

# PHOTOMARATHON TIRANA 2026

## Terms and Conditions



### ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

PhotoMarathon Tirana will be held for the first time on Friday, 24 April 2026, by FOTON Association, with the contributions of Yunus Emre Institute and the venue sponsorship of New York University Tirana.

### SUBJECT AND PURPOSE

PhotoMarathon Tirana is an international, theme-based, time-limited, award-winning and non-profit cultural photography event. The event aims to rediscover the urban life, cultural texture and daily rhythm of Tirana through photography.

PhotoMarathon is not only a competition but also an opportunity to experience the city through photography and reinterpret it from different perspectives. Within the given time, participants take photographs in the streets of Tirana according to the themes announced during the event and tell the story of the city through their own visual language. The event is open to photography enthusiasts of all ages, whether amateur or professional. Participants may join the event using any type of camera or a smartphone.

While turning photography into an exciting and creative experience, PhotoMarathon Tirana also aims to increase the visibility of the city's cultural and touristic values. Through the announced themes, participants explore Tirana from alternative perspectives and contribute to the visual memory of the city through their photographs.

### ABOUT THE PROCESS

**Participation in the event requires completing the free pre-registration form available at <https://fotondernegi.com>.**

PhotoMarathon Tirana will begin on **Friday, 24 April 2026, at 10:00** with the registration process at **Skanderbeg Square**. In the morning, participants will collect their name badges and t-shirts from the registration desks.

The photography themes will be announced at **12:00**. Following the announcement, participants will have **8 hours** to take their photographs based on the given theme. In order to prove their physical presence at Skanderbeg Square, participants must also photograph the **THEME CARD** provided at the starting point. Participants may continue photographing their theme-related images until **20:00**.



Participants must upload, no later than **23:59 on Friday, 24 April 2026**, the photographs they have taken for the relevant category theme, together with the **THEME CARD** photograph taken as proof, via the photo upload form available at <https://fotondernegi.com>.

For each theme, **one photograph** taken within the official theme timeframe must be uploaded to the website. The uploaded image must be completely unedited and unchanged, including its original file name. In PhotoMarathon events, any external intervention or the use of software such as Photoshop is strictly considered a violation of the rules.

PhotoMarathon is not a group photo walk. Participants are expected to photograph individually. Using their name badges and their own means of transportation, they may take photographs anywhere within the city limits on an individual basis.

Participants are kindly advised to check the time settings on their devices before taking photographs. Photographs taken before the official theme announcement time or outside the permitted timeframe will not be considered valid.

## AWARDS

### Digital Category – Theme Awards

1st Prize: **150 Euro**  
2nd Prize: **100 Euro**  
3rd Prize: **75 Euro**

### Mobile Category – Theme Awards

1st Prize: **150 Euro**  
2nd Prize: **100 Euro**  
3rd Prize: **75 Euro**

For each theme, a maximum of 7 photographs will be selected for exhibition.

## SELECTION COMMITTEE

Ali Dağlar, Cem Kıvırcık, Coşkun Aral, Erhan Şermet, Prof. Dr. Ozan Bilgiseren

The jury will convene with a minimum of three members.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Pre-Registration Deadline: **23 April 2026, 23:59**
- On-Site Registration: **24 April 2026, 10:00–12:00**, [Skanderbeg Square](#)
- Photo Submission Deadline: **24 April 2026, 23:59** via <https://fotondernegi.com>
- Jury Meeting: **25 April 2026, 10:00**
- Announcement of Results: **25 April 2026, 17:30**, [New York University Tirana, East Campus / Conference Hall](#)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT PHOTOMARATON

## PRE- EVENT QUESTIONS

### **What Should I Do on the Morning of PhotoMarathon?**

On the day of PhotoMarathon, participants must visit the registration desk. You will be asked to complete and sign the participation agreement provided by the organizers. Name badges and event t-shirts will be distributed at the registration desk. Registration begins at **10:00**. The registration desk closes at **12:00**, when the themes will be officially announced.

### **Can I Form a Team with My Friends?**

Whether you experience PhotoMarathon alone or together with friends is entirely up to you. You may spend the day with friends, family, or fellow participants, support each other and share inspiration. However, everyone must complete the registration individually. Each participant will be evaluated individually and only one person can win the first prize for a theme.

### **Where Can I Take Photographs?**

There are no specific location restrictions for taking photographs during PhotoMarathon. Participants may photograph anywhere within the city limits of Tirana. Nevertheless, participants are encouraged to plan their own strategy to manage their time efficiently during the event.

### **Is There Any Camera Restriction?**

Participants may join the PhotoMarathon using any brand or model of camera or a mobile phone. There are no restrictions regarding equipment. Photos taken with mobile phones or tablets must also be shared on a public Instagram profile. The use of drones is not permitted unless participants obtain their own official permissions.

### **Can I Use More Than One Device?**

No. Participants are allowed to use only one device during the event. Although any type of device may be used to participate, the use of multiple devices is not allowed. However, participants may use multiple SD cards within the same device if necessary.

### **What Should Be the Size and Format of the Photos?**

Photographs must be submitted in **JPG (JPEG)** format. Participants whose cameras do not support JPG-only shooting may shoot in **RAW/JPG** format. Photos taken with mobile phones in **.HEIC** format are also accepted. Image dimensions and file sizes may follow the standard settings of the device used.

### **I Am Under 18. Can I Participate?**

Participants under the age of 18 may participate in PhotoMarathon by submitting a written consent from a parent or guardian at the registration desk, or by attending the event together with a parent or guardian. PhotoMarathon is open to everyone.

### **I Have a Disability. Is There Any Assistance Available?**

The organization does not provide specific assistance services for participants with physical disabilities. Participants may attend the event with a companion who can assist them throughout the day if needed.



## EVENT-RELATED QUESTIONS

### Is Photoshop Allowed?

Manipulation or color editing of photographs is strictly prohibited in PhotoMarathon events and is considered contrary to the spirit of PhotoMarathon. The official PhotoMarathon system can detect whether photographs have been manipulated.

Information such as which device was used, when the photo was taken, whether any editing software was used, and even whether the EXIF data has been altered can be clearly identified. Photographs found to violate the rules will be disqualified and will not be presented to the jury.

Only the original versions of the photographs stored on the SD card or uploaded to the submission form are accepted. When reviewing past PhotoMarathon results, it is clear that manipulated photographs have never won and will not win.

### Can I Use the Features of My Camera?

All in-camera effects are allowed **before pressing the shutter**. If you wish to use filters provided by your camera (for example black and white), they must be applied **before the photo is taken**.

Changes made using the camera's internal editing features after the photo is taken may alter the timestamp of the image. Any photograph with a timestamp that does not comply with the rules will not be presented to the jury.

Photographs created by combining multiple images (collage), images created using **HDR (High Dynamic Range)** techniques, or images generated using **artificial intelligence** are not permitted.

Basic adjustments allowed by the camera, such as **cropping or rotating**, are permitted. However, these actions must be completed within the timeframe of the relevant theme. Once a new theme has been announced, no further edits may be made to photographs taken for the previous theme.

### Is Photoshop Also Prohibited for Mobile Photos?

Photographs must not be edited on a computer under any circumstances. Editing may only be performed using the features of the device used to capture the photo.

In the mobile category, participants should preferably complete all adjustments **before taking the photograph**. Third-party photo editing applications installed on the phone (such as Snapseed or PhotoSuite) and filter applications may be used.

The most important rule is that any editing must be completed **within the timeframe of the announced theme**. For example, once the second theme has been announced, no further edits may be made to photographs taken for the first theme. Similarly, for the final theme, participants may only make adjustments within the allotted time period.



### **What Is a Station and How Can We Find It?**

Stations are the locations where themes are announced. Participants learn the themes at these stations. For this reason, all participants must gather at the designated stations in order to continue the PhotoMarathon. Each station will feature a **PM icon**. After learning the theme, participants must photograph the PM icon as proof of their presence at the station before continuing the event.

### **I Was Late for the Station. How Can I Learn the Themes?**

Participants may arrive at the station **up to 15 minutes late**. After the themes are announced, the organization team remains at the station for an additional 15 minutes. You may miss the detailed explanation or hints provided by the theme presenters; however, if you arrive within 15 minutes after the announcement time, you will still be able to learn the themes. Participants who arrive later than this period will unfortunately be **disqualified**.

### **What Is the PM Icon? Is It Mandatory to Photograph It?**

The **PM Icon** is a PhotoMarathon symbol that must be photographed at each station. Photographing the icon serves as proof that the participant was physically present at that station.

PM Icons may vary from station to station and may also differ between PhotoMarathon events held in different cities. These icons are announced at the stations and are usually placed near the theme boards or displayed on the theme cards. In short, taking any photo that clearly proves your presence at the station is sufficient.

### **How Much Time Do I Have to Take Photos After the Last Station?**

In 2026, participants have **8 hours for each theme**. Therefore, photographs taken after **20:00** will not be considered and will not be presented to the jury.

### **What Happens If My Memory Card or Camera Breaks, My Battery Runs Out?**

This is certainly an unfortunate situation. As in all PhotoMarathon events, participants are responsible for ensuring that their equipment functions properly. It is strongly recommended to bring spare batteries or backup equipment.

If you encounter any unexpected situation during the event, you may contact the organization team via the **@photomaratton Instagram account**.

### **Do I Have to Take and Submit a Photo for Every Theme?**

Yes. In PhotoMarathon events, the number of accepted photographs corresponds to the number of announced themes. Even if you are experiencing time constraints and decide not to shoot a photo for the final theme, you should still take a placeholder photo within the valid timeframe and upload it to the submission form.



### **What Is the Final Submission Deadline?**

Photographs must be submitted via the website **no later than 23:59 on Friday, 24 April 2026.**

### **Can I Share My Photos on Social Media?**

Photographs submitted for evaluation in the **Digital Category** may **not** be shared on social media, announced publicly, or sent to jury members until the official results are announced. Any such action will be considered a violation of the rules. For the **Mobile Category**, social media sharing is **mandatory**.

### **How Are Photos Submitted?**

Participants must upload **one photo taken for the theme and one PM icon (station) photo** to the submission form available at **fotondernegi.com** by **23:59 on 24 April 2026.**

Since the original files must be uploaded, it is normal that the upload process may take some time depending on your internet speed after pressing the submit button.

Participants joining with mobile phones must also upload their theme photographs to their **public Instagram accounts as a post** using the hashtag **#photomarathonirana** by **23:59 on 24 April 2026.** If you do not have an Instagram account, you may create one for this purpose.

Photos that are not shared on social media in the Mobile Category will not be presented to the jury. Photographs of the **PM icons (stations)** do **not** need to be uploaded to Instagram.

## POST-EVENT QUESTIONS

### **How Does the Jury Make Its Selection?**

The jury does not have access to any personal information of the participants (such as name, phone number, or email address). Photographs are evaluated only through the participant's registration number.

First, all submitted photographs are checked by the PhotoMarathon software. Images that do not comply with the rules are automatically eliminated. The remaining photographs are then shared with the jury in separate folders, renamed according to the participant's badge number.

Each jury member first selects their preferred theme winners and reserve images individually. Afterwards, the photographs suggested by all jury members for each theme are collected into shared folders and evaluated collectively. Finally, one winning photograph for each theme is selected. If a photograph is considered worthy of exhibition, it is also determined during the jury meeting.



### **How Is the PhotoMarathon Prize Determined?**

Participants who achieve first place in any of the announced themes are entitled to receive a PhotoMarathon award. Each theme winner also receives a **Theme Winner Trophy**.

Prizes are provided through the contributions of sponsor companies and may vary from one PhotoMarathon event to another. The specific awards for each event are clearly announced on the official event page.

### **Can One Person Win More Than One Prize?**

No. A participant may receive only one theme first-place award.

### **When Is the Objection Period?**

Participants may submit objections regarding rule violations within 15 days after the announcement of the theme winners. Objections must be sent to **info@fotondernegi.com** and must include the participant's **full name, phone number, email address, and details regarding the complaint**. Prizes will be officially confirmed and distributed after the objection period has ended.

### **Do Awards Transfer After an Objection?**

If a photograph is found to violate the rules during the objection process, the related award will be cancelled. The participant's ranking will be revoked and the prize will not be delivered. In the case of cancellation, the ranking order will **not change**. The relevant theme will simply remain **without a winner**. If a photograph was previously selected for exhibition, it will remain in the exhibition selection.

### **Will There Be a PhotoMarathon Exhibition?**

Exhibitions may be organized **physically or online**, depending on the conditions and costs of the period. In all cases, the winning and exhibited photographs will be permanently displayed on **fotondernegi.com**, always accompanied by the photographer's name.

### **Will I Lose the Copyright of My Photographs?**

No. PhotoMarathon events do **not automatically acquire the rights** to the submitted photographs, nor do they create commercial image databases. The photographs are not sold or used commercially by the organizers.

Only the photographs that receive awards may be used by the official partners of the PhotoMarathon event and the host municipality for promotional purposes related to the event.

All other photographs remain the intellectual property of the photographer and will appear only as part of the event's permanent gallery, always credited to the photographer. Winning photographs may also be used in **exhibitions or publications such as event books**.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

The organizing committee reserves the right to change the rules if it deems necessary. If the changes affect important parts of the PhotoMarathon rules, participants will be informed by e-mail in due time.

1- The participant must take the photos himself/herself. It is against the rules for someone else to take the photos to be uploaded.

2- Participants must take photos with a single device for the category they participate in. Different participants cannot participate in the event with the same device. One person cannot use more than one device.

3- Participants are responsible for updating the date and time settings of the device they use.

4- Photos taken before registration or photos taken outside the theme announcement hours are not accepted. An icon photo will be taken at each station of the PhotoMarathon before starting the themes.

5- Since the event will be held according to the online photo system, no alternative submissions (e-mail, cargo, hand delivery, etc.) will not be accepted.

6- It is against the rules to make any kind of intervention with PhotoShop and similar applications before the delivery of the photographs. Any intervention on devices such as computers or tablets is unacceptable. The software belonging to PhotoMaraton will recognize violations.

7- Photographs created by assembling more than one different photograph (collage), HDR (High Dynamic Range), photographs in which any object that is not in the original photograph has been added or any of the existing objects has been removed will not be accepted.

8- Panoramic photographs will not be accepted. The opinion of the selection committee is essential in these matters.

9- Simple operations such as cropping and rotation should only be performed on the device within the announcement period of the relevant theme. For example, for a photo taken between 12.00-16.00 for Theme 1, the rotation-cropping process must be performed between 12.00-16.00.

10- Filters to be applied using the device features (e.g. black and white) must be applied before the photo is taken. Changes made after the photo is taken may be risky as it will change the editing time.

11- The photos to be uploaded to the system must be uploaded in a single session in their original form on the SD card, without even changing their names. Sharing in the form of screenshots from a cell phone is not suitable.

12- There should not be any information such as name, signature, logo, date, sign, drawing, etc. on the submitted photo.

13- Pornographic, violent, legally suspicious photos should never take place in PhotoMarathon.

14- The photos sent to the PhotoMaraton event cannot be shared on social media, announced or sent to the jury members in any way until the results are announced. Any other behavior is a violation of the rules.

15- EXIF information (DPI, pixel information, etc.) of the photos uploaded to the website must be intact. Otherwise, FOTON is not responsible for any problems in the system.



16- Violation of the rules will be applied to those who submit someone else's photographs to the event, who make all kinds of interventions and changes on the submitted photographs to make them look like their own even though the work is not their own and to mislead the selection committee in this sense, and / or who let someone else use their own photograph for this purpose.

17- Participants are deemed to have accepted that the photographs they have submitted were taken during the PhotoMarathon within the periods specified in the specifications and that they have not interfered with the photographs. Those who are found to have acted outside of this declaration and acceptance will be subject to violation of the rules.

18- Participants are deemed to have accepted in advance that the photos they submit may be determined to be in compliance with the rules if necessary. FOTON may conduct this research by using all means and techniques at its disposal. If the participant does not provide the necessary information requested from him/her, does not provide the original file taken with the camera or does not cooperate to solve the problem, the participant will be deemed to have violated the rules.

19- The award, title and all kinds of achievements of the participant who violates the rules are taken back. The award place is left empty. This will not mean any rights for other participants.

20- The Organizing Committee may request the unprocessed original/raw files of the photographs that have been awarded and finalist and purchased from the participant.

21- At the end of the event, the award and finalist works can be exhibited physically or digitally.

22- The participant agrees that he/she authorizes the use of his/her photograph(s) to be awarded and exhibited on FOTON social media accounts and website. For the works used in this way, the photo owner irrevocably accepts, declares and undertakes that he / she will never take back the permission he / she has given later and will not prevent the use of the photo / photos or make any copyright or material, moral claim for this permission.

23- The awarded and exhibited photographs can be used in FOTON's printed and visual publications and materials, social media accounts, websites, virtual exhibitions to be organized indefinitely and unlimitedly.

24- Participants are obliged to take the necessary precautions themselves against all kinds of natural hazards since they will take photos in a natural environment. Participants are personally responsible for any possible accidents and damages that may occur during the event.

25- Participants will shoot without harming the environment, nature or any living thing. In case of detection of photographs that harm the environment and nature, the participant will be excluded from the event.

26- Photographers will cover their own expenses to participate in the PhotoMarathon.

27- Participants who wish to stay at the hotel will cover their own accommodation fees and make their own reservations.

28- Under no circumstances will the organizing committee allow the photographs to be used for other purposes.

29- The results of the event will be announced on FOTON social media accounts and fotondernegi.com. In addition, award and exhibition winners will be notified by e-mail and telephone.



30- It is accepted that the people who may appear in the submitted photographs have given permission for their photographs to be taken and sent to a competition-event, and for the photograph to be published on the internet and in printed media. All responsibility for any disputes that may arise due to such use belongs to the participant.

31- The Organizing Committee cannot be held responsible for any legal processes that may arise in any way about the photographs that have been awarded (degree, honorable mention), entitled to be exhibited and purchased. This responsibility belongs entirely to the photographer.

32- Photographs that do not receive awards, honorable mentions and exhibitions in the event and are not purchased will not be returned and will be deleted from the system.

33- The decisions of the Organizing Committee and the Jury are valid in matters not specified in the specifications or in case of possible conflicts.

34- Participants are deemed to have read and accepted the conditions by registering to PhotoMarathon and submitting their photographs. This specification enters into force when the participant submits his/her photographs. Participants do not have the right to object to the provisions of this specification afterwards.

35- The Organizing Committee may make revisions to the program flow when it deems necessary to resolve problems and uncertainties that may arise due to unavailable reasons during the event and may decide to postpone the PhotoMarathon due to problems that may arise due to unavailable reasons. The Organizing Committee has the right to determine the methods and rules to be applied in cases such as program flow revisions and postponement.

36- PhotoMarathon organizers, FOTON Association board of directors, theme determinants, elected board and other officials cannot participate in the event.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

FOTON / Photography Organizations Association

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