



Galilee MSA unveils iconic swim location for marathon swimmers

The association provides the infrastructure to help swimmers challenge themselves in the unique, historical, natural and peaceful **Sea of Galilee** in accordance with Open Water Marathon Swimming international standards

The site

The Sea of Galilee is a **natural and historical wonder**. At minus 210 meters below sea level, It is the lowest freshwater lake in the world and the crossing point to the largest bird migration routes. Located at the “cradle of human culture” it is rooted in biblical history and is a natural source of freshwater for neighboring countries that embodies friendship and peace.

The history

The sea of Galilee met its first documented Marathon swim in 1953 when Yitzhak Yehezkel completed its crossing in 9h39', later followed by Malka Tenenbaum and Edna Borenstein who completed the first female crossing in 1954 in 9h20'. In recent years, with the growing popularity of open water swimming in Israel, crossing the length of the “Kinneret” has regained its place as a challenge for local swimmers in their training program for other international Channel crossing challenges, and also for swimmers coming from abroad to experience the lake with all its glamour and fame.

The association

The Galilee MSA was created to **develop, promote and educate about marathon swimming in Israel in accordance with international standards**, and **to advocate for clean waters and improving the coastal and marine environment in Israel**.

The association supports swimmers with all necessary information and contacts to approved boat operators, supplies qualified observers to verify that all rules of Marathon swimming are kept, ratifies the swims and handles the database swim records in partnership with the Marathon Swimming Federation (MSF).

The Galilee MSA was co-founded in December 2019 by Guy Cohen and Eyal Schachner, two accomplished Israeli OW swimmers. Other members and accomplished swimmers serving on the association's team include Avishag Turek, Alon Korek, Yaron Davidi, Fabrice Beer-Gabel, Gad Binyamin, Oded Rahav, Amit Potashnik, and more.

The swims

The full length of the lake is 20.5 km / 12.7 miles, between Capernaum (North) to Zemach (South) or vice versa. Width crossing, 10 km between Tiberius and Ein-Gev, can also be arranged.

The swims can be arranged throughout most of the year except for summer months due to overheated water and air temperatures. Preferable swim months are October-December and April-June.

Our website has a lot more information for you to review. You can follow us at:

Web: <https://galileemsa.org.il/en/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GalileeMarathonSwimming/>