

Dear friends in Istanbul, dear Kim and Alan,

Here's the feedback from the United German Dragons about the latest Dragonboat Festival in Istanbul.

summary:

All german paddlers are coming back from Istanbul very satisfied! The participation in Istanbul are highly recommended by all of us for all other teams with interest on CORCOM races. In this way once more again many thanks for the warmly welcome in Istanbul and the great festival!

- + beautiful surrounding area Istanbul
 - + great racing venue (good fixed start, good time-keeping, up to 9 lanes, deep and spread enough (maybe the first and second lane are a little bit flat))
 - + up to 9 certified dragonboats
 - + really good marshalling and handling around the races including a perfect moderation and sound system
 - + very good supplies for food and drinks
 - + the whole festival area are locked up and controlled by own security and the turkish "polis"
 - + good local steersmans
- the life jackets are inconvenient (bring in your own or simple ask another turkish team with better jackets, its no problem)
 - you had to steering with simple rudders (short and narrow- not really a problem for an experienced helmsman, but unrecommended for beginners and a races with turns)
 - the paddles are unusual for us (really short and a little bit smaller than ours)- but nearly all other teams paddeling with this paddles- in this way it's absolutely OK!+
 - a "early bird fee" or a special starting fee for foreign teams will be fine

And what's our wish, if the United Germans are going again to Istanbul? A long distance race maybe with turns ;-)))))) on the Golden Horn (Haliç) will be great!

Sorry for my bad English. Please corrected it, if needed- and feel you free to provide this short "analysis" to other paddlers. For more details and all other questions please contact me by mail.

Warmly Regards to all from Germany and paddles up!

Frank
teamleader United German Dragons

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Mit freundlichen Grüßen

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