



*Dear paddlers and friends,*

*Here is our first newsletter to keep you updated on the organisation of the 2026 IBCPC Festival. First of all, we would like to thank you for the enthusiasm you've shown for this 2026 edition.*

*This is the biggest IBCPC event ever and that is thanks to you. It took only 7 months to get fully booked. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*As you can imagine, dealing with 4500 people and as many requests in such a short period of time is a challenge as an organising committee, but we keep going and are happy to be part of this great adventure.*

*We are sure you will fall in love with the beautiful spa town of Aix-les-Bains. The French art de vivre is so strong here: a deep blue lake, mountains all around, vineyards, cheese producers, and a great feeling of well-being.*

*We're looking forward to welcoming you all in our little paradise.*

*A bientôt !*

*The organising committee*



# THE RACE SITE.

# 20

minutes  
walk from the  
town center

# 4500

people max. capacity



**LARGE  
GRASS AREA**

**SWIMMING POOL  
COMPLEX**

**DIRECT ACCESS  
TO THE WATER**

**The capacity of the race site is 4500 people, not more ! The grassy area where the athletes' village is located is enclosed by a wooden fence and can not be extended. Since July 12th registrations are definitely closed.**

The race site is located 20 minutes walk from the city centre, on "Aqualac Beach". Aqualac is a big swimming pool complex with several pools. It faces the lake and has a large grassy area where the athletes' village will be set up (12000 sq m).

Next to Aqualac, on the grass terrace of a restaurant, will be the area of the VIP and the partner village, faced by the vendors area. This is where you can go shopping and find nice items from our partners and region.

The beach facing the Aqualac complex will be a private zone reserved to boat loading and marshalling.

Non registered supporters will have access to :

- Toilets and refreshments
- Partner village
- Vendors area
- Public beach area : perfect to watch the start of the races.
- If they want to have a walk : The promenade along the lake is a nice idea to feel the breeze, enjoy the shade of the trees and stroll down to the harbour.



**PARTICIPANTS AREA**

**BUS  
DROP-OFF**

**MARSHALLING AREA**

**PARTNERS  
VILLAGE**

**VENDORS AREA**

**BEACH  
AREA**

**FINISH**

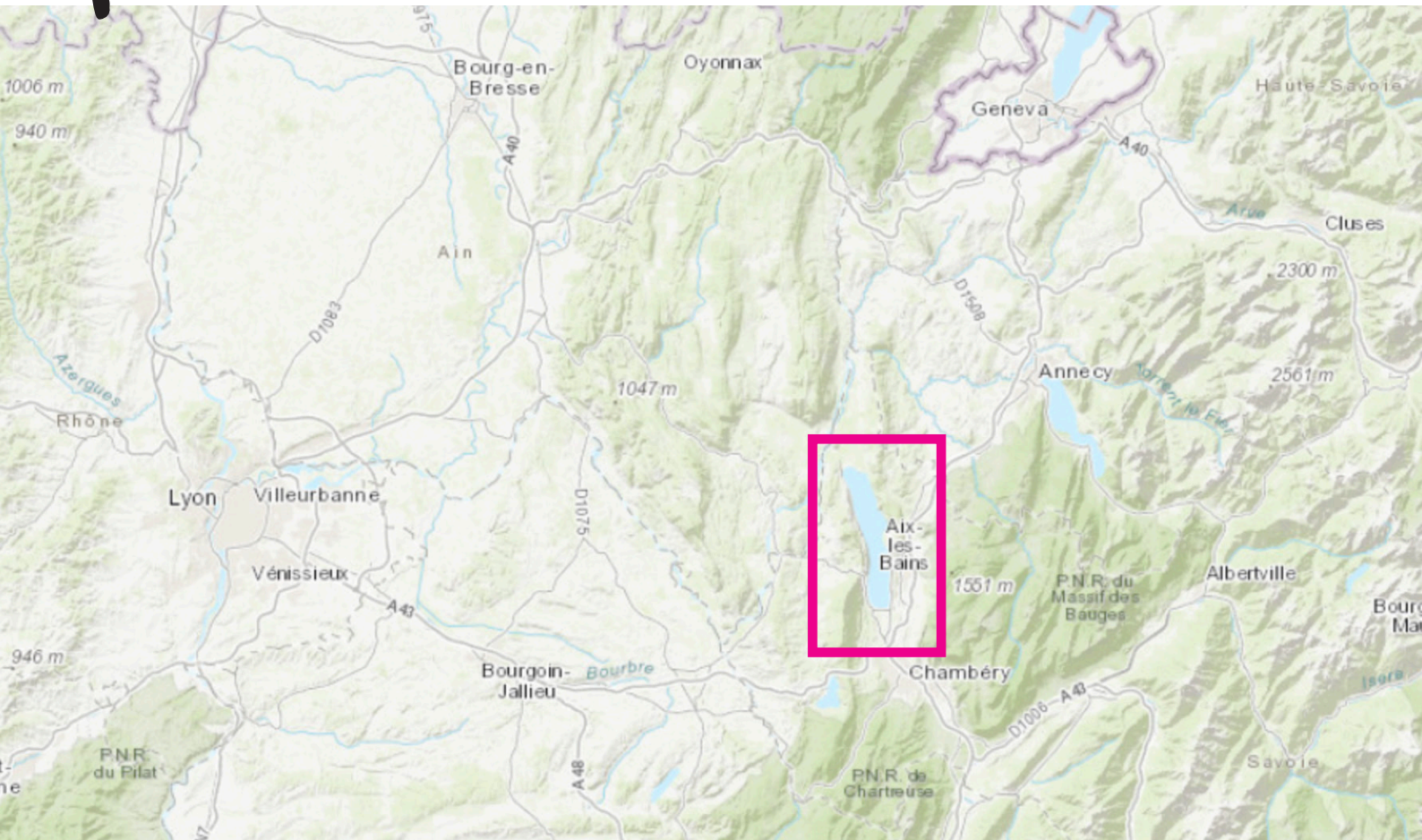
**START**

**500M  
START**

**100M**

# HOTELS.

Rest and dream big!



You can stay in Aix-les-Bains, Chambéry or Annecy. All are good options and all are served by the bus network set up by the organisation.

The bus doesn't stop in front of your hotel, don't worry : you can walk to the bus stop indicated on the organisation road map (available as from the beginning of 2026). In addition to the hotels, the 3 cities offer a lot of AirBnB flats for rent.

Any enquiries about accommodation: [stay@ibcpcfrance2026.com](mailto:stay@ibcpcfrance2026.com)

| <b>DISTANCE FROM AIX-LES-BAINS</b> |                       |               |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Chambéry</b>                    | 26 minutes<br>driving | 20 kilometers |
| <b>Annecy</b>                      | 29 minutes<br>driving | 33 kilometers |



# AIX-LES-BAINS

**Aix les Bains is a unique destination where you can share precious moments and make ever lasting memories.**

The city offers a wide range of gentle activities: paddling, trekking, canyoning, hiking, biking, eating, chilling and sunbathing. Palaces, casinos, race courses, golf courses and spas are dotted about the landscape, reminding us that this place is linked to royalty. From the Belle Epoque, Aix-les-Bains has kept the elegance and symbols of a French way of life. Nature is welcome here, and the artisans and producers love sharing their passion. In Aix les Bains, you'll discover a destination that celebrates love, friendship and family ties.

It is worth a try :

- Discover the "Canal de Savière", the tiny village of Chanaz and its oil mill
- Via Ferrata
- visit the thermal baths and relax in the hot pools
- sail a boat across the lake,
- jump on your bicycle or pull on your hiking boots to discover "La Dent du Chat".
- Discover Hautecombe Abbey
- Taste some wine and discover the vineyards

Why choose Aix-les-Bains : for its lake, the largest nature lake in France, and for its "Riviera philosophy"

Its exciting secret “traboules” alleyways, surprising trompe-l’oeil illusions, sunny colours in the old town and more. An air of mystery blows through this Town of Art and History that you’ll love exploring! **Chambéry has an Italian feel to it, a “dolce vita” that you will want to experience for yourself.** It is your chance to travel back to the Middle Ages among the château, mansions, colourful buildings, squares and local specialities. With over fifty footpaths, a hundred km of bike paths, paragliding sites, via ferrata and climbing trails, Chambéry’s surroundings are the perfect playground if you love outdoor sports.

What to do :

- Wander around Chambéry old town (cathedral, elephants fountain)
- Follow in the footsteps of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (famous French writer)
- Visit Eurêka Gallery (museum for families)
- Visit the Castle
- Taste the wines and specialities of Savoy

Why choose Chambéry : Dolce vita and French art de vivre all in one !



# CHAMBÉRY

# ANNECY



**The jewel of the Haute-Savoie, Annecy sits at the tip of an aquamarine lake surrounded by rising mountains on both sides.** In this alpine setting an hour south of Geneva, the Thiou River drifts out of the glacial lake into a picturesque old town crisscrossed by bridges. Its three canals, all lined with bright flowers, endow this city with the nickname “Venice of the Alps”. The lavish castles and chateaux dotted around the lake are breathtaking.

What to do :

- Paddle on the lake, swim and enjoy the turquoise waters
- Go for a walk in the medieval town
- Hike to the Mont Veyrier
- Paragliding from “Col de la Forclaz”
- Visit the castle and the “old prison”
- Enjoy the local food market on a Sunday morning
- Have a “fondue” in the old town

Why choose Annecy : for its lake and for its charming old town

# DISCOVER FRANCE

with *tailormade experiences*



« L'Odysée du Papillon » is our travel partner.

Want to plan a trip after the festival: they are the ones, and we love their philosophy. Wellness & spa, Thalassotherapy, ayurvedic center, gastronomy, aromatherapy, oenology, meetings with Inspiring women from our regions, Museums, Heritage and secret places : whatever you dream of, L'Odysée du Papillon can do it.



- **Redefining Travel for women, with Meaning and Emotion:** L'Odysée du Papillon is a pioneer in organizing female-oriented journeys infused with meaning and emotion.
- **Redefined Uniqueness:** An Enchanted Interlude for the Woman of the World
- **Value-Added Travel:** Emotions, Sharing, and Encounters: Travelers experience intense moments of sharing and kindness with women from here and elsewhere
- **More than a Journey, a Human Experience:** female-oriented journeys are based on sisterhood, evoking the bonds and solidarity among women. Each adventure with L'Odysée du Papillon transforms into a unique human experience.



# INCOMPLETE TEAMS

*Stronger together.*



Incomplete teams will be merged to create a full team of 22 people.

Don't worry the group you have registered will stick together, the organization will just complete the boat with an other group of paddlers. Our dear Geneviève, one of the France national reps is in charge of it. She will get in touch with you.

## HELMS

*YES, YOU CAN!*



The organising committee must comply with the French regulations for navigation on the lake. Helms must be qualified to deal with windy conditions. The Bourget Lake can be tricky to navigate when the wind blows over the mountains and across the water. That's why **we are asking helms to fill in a certificate of abilities**, signed by the president of their club or their Dragon Boat National representative (not IBCPC national representative).

To compete on the 2026 IBCPC Festival, helms must have already competed in official races (e.g : national or international championships). You have 2 full years to get certified, that's more than enough !

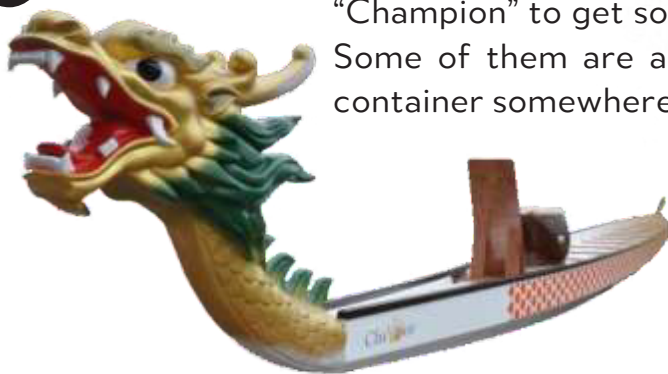
Please note that the organizing committee will be organising some training sessions in June 2025 in Aix-les-Bains with the delivery of the helm certificate.

Want to train ? Here are some of the abilities you can work on :

- Divide the crew to balance the boat
- Steer a dragon boat: leaving and returning to the pontoon in forward and reverse, right and left.
- Lead a team to manoeuvre a dragon boat (including an emergency stop, or side movements)
- Sail in waves and wind (including crosswind)
- Line up to start a race and follow the starter's commands
- Maintain control of your boat from the start to the finish of a race

We are the champions!

# BOATS



You are wondering what type of boats will be used at the 2026 IBCPC Festival : CHAMPION!

We have a commercial relationship with the Chinese brand "Champion" to get some brand-new boats for the festival. Some of them are already on their way to France, in a container somewhere on the ocean.



## BASIC VOCABULARY to survive in Savoy

In France every region has its own culture. Here are the words you must know for getting the most of your experience in Savoy ! (Please don't get confused between our flag and the Swiss one!)

Hello  
**BONJOUR**

Bye **AU REVOIR**

Thank you  
**MERCI**

Bread  
**PAIN**

Bakery  
**BOULANGERIE**

Cheese  
**FROMAGE**

Wine  
**VIN**

**Diot:** a sausage from Savoy

**Crozet:** a squared pasta from Savoy

**Tartiflette, raclette and fondue:** cheese melted dishes (*mostly winter dishes, but when it's good, season doesn't matter*)

**Reblochon, Tomme de Savoie, Tome des Bauges, Chevrotin, Raclette, Beaufort, Emmental, Abondance :** the 8 Savoy cheeses with a controlled designation of origin.

**Roussette, Jaquère, Altesse, Chignin:** the main white grape varieties of Savoy

**Gamay, Mondeuse, Persan, Pinot noir:** the main red grape varieties of Savoy

*Well, it's mainly about food and wine, but our region is all about gastronomy. Would you like more information about gastronomy and the French way of life? Let us know and we will include more in the future newsletters !*

