

Back to the Roots

Baku, Azerbaijan, April 2013. With the first Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan the polo sport conquers the Republic of Azerbaijan in September 2013. The tournament in the capital Baku is held under the theme „Bringing polo home“.

In Central Eurasia lies the cradle of polo sport. Indeed in many places in Azerbaijan you can find the so called „Chovgan“ – which is a thousand year old archetype of polo – but polo in its modern version has not been able yet to gain ground in the land at the Caspian Sea. Now polo returns back to its roots and Azerbaijan celebrates polo premiere. Themed „Bringing polo home“ four international teams will be competing at the 1. Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan from September 6 to 8. The venue takes place at the recently constructed outdoor polo arena of the Elite Equestrian Centre in Baku. A friendly game between the team of Azerbaijan „Chovgan“ and one of the participating international teams will be one of the tournaments highlights and is set up as memorization of polo roots in Azerbaijan. The tournament with a duration of three days will be presented by the food company Milla, the World Polo GmbH and other local partners are in charge of the production and organisation.

Arena Polo World Cup Azerbaijan clearly aims to establish the polo sport in Azerbaijan. A huge vision and plan which is particularly pushed forward by one man: M. Ahadpur Khangah. The 60-year old engineer and businessman discovered his passion for polo as a young man during his studies at Newcastle upon Tyne in England. Since then the fast sport captured and fascinated him. Now M. Ahadpur Khangah, who is also a big fan of Manchester United makes the upswing of polo in Azerbaijan comparable to the current passion for football in his home country. „Our visions are really ambitious. We need polo players, who represent Azerbaijan on the international playgrounds and we need teams, who can compete at the national as well as at the international level. In addition we work on extending the polo infrastructure, including international-sized polo fields which will allow us to hold competitions throughout the year. Considering the high number of sunny days in Azerbaijan, we see lots of perspective for holding such tournaments. Another important opportunity linked with this sport is to promote famous Karabakh horses known for their strength, toughness and sure-footedness. We know from history that Karabakh horses have won numerous awards and medals, and time has come to promote these famous horses outside Azerbaijan, once again“. Baku is the biggest city with the highest density of population in the whole Caucasus region.



M. Ahadpur Khangah