

LAKE TAHOE LENGTH

SWIM FACT SHEET

Author: Sylvia Lacock



LOCATION: USA - CALIFORNIA TO NEVADA

POPULARITY

The granddaddy marathon swim on Lake Tahoe - the Length. 21.3 miles of freshwater in the high Sierra mountain range. 10 years ago, maybe 1 person swam the Length each year. For 2020, there are already 20 swim applications filed. With a short swim season of only ~6 weeks (mid-July to late August) getting a date that suits you should be booked 6-12 months in advance.

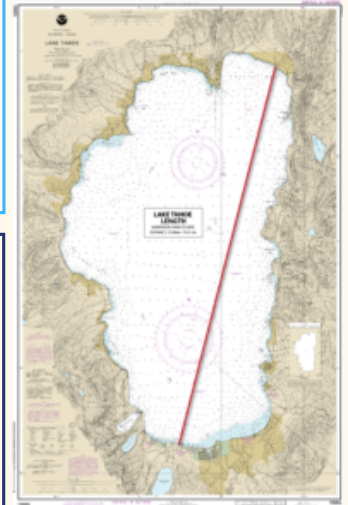
KEY CONTACTS

Lake Tahoe Open Water Swimming Association

(www.swimtahoe.org) - a 501(c)3 non-profit

2020 - \$450 application fee for solos (\$250 goes to the Observer as a stipend)

Pilots: Pacific Open Water Swim Co. (www.swimtahoe.com); optional crew services are available for swimmers traveling solo.



KEY FACTORS

At 1,900 meters, the altitude can be a challenge for swimmers.

Stunningly beautiful swim with shooting stars, mountains and crisp, clean water

The Length starts in the evening (~8pm) and concludes the following day

Most swims finish in under 14 hours

Swims can be done solo, tandem (with pilot approval) and in 2-6 person relays

Swim start and swim finish locations are clearly defined and must be adhered to

Kayaks are discouraged; feeds are handled from the boat

RULES

“Channel Rules” + Garmins and other smartwatches are not allowed

An observer will be appointed to ensure you adhere to the rules

You must clear the water at the start and finish of the swim

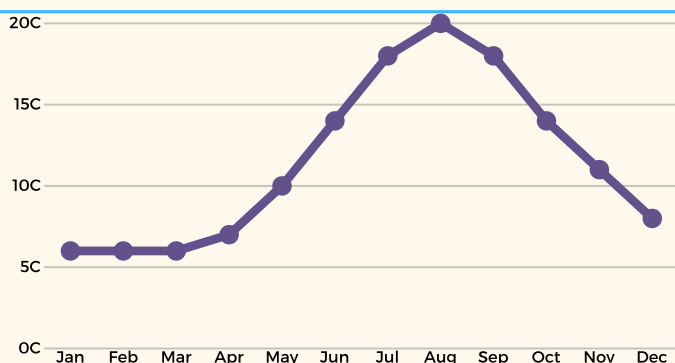
You may not touch the boat or any other person

You may have a support swimmer after the first three hours for up to one hour at a time with a minimum two hour gap in between; no drafting

FINAL THOUGHTS

- The swim is often underestimated and viewed as a ‘big pool’; these swimmers get schooled!
- Altitude and night swimming can prove challenging for some swimmers
- Key risks are SIPE and altitude sickness
- Part of the California Triple Crown (Catalina Channel, Length of Tahoe, Santa Barbara Channel)
- Part of the Lake Tahoe Triple Crown (Length of Tahoe, 12-mile True Width, 10.6-mile Vikingsholm)
- Part of the Triple Crown of Lake Monster swims (Tahoe “Tessie” joining Loch Ness “Nessie”, and Lake Memphremagog “Memphre” to complete the series).
- Accommodations can be pricey as Lake Tahoe is a destination for Californians; book early and arrive early to adjust to the altitude. Ask your pilot for shared housing options.

AVERAGE WATER TEMPERATURE



QUICK VIEW

	-VE	+VE
Temperature (16.6-20.5C)	●●●●	●
Distance (21.3 miles)	●●●●	●●
Conditions	●●●●	●●●●
Success rate (70%)	●●●●	●●
Price (<\$3,500)	●●●●	●●
Iconic	●●●●	●●
Water quality (stellar!)	●●●●	●●