

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP BULGARIA 2025

📅 23-29 JUNE 2025



INTERNATIONAL RAFTING FEDERATION

БЪЛГАРСКА ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ПО РАФТИНГ
BULGARIAN RAFTING FEDERATION

ORGANIZER | **BULGARIAN RAFTING FEDERATION**

LOCATION | **STRUMA RIVER | KRESNA GORGE | SIMITLI-KRESNA**

CATEGORY R4

We, on behalf of the Bulgarian rafting community, are excited to host all of you in our beautiful country on the unique Kresna gorge, Struma river and picturesque town of Bansko at the foot of Pirin mountain.

LOCATION: Bulgaria, Sofia city - main Airport

https://maps.app.goo.gl/16BSXFS4je4uwgfv6?g_st=ic

Bansko town - the host city, 150 km from Sofia, 35 km from the river venue

https://maps.app.goo.gl/6EyVSBzZqk9aMELD7?g_st=ic



Bansko is an extremely beautiful town in Southwestern Bulgaria, with rich history and Old downtown with unique architecture. Once mainly a stockbreeding and travelling merchant community, the town is now an internationally recognized centre for winter and summer tourism. More recently Bansko has become a known hotspot for different festivals and events, adventure and mountain tourism with variety and affordability of the accommodation combined with its impressive natural scenery. It has been recently announced as Lonely Planet's Best in Travel Top City for 2025.

RIVER VENUE - Kresna Gorge, river Struma, 120 km from Sofia, and 35 km to Bansko

The venue is situated in South-West part of Bulgaria, 120km from the capital Sofia (1.30h driving mostly through highway). There is an easy access to the river for spectators, competitors, safety and media, as it is along E79 main road, between Simitly and Kresna towns.

Struma river is a natural river, Kresna gorge is the most attractive part, class 3 with more than 20 rapids, 12 of them bigger class 3, and a cascade of 300 meters – the legendary rapid Kazana (“The Kauldron”) reaching up to class 3+/4.

All the area of The Kresna gorge is protected by Natura 2000, and is famous with rare biological kinds and unique plants, length is about 20km, altitude is 222 meters. In June becomes warmer and the water temperature rises to 15 degrees.

DISCIPLINES

Slalom/Sprint/H2H

https://maps.app.goo.gl/kZWJ6E3yjVYU3hFf8?g_st=ic

Start Downriver

https://maps.app.goo.gl/6oUC2A4Exs1aKpYB6?g_st=ic

Final Downriver

https://maps.app.goo.gl/DnufpqZDRchgUdy5?g_st=ic



The most attractive and appropriate rapids for race disciplines are “Kazana” - class 3-4, distance 400m and “Slalom course ” - class 3, distance 300m, where will be set Sprint, H2H, Slalom for all divisions and categories Downriver starts from Start point and finish before or after “Kazana” rapid – most attractive part of about 10km (12 rapids class 3, a lot of 2, and 1 class 3-4).

BOATS & GEAR

TimeTrial, 425x205, 2 thwarts, the same used on the last WRC in Bosnia, Bania Luka 2024 Teams need to have all other equipment. All personal safety equipment must comply with IRF regulations. Air temperature in Celsius – 15-28, water – 17 degrees.

PRIMARY SCHEDULE

June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Training Registration	Training Opening Ceremony	Sprint / H2H race	Slalom	DR training	DR race Closing Ceremony	Departure

RULES

The event will be run under the International rafting federation (IRF) rules.

<https://internationalrafting.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/IRF-Race-Rules-2024.pdf>

PARTICIPATION

2 teams per country per category / Youth, Junior, Open and Master Men and Women

All teams from Europe who are current IRF members

All teams must be members and validated by their national rafting federation/association.

Participating countries must be members of the IRF. Please refer to this link for details on annual membership for race participation:

<https://internationalrafting.com/about/membership/fees/>

REGISTRATION

Price : 120 euro per team member

To register please contact us (see below) and send us an intention letter/mail, than a registration form will be send to you accordingly.

bgraftingcomp@gmail.com

Dead line : 01.06.2025

INCLUDED:

All the organization and logistics, transportation of the boats, open/closing ceremonies in Bansko, party.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be organised in the hosting town of Bansko.

Accommodation should be covered by the participants.

Organisers will advise options with special prices.

TRAINING

Training before the race is possible, for more information please contact us.

PAYMENT DETAILS

United Bulgarian Bank

IBAN:BG18UBBS80021074500750

SWIFT CODE: UBBSBGSF

Address: 89B Vitosha bul., Triadica area, p.c.1463, Sofia, Bulgaria

Dead line : 15.06.2025

information/options

Opening/closing ceremony will be held in the town of Bansko.

Captions meetings/technical will be set in the town of Bansko.

Transport to/from the airport could be organized on a request.

What is good to do in the area:

- *Hiking in the Pirin National Park, Vihren hut, Vihren peak (2914m)*
- *Mineral pools – Bania and Dobrinishte villages*
- *Adventure activities – Mountain biking (a lot of good routes, bikes for rent)*
- *ATV, Jeep Safari, Horse riding, Rope Gardens, Rila fun Park, Bear Park etc.*
- *Sight Seeing – Old center of Bansko with Museums and Church, Traditions and customs etc*
- *Authentic traditional restaurants – “Mehana”.*

