

The Festival of Nations Moves to Palexpo for its Biggest Edition Ever

Bachata Geneva Festival, Europe's leading bachata event enters a new era, welcoming thousands of dancers from over 80 countries.

Geneva, 5th August 2026

From October 8 to 12, 2026, Geneva will once again become the world capital of bachata as the **Bachata Geneva Festival – The Festival of Nations** returns with its most ambitious edition to date. For the first time, the festival will be held at Palexpo Congress Center, marking a major milestone in its rapid international growth and firmly establishing Geneva as one of the world's leading destinations for Latin dance.

After consecutive record-breaking editions, the festival enters a new chapter with a four-day celebration expected to bring together thousands of dancers and visitors from more than 80 countries, creating one of the largest international cultural and dance gatherings ever hosted in Geneva.

Originating in the Dominican Republic, bachata has become one of the fastest-growing social dances worldwide. In 2019, both its music and dance were inscribed by UNESCO on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, reflecting its cultural significance and global appeal.

A NEW HOME FOR A WORLD-CLASS FESTIVAL

The move to Palexpo Congress Center represents far more than a change of venue. One of Switzerland's premier international event facilities, located just steps from Geneva International Airport, Palexpo provides the scale and infrastructure necessary for the festival's continued global expansion.

According to Pablo Garcia, Co-Director of Bachata Geneva: "Moving to Palexpo is much more than a new venue. It represents the next chapter of our vision. Our dream has always been to make Geneva one of the world's capitals of bachata. In 2026, that vision becomes a reality as we welcome dancers from every corner of the globe to an event unlike anything we've created before."

The new venue will allow participants to experience larger dance floors, multiple workshop halls, improved spectator areas, enhanced production, and an immersive festival environment designed to welcome an unprecedented number of dancers from every continent. The strategic location also offers immediate access to hotels, public transportation, and Geneva's city centre, making the event more accessible than ever for international visitors.



THE RETURN OF THE BACHATA SOCIAL WORLD CUP FINALS

One of the festival's highlights will once again be the World Finals of the Bachata Social World Cup, bringing together the best 90 leaders and 90 followers who qualified through competitions held across dozens of countries during the year. Widely regarded as one of the most prestigious competitions dedicated to social bachata dancing, the World Finals celebrate musicality, connection, technique and improvisation, showcasing the very highest level of social dance excellence on the international stage.

MORE THAN A FESTIVAL

Beyond dance, the Festival of Nations celebrates cultural exchange. Participants from over 80 nationalities come together to share traditions, friendships and experiences, making the event a powerful example of how dance transcends borders and languages.

From workshops and performances to city experiences and social events, the festival transforms Geneva into a vibrant meeting place where cultures connect through music and movement.

ABOUT BACHATA GENEVA

The Bachata Geneva Festival – The Festival of Nations is one of Europe's leading bachata festivals, known for its international atmosphere and its commitment to social dance excellence. Founded in 2021, by the non-profit association Bachata Geneva, the festival evolved into The Festival of Nations in 2023 and today hosts the Bachata Social World Cup Finals, bringing together dancers from across the globe. It promotes cultural exchange through dance while positioning Geneva as one of the world's leading destinations for bachata."

For more information, visit www.bachatagenevafestival.com.

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Members of the media are warmly invited to attend the festival. Interview opportunities, photography and filming access can be arranged upon request.

