belgrade, establishing a flagship event that has since ranked alongside the Olympic Games as one of the sport's premier competitions.

BIRTH OF THE SWIMMING WORLD CUP

In 1988, event organisers from Toronto (CAN), Indianapolis (USA), Paris (FRA), East Berlin (GDR), Bonn (GER), Gothenburg (SWE), Venice (ITA) and Barnett (GBR) gathered in Rome and agreed to launch the first FINA Swimming World Cup Series. The Swimming World Cup name had first been used in September 1979 for a competition at Tokyo's Yoyogi Swimming Pool, but the first meets of the new series were held in early 1989, with prize money introduced.

Palma de Mallorca (ESP) hosted the first and only "Super Final" in 1992, open to swimmers who had qualified through the series, and the following year the city hosted the inaugural World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m).

GROWTH AND NEW FORMATS

The Swimming World Cup series continued with great success throughout the 1990s and 2000s with host cities ranging from Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong to Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, Durban and Daejeon in 2003/2004.

In 1999/2000, the ranking system was changed, with final classification replaced by scoring based on individual events. To make the series more competitive and engaging, World Aquatics introduced a new format beginning with the 2001/2002 season. From then on, scoring was linked to the World Aquatics Points Table, with only a swimmer's best result in each event counting.

From 2007, the calendar became more compact, and the Swimming World Cup was concentrated into October and November to attract stronger coverage and international attention.

50M POOLS AND TRIPLE CROWNS

In 2015, the Swimming World Cup was held in 50m pools for the first time, from Paris to Beijing to Doha, and has since varied between 25m and 50m pools. In 2019 and 2023, for example, the 50m pools were used in preparation for the Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games respectively.

In 2022, the Triple Crown came into fruition, recognising athletes who achieved the rare accomplishment of winning the same event at all three stops. These athletes earned an additional USD 10,000 bonus in prize money.

RECENT SEASONS

The Swimming World Cup visited three Asian cities in Shanghai, Incheon and Singapore across consecutive weeks in 2024, serving as a lead-in to the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Budapest, where a record 30 short-course World Records were set.

Last year, the series returned to North America, where the three stops spanned first-time hosts Carmel, Indiana and Westmont, Illinois, with the final leg held in Toronto, Canada.

For the 2026 season, the Swimming World Cup visits three new host cities for the first time, with an exciting Silk Road Tour from Baku to Tashkent to Astana, ultimately finishing in Beijing with the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) from 1-6 December.



HEADLINES FOR THIS EDITION

THE SILK ROAD TOUR MARKS THE FIRST TIME BAKU, TASHKENT AND ASTANA HAVE HOSTED A SWIMMING WORLD CUP STOP.

This year's tour will feature a new wildcard system, giving swimmers the chance to earn direct qualification to the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) 2026. Athletes who achieve a top-three finish in the finals of an individual event with an A standard time at any of the three stops will earn a place at the end-of-year showpiece event. As a result, Member Federations will be able to field up to three additional swimmers in Beijing.

Also new for 2026, semi-finals and finals for individual events up to and including 400m will be trialled with 10 lanes instead of the usual eight, at both the Silk Road Tour and the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) in Beijing, meaning more swimmers from more nations will have the chance to race on the biggest stages. Relays and longer-distance races will continue to use eight lanes during the trial.

Athletes will compete for the Swimming World Cup 2026 prize pool of USD $1.2 million. In addition to this, World Record-setters and Crown winners (athletes who win the same event at all three stops, or two of the three events in the 800m and 1500m Freestyle) will each receive USD $10,000 for their achievements.



WORLD AQUATICS

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

Algeria



ALG

Australia



AUS

Azerbaijan



AZE

Belgium



BEL

Botswana



BOT

Canada



CAN

China



CHN

Croatia



CRO

Czechia



CZE

El Salvador



ESA

Estonia



EST

Finland



FIN

France



FRA

Great Britain



GBR

Georgia



GEO

Germany



GER

Hong Kong



HKG

Ireland



IRL

Italy



ITA

Japan



JPN

Kazakhstan



KAZ

Latvia



LAT

Moldova



MDA

Mongolia



MGL

Namibia



NAM

WORLD AQUATICS

PARTICIPATING NATIONS

Namibia



NAM

Netherlands



NED

New Zealand



NZL

Pakistan



PAK

Poland



POL

South Africa



RSA

Russia



RUS

Singapore



SGP

Switzerland



SUI

Sweden



SWE

Turkmenistan



TKM

Trinidad and Tobago



TTO

United States of America



USA

Uzbekistan



UZB

WORLD AQUATICS

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

DAY 1

START TIME (HEATS): 10:00
START TIME (FINALS): 19:00

400m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN
400m	FREESTYLE	MEN
50m	BACKSTROKE	WOMEN
200m	BACKSTROKE	MEN
200m	BUTTERFLY	WOMEN
100m	BUTTERFLY	MEN

200m	BREASTSTROKE	WOMEN
100m	BREASTSTROKE	MEN
50m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN
50m	FREESTYLE	MEN
100m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	WOMEN
100m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	MEN

DAY 2

START TIME (HEATS): 10:00
START TIME (FINALS): 18:00

400m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	WOMEN
50m	BACKSTROKE	MEN
200m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN
200m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	MEN
100m	BACKSTROKE	WOMEN
50m	BREASTSTROKE	MEN

50m	BUTTERFLY	WOMEN
100m	FREESTYLE	MEN
100m	BREASTSTROKE	WOMEN
200m	BUTTERFLY	MEN
1500m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN

DAY 3

START TIME (HEATS): 10:00
START TIME (FINALS): 18:00

400m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	MEN
100m	BUTTERFLY	WOMEN
50m	BUTTERFLY	MEN
200m	BACKSTROKE	WOMEN
100m	BACKSTROKE	MEN
50m	BREASTSTROKE	WOMEN

200m	BREASTSTROKE	MEN
100m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN
200m	FREESTYLE	MEN
200m	INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY	WOMEN
800m	FREESTYLE	WOMEN

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WORLD AQUATICS

SIX TOP INTERNATIONAL FEMALE SWIMMERS TO WATCH ON THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026

MARRIT STEENBERGEN (NED)



Steenbergen enters the World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2026 in fine form, having broken the 100m Freestyle World Record in Rome in June with a time of 51.68. She then won 100m Freestyle gold at the European Aquatics Championships in Paris, breaking the Championships Record three times, along with Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay gold and four silvers. A back-to-back 100m Freestyle World champion and three-time Olympian, Steenbergen won five medals during last year's Swimming World Cup.

SIOBHAN HAUGHEY (HKG)



Hong Kong's most decorated Olympian, Haughey won silver in the 100m and 200m Freestyle at Tokyo 2020 and bronze in both events at Paris 2024. She claimed her first long-course world title in the 200m Freestyle in 2024, adding a silver in the 100m Freestyle and a bronze in the 100m Breaststroke. A four-time short-course World champion, including the last three 200m Freestyle titles, Haughey returns to the Swimming World Cup with 19 career golds won on the series.

ROOS VANOTTERDIJK (BEL)



Vanotterdijk enjoyed a breakthrough 2025, claiming silver in the 100m Butterfly and bronze in the 50m Butterfly at the World Aquatics Championships – Belgium's first long-course world medals since 1998. She also collected eight bronze medals on last year's Swimming World Cup. At the European Aquatics Championships in Paris earlier this year, Vanotterdijk equalled the Championships Record of 55.89 to defend her 100m Butterfly title and added bronze in the 200m Medley.

SIX TOP INTERNATIONAL FEMALE SWIMMERS TO WATCH ON THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026

KATARZYNA WASICK (POL)



Wasick has one of swimming's great comeback stories. She retired in 2016 after a shoulder injury, then returned via a local Masters meet and has since become a five-time Olympian. She won World Aquatics Championships silver in the 50m Freestyle in 2022 and added a bronze in the same event in 2024. In August 2026, Wasick claimed her first long-course European title in the 50m Freestyle aged 34. She has won nine Swimming World Cup gold medals and four World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) medals.

ELLEN WALSHE (IRL)



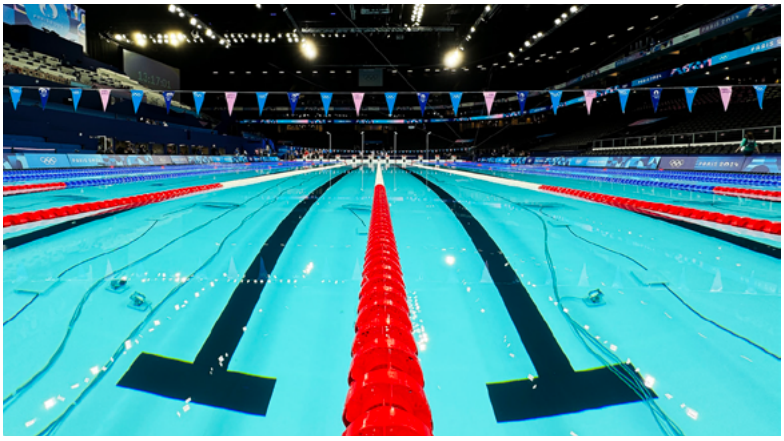
Walshe capped a breakthrough 2026 at the European Aquatics Championships in Paris, taking gold in the 200m and 400m Medley for her first long-course medals at a major Championships. She also won short-course European gold in the 200m Butterfly and silver in the 200m Medley last year. On last year's Swimming World Cup, she won seven medals including two golds in the 400m Medley.

EVGENIIA CHIKUNOVA (RUS)



Chikunova is the World Record holder in the 200m Breaststroke with her time of 2:17.55, set in 2023. She claimed silver in the 200m Breaststroke at the 2025 World Aquatics Championships behind Olympic champion Kate Douglass and triumphed in the same event at the 2026 European Aquatics Championships in Paris with a Championships Record time of 2:19.32. Chikunova also picked up bronze in the 4x100m Medley Relay at the same Championships.





WORLD AQUATICS

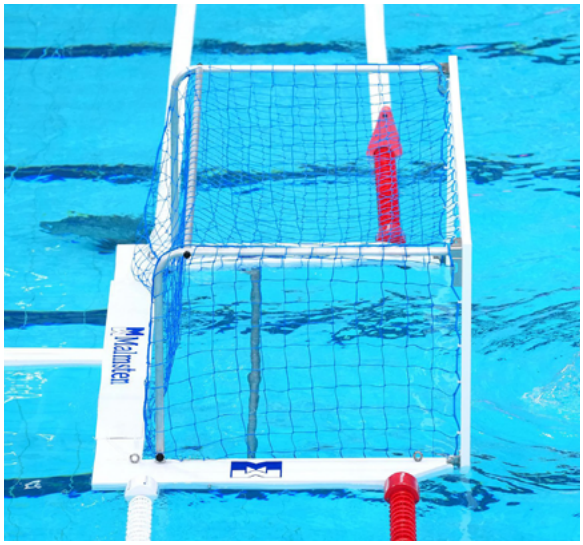
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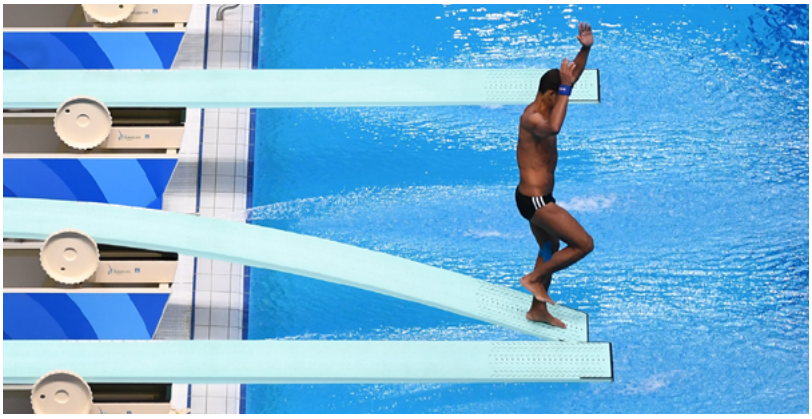
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SIX TOP INTERNATIONAL MALE SWIMMERS TO WATCH ON THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026

CAMERON MCEVOY (AUS)



McEvoy became the first Australian male swimmer to compete at four consecutive Olympic Games, culminating in winning 50m Freestyle gold at Paris 2024 aged 30. He backed it up with a second World title in the event in 2025 in Singapore, then broke the long-standing 50m Freestyle World Record in March 2026 with a time of 20.88 in Shenzhen. McEvoy is also an eight-time Swimming World Cup gold medallist.

DYLAN CARTER (TTO)



Carter is one of the Swimming World Cup's most successful sprinters of recent years, memorably winning Triple Crowns in the 50m Freestyle, Backstroke and Butterfly events and the overall World Cup title in 2022. He since won two more 50m Freestyle golds on the Swimming World Cup 2024. A three-time World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m) medallist, Carter won two golds and one bronze medal at this year's Central American and Caribbean Games.

SHAINE CASAS (USA)



Casas has starred across Backstroke, Butterfly, Freestyle and Medley events. A 17-time gold medallist at the Swimming World Cup, he finished second overall last year with Triple Crowns in the 100m and 200m Medley. Casas is a five-time gold medallist at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m), including as part of the USA team who set a World Record time of 6:40.51 in the Men's 4x200m Freestyle Relay in 2024. In Singapore last year, he won 200m Medley silver and Men's 4x100m Freestyle bronze.

SIX TOP INTERNATIONAL MALE SWIMMERS TO WATCH ON THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING WORLD CUP 2026

EGOR KORNEV (RUS)



At just 22, Kornev is one of swimming's fastest-rising sprinters. He won short-course World gold in the Men's 4x100m Medley Relay in 2024 in Budapest, then a long-course World title in the same event and silver in the Mixed 4x100m Freestyle Relay in 2025. This year, he entered the all-time top 10 for the 50m and 100m Freestyle with times of 21.06 and 46.96 respectively. He won European 50m Butterfly gold in Paris, plus two relay golds and three silvers.

QIN HAIYANG (CHN)



Qin swept the 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke events at the World Aquatics Championships 2023, breaking the 200m World Record with a time of 2:05.48 and earning World Aquatics' Male Swimmer of the Year award. He won Men's 4x100m Freestyle Relay gold and Mixed 4x100m Medley Relay silver at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, then reclaimed his 100m and 200m Breaststroke World titles in Singapore, the latter from lane eight. Qin won Triple Crowns in the 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke and was the overall Swimming World Cup 2023 winner.

CASPAR CORBEAU (NED)



Corbeau enjoyed a memorable Swimming World Cup 2025, clinching a Triple Crown and breaking the short-course World Record in the 200m Breaststroke with a time of 1:59.52. The two-time Olympian won 200m Breaststroke bronze at Paris 2024 and matched it at last year's World Aquatics Championships in Singapore. At this year's European Aquatics Championships in Paris, he added silvers in the 200m Breaststroke and Mixed 4x100m Medley Relay.


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ATHLETES' EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME AND AQUA DEVELOPMENT BY NUMBERS

The Swimming World Cup Athletes' Experience returns for 2026, bringing elite swimmers together with fans and communities across the three stops of the Silk Road Tour.

Now in its fifth year, the programme pairs world-class competition with clinics, meet & greets, recreational activities and dedicated Athletes' Lounges, giving fans a closer connection to the sport and inspiring the next generation of swimmers.

2026 CONFIRMED ATHLETES:

- **Yiting Yu (CHN)**
- **Roos Vanotterdijk (BEL)**
- **Marrit Steenbergen (NED)**
- **Siobhan Haughey (HKG)**
- **Caspar Corbeau (NED)**
- **Shaine Casas (USA)**
- **Carson Foster (USA)**
- **Cameron McEvoy (AUS)**
- **Haiyang Qin (CHN)**

At each stop, athletes will lead youth clinics, host meet & greets with fans and take part in recreational activities that showcase local culture, continuing the programme's tradition of generating strong athlete engagement and warm feedback across the series.

World Aquatics is also proud to offer financial support to the following athletes to help them compete on the Swimming World Cup 2026. These athletes will all participate in either a youth clinic or a meet & greet during the Silk Road Tour.

- **Mona McSharry (IRL)**
- **Katarzyna Wasick (POL)**
- **Abbie Wood (GBR)**
- **Taylor Ruck (CAN)**
- **Ellen Walshe (IRL)**
- **Rebecca Meder (RSA)**
- **Freya Colbert (GBR)**
- **Florine Gaspard (BEL)**
- **Tes Schouten (NED)**
- **Dylan Carter (TTO)**
- **Lewis Clareburt (NZL)**
- **Pieter Coetze (RSA)**
- **Alberto Razzetti (ITA)**
- **Finlay Knox (CAN)**

These initiatives form part of World Aquatics strong commitment to developing aquatic sports worldwide and providing extensive opportunities for athletes.

Here are some of the key numbers behind the work of the World Aquatics Development and Athlete Services Department in 2025:

- **703 projects realised through the World Aquatics Support Programme**
- **216,131 athletes reached through the World Aquatics Support Programme**
- **181 Member Federations received funding**
- **Record 152 athletes supported through World Aquatics Scholarship Programmes**
- **30+ Development and Athletes' Services programmes delivered in 2025**
- **$10M+ invested in Development and Athletes' Services**
- **6 new Pools for All projects**
- **4 webinars organised for athletes**
- **18 swimmers financially supported to compete at the Swimming World Cup**
- **10 athletes participated in the Swimming World Cup Athletes' Experience Programme**

MEN'S SWIMMING WORLD RECORDS (25M)

Event	World Record Holder	Country	World Record
50m Freestyle	Jordan Crooks	Cayman Islands	19.90
100m Freestyle	Kyle Chalmers	Australia	44.84
200m Freestyle	Luke Hobson	USA	1:38.61
400m Freestyle	Yannick Agnel	France	3:32.25
800m Freestyle	Daniel Wiffen	Ireland	7:20.46
1500m Freestyle	Florian Wellbrock	Germany	14:06.88
50m Backstroke	Kliment Kolesnikov	Russia	22.11
100m Backstroke	Hubert Kós	Hungary	48.16
200m Backstroke	Hubert Kós	Hungary	1:45.12
50m Breaststroke	Emre Sakçı	Türkiye	24.95
100m Breaststroke	Ilya Shymanovich	Belarus	55.28
200m Breaststroke	Caspar Corbeau	Netherlands	1:59.52
50m Butterfly	Noè Ponti	Switzerland	21.32
100m Butterfly	Joshua Liendo	Canada	47.68
200m Butterfly	Tomoru Honda	Japan	1:46.85
100m Individual Medley	Caeleb Dressel	USA	49.28
200m Individual Medley	Léon Marchand	France	1:48.88
400m Individual Medley	Daiya Seto	Japan	3:54.81

WOMEN'S SWIMMING WORLD RECORDS (25M)

Event	World Record Holder	Country	World Record
50m Freestyle	Gretchen Walsh	USA	22.83
100m Freestyle	Kate Douglass	USA	49.93
200m Freestyle	Mollie O'Callaghan	Australia	01:49.36
400m Freestyle	Summer McIntosh	Canada	03:50.25
800m Freestyle	Lani Pallister	Australia	07:54.00
1500m Freestyle	Katie Ledecky	USA	15:08.24
50m Backstroke	Regan Smith	USA	25.23
100m Backstroke	Regan Smith	USA	54.02
200m Backstroke	Kaylee McKeown	Australia	01:57.33
50m Breaststroke	Rūta Meilutytė	Lithuania	28.37
100m Breaststroke	Rūta Meilutytė	Lithuania	01:02.36
100m Breaststroke	Alia Atkinson	Jamaica	01:02.36
200m Breaststroke	Kate Douglass	USA	2:12.50
50m Butterfly	Gretchen Walsh	USA	23.72
100m Butterfly	Gretchen Walsh	USA	52.71
200m Butterfly	Summer McIntosh	Canada	01:59.32
100m Individual Medley	Gretchen Walsh	USA	55.11
200m Individual Medley	Kate Douglass	USA	02:01.63
400m Individual Medley	Summer McIntosh	Canada	04:15.48

BEIJING PREVIEW

THE WORLD AQUATICS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS (25M) – BEIJING 2026 will be the defining short-course destination of the year. From 1-6 December, more than 1,000 athletes from over 200 countries are expected to meet in Beijing for six days of world-class racing at the iconic National Aquatics Centre – The Water Cube.

The route to the Championships begins on the Silk Road. The Swimming World Cup offers athletes the opportunity to build momentum and experience three new international destinations before arriving at the biggest short-course stage of the year.

In Beijing, athletes will be racing for a total prize pool of at least USD $2,025,000. Winners in each individual and relay event will earn USD $10,000, with prize money paid down to 8th place, and an additional USD $25,000 on offer for every World Record broken. Swimmers completing the **"Double Crown"** – winning the same event at all three stops of the Swimming World Cup 2026 Silk Road Tour plus the title in Beijing – will collect a bonus increased to USD $15,000.

The National Aquatics Centre, the Water Cube, was one of the defining venues of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. It was later transformed into the "Ice Cube" for curling during the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, making Beijing the only city to have hosted both the Summer and Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Championships also follow a remarkable Budapest 2024, where swimmers set 30 World Records in the short-course pool – the most in the history of the event. Beijing 2026 will provide the next global stage for the world's leading swimmers to chase medals, records and history.



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