

2026 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

BULLETIN



Banja Luka, 19–23 May 2026



2026 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Dear athletes, dear guests and dear friends,

It is a great honor and privilege to welcome you to Banja Luka, a city that has long lived to the rhythm of its Vrbas River. As a member of the Executive Committee of the Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Director of the Kajak Kanu Klub “Vrbas,” I am proud that we are once again hosting the world’s canoeing elite.

This ICF World Championships holds special significance for us, as we are organizing it on the eve of a major milestone next year, our club will celebrate its 80th anniversary. Over these eight decades, Kajak Kanu Klub “Vrbas” has grown alongside its river, becoming a true symbol of the sporting spirit of our city.

Our history of hosting major competitions is both long and impressive. Since 2011, Banja Luka has become an essential destination on the global wildwater canoeing map. We proudly carry the legacy of the 2016 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships, as well as the 2019 ICF Junior & U23 World Championships. With five World Cups, four European Championships, and numerous European Cups behind us, we have proven that we possess expertise, passion, and hospitality that are rare to find.

The Tijesno Canyon once again becomes the stage where the power of the Vrbas River meets the skill of world-class wildwater canoeing athletes. This course, nestled in its natural amphitheater, offers a unique experience, especially during the night races that have become our trademark.

As a sports professional, I believe that events like this represent the heart of the Olympic spirit. Kajak Kanu Klub “Vrbas” has invested all its effort and decades of experience to ensure top-tier conditions for all competitors. Our goal is for you to leave Banja Luka not only with medals, but with lasting memories of the river that connects us all.

I wish all competitors a fast and safe run. To our visitors, I hope you enjoy every moment on our beautiful Vrbas River.

Welcome to Banja Luka!

Nikola Stanković

Race Director, ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships

Executive Committee Member, Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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GENERAL INFO ABOUT LOCALITY

Vrbas river is mountain river with a several wild sections and fast rapids. Vrbas consists of two canyons, a canyon Tijesno (5 km) on which is a canoe course and a canyon Podmilacje (8 km). International qualification of the river difficulty in the canyon Tijesno is III and IV degree of wildwater and depending on a flood-gate, flowing varies from 25-120 m³ and in the spring even to 500m³.

Water temperature in the summer is above 17 C and air temperature is above 30 C degrees. Wildwater canoeing sprint course length is flexible and it can be used up to 800 m according to needs and it is part of the wildwater canoeing classic course 5 kilometers long. It is approachable with many ways and steps and it is secured with two electrical gates for dragging out in the case of accidents and injuries.

There is an ambulance close to the course, about 2 kilometers far.

ABOUT CITY

CITY - Banja Luka

ZIP CODE - 78000

CITY AREA - 1239 km²

POPULATION - ABOUT 200.000

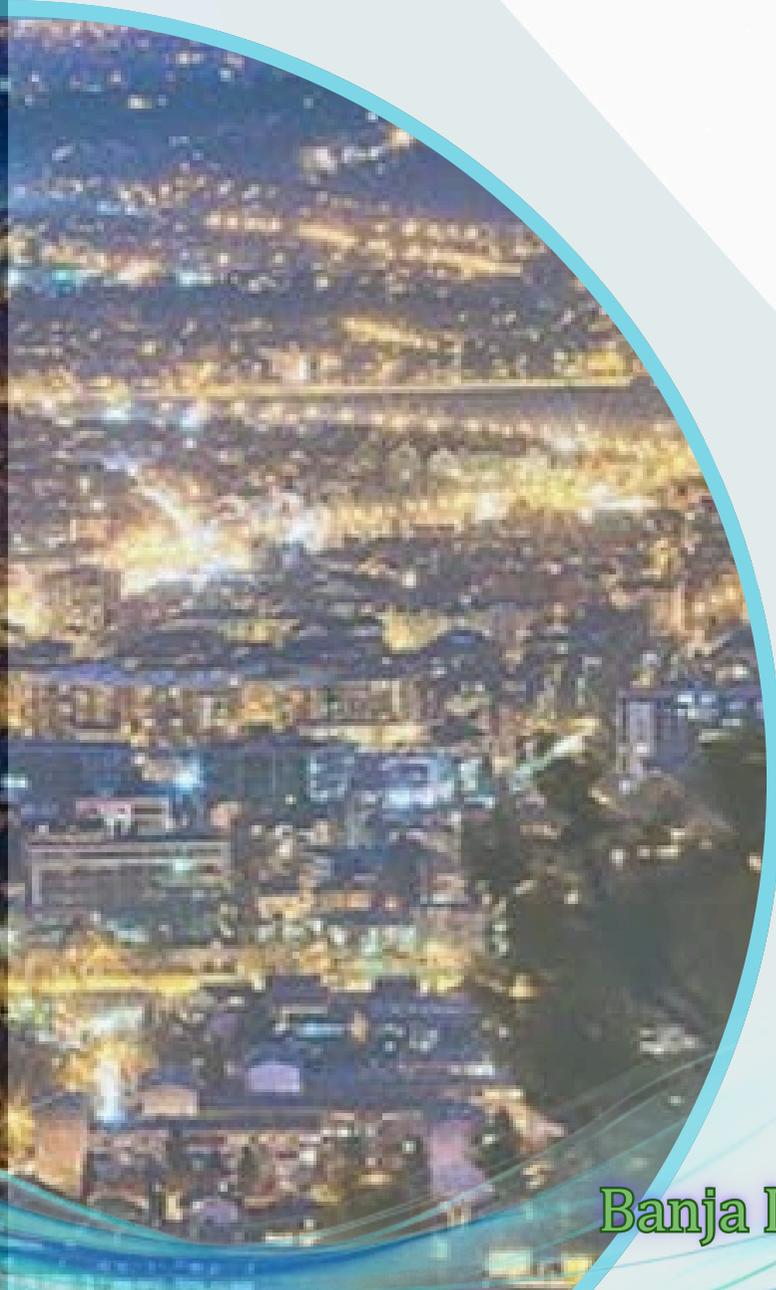
COORDINATES - 44 ° 46 south 17 ° 11 east

TELEPHONE CODE - +387 51

SEA-LEVEL HEIGHT - 164 m

TIME ZONE - Central European GTM+1h

(End of March - beginning of October GTM + 1h)



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BASIC INFORMATIONS

On the basis of the official proclamation published from ICF for organization of 2026 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Kayak Canoe Club "Vrbas" from Banjaluka as a host and Canoe Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, have brought a decision about a candidature.

Kayak Canoe Club "Vrbas" from Banjaluka has been a host for a long time and a successful organizer of the National and International competitions in canoe disciplines,

We have a natural course in a canyon of the Vrbas river which is equipped with the most modern lighting for night races and platforms which can accept about 1500 spectators and there is our plan to widen our platform and increase capacities of sitting places on the course till next year.

There is a regulation hydropower plant, 15 kilometers far, with which we have a great co-operation and this way an excellent control of water level.

The canoe course is by the Road M16 Banja Luka - Jajce and it is about 12 kilometers far from Banja Luka. In the period of the competitions, with the co-operation of the city authorities, it is closed and it will be used the round road Banja Luka - Cadjavica - Mrkonjic Grad.

WILDWATER CANOEING RACES ORGANIZED IN BANJA LUKA

- 2011 ECA SLALOM JUNIORS & U23 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2012 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CUP
- 2013 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CUP
- 2014 ECA WILDWATER CANOEING JUNIORS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2015 ECA WILDWATER CANOEING EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2016 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2017 ECA WILDWATER CANOEING SPRINT EUROPEAN CUP
- 2018 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CUP
- 2019 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING JUNIORS & U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2021 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CUP
- 2022 ECA WILDWATER CANOEING JUNIORS & U23 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 2024 ECA WILDWATER CANOEING SPRINT EUROPEAN CUP
- 2025 ICF WILDWATER CANOEING WORLD CUP

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CURRENCY

Official currency in Bosnia and Herzegovina is Convertible Mark (1 EUR = 1, 95BAM).

A detailed course list for KM and the currency look you can check on the pages of Centralbank Bosnia and Herzegovina www.cbbh.gov.ba

Money can be exchanged in all banks, post offices and in exchange offices.

TRANSPORT

How to get here?

City of Banjaluka is situated on the very important communicational directions. Through the city, railway communication passes and connects the city with west and east Europe, so as other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the 25 kilometer to the north from the city center, there is an international airport Banja Luka, bus and train station are 2 kilometers far from the city center north east.

CITY TRANSPORTATION

Basic public transportation is city buses. A bus ticket is paid by a ride and costs 1.40 KM for the city and from 1.50 to 2.20 KM for out of city transportation depending on the length of the ride. A ticket can be bought at the bus driver in the bus. A ticket should not be annulled but you should show it to a conductor if he asks for.

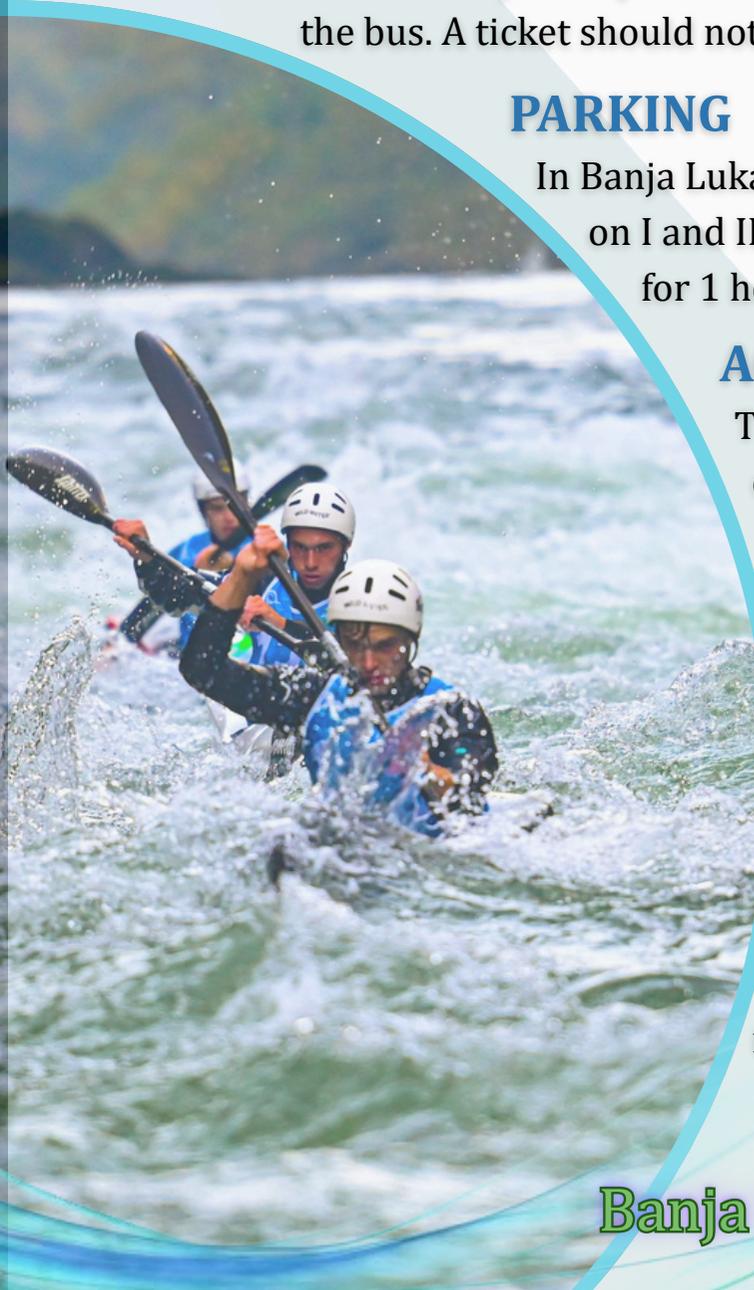
PARKING

In Banja Luka there are about 2672 parking places arranged on 41 parking locations divided on I and II zone. A parking price for 1 hour is 1 KM and all day ticket is 5 KM while a price for 1 hour in II zone is 0.5 KM, and all-day ticket is 3 KM.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a lot of hotels, hostels, rooms and private accommodation with the complete accommodation capacity of 1600 beds and there is a camp in Krupa na Vrbasu which is 25 km far from the city center and from canoe course 13 km. The camp is on the bank of the Vrbas river and on the source of Krupica river, a capacity is about 500 guests and is spread on over 2500 m² without parking and additional objects. Prices in private accommodation are about 15 to 20 Euros per person with breakfast, in hotels from 30 to 65 Euros half-board and from 40 to 100 Euros full board. Hostels are from 15 to 20 Euros per a night. The camp in Krupa na Vrbasu is free and it is available to all the guests from national teams for usage. In front of ECA and ICF for official delegation will be provided staying in Banja Luka for free.

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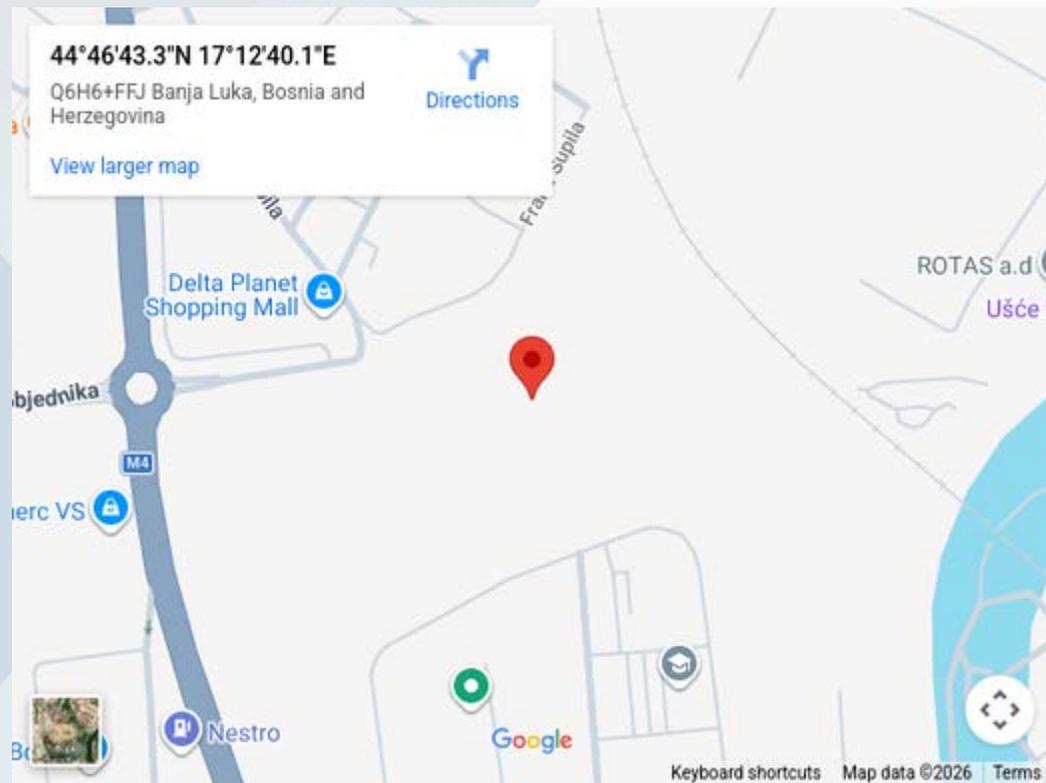


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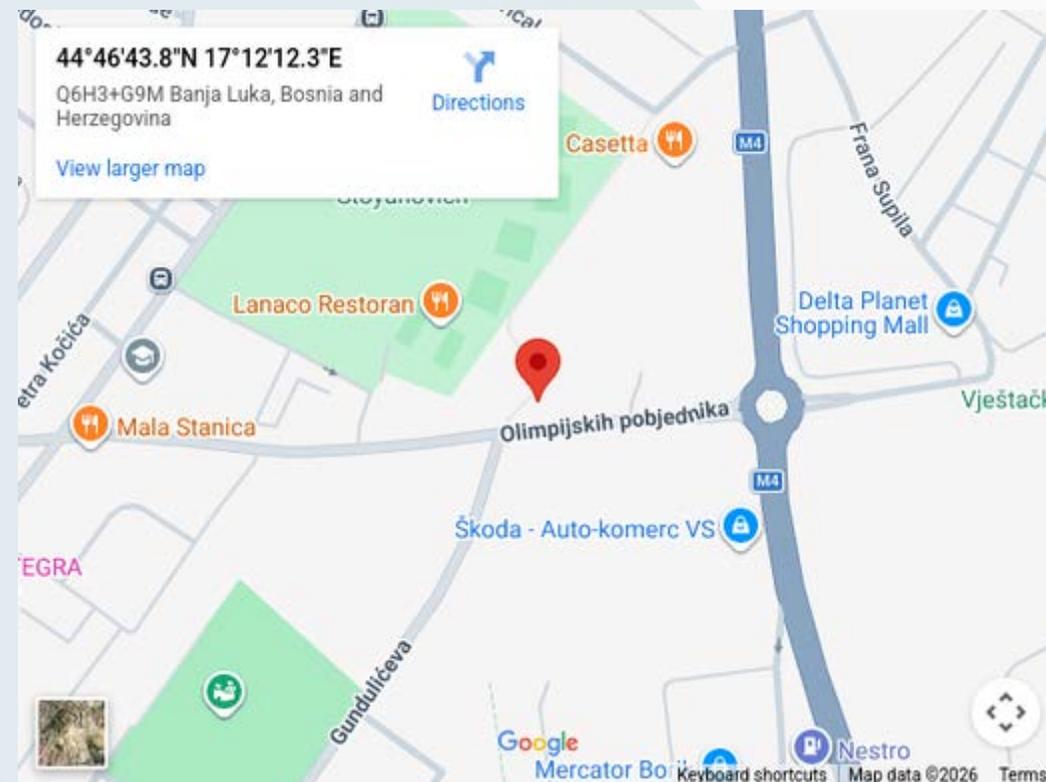
OPENING CEREMONY LOCATION - [maps link](#)

DELTA PARK, 44°46'43.31"N 17°12'40.12"E



CLOSING CEREMONY & AFTER PARTY LOCATION - [maps link](#)

TENISKI CENTAR, 44°46'43.68"N 17°12'12.32"E



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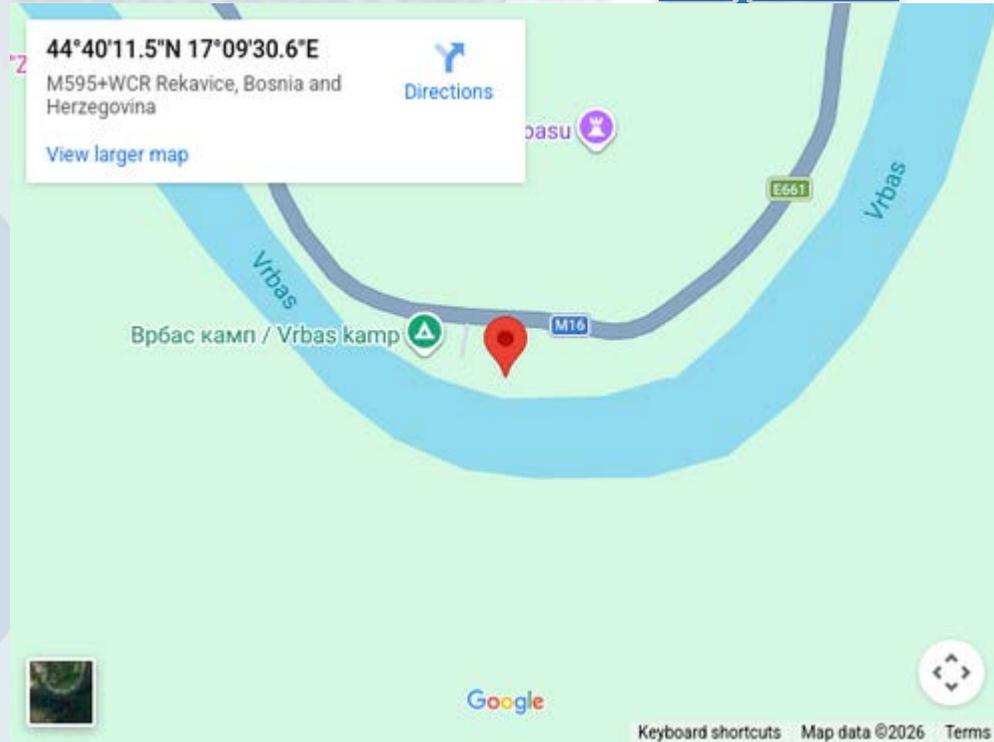


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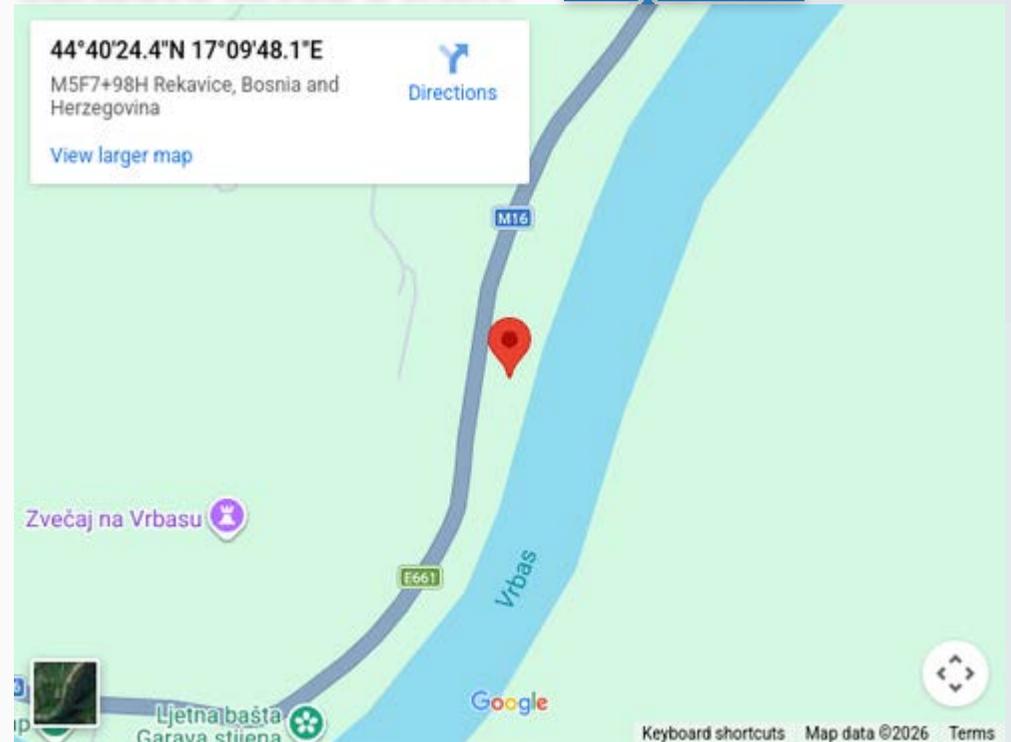


CLASSIC RACE LOCATIONS

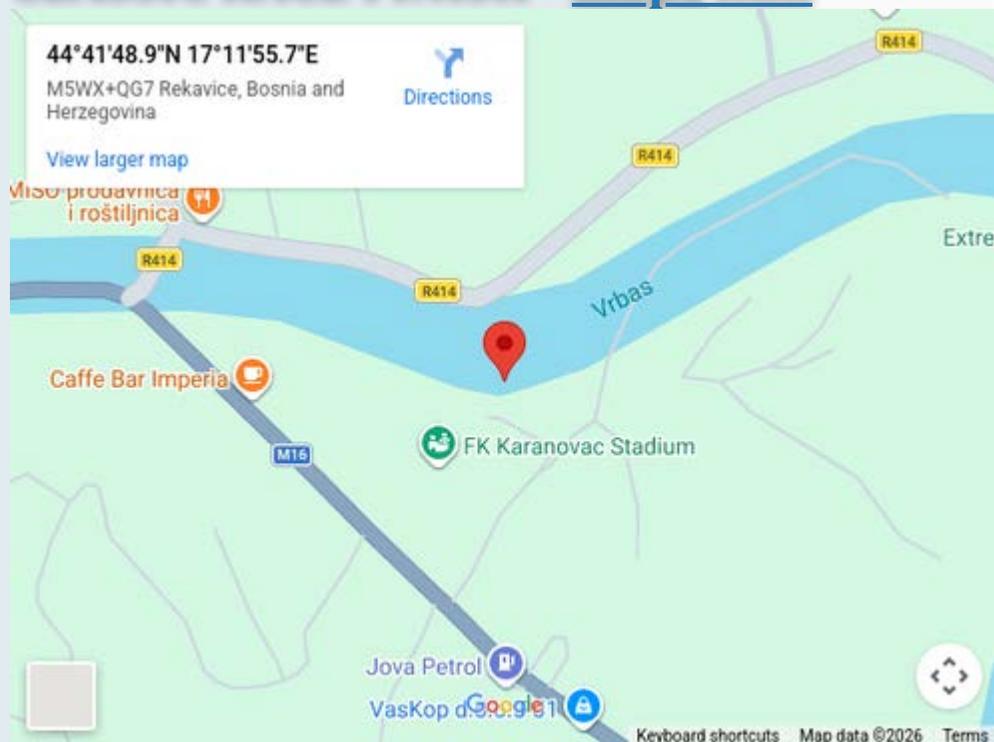
CLASSIC RACE PRESTART - [maps link](#)



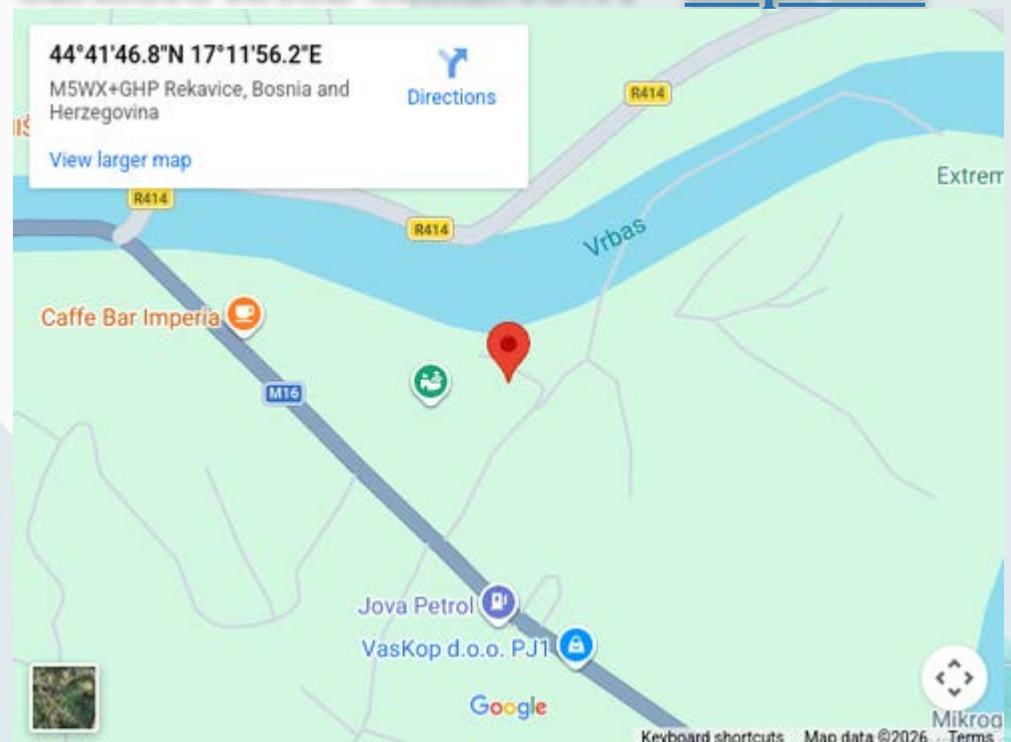
CLASSIC RACE START - [maps link](#)



CLASSIC RACE FINISH - [maps link](#)



CLASSIC RACE CEREMONY - [maps link](#)



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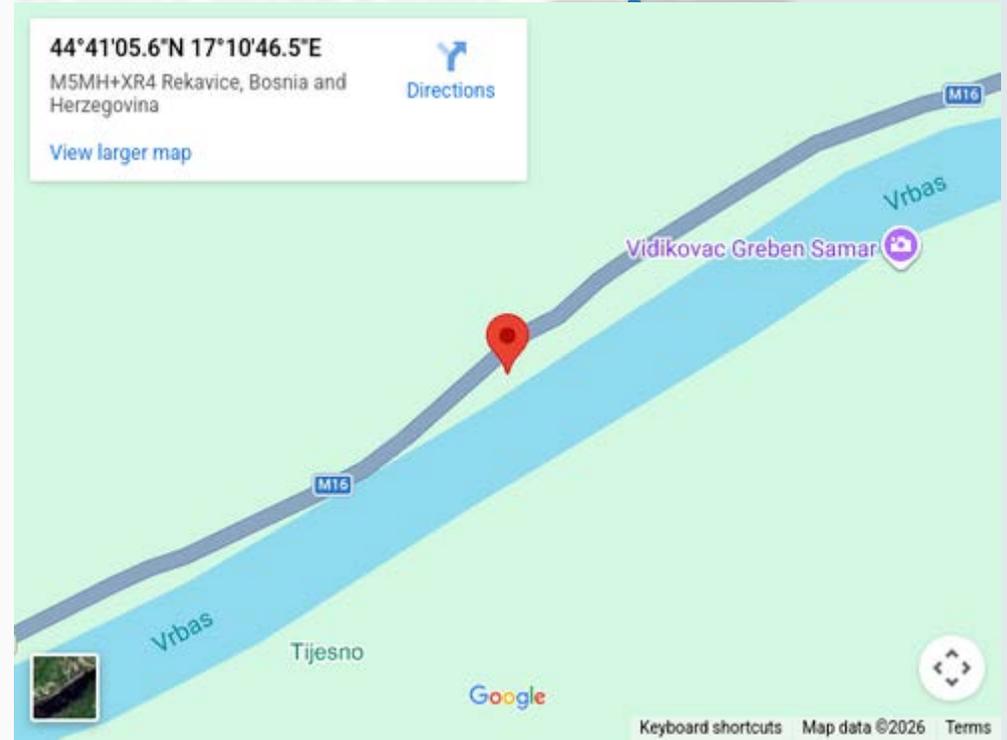


SPRINT RACE LOCATIONS

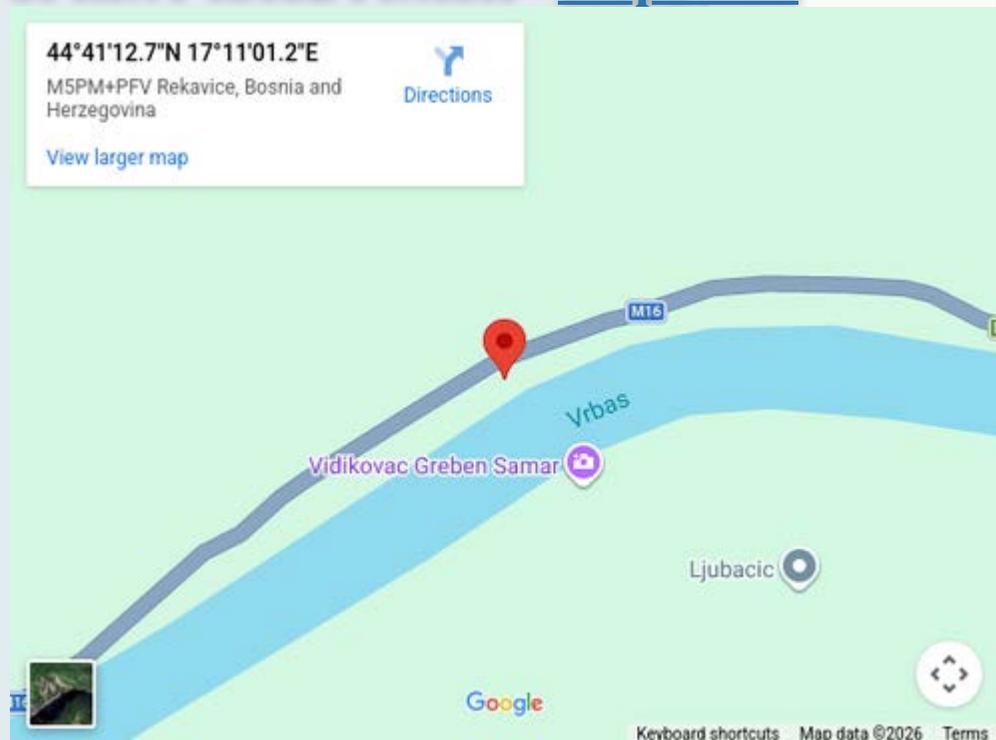
SPRINT RACE PRESTART - [maps link](#)



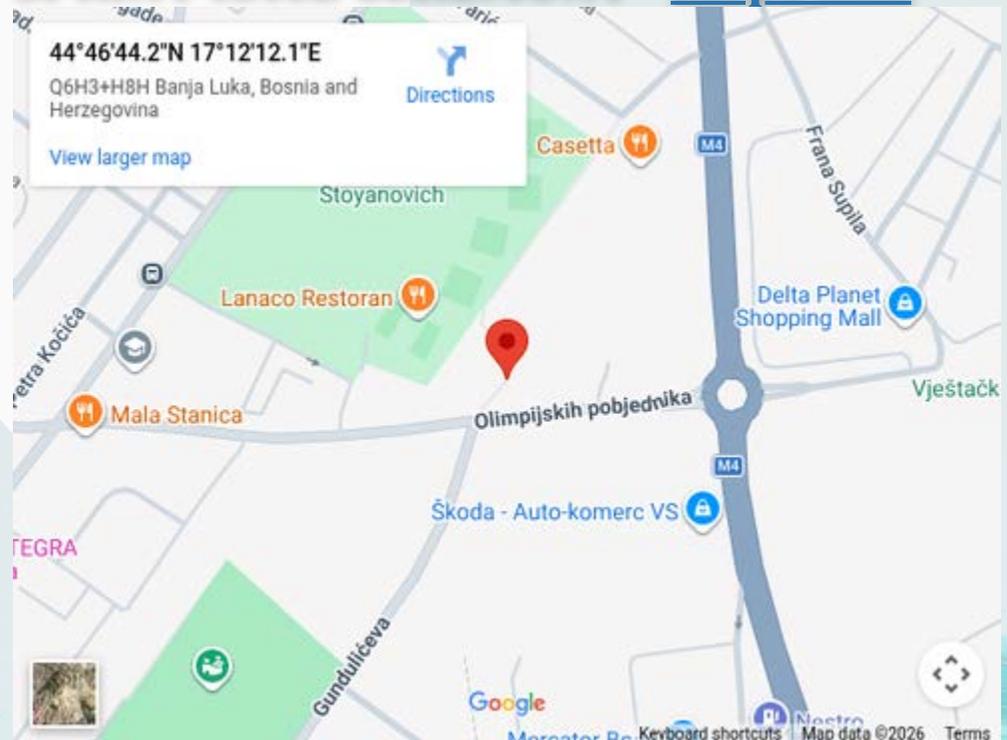
SPRINT RACE START - [maps link](#)



SPRINT RACE FINISH - [maps link](#)



SPRINT RACE CEREMONY - [maps link](#)



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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS PERIOD - UNOFFICIAL SCHEDULE

MAY 16TH - 19TH

- Official trainings

MONDAY, MAY 18TH

- Official Training
- Team leaders meeting
- Official Boat Control
- WWC Nation Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH

- Official training
- Emergency Boat Control
- Accreditation Race Office
- ITO's Meeting
- OPENING CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

- Wildwater Canoeing Classic Individual Races
- Wildwater Canoeing Classic Individual Races - C2 Masters

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

- Wildwater Canoeing Classic Team Races
- Wildwater Canoeing Classic Individual Races - C1 & K1 Masters
- CLASSIC DISCIPLINES MEDALS CEREMONY

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND

- Wildwater Canoeing Sprint Individual Races - Heats

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD.

- Wildwater Canoeing Sprint Individual Race FINALS
- Wildwater Canoeing Sprint Team Races
- SPRINT DISCIPLINES MEDALS & CLOSING CEREMONY

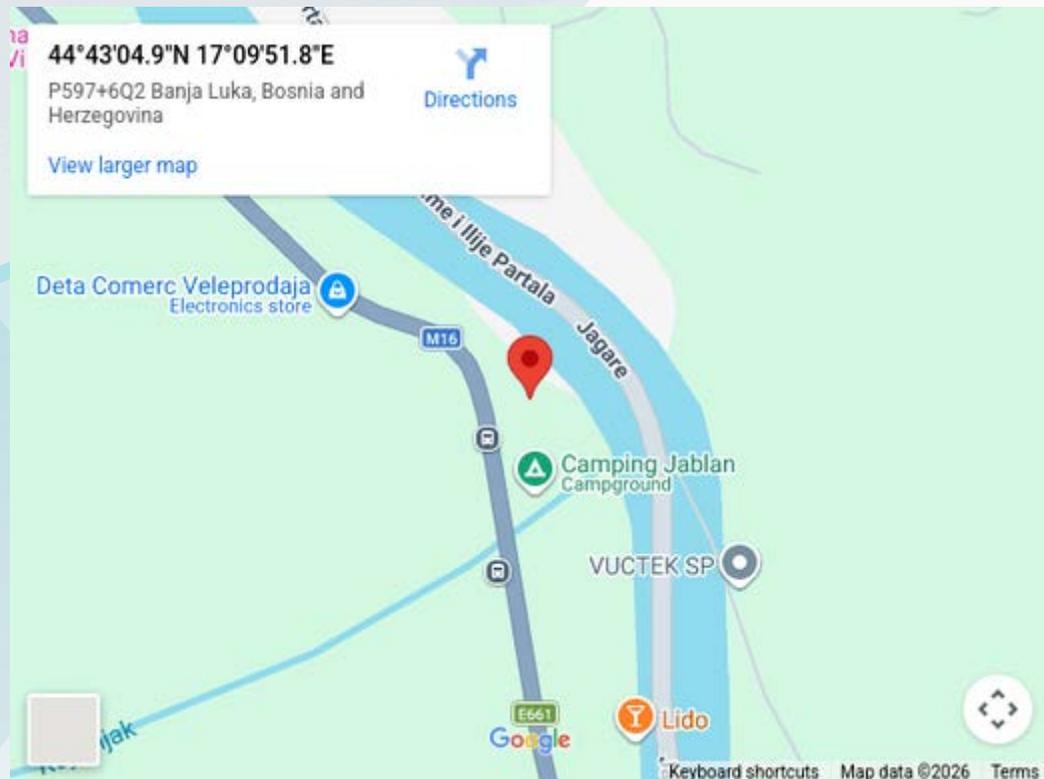
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RACE OFFICE LOCATION - [maps link](#)



CONTACT INFORMATIONS

Kajak kanu klub "VRBAS" Banja Luka

Address:

Save Kovačevića 44

Banja Luka

78000

Republika Srpska, Bosna i Hercegovina

e-mail: kkkvrbas@yahoo.com

Tel: +387(0)51 253 301

Fax: +387(0)51 253 301

Cell: +387(0)65 912 314

Cell: +387(0)66 439 439

Person in charge: Nikola Stanković

e-mail: nikolasblkajak@gmail.com

RESERVATION AND ACCOMODATION INFO

Milan Knežević

Cell: +387(0)65 900 100

e-mail: milan.knezevic@hotelideja.net

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PRINCIPLES

Entries and accreditation requests must be done by the National Federation using the ICF's online entries system (SDP):

<https://icf.mev.atos.net/icf/icf.jsp>

For detailed instructions on how to submit entries, please read the SDP user guide. Any questions or issues to entries or accreditation should be sent to sdp@canoeicf.sport prior to the respective deadline.

SDP USER GUIDE https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/nf_userguide_v4.0_final.pdf

NOMINAL ENTRIES

Nominal entries deadline: 11th May 2026

Each competing athlete must be entered by name.

Team personnel must also be submitted for accreditation at the same time.

These entries will be used to issue accreditation cards for all teams.

BANK DETAILS

The payment of participation fees has to be made by bank transfer before you reach Banja Luka.

After all your registrations are closed you can ask us for an invoice in the race office.

FIELD NAME	FIELD CODE	DETAILS
Correspondent bank	/56A/	LHB INTERNATIONALE HANDELSBANK, SWIFT: LHBIDEFF
Account with institution	/57A/	MF BANKA A.D. BANJA LUKA, Vase Pelagića 22, 78000 Banja Luka SWIFT : MFBLBA22
Beneficiary Customer	/59/	IBAN - BA395721040000000293 KAJAK KANU KLUB VRBAS BANJA LUKA SAVE KOVACEVICA 44, 78000 BANJA LUKA, BIH
Details of payment	/70/	Invoice/contract no. or other/

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The ICF WWC Global Development programme is part of the World Championships. The organizing team's aim is to involve new athletes, coaches, and whole federations in Whitewater Canoeing competitions and to provide them with the maximum support. Teams assigned to this program will be able to take advantage of support with boats and other equipment rentals, accommodation, meals, coaching and will also take part in various team-building events. All this will be in the spirit of integrating new athletes and their coaches into the international wildwater community.

INSURANCE

All official participants of the World Championships are strongly advised to take out a medical insurance policy in their respective countries.

MEDICAL CARE

All official participants of the World Championships have access to the following medical services: an on-duty doctor, hospital and clinic support. A medical center with ambulance and first aid will be available at the Course. Any costs beyond basic first aid, ambulance and physiotherapy services must be covered by the athletes' own medical insurance. The Host Organising Committee will not cover expenses related to hospital, dental or any other medical treatments.

ANTI-DOPING

For the ICF World Championships every athlete, coach and support personnel must pass the relevant anti-doping online course on the Anti-Doping Education Learning platform (ADEL) corresponding to their role.

ICF RULES

All events will be governed by the ICF Wildwater Canoeing Competition Rules 2025.

2025 wildwater canoeing competition rules

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ICF PARTNERS



GOLD



SILVER



Always moving forward