

## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

Düsseldorf, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### **Visiting friends: Participating nations of the Invictus Games in Düsseldorf for the first time**

**Preparations for the Invictus Games 2023 are on the home straight. For the first time, representatives of the 22 participating nations came together in Düsseldorf to get a personal impression of the competition venues and the host city.**

In less than 140 days, the capital of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf, will host more than 500 competitors from 22 nations for the first Invictus Games in Germany. The project team headed by Brigadier General Alfred Marstaller is working hard to ensure that all participants have an unforgettable time.

The preparations also include inviting representatives of the 22 participating nations to Düsseldorf and familiarising them with the host city and, above all, the event site.

‘The Invictus Games are a very special sporting event. Each competitor looks back on a very individual life story, and also story of suffering. And just as individual as our guests are their demands on the sports facilities. With the Nations Recce currently taking place, we will familiarise our guests with the conditions here in Düsseldorf and awaken their anticipation for the Games in September,’ said Brigadier General Marstaller, explaining the necessity of the multi-day visit.

### **Welcome by the Lord Mayor**

The personal welcome by the Mayor of the City of Düsseldorf, Dr Stephan Keller, demonstrates the special importance the visit also has for the host city. 'The visit of the now 22 participating nations here in Düsseldorf is another milestone in the almost five years of preparations so far. Moreover, the Düsseldorf Games will have a lot of firsts: For the first time, with Israel, Colombia and Nigeria, all five continents are participating in the Invictus Games. The Games will be held in Germany for the first time, and table tennis will be included as a sport for the first time,' said Keller in his welcome.

### **Colourful programme with information, sports and sightseeing**

A colourful programme organised by the project team awaits the visitors. In addition to visiting the sports facilities around the MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA, the hotel accommodation will be explored, and of course there will also be a visit to Düsseldorf's world-famous old town.

'Many of our guests are in Düsseldorf for the first time – and as we all know, you never forget a first impression. So we have made a special effort to design a varied programme that includes all the necessary information about the Games, but also doesn't miss out on the surrounding area,' says Major Rudolf Fell, who is responsible for communication with all the participating nations in the project team.

In total, the project team welcomed about 70 international guests. The visit will last four days and end on Thursday.

### **About the INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023 presented by Boeing:**

Initiated in 2014 by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, the INVICTUS GAMES will be held in Germany for the first time in 2023. The project, jointly hosted by the Bundeswehr and the City of Düsseldorf, is to be a unique celebration of optimism and inspiration. One of the main goals of this international sports competition is to give physically and mentally wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women greater awareness and recognition in society, and to support their rehabilitation journey. The event will take place in Düsseldorf under the motto 'A HOME FOR RESPECT.' The MERKUR SPIEL-ARENA with the adjacent Sports Park and the Rheinbad swimming pool will be the venues.

**Your point of contact:**  
**INVICTUS GAMES DÜSSELDORF 2023**  
Uerdinger Straße 88-92  
D-40474 Düsseldorf

Herr Lars Koch  
Press Relations Officer  
Tel.: [+49 160 9625 6342](tel:+4916096256342)  
Mail: [presse@invictusgames23.de](mailto:presse@invictusgames23.de)

Follow us on

<http://www.invictusgames23.de/en/>

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)