

CATALINA

SWIM FACT SHEET



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LOCATION: USA - CALIFORNIA

POPULARITY

Due to the rising numbers of swimmers wanting to complete their "Triple Crown", the Catalina Channel is becoming more popular year on year. It's still possible to book your swim in the early months of the year you want to go, but it's advisable to book earlier if possible.

The best part of this swim is that the weather is usually always good so you unlike other swims where you book a slot on a tide, for Catalina you'll book a specific swim date.

KEY CONTACTS

CCSF: Catalina Channel Swimming Federation
 (<https://swimcatalina.org/>)
Pilots/Professional Navigators:
 Kevin Bell (The Bottom Scratcher)
 David Harvey (Pacific Star)
 Carl Mayhugh (Magician)

Each boat will have a different contract and therefore a different cost. The contracts are based on the duration of swim starting from 8 hours going up to 13 hours depending on the boat. If you take longer, you will be charged an hourly rate (or part there-of) after the initial duration.

GETTING IN

There is no specific qualifying swim criteria, however, the application process requires a detailed swim resume.

You'll need to pass a medical assessment.

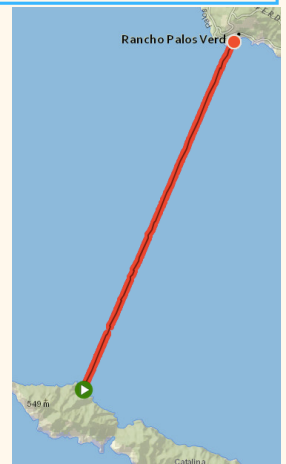
RULES

You may wear:

- One traditional swimsuit (non-porous and not designed to aid with body heat or buoyancy)
- One swim hat (non-porous and not designed to aid with body heat or buoyancy)
- Goggles

Other:

- 2 observers will be appointed to ensure you adhere to the rules
- You must clear the water at the start and the finish of the swim
- You may not touch the boat or any other person
- You can have a support swimmer for an hour at a time with an hour gap between swims, but not for more than a total of 3 hours.



SLOTS & CONDITIONS

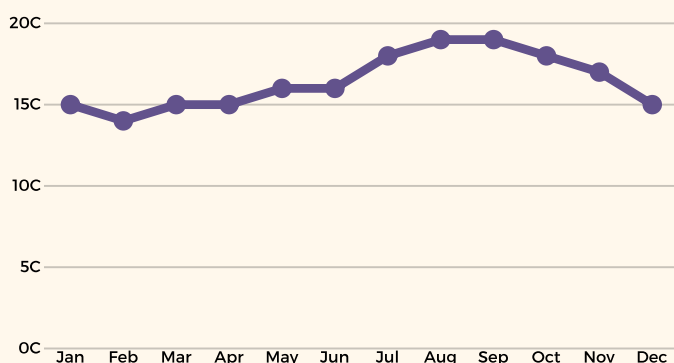
Ocean conditions: Unlike the English Channel (EC), the Catalina Channel isn't dictated by tides. However Catalina does have surface currents which can operate in any direction at any time. Catalina can also be known for its swells.

Slots: The weather in California is mostly predictable, hence swimmers book a specific date for the swim. It's very rare that the swim doesn't go ahead on the planned date. If this happens, then the pilot will work with you to re-book depending on their schedule.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- Even though this swim is warmer than the English Channel, it deserves respect.
- Many successful EC swimmers have underestimated Catalina Channel, especially due to the surface currents.
- The boat will meet you on the mainland and will take you out to Catalina Island, this can take approximately 2 hours. Take sea sickness pills! Many a swimmer has come unstuck as they weren't prepared for the journey to the start.
- You will start swimming at approximately 10:30-11pm on the night of your swim date. This is because the winds tend to pick up in the afternoons, so the aim is to have the swim finished (or close to it) before the winds set in
- Most boats will want you to have kayak support. The CCSF can help with this but be prepared to pay for someone and book well in advance. You may want 2 kayakers to give them a break. You will also likely feed from the kayak so the kayaker will need to have a plan as to how to refresh your feeds during the swim.
- If you can't bring crew with you, the CCSF can help with this too.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES



QUICK VIEW

	-VE	+VE
Temperature (15-22C)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Distance (20 miles)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Conditions	●●●●●	●●●●●
Success rate	●●●●●	●●●●●
Price (>\$3,500)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Iconic (part of triple crown)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Marine life	●●●●●	●●●●●