



## RAFT GUIDE COURSE

*IRF GTE Guide Training Program*

### Key course details

- **Date:** *May 21 – 25, 2025*
- **Location (rivers):** *Slovenia, Kobarid (Soča) and Bled (Sava Dolinka, Sava Bohinjka)*
- **Instructors:** *Blaž Stan, Andraž Krpič*
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### Purpose and Goal of the Course

- **A five-day intensive raft guide course** (40 hours) is designed for new rafting guides/rookies.
- Acquiring the skills and confidence to independently lead trips with guests requires a significant investment of time. **The main purpose** of the course is to **provide rookies with a solid foundation for faster progress.**
- **The goal is to gain basic knowledge of raft guiding and working with guests,** following internationally recognized guidelines.

### Main Content

- Quality Safety Demonstration (Talk)
- Raft Guiding Techniques
- Crew Management (Working with Guests on the Raft)
- Flip Drill Procedure
- Safe Execution of Commercial Rafting Trips

### Price

**450€**

#### Included in the Price

- Tuition
- Rafts and paddles
- River shuttles

#### Not Included in the Price

- Personal 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](mailto:blaz.stan@gmail.com) or [kobaridkayakschool@gmail.com](mailto:kobaridkayakschool@gmail.com)



## Additional Explanations

### 1. Course Implementation

The course is planned to take place on three different Slovenian rivers. The aim is to show participants the diversity and dynamics present in working on the river and to ensure a broad educational experience.

The course is expected to run for 1 to 2 days in Bled, navigating the Sava Dolinka and Sava Bohinjka rivers, and 3 to 4 days in Kobarid, navigating the Soča River. The course will start in Bled and conclude in Kobarid.

As the implementation largely depends on appropriate water levels, the above plan may change. Seven days before the course starts, participants will be informed via email about the details of the implementation.

### 2. Exam – International Rafting Federation (IRF) Assessment

The raft guide course is designed according to IRF (International Rafting Federation) guidelines and serves as preparation for the exam, which is held in separate sessions. Successful completion of the exam grants participants a certificate recognized in over 50 countries worldwide.

The IRF certificate is a proof of knowledge that helps raft guides demonstrate their competence. The IRF certificate is not a license! Some countries require participation in a course/assessment under the guidance of a national organization for legal raft guiding work, while some countries have adopted the IRF system for licensing raft guides (IRF Award System: <https://internationalrafting.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/IRF-GTE-Award-System-v6.pdf>).

Both course instructors are accredited IRF instructors who can conduct raft guide courses (IRF GTP – Guide Training Program) and exams (IRF Assessment).

The exam can be taken during an IRF workshop. The exam typically lasts 1 to 2 days. Participants of the raft guide course (GTP) are invited to stay for the entire workshop.

IRF Workshop Dates:

Spring 29.5. – 1.6.2025

Autumn date to be announced later

**Exam Fee: 100€**

A prerequisite for taking the exam is a certificate of completion of the raft guide course.

Requirements for issuing an IRF certificate:

- Minimum age of 18 years.
- Submission of a logbook signed by employing rafting company (Minimum content: date, river name, difficulty level, distance, duration. IRF Template: <https://internationalrafting.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IRF-GTE-Log-Sheet.pdf>).
- Certificate of completion of a first aid course (Minimum 8-hour course. Must include CPR and must not be older than 3 years).
- Payment of applicable IRF fees (for Raft Guide certificate \$40 USD).



Detailed information can be found in the IRF GTE Award System. A condensed version is available here:  
<https://internationalrafting.com/guiding/requirements/>

**Participants can register for the exam even if they do not meet all the requirements for issuing an IRF certificate.** If they successfully complete the assessment, the certificate will be issued later when all required documents are submitted.

Example: A candidate who has successfully completed the entire assessment but does not have enough trips logged in their logbook can obtain provisional guide certification. When the instructor receives the updated logbook proving sufficient runs, the candidate will receive guide certification.

### **3. Mandatory (PPE) Personal Protective and (PRE) Personal Rescue Equipment**

- Helmet certified for whitewater (EN1385).
- Personal flotation device with a quick-release harness.
- Dry suit or neoprene suit with a minimum thickness of 5 mm.
- Appropriate thickness neoprene socks.
- Kayaking/canyoning shoes or sports shoes with thick soles.
- Whistle and knife for use in water.
- Rescue rope with a minimum length of 18 meters and a waist-carrying system.
- 4 HMS screwgate carabiners / 3 pulleys / 2 Prusik cords with a thickness of 5-6 mm and a length of 110 cm / 1 tubular webbing with a length of 4 meters and a tensile strength of 15 kN

Upon registration, participants will receive a document that explains the mandatory equipment in more detail.

4. **The minimum number of participants for the course is 6, and the maximum is 14.** If there are too few registrations, the course will be canceled, and the participant will be offered another date or a 100% refund.

Thank you, and see you on the river!