2026 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships

Hangzhou, China

30 September – 3 October 2026

Welcome Message

Welcome to Hangzhou—a city where the Grand Canal meets the majestic Qiantang River in southeastern China, hence long giving the city its nickname: “Paradise on Earth.” Hangzhou is also one of the birthplaces of Chinese dragon boat culture, often called “the cradle of dragon boat racing.” Over the years, the city has earned reputations as a central stage for the Wuyue Heritage, a scenic gem along the Qiantang River, and an internationally recognized Garden City.

We’re truly honored that the ICF Dragon Boat World Championships, one of the world’s premier events in the sport, will be held here—a warm welcome, on behalf of the Chinese Canoe Association and the Organizing Committee, to all athletes, coaches, team leaders, and media pros joining us from around the world.

We invite you to come, explore, and make yourself at home in Hangzhou—paddle the dragon boats, cruise the West Lake, take in the Qiantang River, and enjoy a cup of Longjing green tea—a firsthand experience of the beauty and spirit of Chinese culture, without a doubt.

2026 ICF Dragon Boat World Championships Organizing Committee (Hangzhou, China)

1. General Information

Hangzhou, a city with a name that speaks to its roots—known in ancient times as Qiantang, the characters in its name tell the story of a place where boats cross rivers and waterways converge, fitting for a city that has long been a meeting point between land and sea.

At the meeting of the lower Qiantang River and the Grand Canal, Hangzhou has always been a vital water hub, connecting the heart of the Jiang'nan region with the southeastern coast. Today, it's a place where thousands of years of history—Liangzhu, Wuyue, Southern Song—blend seamlessly with a vibrant digital energy. As a model of Chinese modernization and a showcase of common prosperity, the city offers a unique mix of ancient charm and forward-looking spirit.

The World Championships this year takes place in Fuyang, a district along the lower stretch of the Fuchun River—widely regarded as home to some of China's most stunning landscapes. Here, a rich, living tradition of dragon boat culture has thrived for centuries, earning Fuyang a reputation as one of the most authentic places to experience the sport in its original setting.

With its natural beauty and deep connection to water-based traditions, Fuyang has become a favorite destination for major international water sports events in recent years. It has proudly hosted competitions such as rowing and canoeing during the Hangzhou Asian Games, as well as the ICF Hangzhou Super Cup. For athletes, it's a chance to compete in a place where the landscape and the sport's cultural roots come together—making for an experience that is as memorable as it is meaningful.

Hangzhou has a humid subtropical climate, known for its mild and pleasant conditions, ample sunshine, and four distinct seasons. During September and October, daytime highs typically average around 24-26°C, with overnight lows ranging from 16-19°C. The city receives about 1,450 millimeters of rainfall annually. By autumn, the rainy season has largely passed, making way for clear skies and gentle breezes. It's also the season when osmanthus flowers are in full bloom—their sweet fragrance fills the air across the city. With such comfortable temperatures, it's an ideal time of year for outdoor activities and sightseeing.

杭州第19届亚洲运动会
THE 19TH ASIAN GAMES
HANGZHOU
A s i a

2024 ICF HANGZHOU SUPER CUP
杭州富阳水上运动中心
angzhou Fuyang Water Sports Centre
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8
4

1.2 Public Transit

Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)

Located on the south bank of the Yangtze River estuary in Pudong, Shanghai, PVG is one of China's three major international gateways. The airport is about 231 km from Fuyang Water Sports Centre.
Website:https://www.shanghaiairport.com/pudong/

Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH)

As Zhejiang Province's primary aviation gateway, HGH is a key domestic hub and a designated Class I international port of entry. It handles regular international flights and serves as a designated alternate airport for international services. The airport is about 52 km from Fuyang Water Sports Centre.
Website:https://www.hzairport.com/

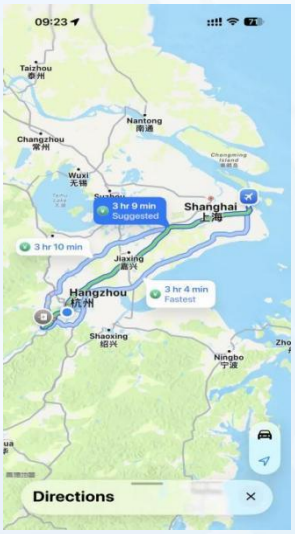
Hangzhoudong (Hangzhou East) Railway Station

Hangzhou East is one of the city's most comprehensive transport hubs and a major railway junction in China, with direct connections to major cities including Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing. It stands about 36 km away from Fuyang Water Sports Centre.

Directions to Fuyang Water Sports Centre

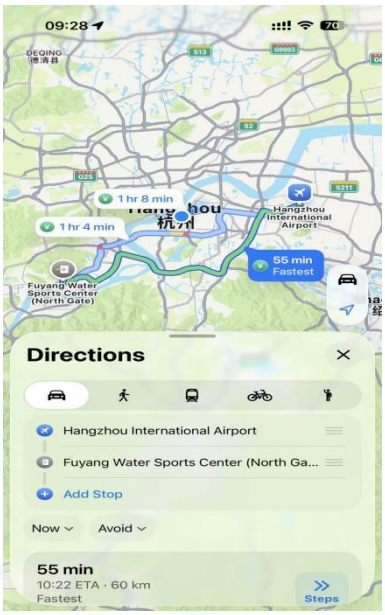
1. From PVG

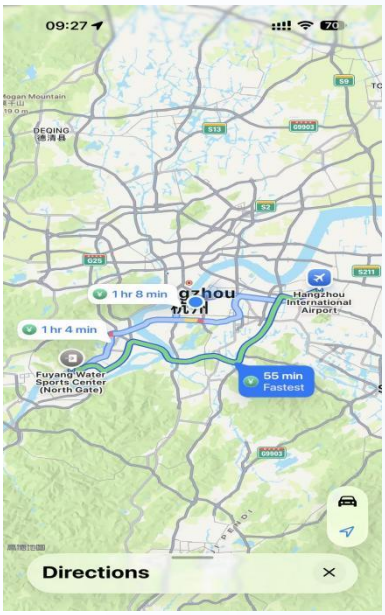
https://www.shanghaiairport.com/pudong/



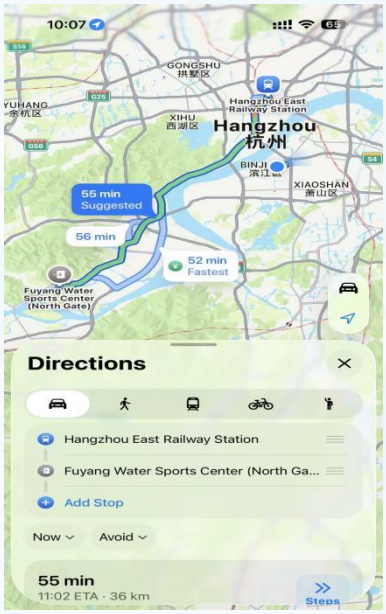
2. From HGH

https://www.hzairport.com/





3. From Hangzhoudong (Hangzhou East)



Transportation Service

1. The official arrival dates for the event are 28 and 29 September, 2026 and the official departure date is 4 October, 2026. The designated airport for official transfers is Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport (HGH), while the designated railway station for official transfers is Hangzhoudong (Hangzhou East) Railway Station. Transportation services provided by the Organizing Committee will be available from 28 September to 4 October, 2026.

2. All teams accommodated at the official hotels are required to book and pay for the **official transportation package**. The package priced at **USD 50** per person includes the following services:

(1) Arrival & departure transfers between HGH/Hangzhoudong (Hangzhou East) and the official hotels during the official arrival period and between the official hotels and HGH/Hangzhoudong (Hangzhou East) on the official departure date.

(2) Training and competition day shuttle services (from 30 September to 3 October, 2026) between the official hotels and Fuyang Water Sports Centre.

3. Besides the package, any arrival or departure requests falling outside the official arrival and departure dates shall be subject to an additional charge. Dedicated transfers will be arranged on request. The applicable rates are USD 300 per coach (max. 20 persons preferred), USD 250 per minibus (max. 10 persons preferred), and USD 200 per minivan (max. 3 to 4 persons preferred).

4. **All participating teams are required to complete the Transportation Booking Form and submit it to hz_watersports@163.com by 10 September, 2026**. Transportation service fees must be paid in full to the Organizing Committee by 15 September, 2026. Payment is accepted only via USD bank transfer or in cash in RMB.

Transportation Booking Form	
Country/Region:	Number of Passengers
28 September	
29 September	
30 September	
1 October	
2 October	
3 October (final day of competition)	
4 October	

Signature (head of delegation): Date:

Do you need additional transfer/shuttle services? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(If Yes, please complete the table below)

Country/Region: _____

Headcount: _____

Vehicle type: _____

Pick-up / Drop-off time: _____

Signature (head of delegation): _____

Note: Please submit this form by 10 September, 2026.

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

The People's Republic of China applies a unilateral visa-free entry policy for holders of valid ordinary passports from 48 countries including Brunei, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Australia. Eligible passport holders may enter China without a visa for business, tourism, family visits, exchanges, transit, event participation and other approved purposes, with a maximum stay of 30 days. For full details of the visa-free policy, please refer to the FAQs on Visa-free Entry into China via the official website of the Consular Service of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: https://cs.mfa.gov.cn/wgrlh/lhqz/wd/202511/t20251110_11749822.shtml. The online declaration system for foreigner arrival card was officially launched on November 20, 2025. For details, please visit the official website of the National Immigration Administration of China: https://www.nia.gov.cn（Chinese version）/ https://en.nia.gov.cn/ （English version）

The above information is for reference only. All China visa and entry policies are subject to the latest official announcements from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Immigration Administration of the People's Republic of China. For any other visa-related matters, please consult the Chinese Embassy or Consulate in your country or region.

Should you require a visa, please refer to the visa application form below and send it asap to chncanoe@hotmail.com and icfdragonboat@gmail.com.

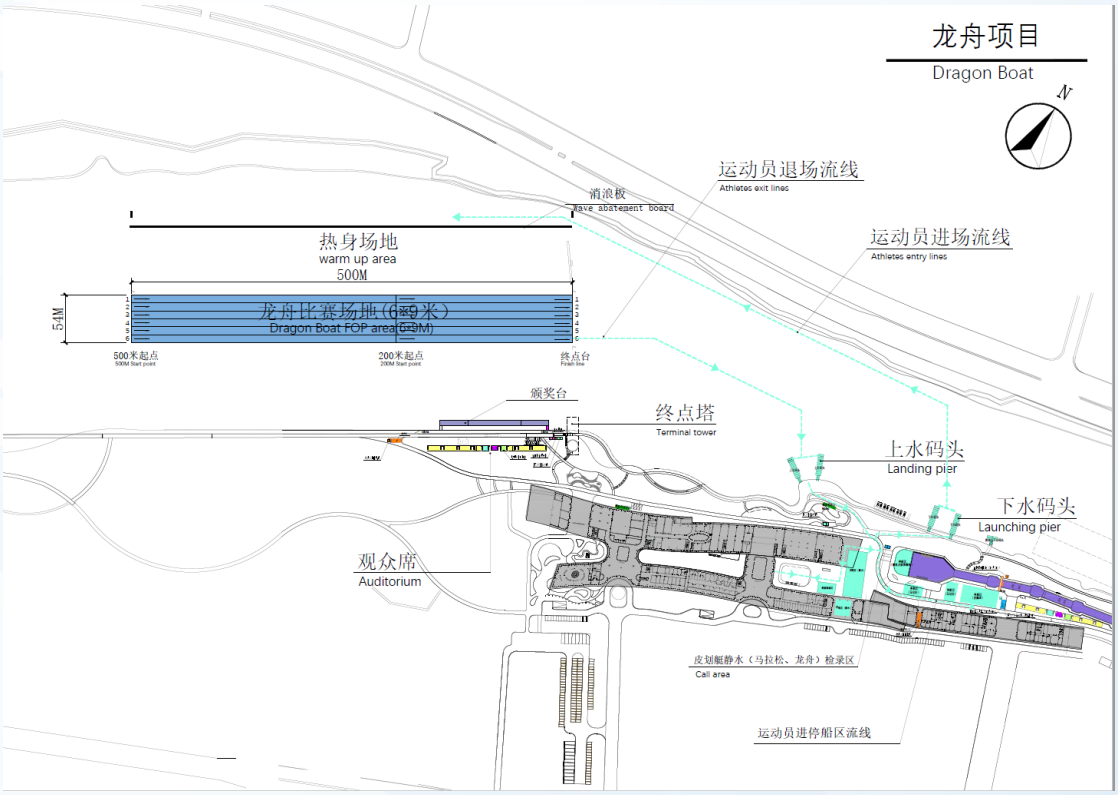
COMPETITION INFORMATION

TIMELINE:

28 September	Arrival day, unofficial training
29 September	Arrival day, official training, team leaders' meeting, ITO meeting
30 September	Race day, combined opening ceremony with Super Cup
1 October	Race day
2 October	Race day
3 October	Race day, departures
4 October	Departures

VENUE:

The competition will take place at Fuyang Water Sports Centre in Fuyang District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. The venue was completed in 2021, covering an area of approximately 12.8 hectares, with a total floor space of 67,000 square meters. The competition takes place on the Beizhi River, where the course stretches 2,000 meters in length. A diagram of the venue's functional zones is provided below.



COMPETITION PROGRAMME – CATEGORIES:

Senior:

Distance	Open	Women	Mixed
200m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater
500m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater
2000m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater

Masters 40+:

Distance	Open	Women	Mixed
200m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater
500m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater
2000m	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater	8 and 10 seater

Masters 50+:

Distance	Open	Women	Mixed
200m	10 seater	10 seater	10 seater
500m	10 seater	10 seater	10 seater
2000m	10 seater	10 seater	10 seater

ENTRY LIMITATIONS:

There is a one boat / nation entry limit in all events except for the Masters 40+ and 50+ age categories where multiple entries / event are allowed. A national team is composed of all the crews in the competition programme. For details of the composition of a crew please refer to the ICF DBR Rules. For mixed team events in the 10-seater dragon boat, a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5 rowers of each gender are required. Drummers and steerers may be of any gender

ENTRY DEADLINES:

Entries must be made via ICF's entry system SDP: https://icf.mev.atos.net/icf/icf.jsp Details of the system and guidelines can be found here.

Numerical entry deadline: 15 August 2026

Nominal entry deadline: 20 September 2026

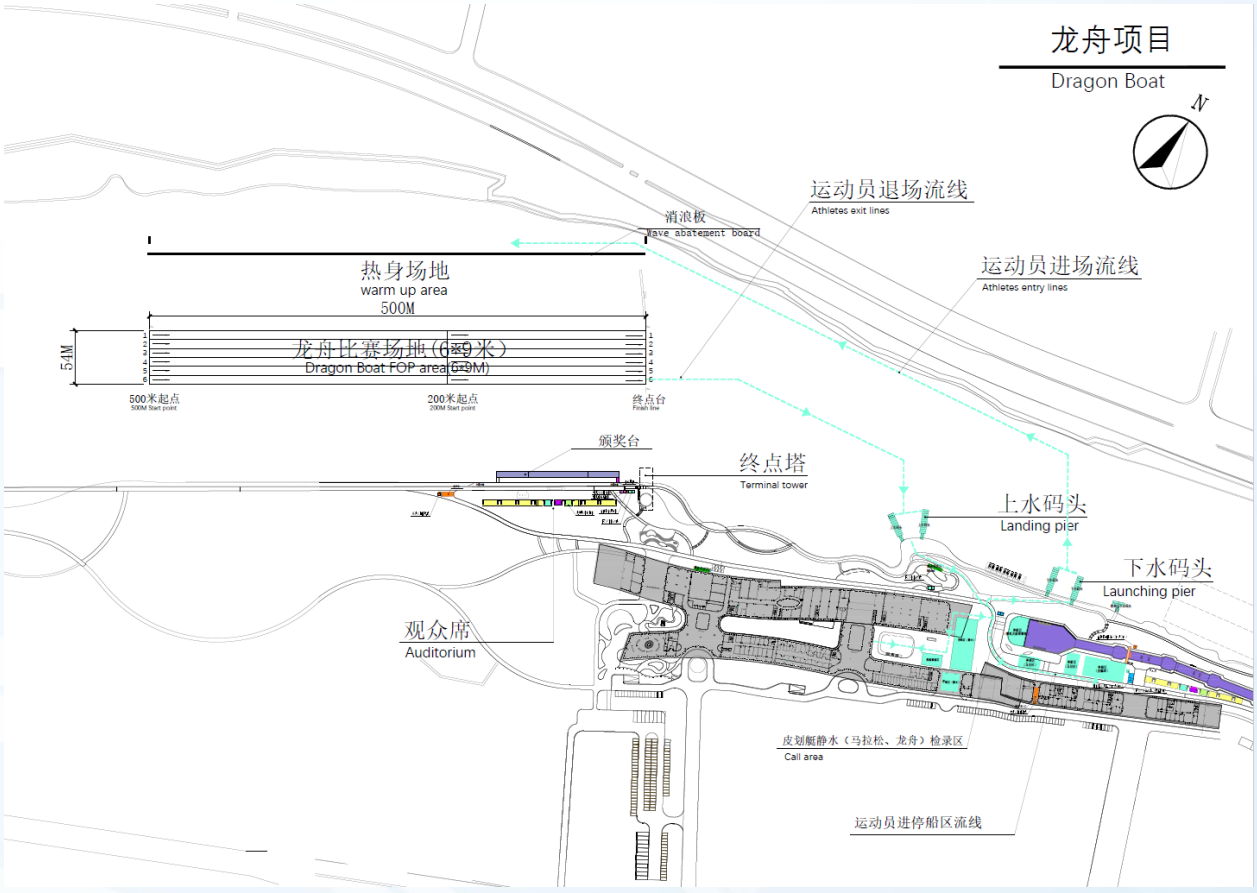
BOATS AND EQUIPMENT:

Boats authorized by ICF will be provided by the Organising Committee. Competing crews are expected to bring their own paddles & buoyancy aids (optional).

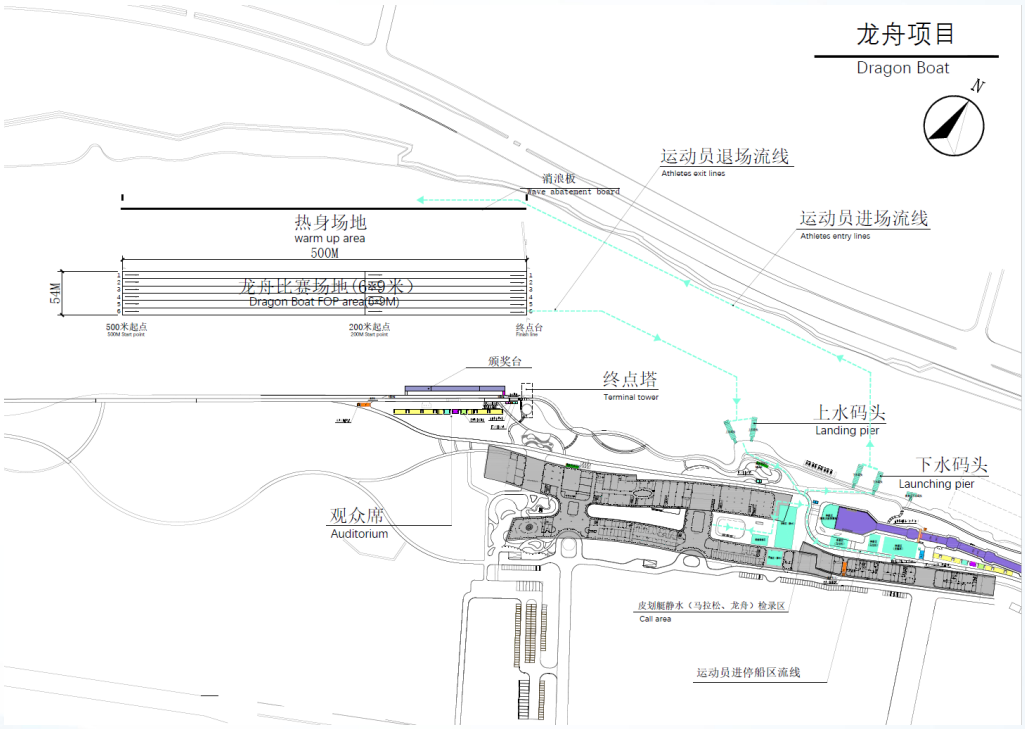
PERSONAL SAFETY:

All crew members must be competent swimmers, ideally be able to swim at least 150 meters without assistance. It is the crew manager's responsibility to ensure that this limitation is complied with, and to ensure that known weak swimmers wear personal flotation aids. Crews compete entirely at their own risk and must be 'Fit to Race', as defined in ICF Competition Regulations.

COURSE LAYOUT: 200/500m



COURSE LAYOUT: 2000m



PRIZE MONEY ALLOCATION:

The HOC is pleased to offer prize money for this competition as follows (all prize amounts are listed as post-tax):

Rank	Senior 8 seater mix	Senior 10 seater mix
1	6400 USD	8000 USD
2	5600 USD	7000 USD
3	4800 USD	6000 USD
4	2400 USD	3000 USD
5	1600 USD	2000 USD
6	800 USD	1000 USD

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS:

(1) The Organizing Committee will provide event support services, including meals and transportation, at the official hotels. The services are exclusive to delegation members with confirmed booking records.

(2) Due to limited availability of specific room types, room assignments will be made on a first-paid, first-served basis according to the order of deposit payment.

(3) **Hotel reservations must be completed by 20 August, 2026**. The completed Hotel Booking Form, signed by the head of delegation, must be **sent to hz_watersports@163.com**.

(4) Delegations must pay a **deposit of 80%** of the total accommodation cost to the Organizing Committee by **30 August, 2026.** Bookings will not be guaranteed if the deposit is not received by the deadline. **The remaining 20%** must be paid **by 15 September, 2026**. Accommodation fees shall be paid collectively by each participating delegation to the Organizing Committee. Payment is accepted only via USD bank transfer or in cash in RMB.

(5) Cancellation requests received after 15 September, 2026 will not be accepted.

(6) All room rates are quoted per room, per night. Any incidental charges incurred at the hotel, such as laundry and phone call services, must be settled by the delegation with the hotel upon checkout.

(7) All competition services provided by the Organizing Committee will cease on 4 October, 2026. Any accommodation matters arising after this date will not be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

(8) All official hotels are located within a range of 2-15 kilometers from the competition venue.

Accommodation Booking Form

Hotel Class	Luxury		Standard		Economy		Total Rooms
Room Type	King-size	Twin	King-size	Twin	King-size	Twin	
Rates (USD, per room, per night)	70	75	60	65	50	55	
Total Rooms before 30 September (Checkin date: _____)							
Total Rooms (30 September)							
Total Rooms (1 October)							

Hotel Class	Luxury		Standard		Economy		Total Rooms
Total Rooms (2 October)							
Total Rooms (3 October)							
Total Rooms after 3 October (Checkout date: _____)							
Signature (head of delegation): _____ Date: _____ Note: Please submit this form by 20 August, 2026.							

CATERING:

(1) The Organizing Committee will provide catering services exclusively at the official hotels.

(2) Delegations must complete their catering booking by 20 August, 2026. The completed Catering Booking Form, signed by the head of delegation, must be submitted to hz_watersports@163.com. Catering fees shall be paid collectively by each participating delegation to the Organizing Committee no later than 15 September 2026. Payment is accepted only via USD bank transfer or in cash in RMB.

(3) All competition services provided by the Organizing Committee will cease on 4 October, 2026. Any catering matters arising after this date will not be accepted by the Organizing Committee.

(4) The Organizing Committee will provide complimentary coffee breaks within the competition venue during the competition days (from 30 September to 3 October, 2026).

(5) All meals shall strictly comply with the ICF Host Catering Guide

(6) Catering fees are charged per person, per day, covering breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the official hotels.

Catering Booking Form

Hotel Class	Luxury	Standard	Economy	Total Meal Count
Meal Cost (USD, per person, per day)	45	40	35	
Meal Count (30 September)				
Meal Count (1 October)				
Meal Count (2 October)				
Meal Count (3 October)				
Total Meal Count				
Signature (head of delegation): _____ Date: _____ Note: Please submit this form by 20 August, 2026.				

Visa Application Form

Country/Region: _____ Team: _____

No.	Title	Name	Sex	Passport Number	Issue Date	Expiry Date
1	Leader					
2	Coach					
3	Drummer					
4	Steerer					
5	Paddler		Male			
6	Paddler		Male			
7	Paddler		Male			
8	Paddler		Male			
9	Paddler		Male			
10	Paddler		Male			
11	Paddler		Male			
12	Paddler		Male			
13	Paddler		Male			
14	Paddler		Male			
15	Paddler		Male			
16	Paddler		Female			
17	Paddler		Female			
18	Paddler		Female			
19	Paddler		Female			
20	Paddler		Female			
Additional paddlers for Women Team if compete Women events						
21	Paddler		Female			
22	Paddler		Female			
23	Paddler		Female			
24	Paddler		Female			
25	Paddler		Female			
Extra personnel (responsible for own expenses)						
1						
2						
3						
4						

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Email address: _____

Mobile number: _+_____

Date: _____