PADDLESPORT SOUTH AFRICA

CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN CANOEING

international canoe federation



2026 CAC African Canoe Slalom and Kayak Cross Championships

Underberg, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa
Bulletin 2

African Champs 2026

KHOTSO LODGE & HORSE TRAILS

Sani SPRINGS

BRAVE THE UNKNOWN LIZZARD

Venue Update due to Foot and Mouth Disease

Due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) in the wider area around the race venue, the race committee needed to change both the race venue and TIP development camp accommodation. The race venue will still be just outside Underberg at a course next to the “Balam river deck” with the official accommodation provider being Khotso Lodge.

FMD is harmless to humans but poses a significant risk to livestock and due to the area being heavily dependent on commercial farming, various safety measures will be in place for the duration of the event. All participants and spectators will need to follow the FMD requirements upon entering the venue and no unauthorised access will be allowed outside of the specifically demarcated access zones.

Unfortunately the supporting event, the Drak Challenge river marathon, had to be cancelled as well. This means that the event schedule will change slightly with the African Champs slalom being run on Friday 30th January and the kayak cross on Saturday 31st of January.

Updated Provisional Event Schedule

Saturday 24 January	**Pre-African Champs and World Ranking Kayak Cross**
Sunday 25 January	**Pre-African Champs and World Ranking Canoe Slalom**
Saturday 24 January to Sunday 1 February	**TIP development camp**
Friday 30 January	**African Champs Canoe Slalom**
Saturday 31 January	**African Champs Kayak Cross and Medal Ceremony**

Updated Venue

The new venue location is capable of hosting events in all water levels. There is a coffee shop with a large deck overlooking the mid-part of the course allowing for coaches and spectators to watch the whole race from one location. The rapid difficulty is Grade 1-2 depending on the water level.



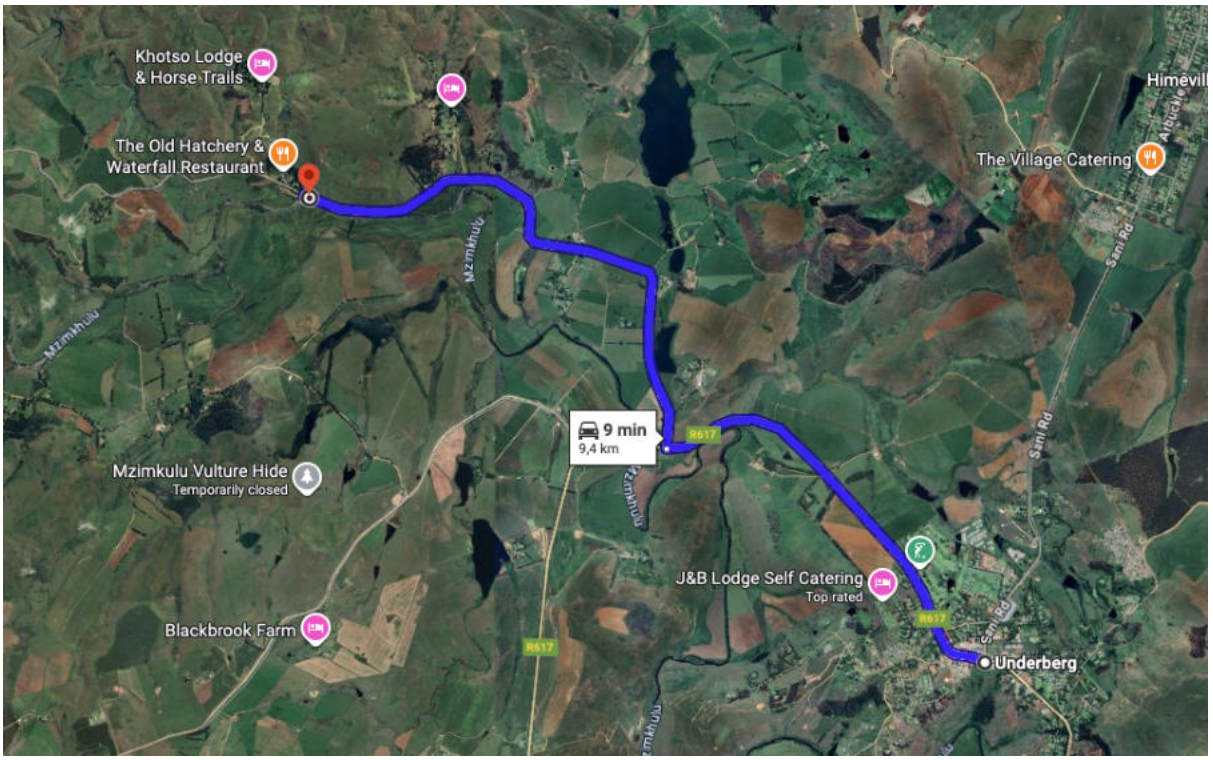
Kayak storage will be possible at the venue and a fully adjustable gate system is being constructed to ensure full adjustability of the race course.

Like with the previous venues, the objective of these venues is to provide a race venue that allows the new paddlers from Africa to be able to take part with-out needing advanced white water skills.

Venue Access and Race Village

The venue is accessible by car and is just under 10km from the center of Underberg. The official race village will host all the official events including the prizegivings and opening braai evening will be Khotso Lodge.

Route Map from Underberg to race venue.



Accommodation

Khotso Lodge will be the official accommodation partner of the event and participants and spectators are encouraged to book their accommodation there. Various options are possible from Camping at just R170 /person/night right up to bungalows and lodge accommodation.

Please reach out to Khotso directly for camping and indicate that you are taking part in the African Championships to get the best rates:
https://www.khotso.co.za/accommodation
info@khotso.co.za





Event Details

Official Event Website

The event website with more indepth information about the venue and links to our partners can be found at: https://canoeslalom.co.za/african_champs

Communication

All official communication will be on the ICF event page or the teams whatsapp group. Scan the QR code to join:

Visas

South Africa allows visa free travel for many countries although if you require a visa the organisation will be able to assist. Once the entry is confirmed, please send a copy of the passport and other supporting details to the competition organiser: don@canoeslalom.co.za

Transportation

The town of Underberg is 3.5 hrs by car from King Shaka International Airport (DBN). Most major airlines fly into DBN including Turkish, Qatar and Emirates. When flying out of King Shaka International on the return leg, it is very important to verify with the airline that the slalom kayaks will be accepted.

Entry

Entries will be done on the ICF entry system. Entries by South African paddlers will be done through the Paddlesport South African entry portal and then uploaded to the ICF entry system.

NB: Entries for the World Ranking race close on 20th January
NB: Entries for African Champs close on 27th January

Entry Fees

For international athletes entering via the ICF SDP system, the entry fee for the World Ranking race is **€50** and for African Champs is **€50**. The invoice will be sent to the respective national federations once entries have closed for the respective events. Proof of payment must be shown to receive the race bib. Payment will be possible by card.

If the entry numbers are known prior to the entries closing and an early invoice is requested, please send a request to the event manager to receive the invoice early: don@canoeslalom.co.za

For South African based athletes, the PaddlesportSA event portal will be used for entries.