2026 ICF Dragon Boat World Cup Bulletin No.1

YUANLING·CHINA

25th-27th September,2026

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Yuanling welcomes you.

Yuanling County, Huaihua City, Hunan Province, located in the northwest of Hunan Province, boasts the most picturesque section of the "Thousand-Mile Yuan River" landscape gallery. It is one of the earliest regions in China to engage in dragon boat racing and is widely recognized as the birthplace of China's traditional dragon boat culture. The county enjoys profound accolades such as "China's Traditional Dragon Boat Hometown," "Ancient Chu and Qin Prefecture, a Millennium-Old Chenzhou," "Provincial Historical and Cultural City," "Source of Jietan Tea Culture," and "A Heartrendingly Beautiful Place in Shen Congwen's Writings."

The International Canoe Federation (ICF) Dragon Boat World Cup is a crucial part of the world-class dragon boat competition, and we are very pleased to host it here. The China Canoe Association and the event organizing committee are honored to welcome dragon boat athletes, coaches, team leaders, and media representatives from around the world.

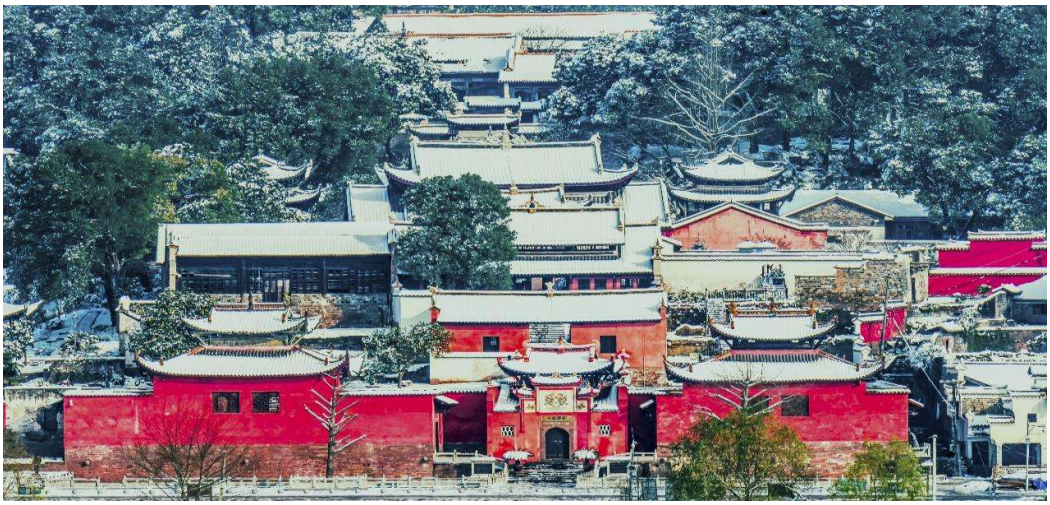
We sincerely invite friends from all over the world to come to Yuanling, to row dragon boats, tour Yuanling, and experience the traditional culture of China!

2026 International Canoe Federation
Dragon Boat World Cup Organizing Committee (China Yuanling)

1. Basic Information

1.1 Introduction to Yuanling County, Huaihua City, Hunan Province, China

Yuanling County, Huaihua City, Hunan Province, China, was formerly known as Chenzhou, with its name reflecting the geographical feature of "by the Yuan River, with hills and valleys in sight" ("Yuan" refers to the mighty river flowing through western Hunan, while "Ling" denotes the undulating hills and mountains). Located at the confluence of the middle reaches of the Yuan River and the You River, Yuanling has long been known as the "Gateway to Western Hunan," serving as a millennium-old waterway stronghold connecting the Central Plains and the southwest, as well as the core cultural and ecological area of Greater Western Hunan. As a melting pot of Chu culture, Qianzhong culture, and ethnic minority cultures, it is leveraging its profound historical heritage and ecological advantages to strive for becoming a model county for cultural and tourism integration in the Wuling Mountain region and a regional historic and cultural city.



Yuanling County is located in the northwest of Hunan Province, boasting the most picturesque section of the "Thousand-Mile Yuan River" landscape gallery. It is one of the earliest regions in China to engage in dragon boat racing and is widely recognized as the birthplace of China's traditional dragon boat culture. The county enjoys profound accolades such as "China's Traditional Dragon Boat Hometown," "Ancient Chu and Qin Prefecture, a Millennium-Old Chenzhou," "Provincial Historical and Cultural City," "The Source of Jietan Tea Culture," and "A Heartrendingly Beautiful Place in Shen Congwen's Writings."

Dragon boat racing has been practiced in Yuanling for over two thousand years, with its unique tradition of racing across waterways predating the dragon boat folk rituals commemorating Qu Yuan by several centuries, forming a rare pristine dragon boat cultural system nationwide. In recent years, Yuanling has successfully hosted a series of high-level events, including the "National Dragon Boat Invitational," "National Traditional Dragon Boat Competition," "International Traditional Dragon Boat Invitational," and the"2025 China Canoeing Tour Finals."

1.2 Transportation

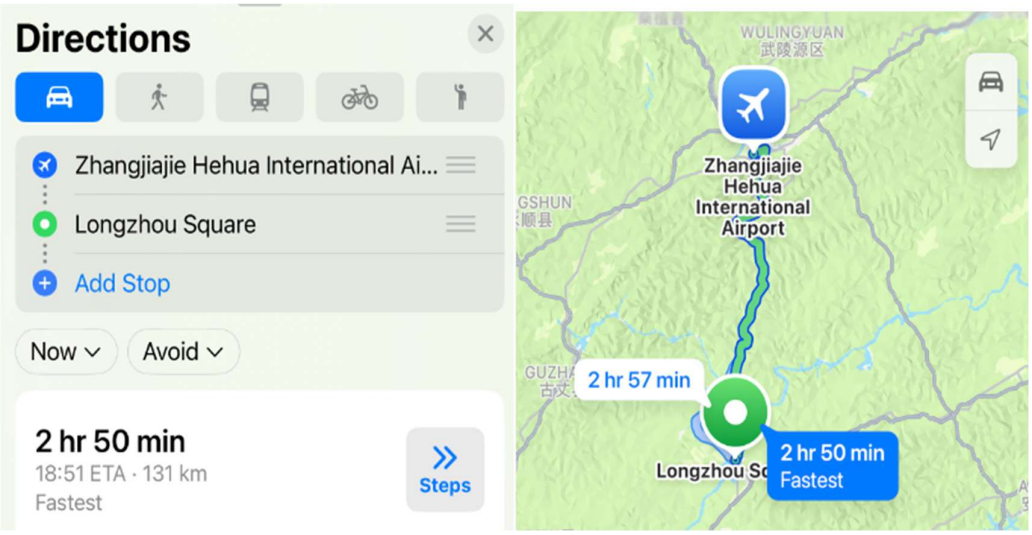
Hunan Province, Zhangjiajie Lotus Flower International Airport: Here is the official website of Zhangjiajie Lotus International Airport (DYG): https://www.zjjhh.com/. As a 4D-class international trunk airport, it is the second largest in Hunan Province, with the competition venue (Longzhou Square in Yuanling County) located approximately 131 kilometers away.

Changde Taohuayuan Airport in Hunan Province: The official website of Changde Taohuayuan Airport (CGD) is https://www.cdairport.com.cn/. As a regional feeder airport, it primarily serves as a hub connecting to key domestic cities. The airport is approximately 160 kilometers away from the competition venue (Longzhou Square in Yuanling County).

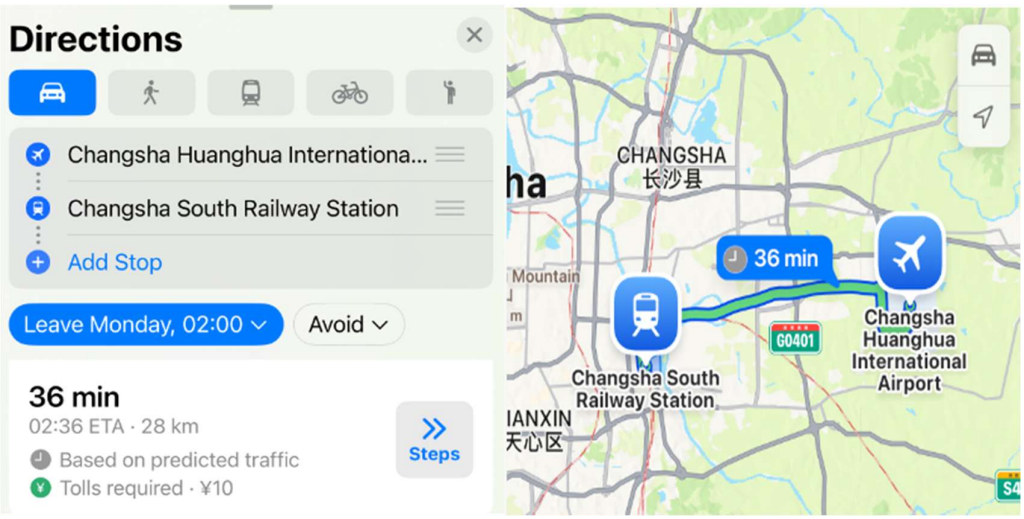
Huaihua South Station in Hunan Province: This railway station serves as a hub for high-speed rail connections, providing direct access to major cities including Changsha, Guiyang, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Beijing. It is approximately 145 kilometers away from the event venue (Longzhou Square in Yuanling County).

How to get to Yuanling, Huaihua, Hunan

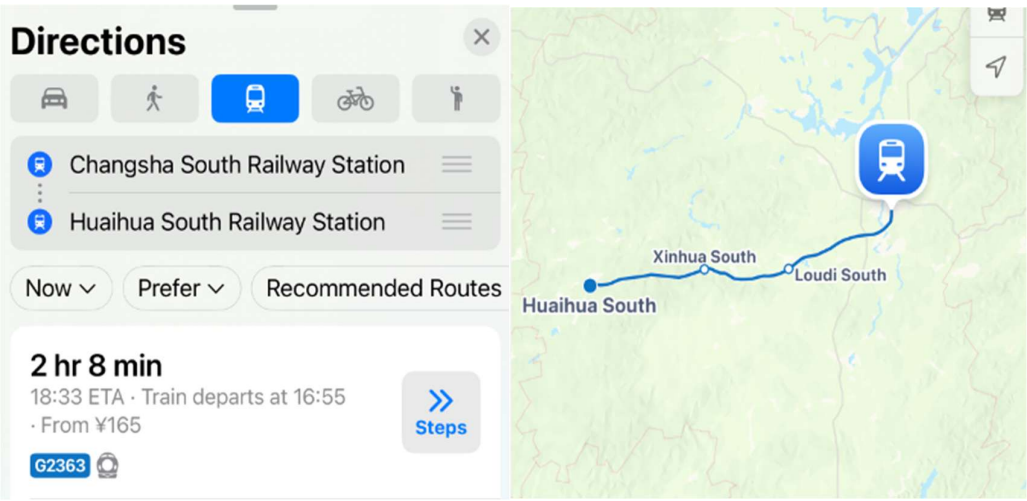
From Zhangjiajie Lotus International Airport (DYG), Hunan https://www.zjjhh.com/**to the competition venue:**



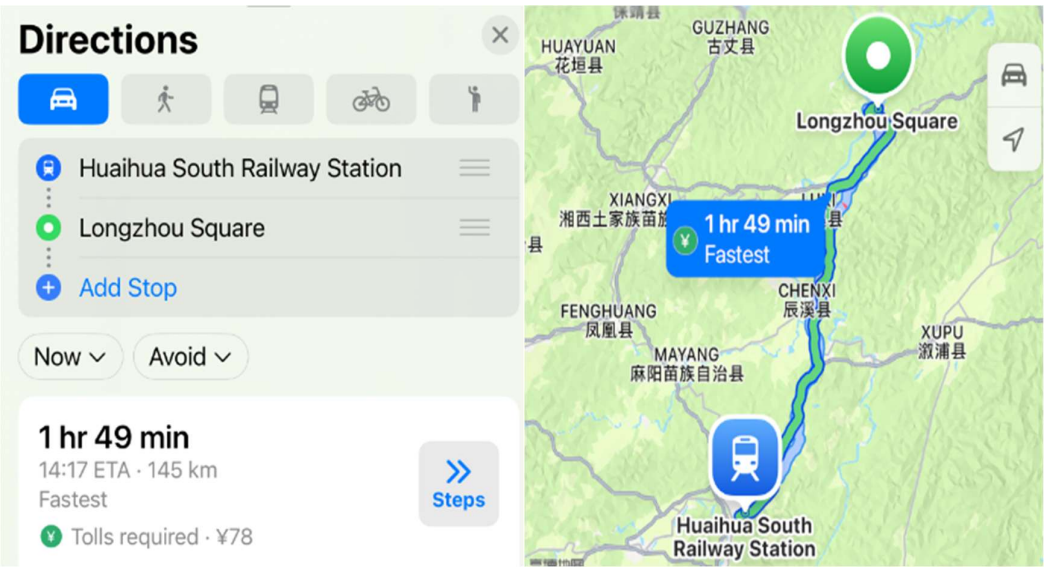
From Changde Taohuayuan Airport (CGD), Hunan: https://www.cdairport.com.cn/ **to the competition venue:**



From Changsha South Station in Hunan to Huaihua South Station in Hunan:



From Huaihua South Station in Hunan to the competition venue:



*** Upon arrival: After entering the arrival hall, please locate our staff and/or the reception desk with the event logo.**

*** Leave the meeting: You should pick up the departure time information sheet 1 or 2 days before departure.**

*** The organizers will provide free shuttle bus service to the nearest airport or train station.**

＊ Teams participating in the Hangzhou Dragon Boat World Championship (Super Cup) may contact the organizing committee. After collecting the information uniformly, the organizing committee will assist the participating teams in purchasing high-speed train tickets from Huaihua South Station to Hangzhou East Station on September 28,2026, with the costs borne by each participating team.

1.3 Weather

Yuanling County enjoys a subtropical monsoon humid climate, characterized by warm and humid conditions with abundant sunshine and distinct seasons. In autumn, for instance, the average maximum temperature in September reaches around 23°C, while the average minimum temperature is approximately 14°C. The annual precipitation averages about 1,400 millimeters, with most rainfall concentrated in spring and summer. The mountainous terrain offers a pleasant climate with moderate temperature variations throughout the year. The crisp autumn weather, featuring clear skies and refreshing air, makes it an ideal destination for outdoor activities and tourism.

2. Competition Information

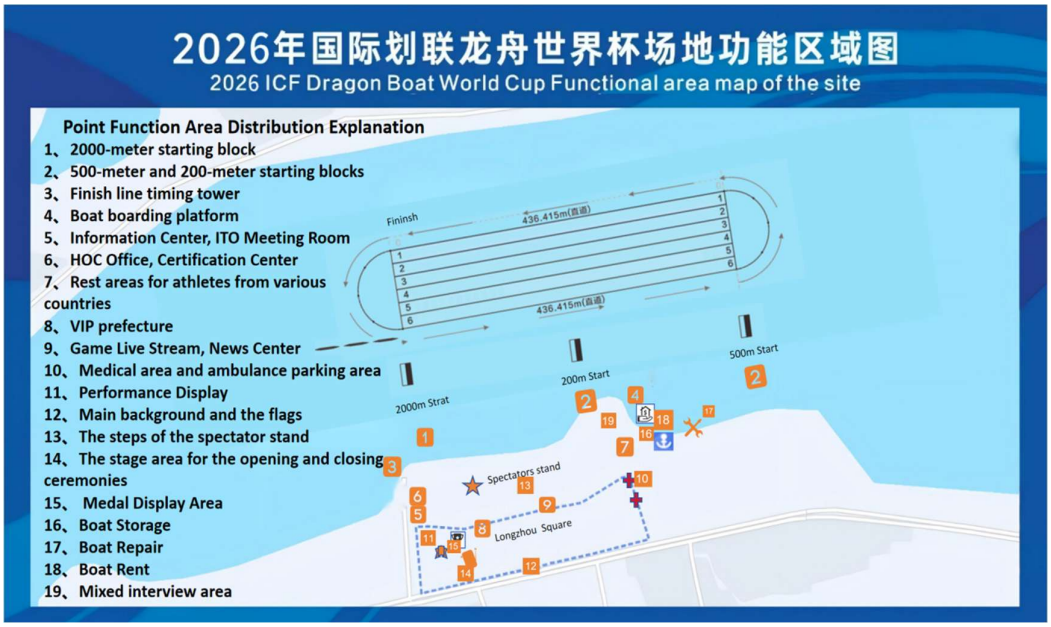
2.1 Competition Date

25th-27th September 2026

2.2 Competition Venue

The competition will be held in the dragon boat square and the You River waters in Yuanling County, Huaihua City, Hunan Province.

The 200m/500m/2000m races feature Longzhou Square as both starting and finishing points with water entry zones, while the 14km dragon boat marathon begins at Zhonghua Shushan (Chinese Book Mountain) on Eryoushan Mountain and concludes at Longzhou Square. The functional layout of the venue is shown below:



2.3 Competition Events and Track Diagram

◆8-seater Dragon Boat Race

●Groups: Open/Mixed

●Distances: 200m/500m/2000m

◆10-seater Dragon Boat Race

●Groups: Open/Mixed

●Distances: 200m/500m/2000m

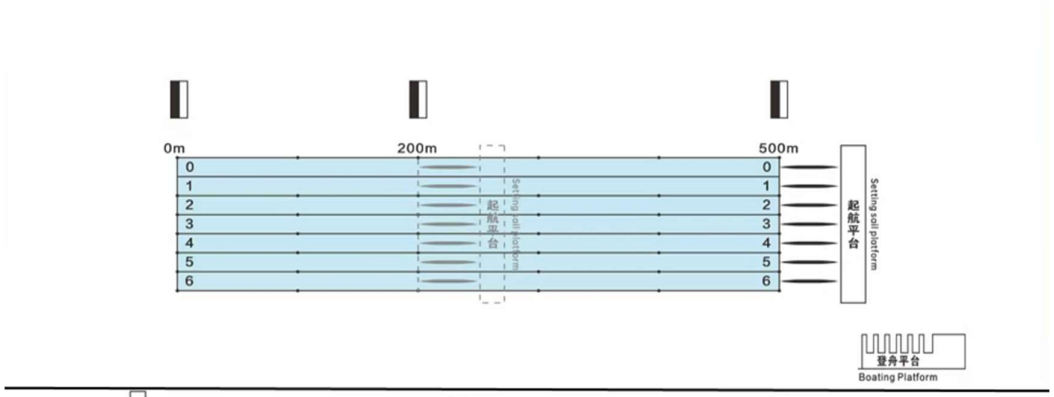
◆Dragon Boat Marathon

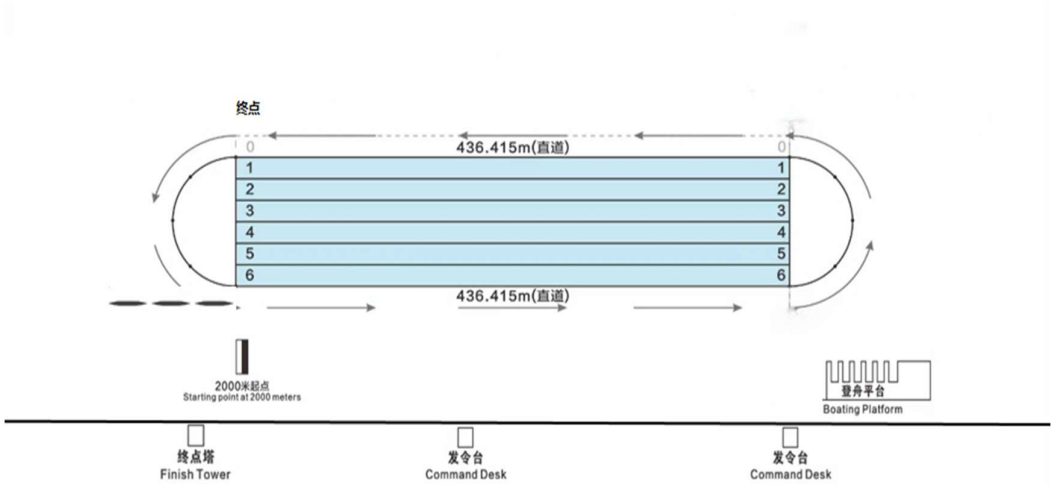
●Group: Open (10-seater)

●Distance: 14 km

◆Yuanling Traditional Dragon Boat Race （Performance）

Track Diagram





2000米=436.415米+84.78米+436.415米+84.78米+436.415米+84.78米+436.415米

A 2000 meter rowing route, with a total circle and a half (245.66 meters+84.78 meters+500 meters+84.78 meters+500 meters+84.78 meters+500 meters)

2.4 Competition Rules

The competition will be conducted in accordance with the International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat Racing Rules (2025 Edition).

2.5 Competition Schedule

Date	Time	Arrangement
Sep 22nd (Tuesday)	Afternoon	domestic referee, technical official report
Sep 23rd (Wednesday)	All Day	International referees, technical officials, and athletes are on duty.
Sep 24th (Thursday)	All Day	Adaptive Training and Leader Meetings
Sep 25th (Friday)	8:00 am	Opening Ceremony
	Morning	8-person /10-person Boats, 200m Heats and Semifinals 8-person Boats, Open 2000m (pursuit race)
	Afternoon	8-person /10-person Boats, 500m Heats and Semifinals 8-person Boats, Mixed 2000m (pursuit race)
Sep 26th (Saturday)	Morning	8-person /10-person Boats, 200 m Final 10-person Boats, Open 2000m (pursuit race)
	Afternoon	8-person /10-person Boats, 500m Final 10-person Boats, Mixed 2000m (pursuit race)
Sep 27th (Sunday)	Morning	Final Traditional Dragon Boat Race（Performance）
	Afternoon	Dragon Boat Marathon and Closing Ceremony & Award Ceremony
Sep28th (Monday)	Morning	Defection

3. Registration

3.1 The deadline for initial registration is 20th July 2026.

The deadline for registration is 20th August 2026.
Please submit the application form and the list of required materials to the organizing committee (email: 2026worldcup@1yd.me, contact person: Ms. Xia +86 13524149016), and send a copy to the China Canoe Association (email: chncanoe@hotmail.com) and the ICF Dragon Boat Committee (email: icfdragonboat@gmail.com).

If you need to issue an invitation letter for applying for a China visa, please submit a summary of the required visa application materials along with the application form (attachment).

In the mixed group, a 10-person dragon boat must have at least 4 and up to 5 male or female paddlers. An 8-person dragon boat must have at least 3 and up to 4 male or female paddlers. The drummer and helmsman are gender-neutral.

3.2 The organizing committee will invite teams from overseas countries/regions (two teams per country/region, with additional teams responsible for their own accommodation and meals).

The team's participating athletes will compete in the 200m, 500m, 2000m, and long-distance open and mixed events in sequence. The open category may consist of both male and female athletes.

3.3 Number of participants

Each team may register up to 20 members, including: 1 drummer, 1 helmsman, 1 coach, and 1 team leader, with a minimum of 6 female rowers.

Both national and club teams are eligible to participate. If multiple applications are submitted from the same country/region, the national team will be given priority. The organizer reserves the right to invite additional teams to participate.

4. Accommodation

4.1 Hotel Information

The HOC will coordinate accommodation arrangements for participating teams. Below is the list of available hotels for this competition.

Serial Number	Hotel Name	Room	Bed	King Room	Twin Room
1	Yunlu Boutique Hotel	52	67	37	15
2	Huixin Lijing Hotel	178	260	96	82
3	Jin Feng Hotel	120	192	48	72

4.2 Catering services

Dining will be arranged at the restaurant of your hotel, and you can enjoy three free meals during the event.

4.3 Registration

◆Time:23rd September 2026

◆Place:Yunlu Boutique Hotel/Huixin Lijing Hotel/Jin Feng Hotel Lobby Check-in Area

◆Contact:Mr. Zhang +86 13974469992

4.4 Team subsidy

For each overseas countries/regions team, the organizing committee will cover the accommodation, meals, and local transportation expenses for the 20 members during their stay in Yuanling.

Excess personnel are acceptable, but the relevant expenses must be borne by themselves.

If a country or region needs to register more than two teams for the competition, the organizing committee will cover the expenses for up to two teams of 20 members each, while all other teams must bear their own costs.

*The organizing committee will cover the accommodation and local transportation expenses for registered teams (up to two teams of 20 members each) during the event. Each team may register a maximum of 20 participants (16 rowers, 1 drummer, 1 helmsman, 1 coach, and 1 team leader, with no fewer than 6 female rowers).

*Accept additional staff, early arrivals and late departures, but at their own expense.

*Additional charges:

Standard room includes 2-person breakfast. The nightly rate is 500 RMB.

Additional fees apply for special accommodation requirements.

Lunch and dinner are charged separately, with the buffet priced at 100 RMB per person per meal. The hotel accepts VISA, China UnionPay, WeChat Pay, Alipay, and cash (only in RMB) for additional fees.

5. Ranking and Bonus

The 2026 International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat World Cup Organizing Committee will provide prize money for this competition. The top eight teams in each category will be selected, with one team being deducted if fewer than eight teams qualify. All prize money (in RMB) is after tax.

The 2026 International Canoe Federation Dragon Boat World Cup has a total prize money of 360,000 RMB.

Bonus Distribution Plan (Total: 360,000 RMB)

Project	Group	Rank	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	Total
8-person Boats	Open	200m	0.32	0.28	0.24	0.2	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.1	1.56
		500m	0.37	0.33	0.29	0.25	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.15	1.96
		2000m	0.42	0.38	0.34	0.3	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.2	2.36
	Mixed	200m	0.32	0.28	0.24	0.2	0.16	0.14	0.12	0.1	1.56
		500m	0.37	0.33	0.29	0.25	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.15	1.96
		2000m	0.42	0.38	0.34	0.3	0.26	0.24	0.22	0.2	2.36
10-person Boats	Open	200m	0.33	0.29	0.25	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.11	1.64
		500m	0.38	0.34	0.3	0.26	0.22	0.2	0.18	0.16	2.04
		2000m	0.43	0.39	0.35	0.31	0.27	0.25	0.23	0.21	2.44
	Mixed	200m	0.33	0.29	0.25	0.21	0.17	0.15	0.13	0.11	1.64
		500m	0.38	0.34	0.3	0.26	0.22	0.2	0.18	0.16	2.04
		2000m	0.43	0.39	0.35	0.31	0.27	0.25	0.23	0.21	2.44
Dragon Boat Marathon		14km	2.25	2.01	1.77	1.53	1.29	1.17	1.05	0.93	12

6. Tourism Map of Yuanling County

Attachment

2026 ICF Dragon Boat World Cup, Yuanling, China

(September 25 to 27 2026)

Preliminary Entry Form

Country code: _____

Team Name: _____

Entries: please ☑ events

10-seater boat			
Open	200m ☐	500m ☐	2000m ☐
Mixed	200m ☐	500m ☐	2000m ☐
Marathon	14km ☐		

8-seater boat			
Open	200m ☐	500m ☐	2000m ☐
Mixed	200m ☐	500m ☐	2000m ☐

Colour of clothing worn by athletes: _____

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Position: _____
Email address: _____
Mobile number: _+_____
Date: _____

Preliminary Entries should be sent directly to: Host Organization Committee (2026worldcup@1yd.me) with copies to Chinese Canoe Association (chncanoe@hotmail.com) and icfdragonboat@gmail.com before 20th July 2026.

If invitation letters are required for Visa applications, please submit the details of the participants by using the Visa Application Form a.s.a.p. together with this Preliminary Entry Form.

Should further information is required, you may approach the HOC contacts as follows: Ms.Xia +86 13524149016.

2026 ICF Dragon Boat World Cup, Yuanling, China

Visa Application Form

Country: _____ 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 the Women's team if they compete in Women's events						
21	Paddler		Female			
22	Paddler		Female			
23	Paddler		Female			
24	Paddler		Female			
25	Paddler		Female			
Excess personnel (responsible for own expenses)						
1						
2						
3						
4						

Signature: _____
Name: _____
Position: _____
Email address: _____
Mobile number: _+_____
Date: _____

ICF PARTNERS

GOLD

SILVER

Always moving forward