



Joe Zemaitis, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2025



Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Interview 2](#) [Documentary 1](#) [Documentary 2](#) [Swim 1](#) [Swim 2](#) [IMSHOF 2025 at 11:58](#) [IMSHOF 2025](#)

Joe Zemaitis completed the Oceans Seven Challenge and Triple Crown. He was the first to complete a 2-way S.C.A.R. twice, Round Trip Angel Island twice; and holds the record for the longest lake swim (multi-segment) of 112 km miles in Roosevelt Lake in 2020 (still holds in 2024 and beyond). He set the speed records in the 2-way 41 km Sea of Galilee in 2019, counter clock-wise Round Trip Angel Island in 2021, and clockwise around Manhattan in 2020 which he broke in 2026. All three records still hold in 2026 (and beyond). Together with his brother John – they were the first to complete the Stillwater 8: Loch Ness 36.2 km; Lake Zurich, 26.4 km; Lake Tahoe 34.2 km; Lake Taupo 40.2 km; Lake Ontario minimum 45 km; Lago Titicaca; Lake Malawi 23.5 km; and Sea of Galilee.

Joe completed the Triple Crown and won the 8 Bridges (Hudson River) race. Other long swims include: twice around Manhattan Island 91.8 km, 2-way Catalina Channel 64.6 km, Kaiwi Channel 45 km, Monterey Bay 40.3 km, Lake Taupo 40.2 km, and Lake Tahoe 34.2 km.

In 11 years ending in 2024, Joe finished 131 marathons, on over 100 different courses: 37 over 25 km and 58 over 15 km. In 2022 he completed over 800 km miles of documented open water marathon swims (including 50 marathons in less than 25 days – one in each USA State – raising over US\$ 12,000 for charity). In 2023 he completed a swim of 10 km or greater on six continents in less than 5 days.

His swimming career has taken him to 13 countries, and he has completed marathons in the world's lowest freshwater lake (Sea of Galilee) as well as over 3.8 km high (Lake Titicaca). He's swum very cold swims (North Channel, Loch Ness) as well as very warm swims (Tampa Bay).

Prior to marathon swimming, Joe excelled at triathlon: twice 19 and under USA half-Ironman champion and set the under 19 speed record at the Ironman in Hawaii.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)