John Zemaitis, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2027



Videos: Interview 1 Interview 2 Documentary 1 Swim 1 Swim 2

John Zemaitis completed the Triple Crown.

He was the first to complete the Stillwater 8 (with his brother Joe – also an IMSHOF Honoree): 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. He was the first male to cross Monterey Bay, full width 40.3 km, in 2019.

He set the speed records (in tandem with his brother Honoree Joe Zemaitis) in the 2-way 41 km Sea of Galilee in 2019 and clockwise around Manhattan in 2022 – both hold at end 2026 (and beyond). He won the Lake Zurich Marathon Swim overall in 2015.

John completed the 8 Bridges (120-mile Hudson River) race, finishing second overall in 2018. Other long swims include: twice around Manhattan Island 91.8 km, North Channel 34.5 km, Lake Taupo 40.2 km, and Kaiwi Channel 45 km.

In 11 years ending in 2025, John finished 110 marathons, on over 100 different courses: 28 over 25 km and 43 over 15 km. In 2022 he completed 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.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)