OLYMPIC HOPES

BRATISLAVA '26

17TH – 20TH SEPTEMBER

Invitation

Dear friends of sport, dear athletes, coaches and guests,

It is a great honour and sincere pleasure to welcome you to Olympic Hopes in Bratislava.

This event has a special place in the hearts of young paddlers across Europe. For many of them, Olympic Hopes is not only an important competition, but also the first true step on the long road toward international success. I know this journey well — as a former athlete, as an Olympic medallist, and as someone who has spent a lifetime in our sport.

Bratislava and the Zemník area have been developing year by year into a modern National Canoeing and Rowing Centre. What once started as a vision has gradually become reality. The construction of the Olympic-standard course was a crucial milestone, and since then we have continuously improved the conditions for athletes and coaches — not only for daily training, but also for hosting top-level international events. The Junior European Championships in 2024 were an important confirmation that Bratislava belongs on the international canoeing map.

Our city offers a unique combination of accessibility and natural surroundings. Located at the crossroads of Central Europe, close to Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic, Bratislava is easily reachable by road and air, while the Zemník venue remains peacefully surrounded by nature, only minutes from the city centre. This makes it an exceptional place for sport — and for meeting friends from across Europe.

Olympic Hopes has always stood for more than results. It represents motivation, fair play, friendship and the shared belief in the future of our sport. Even in times when the world presents challenges and uncertainty, sport continues to unite us, inspire young people and remind us of the values we share.

On behalf of the Slovak Canoeing, I would like to thank all teams, coaches, officials, volunteers and partners who make this event possible. We are proud to host you and will do everything we can to ensure a memorable and successful competition.
I wish all athletes strong races, fair conditions and unforgettable experiences here in Bratislava.
Most of all, I wish you good health and a successful start to the season.
I look forward to seeing you on the water.

Erik Vlček
Chairman of the Slovak Canoeing Sprint section

Ing. Boris Bergendi
Chairman of organizing committee

Information about Bratislava

Bratislava is capital city of Slovakia located in the Central Europe. City is well connected with neighbouring capitals and international airports by international highways. Population 520 000. The capital of Slovakia attracts visitors with its rich history and landscape, as well as its modern buildings. Visitors can't miss Bratislava Castle, with its own Historical Museum and surprisingly quaint gardens overlooking the city. Stroll down the picturesque streets of the district under the Castle towards the Old Town, featuring the remarkable St.Martin's Cathedral. This Gothic Cathedral witnessed the coronation of 19 Austro-Hungarian kings and queens, including Maria Theresa, whose importance was felt throughout Europe.

The Main Square, extremely rich in historical and cultural monuments, draws visitors in with its charming atmosphere. Here, you can also find several palaces, the Bratislava City Museum, the Old Town Hall, and Roland's Fountain, all serving to enrich the atmosphere. Visit the Primate's Palace, with precious English tapestries from the 17th century and beautiful displays in its Art Gallery. We must mention the nearby Blue Church, an Art Nouveau gem with blue plaster and roof. For sightseeing in Bratislava, you can also hop on the small historical train and explore the entire city, beginning from the Castle and ending in the streets of the Old Town. This train runs throughout the year.

On the right bank of the Danube, relax in the oldest public park in Central Europe called Sad Janka Kráľa, which was founded by Maria Theresa. At the end of the park, you will see the suspension Bridge of Slovak National Uprising, whose UFO café offers amazing views of the city's surroundings. Enjoy a trip down the Danube on a sightseeing boat. You can choose from among several different routes, like a cruise around Bratislava, one up to Devín, a cruise on the other side to Gabčíkovo and much more.

Zemník

Canoeing Sport Center is located about 5 km south east from city center.

GPS COORDINATES
Latitude 48.090257
Longitude 17.138144

Description of Competition Venue and sport infrastructure

Zemník Canoeing Sport Centre is natural course near river Danube suitable for canoeing and rowing. It is located 5km south east of the Bratislava city centre. This course is used for water sports since 2013. It is 2,2km long and 200m wide.

Weather Information

The month of September presents moderate sunny weather with average temperature about 20 - 25°C

• Temperature
Daytime temperatures will generally reach highs of around 20°C . At night the average minimum temperature drops down to around 10°C.

• Relative Humidity
The average daily relative humidity for September is around 60%.

• Precipitation
The average monthly amount of precipitation is 50 mm.

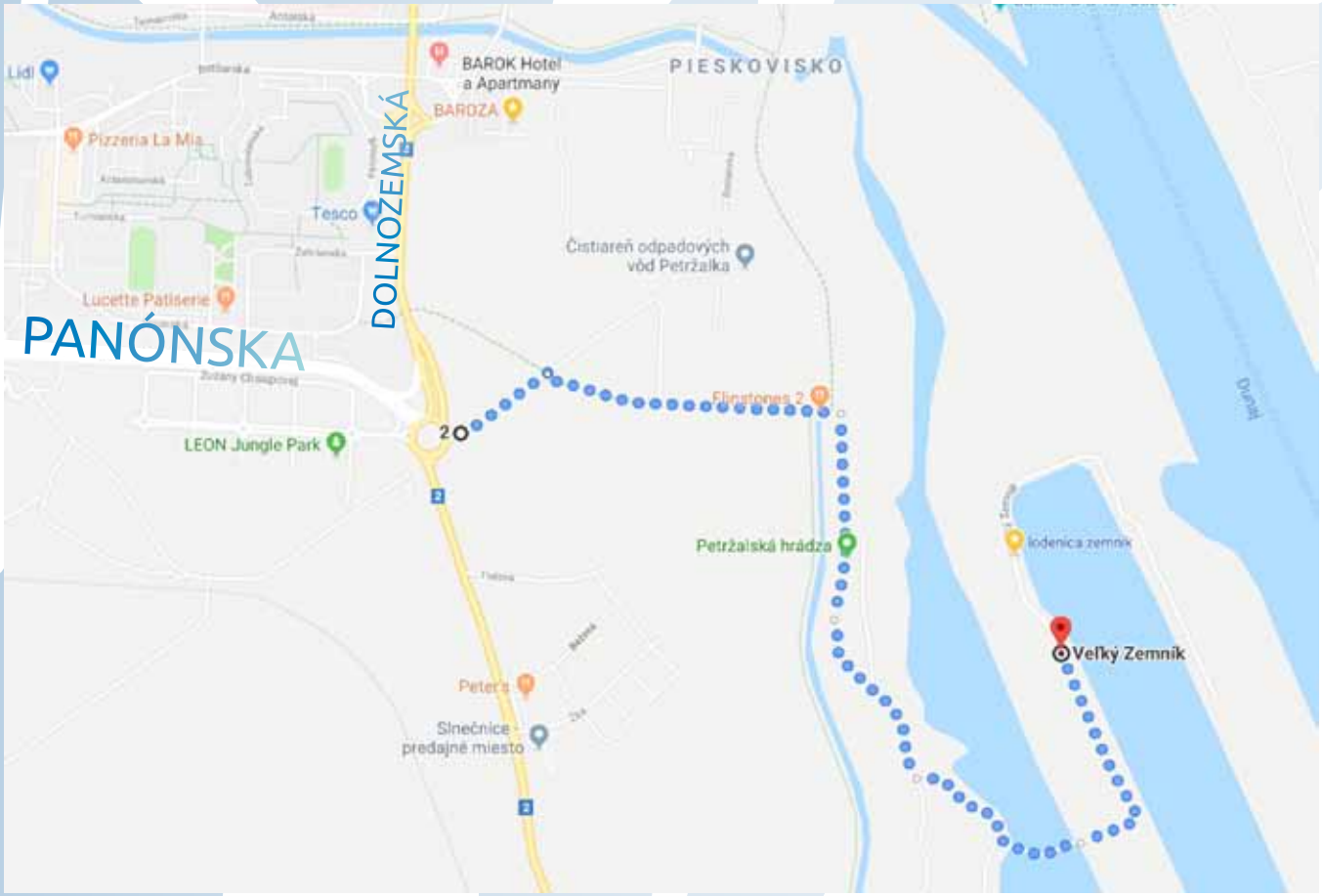
• Wind
The average daily wind speed in September is 10 km/h.
The average number of windy days in September is 11.

How to get to the Venue

City is well connected with neighbouring capitals and international airports by international highways.

BY ROAD

Bratislava is situated directly on country boarders with Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. Bratislava is well connected to neighbouring capitals by international multilane highways. Within Slovakia, the D1 motorway connects Bratislava to the east of the country (direction Košice, Krakow), the D2 motorway connects Bratislava with Hungary to the south and the Czech Republic to the north and D4 motorway connects Bratislava with Vienna. Entry to venue is from roundabout (Zuzany Chalupovej Street) exit “Hrádza” and follow signs “Slovenská kanoistika.”



BY AIR

If you want to fly to Bratislava, you can choose between the city’s own international airport and Schwechat airport in Vienna, which is about 45 km from Bratislava and connected by regular shuttle buses. Regular flights link these airports with many major European destinations.

Vienna international airport (VIE)
www.viennaairport.com
Bratislava airport (BTS)
www.bts.aero

BY TRAIN

International trains to Bratislava's main railway station run from Vienna (1 hour), Budapest (3 hours), and Prague (4-5 hours) several times a day. There are less frequent direct connections to Berlin, Bucharest, Kiev, Moscow and Warsaw.
The main railway station is a short distance from the centre and there is a good connection to city public transport; alternatively, walking takes 15-20 minutes. Trains from Vienna also arrive at Bratislava–Petržalka Station, which is to the south of the city centre across the Danube River.

BY BOAT

Perhaps the nicest way to arrive in Bratislava is by riverboat, via the Danube. The Rhine–Main–Danube Canal links Bratislava with the North Sea; the Danube River connects it to the Black Sea. Cruises along the Danube have been a big hit with tourists for many years. River cruises go to and from Budapest, and a scheduled passenger service, the Twin City Liner, connects Bratislava and Vienna by high-speed catamaran several times a day during summer.

Visa Requirements

The Organizing Committee will assist in processing Immigration visa applications for all participants of the Championships.

Type C Schengen visa: entry visa
The visa entitles its holder to enter and stay in the Schengen area for not more than a total of 90 days within a six-month period subsequent to the date of the first entry. This visa may be issued for one or several entries (single entry and multiple entry visa).

Further information can be found at www.foreign.gov.sk/en/home

Customs Regulations

Slovak customs procedures are regularly reviewed and follow European Union legislation, where applicable.

Slovak Canoeing will provide support and guidance to support this process, particularly in connection with licensed Sport and Medical equipment, however, we are unable to guarantee all exceptions.

Events

Men born 2009	K1, C1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Men born 2010	K1, C1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Men born 2011	K1, C1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Men born 2009	K2, C2	500, 1000 m
Men born 2010, 2011	K2, C2	500, 1000 m
Men born 2009-2011	K4, C4	500 m
Women born 2009	K1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Women born 2009	C1	200, 500, 5000 m
Women born 2010	K1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Women born 2010	C1	200, 500, 5000 m
Women born 2011	K1	500, 1000, 5000 m
Women born 2011	C1	200, 500, 5000 m
Women born 2009	K2, C2	500 m
Women born 2010, 2011	K2, C2	500 m
Women born 2009-2011	K4, C4	500 m

Each national federation can enter max. 2 boats for each event

Competition programme

Disciplines which have 4 and more heats will have B finals.

14th September 2026	Access period strarts
	race Course opens for training
16th September 2026	Teamleaders meeting
	Official training times with starting machine test
17th-20th September 2026	Competiton days
20th September 2026	Evening access period ends

CUP OF NATIONS

Each boat will receive points according to the results in the Final A races as follows:

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place	5th place	6th place	7th place	8th place	9th place
10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

In case that is less boats in Final (f.e. only 5 boats in Final – first boat has 2 more point than second, last boat has always 1 point).

CUP OF ATHLETES

Each athlete will receive points according to the results in the Final A races as follows:

K1, C1

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place	5th place	6th place	7th place	8th place	9th place
10 points	8 points	7 points	6 points	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

K2, C2

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place	5th place	6th place	7th place	8th place	9th place
5 points	4 points	3,5 points	3 points	2,5 points	2 points	1,5 points	1 point	0,5 point

K4, C4

1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place	5th place	6th place	7th place	8th place	9th place
2,5 points	2 points	1,75 points	1,5 points	1,25 points	1 point	0,75 point	0,5 point	0,25 point

Participation Fee and Services

Participation fee:

All participants (athletes, coaches, attendants, etc.) have to pay a participation fee of 50€/day, that includes:

- Shuttle bus: on the competition days according to the timetable to be published
- Training bus running according to the timetable to be published
- Medical care at the course
- Fees for the use of the regatta course and its facilities
- Access pass and parking for one trailer and one accredited vehicle perteam
- Drinking water

The participation fee does NOT include:

- Transfer from and to the Airport

In case accommodation is booked through the HOC, then all team members of that national federation will not have to pay a participation fee as it is already included in the accommodation price.

Payment

The accommodation and participation fees are to be paid as below:

Hotel reservation deadline is 14th July 2026. Once the HOC confirms your booking, you wil receive an invoice. Kindly note that the booking shall be provisional until the payment of the invoice has arrived to our bank account, hence the HOC reserves the right to alter or cancel the reservation until that time.
With the arrival of the payment it shall be a confirmed reservation. An updated proforma invoice will be sent by the HOC verifying the arrival of your transfer to our bank account.
Participation fee (for those who booked their accommodation on their own and not through the HOC) has to be paid upon the proforma invoice sent by the HOC. Please, keep the deadline of submitting the nominal entry 9th September 2026.
30% of the total cost of the reservation must be paid after receiving of the proforma invoice to secure reservation.
75% of the total cost of the reservation must be paid 10th August 2026.
100% of the total cost of the reservation must be paid until 20th August 2026.

CANCELATION TERMS:

In case of cancellation of the booking, a charge will be made equivalent to any loss suffered by the Organizing Committee:
The amount of any cancellation fee will be calculated as a percent of the accommodation package fee according to the following period of notice given:
no cancellation fee if cancelled until 14th July 2026
30% cancellation fee if cancelled until 10th August
50% cancellation fee if cancelled until 20th August 2026
100% cancellation fee if cancelled after 20th August 2026

The participant´s fees are to paid after team leaders meeting and before the competition via bank, only in EUR:

Benificiary: Slovenska kanoistika, Olympijské námestie 1, 831 04 Bratislava
Bank: Slovenská sporiteľňa, a.s.
IBAN: SK64 0900 0000 0051 2488 5114

Deadlines for submitting

In order to assure a very good organization and accommodation we would be obliged if you could confirm your participation by filling forms on our website (https://oh2026.canoe.sk):

- Preliminary entry form, hotel reservation / request for boats: until 14th July 2026
- Team registration without hotel booking: until 10th August 2026
- Rooming list: until 20th August 2026
- Airport transport reservation: until 20th August 2026
- Nominal Entries: until 9th September 2026

After the deadline of nominal entries every change will be charged by 10,- € / one change.

Traning before competitions

For teams coming not only from oversees we will be able to arrange for training camp before (or after) the competition. Please contact hujsova@canoe.sk.

Boat rental

There will be NO Boat Rental provided by the Organising Committee, please contact directly individual boat producers.

Sports Camps Group LTD contact@sports-camps.net
Peter John mail@gusser.net

Team tents

If you have your own team tent, please inform the organizers by completing the form on our website so that space can be allocated for it.

Services for Athletes

The following services will be provided to all accredited athletes and team personnel:

Refreshments
Local transport
Athlete's Village
Boat Storage
Rest Room
Security
Medical
Car Parking
Drink Water
Flatwater Training

Description of Competition Venue and sport infrastructure

LEGEND

1 – BUS STOP
2 – CATERING TENT
3 – TRAILERS PARKING
4 – TEAM CARS PARKING
5 – WC
6 – TEAM TENTS
7 – POST-RACE BOAT CONTROL
8 – BOAT STORAGE
9 – PRE-START BOAT CONTROL
10 – FOOD AND BEVERAGES, RETAIL
11 – GRAND STAND
12 – FIRST AID
13 – FINISH TOWER
FIRST FLOOR: ACCREDITATION / BOAT NUMBERS / VIP
SECOND FLOOR: CHIEF OFFICIAL / PHOTO FINISH / TIMING & SCORING
14 – WATER ENTRY/EXIT

Type and standards of accommodation

Accommodation for athletes and teams

Accommodation costs per person/night, including full board.

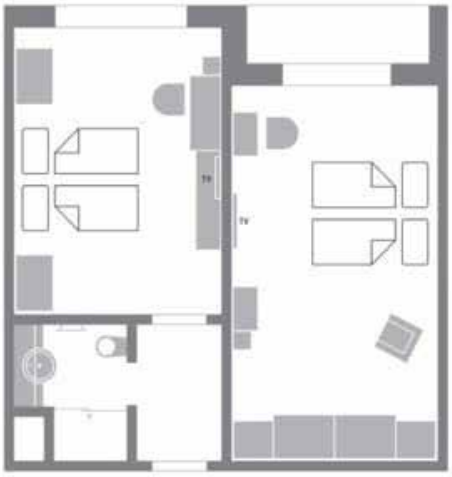
Category 1: ((4*/3* superiors hotels incl.X Bionic) single 185€/person, twin 170€/person

Single

Twin

Category 2: (4*/3* hotels, X Bionic studios) single 175€/person, twin 150€/person

Single + single



Twin + twin

Single + twin

Category 3: (standard 2* hotel) single 160€/person, twin 130€/person

Category 4: (bungalows) single 120€/person, twin 100€/person, multiple 90€

Accommodation for V4: Double / multiple: 70€/person

Catering

Team who will book accommodation through the organising Committee will have 3 meals per day. Lunch will be the first meal, if the team will arrive to the venue until 13:00 and will confirm in the booking form. Breakfast will be last meal if departing on Monday morning.

Breakfast and dinner will be served in teams hotel.
Lunch will be served at the venue.
Lunch at the venue for those who did not book accommodation will be 15€ and must be booked prior to the arrival.

Parking

Each team will receive one parking pass for one trailer and one accredited vehichle.
Additional parking for extra fee is limited for maximum one car per country based on first come first served.

Airport Transport for all participants

Bratislava airport 15€/person (both ways)
Vienna airport 35€/person (both ways)
Groups up to 3 person will have a special customised price.
For further information at hujsova@canoe.sk

SLOVENSKÁ KANOISTIKA

CONTACTS

Organizer:

Slovak Canoeing
Olympijské námestie 1
831 04 Bratislava
Slovakia

Contact person:

Zora Hujsová
Phone: +421907987928

hujsova@canoe.sk
https://oh2026.canoe.sk/

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