



2026 ICF CANOE FREESTYLE WORLD CUP #1

MILLAU, FRANCE

June 22 – 27, 2026



Bulletin #1

Published 20/02/2026

Welcome!

Dear freestyle paddling community,

It is a real pleasure to welcome you to Millau for the 2026 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup, taking place June 22 to 27.

Millau has long been a meeting point for French and international paddlers. Over the years, the Tarn has hosted numerous competitions, including a World Cup in 2014 and several European Cups, many of them tied to the Natural Games. For a long time, the end of June marked four days when athletes from different outdoor disciplines came together to paddle, compete, dance to music, and share an energy that, for many of us, made what Millau is all about.

Although this World Cup was initially planned to take place during the Natural Games, and despite the event having reached its final edition in 2025, the World Cup in Millau will go on. Set in the heart of the Grands Causses Regional Park, Millau remains deeply connected to freestyle kayaking. Our feature remains one of the most fun and reliable freestyle spots in Europe, and continues to invite all kayakers to express themselves and bring their own style to the river.

As such, we are proud to welcome the international freestyle community once again, and to host the first World Cup of the 2026 season here. If you have been to the Natural Games before, we hope to offer an event that puts freestyle in the spotlight like never before, while still making you dance and push yourself as always. If you have never been to Millau, this is your chance to discover it from a new perspective, with freestyle taking centre stage at the Maladrerie site. The vultures and paragliders will still be there.

We wish all competitors the best in their preparation and performances, and we look forward to sharing time on our playgrounds with you.

Sincerely,

Lucien Schreiber, Thomas Richard and Arnaud Foret

Organising Committee

Millau Kayak Club

1. General Information

Event title

2026 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup Millau

Event dates

Official training period: Monday, 22 June – Wednesday, 24 June 2026

Competition: Thursday, 25 June – Saturday, 27 June 2026

Venue name and address

PARC AQUA VAGUES

Parc de loisirs de la Maladrerie

12100 Millau, France

Event outline

Please note the schedule is provisional and subject to change. On-site events beyond the World Cup competition will be offered for competitors, kayakers not competing in the World Cup, and spectators. More information will be provided in Bulletin #2.

The feasibility of including a squirt competition, as well as U15 and Masters events, is still being assessed by the organising committee. The squirt competition could potentially begin before Thursday, 25 June, overlapping with the surface official training for technical and water-related reasons.

Monday, 22 June 2026	Official Training
Tuesday, 23 June 2026	Official Training Opening ceremony & Athlete Dinner and Social
Wednesday, 24 June 2026	Official Training (surface)
Thursday, 25 June 2026	Competition Day 1
Friday, 26 June 2026	Competition Day 2 Dragon Boat, SUP, Big Air, and Social
Saturday, 27 June 2026	Competition Day 3 Boater Cross, Big Air, and Social

2. Contact Information

Organisers

International Canoe Federation
Fédération Française de Canoë-Kayak
Canoe Kayak MJC Millau
Maisons des Jeunes et de la Culture (MJC) Millau

Key contacts

HOC Technical Organiser	Thomas Richard	contact@kayakclubmillau.com
HOC Competition Manager	Lucien Schreiber	contact@kayakclubmillau.com
Canoe Kayak MJC Millau	Site de la Maladrerie, Millau, France, 12100	www.mjcmillau.fr/canoe-kayak/

Online links

Event website	kayakclubmillau.com
ICF website	https://www.canoeicf.com/canoe-freestyle-world-cup/millau-2026
Instagram page	@millau_icf_wc_2026
WhatsApp group	https://chat.whatsapp.com/EAQDtBJ1bgmDNRdClidU9a?mode=gi_t



3. Entry

Entry Process

Entry process & deadlines Entries and accreditation requests must be made by the National Federation using the ICF's online entries system (SDP) <https://icf.mev.atos.net/icf/>

For detailed instructions on how to submit entries, please read the SDP user guide. Any questions or issues relating to entries or accreditation should be sent to sdp@canoeicf.com prior to the respective deadline.

SDP user guide: http://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/nf_userguide_v2.2.pdf

Participation Fee

A Participation Fee of 100 € will be charged for each accredited athlete and team official to cover the duration of the Official Training and Competition phases of the 2026 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup in Millau. A judges' fee will also be charged for each accredited athlete; the amount will be announced in later bulletins.

Visa requirements

Whether you need a visa to enter France depends on your nationality and the duration of your stay. Some travellers can stay up to 90 days without a visa, while others must apply for a short-stay Schengen visa before traveling. For full details and applications, visit the official [France-Visas website](#). If you have any questions or need a visa invitation letter, requests should be sent to contact@kayakclubmillau.com



4. Transportation

By plane

Millau is accessible within a couple of hours from multiple airports. Rodez (RDZ), Montpellier (MPL), and Béziers (BZR) are the closest, although their international flight options are relatively limited. Toulouse (TLS), Marseille (MRS) and Barcelona (BCN), while farther, offer a broader range of flights to major European capitals and international destinations.

Airport	Distance	Time	Accessibility	Destinations
Rodez (RDZ)	80 km	1h15	Bus/train options	Europe
Montpellier (MPL)	120 km	1h30	Bus options	International destinations
Béziers (BZR)	120 km	1h30	Bus/train options	Europe
Carcassonne (CCF)	210 km	2h30	Bus options (several connections)	Europe
Toulouse (TLS)	210 km	2h30	Bus options (several connections)	International destinations
Marseille (MRS)	265 km	3h00	Bus/train options (several connections)	International destinations
Barcelona (BCN)	410 km	4h30	Bus/train options (several connections)	International destinations

By train

Millau has a train station in the city centre, which is only a 15-minute walk from the whitewater course. The train schedules for Millau can be consulted on the [SNCF website](#).

By bus

Millau is served by several bus lines that directly connect it to the nearest cities with airports: Rodez (RDZ), Montpellier (MPL), and Béziers (BZR). Reaching other airports requires at least two connections, using a combination of train and/or bus. The bus schedule can be consulted on the [Lio website](#). For longer-distance travel, Blablacar Bus and FlixBus are both convenient options. In general, travelling to Millau by bus is one of the most cost-effective options. Bus transportation within Millau is free and can be consulted on [Réseau Mio](#).

By car

Millau is easily accessible via the A75 motorway. If you are driving from the north toward Montpellier or Béziers, the recommended exit for Millau is number 45. If you are coming from the south toward Clermont-Ferrand, take exit 47. You may also choose to drive across the *Viaduc de Millau*, one of the tallest bridges in the world at 342 meters high and 2,460 meters long. While crossing the viaduct is subject to a toll, it offers a spectacular introduction to Millau before descending toward the town.



5. Accommodation

Millau offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit every preference and budget, all within easy reach of the competition venue.

Hotels and guesthouses

The city centre and surrounding areas have numerous hotels and guesthouses, from small family-run inns to larger chains. Staying in the city centre allows you to walk to restaurants, shops, and to the whitewater course within a couple of minutes.

Campgrounds

Millau has several campgrounds and outdoor accommodations. Many offer pitches for tents, caravans, or camper vans, as well as cabins or small bungalows.

Wild camping near the festival site is prohibited. Please use official campgrounds or other authorised accommodations.

Short-term rentals

Vacation apartments and rental homes are also widely available, providing more privacy and flexibility for families or groups. Some good offers can be found on Airbnb.

Tips for booking

Most accommodations are accessible on foot or via the city's free bus service. Walking or cycling along the river is safe and enjoyable.

For more information and to explore available options, visit the [Millau Tourist Office website](#), which offers an interactive map.

Name	Type	Standing	Walking time from venue	Website
IBIS Hotel	Hotel	★★★	15 min	Link
IBIS Budget Hotel	Hotel	★★	15 min	Link
Hôtel des Causses	Hotel	★★★	20 min	Link
Hotel La Capelle	Hotel	★★★	10 min	Link
Aire de Camping-Car	Motorhome area		5 min	Link
Camping Larribal	Campsite	★★★	30 min	Link
Camping Huttopia	Campsite	★★★	25 min	Link
Camping Les Rivages	Campsite	★★★★	35 min	Link
Camping Les Erables	Campsite	★★★	30 min	Link
Camping 2 Rivières	Campsite	★★★	20 min	Link

6. Competitive venue

About the feature

[The Parc Aquavagues](#) in Millau is located on the edge of the town and has been a cornerstone of the French and international freestyle scene for years. Created in the early 2000s, the course offers a versatile playground for kayakers of all levels on the Maladrerie site. The flow can be adjusted as needed (between 5 and 10 cumecs, depending on the season), though access is subject to opening hours, which will be communicated in more detail later.

Over the years, Millau has hosted a wide range of events, from French Championships and team trials to Euro Cups, and notably the Freestyle World Cup in 2014. The venue has grown a reputation for being both reliable and playful. The natural surroundings and accessible green spaces of the Maladrerie site make it a nice place to relax, gather, and enjoy the river.



Medical services

On-site medical support, in accordance with ICF standards, will be available throughout the official training and competition periods. We will liaise with all relevant local authorities for any emergency requirements. The nearest hospital providing 24-hour emergency care is Millau Hospital (Centre Hospitalier de Millau), just a few minutes from the venue. In case of an emergency, call 112 (Europe-wide emergency number) or 18 (French fire and medical emergency services).

Parking

Millau is a medium-sized town, and it is very easy to reach the venue on foot or by bus. Four free 24-hour parking areas are available near the site (La Maladrerie, La Grave, Victor Hugo, Raux), and a footbridge provides direct access across the Tarn from the city centre.



7. About Millau

Weather and water

The average daily temperature at the end of June is approximately 22°C and the water temperature is on average 17°C.

Currency

The currency used in France is the Euro (€). Shops, restaurants, and hotels normally accept major credit card providers (Mastercard and Visa). However, smaller shops and vendors at the local market may only accept cash. Several ATMs are available around town for cash withdrawals.

Local attractions

La Fête de la Musique takes place on Sunday, June 21. Celebrated every year across France, this nationwide music festival fills towns and streets with live performances and a festive atmosphere. It is not to be missed.

The local market is held on Wednesdays and Fridays around Place Foch in the town centre. It is the perfect place to discover regional products, pick up fresh bread, local cheeses, and affordable groceries, and get a real feel for Millau.

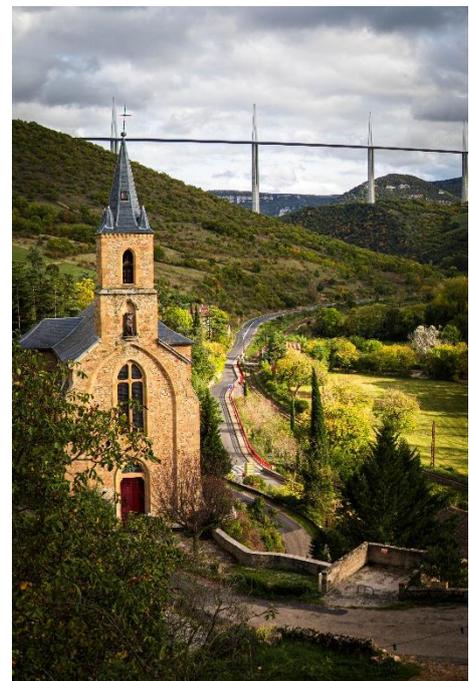
Millau's city centre offers a wide range of local shops, restaurants, hotels, and cultural attractions. Everything is easily accessible on foot or by using the free buses that run throughout town.

Long considered the capital of outdoor sports in France, Millau invites visitors to explore the surrounding landscapes and enjoy an exceptional natural playground. Activities in the area include hiking, trail running, paragliding, climbing, mountain biking, slacklining, and more.

We highly recommend visiting the nearby valleys of the Tarn, Dourbie, and Jonte. Peyre, located just a few kilometres downstream from the World Cup site, is listed among the ten most beautiful villages in France.

More information about Millau and the surrounding region can be found on the websites of the [Millau Tourist Office](#) and the [Parc Naturel des Grands Causses](#).

Organisers will be more than happy to recommend restaurants and activities to you during your stay in Millau.



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