

RAFT GUIDE COURSE

IRF GTE Guide Training Program

Key course details

- *Date:* May 22 – 24, and May 28 – 31, 2026
- *Location (rivers):* Slovenia, Kobarid (Soča)
- *Instructors:* Blaž Stan, Andraž Krpič Morel
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Purpose and Goal of the Course

- A **seven-day intensive raft guide course is designed for novice raft guides and safety kayakers.** The first three days focus on basic skills for beginners, while the final four days run alongside a workshop for experienced guides. This structure allows rookies to train alongside experienced guides, learn through observation, and gain practical insight into real-world guiding, accelerating their development and confidence on the river.
- Acquiring the skills and confidence to independently lead rafting trips requires a significant investment of time. **The course aims to provide rookies with a solid foundation for faster progress.**
- The course follows **International Rafting Federation guidelines.**

Main Content

- Quality Safety Demonstration
- Raft Guiding Techniques and Skills
- Raft-specific River Rescue Techniques and Skills
- Working in a Team
- Safety Kayak Skills and Role in a Commercial Rafting Trip
- Crew Management (Working with Guests on the Raft)
- Flip Drill Procedure
- Risk Management on Commercial Rafting Trips



Price

550€

Included in the Price

- Tuition
- Rafts and paddles
- River shuttles

Not Included in the Price

- Personal protective equipment
- Personal rescue equipment
- Permits for navigating the Soča River

Participants will receive a certificate of course completion, and up to 20 trips for logging in their river logbook.

Application

To apply, please send an email to blaz.stan@gmail.com or kobaridkayakschool@gmail.com

Additional Information

1. Course Implementation

The course will take place exclusively on the Soča River, with our base being in Kamp Koren in Kobarid. This location offers a wide range of hydrological and technical conditions suitable for novice and experienced raft guides, providing a comprehensive, practical learning environment.

The course will be conducted over two training blocks:

- 22–24 May 2026
- 28–31 May 2026

All training sessions will take place on the Soča River.

As river conditions depend on weather and water levels, minor adjustments to the daily schedule may be required. Participants will receive final logistical details via email no later than seven (7) days before the course begins.

2. Exam – International Rafting Federation (IRF) Assessment

The raft guide course is conducted in accordance with the standards of the International Rafting Federation (IRF) and also serves as preparation for the official IRF assessment.

Successful completion of the assessment leads to the issuance of an IRF certificate, which is recognised in more than 50 countries worldwide. Please note that the IRF certificate itself does not constitute a legal guiding license. Regulatory requirements vary by country, and some jurisdictions may require additional certification through national authorities.

Both course instructors are accredited IRF instructors authorised to conduct:

- IRF Guide Training Programs (GTP)
- IRF Assessments

The assessment is conducted during an official IRF workshop and typically lasts one to two days. Though optional, the participants of the raft guide course are invited to complete a full or a part of their assessment during the workshop.

IRF Workshop Dates:

- Spring dates: 28 May – 31 May 2026
- Autumn dates: Date to be announced

Participants who apply for an IRF qualification are subject to a **100 € assessment fee** plus an applicable IRF certification fee, payable directly to the IRF.

Requirements for issuing an IRF certificate:

- Minimum age of 18 years
- Completed logbook signed by an employing rafting company (including date, river, difficulty, distance, and duration)
- Valid first aid certificate (minimum 8 hours, including CPR, not older than 3 years)
- Payment of the applicable IRF certification fee

Detailed requirements and certificate fees are available in the IRF GTE Award System:

<https://internationalrafting.com/guiding/requirements/>

Participants may attend the assessment even if not all certification requirements have been met. In such cases, certification will be issued once all required documentation has been submitted.

3. Mandatory Personal Protective and Rescue Equipment

All participants are required to bring the following equipment:

- Whitewater helmet (EN 1385 certified)
- Personal flotation device with quick-release harness
- Dry suit or neoprene suit (minimum thickness 5 mm)
- Neoprene socks of appropriate thickness
- Kayaking or canyoning shoes with solid soles
- Whistle and river knife
- Rescue rope (minimum length 18 m) with waist-carry system
- 4 HMS screw gate carabiners
- 3 prussik minding pulleys
- 2 prusik cords (5–6 mm diameter, 110 cm length)
- 1 tubular webbing sling (4 m, minimum strength 15 kN)

A detailed equipment list and guidance document will be provided upon registration.

4. Participant Numbers

The minimum number of participants required for the course is six (6), and the maximum number is fourteen (14).

If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the course will be cancelled. In such cases, participants will be offered either an alternative course date or a full refund.