

WINDERMERE

SWIM FACT SHEET

LOCATION: EUROPE - UK

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SUMMARY

At 10.5 miles from end to end, Windermere is the largest natural lake in England. It is one of the most iconic lake swims in the UK. If you're looking for your first significant swim, Windermere is a great choice. If you like an organised event then the BLDSA and SwimYourSwim both organise events each year. If you prefer to go more quietly then there are numerous organisations who will escort you or you can take your own boat or hire one and do it under your own arrangements at a time to suit you.

KEY CONTACTS

ORGANISED EVENTS

A few companies offer mass participation Windermere events, including:

BLDSA:

<https://bldsa.org.uk/events/bldsa-windermere/>

SwimYourSwim:

<https://swimyoursim.com/events/swim-windermere/>

One Way Windermere:

<https://www.windermereoneway.co.uk/the-event/>

INDIVIDUAL SWIMS

A lot of organisations offer escorted Windermere swims including:

- swimyoursim.com
- chillswim.com
- swimthelakes.co.uk

You can also hire a boat on Windermere or take your own. If you take your own boat it will need to be licenced to be on the lake.

KEY FACTORS

- Most swims go from south to north, but you can go either way based on the weather forecast.
- You'll need to display a flag alpha whilst there is a swimmer in the water (you can buy inexpensively from Amazon).
- Be aware of the chained ferry. You may need to stop to allow it past.

There are plenty of accommodation choices from hotels, B&Bs or AirBnB within a short distance of the lake.

There is also YHA Ambleside if that's where you're starting.

You can also park a motorhome at Ferry Nab

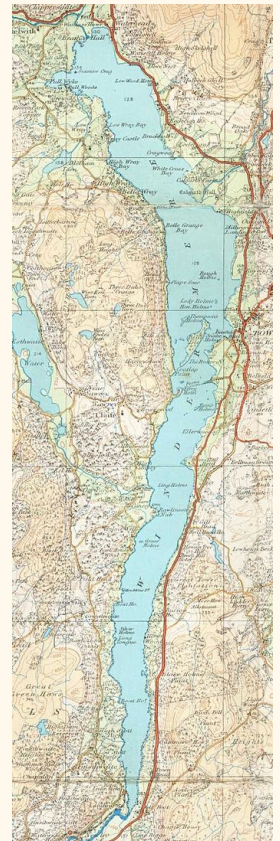
GOING ALONE?

If you decide to take your own boat to the lake:

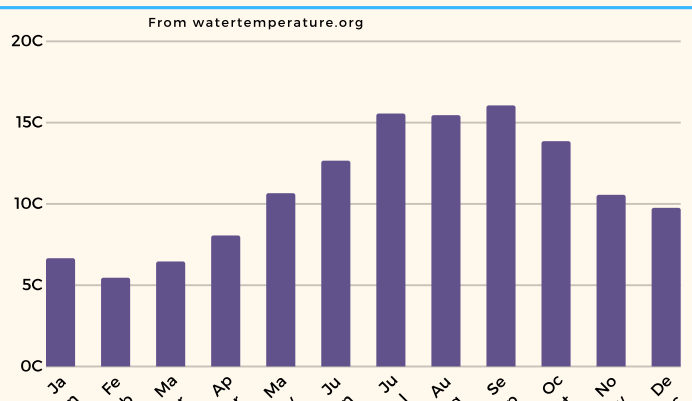
- Park at Ferry Nab and take your boat to the start from there.
- If you are launching in the hours of darkness, you'll need to ensure your boat is beyond the barrier the night before
- You will need to register the boat at the office at Ferry Nab and display the registration number whilst on the water (annual fee)
- To register you will need to show your insurance

FINAL THOUGHTS

- This is a stunning swim - the scenery is beautiful for swimmer and crew alike
- There are no tides impacting the swim, however, remember that fresh water has less buoyancy than salt water.
- There is a speed limit for boats on the lake. Ensure you are familiar with this for the journey to the start and the return from the finish
- The lake can be busy, your crew will need to remain vigilant.
- Many use this swim as a qualifying swim for a channel swim, for the faster swimmer you would need to consider a two-way swim.
- If you decide to do this independently, and still want swim recognition, you can apply in advance to the BLDSA. You'll need to give several weeks notice and complete their form, stating who your observers will be. You'll need to adhere to their rules (in line with channel swimming rules).



AVERAGE TEMPERATURES



QUICK VIEW

	-VE	+VE
Temperature (14-16C)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Distance (10.5 miles)	●●●●●	●●●●●
Conditions	●●●●●	●●●●●
Success rate	●●●●●	●●●●●
Price	●●●●●	●●●●●
Iconic	●●●●●	●●●●●
Water quality	●●●●●	●●●●●