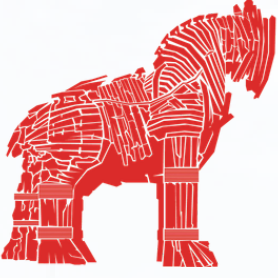


ÇANAKKALE ROTARY KULÜBÜ
39. BOĞAZ YÜZME YARIŞI



ÇANAKKALE ROTARY CLUB
39TH HELLESPONT SWIM RACE

HELLESPONT EUROPE TO ASIA SWIM

2026





YOU ARE ABOUT TO SWIM FROM EUROPE TO ASIA

On 30 August you will join 1,500 swimmers from around the world, in one of the oldest and most iconic open water races on the planet.

The course crosses the Hellespont, a strait that has separated continents, shaped history, and inspired legends for over 3,000 years. Leander is said to have swum these waters each night for love, while Lord Byron famously completed the crossing in 1810.

The race is held on Turkey's Victory Day, a national holiday commemorating the Turkish War of Independence, which adds meaning that goes well beyond the sport.

This manual contains everything you need to know to prepare, to race, and to cross the finish line.

THE EVENT AT A GLANCE

Friday 28 August

Registration: 12:00–20:00

Saturday 29 August

Registration: 10:30–23:00

Race route boat tour:
18:00

Evening at Race Village
with live music

Sunday 30 August

Race Day. Race Village opens
05:15

Board the Boat: 06:30–07:00

Race start: 08:30

REGISTRATION 28 AND 29 AUGUST

Registration takes place at Race Village, Çanakkale Pier Square.

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8fmpmc2hMSKiQkn76>

What3Words: <https://w3w.co/kopya.cilt.beşi>

Registration is compulsory. You will not be permitted to race without it.

Bring your passport or photo ID. You will sign a disclaimer form to complete registration and receive your race pack, which contains:

- Race number tattoo
- Official swim hat
- Timing chip anklet
- Bag and luggage tag
- Athlete's Pass
- Commemorative T-shirt
- Race slippers for the walk to the boat on race morning

Every item in your race pack is personal to you and cannot be replaced or transferred. You must have everything with you on race morning in order to compete.

SATURDAY EVENING

Race Route Boat Tour at 18:00

See the course you will be swimming!

The boat tour departs at 18:00 on Saturday from Gestaş Ferry Port, adjacent to Race Village.

Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/z8Cs1JeAaXyXxWaG7>

What3Words: <https://w3w.co/gemisi.ceylan.içten>

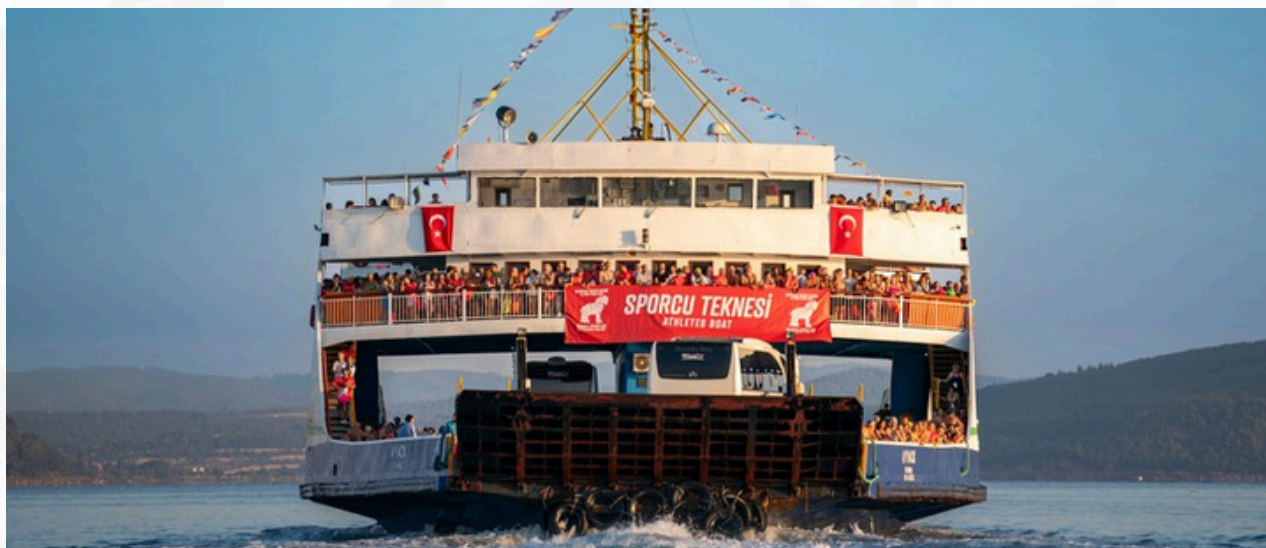
It takes approximately 90 minutes, and you will see the full crossing. Bring your Athlete's Pass to board.

Use this time well. We recommend that you watch how the current moves, identify your sighting points, and understand the difference between the faster and slower swimmer routes shown on the course map. The Hellespont will look very different from the water at 08:30am on race day, knowing what you're swimming toward will make a difference.

SwimTrek swimmers will enjoy a separate acclimatisation swim and boat tour. Full details will be sent separately.

Evening at Race Village

Race Village comes to life. Join us and your fellow swimmers for live local music and the atmosphere of a town that has hosted this race for 38 years.



RACE DAY: 30 AUGUST - SCHEDULE

05:15	Race Village opens, Çanakkale Pier Square
05:30-06:45	Bag drop opens and closes
06:30-07:00	Board the boat
07:10	Boat departs for Eceabat Beach
08:30	Race starts
10:15	Race ends
11.30	Bag drop closes / Awards ceremony



BAG DROP AND RACE VILLAGE

Bring one bag containing everything you need for the day. Attach the luggage tag from your race pack with your number clearly visible.

All bags must be deposited before **06:45**.

Bags are retrieved by matching your race number tattoo to the bag tag. Bag drop closes at 11:30, you must retrieve your belongings by this time.

Race Village has changing cabins, showers, toilets, water and food stations. We encourage all swimmers and spectators to fill and bring their own water bottles. This supports our mission of supporting the environment by avoiding the use of single-use plastics.



BOARDING THE BOAT

The boat departs at 07:10 from Race Village pier. Boarding opens at 06:30 and you must be on board by 07:00. Do not delay, the boat will not wait.

Before boarding the boat, make sure you have everything you need for the crossing:

- Timing chip worn on the ankle
- Race number tattoo on right arm and right shoulder blade (apply sun cream only after the tattoo is fixed or your tattoo will not stick)
- Official race hat
- Tow float which should be inflated
- Athlete's Pass (required for boat access and entry to the start area)
- Goggles and any personal swim equipment
- Water for the journey

Slippers are provided for the walk to the boat and to the start.

Anything left on the boat or at the start area cannot be retrieved after the race.



RACE START

Swimmers must pass over the timing mat. Starting from the beach outside the start zone is not allowed and will result in extraction from the water.

Swimmers will be called to their marks. The start will be signalled by the blast of a horn.

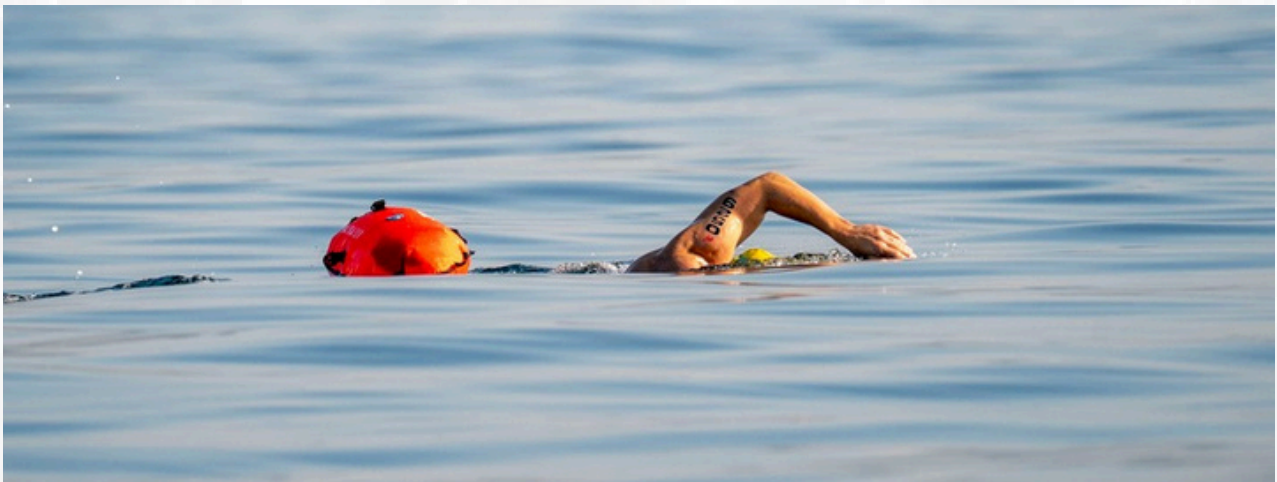
Take care when entering the water and be mindful of other swimmers. If you want to withdraw, swim horizontally out of the path of swimmers, return to the start area, and return your timing chip to an official.

SUMMARY OF THE RULES

Not permitted during the race: wetsuits, fins, snorkels, mp3 players, smart watches or similar devices. Buoyancy shorts may be worn but will result in exclusion from race classification and podium eligibility.

You must wear your timing chip on your ankle, your race tattoo on your right shoulder, the official swim hat, and a tow float.

Failure to start, swim or finish without the swim hat will lead to extraction from the water and disqualification from the event.



THE CROSSING

The Course

The Hellespont crossing is approximately 5km. Water temperature in August is typically 23–25°C.

The time limit is 1 hour 45 minutes. The strait reopens to commercial shipping traffic after two hours. Any swimmers still in the water at 10:15 will be safely recovered by the safety fleet and transferred to the finish by boat at the end of the race.

Navigation - Read This Carefully

The current is the defining feature of this race. It runs strongly in a southerly direction, as you swim it will push you down the channel toward the finish. **If you follow the direct line from start to finish, you are likely to miss the finish.**

For the first section of the swim, aim east out into the channel. This route is what puts you on the correct line to reach the finish as the current carries you south.

The course map shows two routes:

- **Faster swimmer route:** a more direct eastern line for stronger swimmers
- **Slower swimmer route:** a wider eastern course that establishes the correct line across the channel before the current carries you southwards towards the finish.

Choose the line that matches your pace and commit to it. It is your responsibility to determine the correct route for your pace and weather conditions. Boats and kayaks will be positioned throughout the course to help keep you oriented.



THE FINISH

The finish is at the timing mat on the finish platform at Çanakkale Pier. You must cross the timing mat to record an official finish time. Swimmers landing at any other point will not have their finish counted.

Return your timing chip to an official at the finish. This is not optional - it is how the safety team confirms every swimmer is accounted for. An unreturned chip triggers search and rescue procedures and a €50 fine.

YOUR SAFETY

The race is supported by over 100 safety personnel across boats, kayaks, and on shore. The water safety team wear brightly coloured T-shirts to be visible throughout the course.

If you get into difficulty:

1. Stay calm
2. Raise your hand, wave, and shout for assistance
3. Keep your head out of the water and your swim hat on to make yourself visible
4. Wait for the nearest safety craft to reach you

If a kayak reaches you: hold the end of the kayak, not the side, to avoid capsizing it. The kayaker will signal a motorised boat to assist you.

If a motorised boat reaches you: establish eye contact and verbal communication with the boat captain before approaching. Wait for their signal before moving toward the vessel.

Swimmers removed from the water will need to remain on the boat until the race closes when they will be transferred to the finish.

Medical

A medical tent is located at Race Village. First aid is also available at the start area and there are medical boats as part of the water safety provision



WEATHER AND RACE CONTINGENCY

The Hellespont is a natural open water environment. Race day conditions are assessed and the decision to start, delay, or postpone rests with the race organisations.

If conditions require, the race may be moved to **31 August** or **1 September**. In the event of cancellation with no available contingency date, no refund is available. Bear this in mind when booking return travel.



RACE FINISH

To have your finish officially recorded as a completed swim:

- Cross the timing mat at the designated finish point
- Wear your official race hat throughout – from start to finish
- Do not touch any course buoy
- Return your timing chip at the finish

RESULTS AND AWARDS

Results will be published at hellespontswim.com and canakkaleyuzmeyarisi.com after the race, and are available via this QR code:

You can also access the results at:
<https://my.raceresult.com/410255/>



The Awards Ceremony begins at 11:30 at Race Village. Awards are made to the top three finishers in each age category for both men and women.

PHOTOGRAPHS

You can access all event photographs by scanning the QR code you'll find at the Race Village.



RACE VILLAGE



A NOTE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

You are swimming in one of the world's great straits. We ask every participant to treat it accordingly - no waste in the water or on shore, and full compliance with race rules to protect the marine environment we are all here to experience.



THANK YOU!

To all the supporting organisations and many volunteers, without whom this event could not take place.

We'll see you on the start line.

The Hellespont Swim Race - 39th Edition, 30 August 2026



2025 DOC

BOARDING THE BOAT

Swimmers must ensure they have all requirements for the swim before boarding the boat promptly before 7am:

- Personal chip timing worn on the ankle
- Race number tattoo on the right arm and right shoulder blade. Apply any sun cream after the tattoo has been fixed
- Official race hat
- Tow floats are optional and should be inflated and worn around the waist
- Competitors must wear their Athlete's Pass for access to the boat and to be able to enter the race start area in Ecebeat
- Personal swim equipment e.g goggles and earplugs



Disposable slippers are provided for the walk to the boat and to the Race Start. We recommend taking water with you.

Any items left on the boat or at race start cannot be retrieved after the race.

The use of mp3, radio devices, smart watches, snorkels, fins and wetsuits are not allowed. Buoyancy shorts can be used, but this will mean swimmers are not able to be considered for the race classification results and podium places.

RACE START

The start is located at the Start Arch and timing chip mat. Swimmers must pass over the timing mat. Starting from the beach outside the start zone is not allowed and will result in extraction from the water and disqualification.

Swimmers will be called to their marks. The start will be signalled by the blast of a horn.

Take care when entering the water and be mindful of other swimmers, if you want to withdraw, swim horizontally out of the path of swimmers, return to the start area, and return your timing chip to an official.



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Throughout the race, it is best to swim continuously to not lose time and to avoid getting cold.

It is your responsibility to determine the correct route for your pace and weather conditions; Swimmers should check their swim course regularly; boats and kayaks will escort the swimmers throughout the swim and marshal the racecourse. Any contact with the racecourse buoys will result in disqualification from the race.

If you get into difficulty, remain calm and signal to the nearest safety support craft by raising your hand, waving for help and shouting for assistance. Swimmers should keep their heads out of the water and swim hats on to ensure they remain visible. Swimmers should wait until the nearest safety support reaches them.

- If this is a kayak, the kayaker will move toward you, so you can hold on for support. It is important to hold onto the end of the kayak rather than the side of the kayak to avoid capsizing it. The kayaker will then signal to the nearest boat to remove the swimmer from the water.
- If the nearest support is a motorised boat, the swimmer should make sure they have visual and verbal communication with the boat captain. Swimmers should not approach the boat until permission and signals are given to confirm it is safe to approach the boat.

Swimmers who have been taken out of the water will be transferred to the race finish by boat. Depending on your condition you may need to remain on the safety boat until the end of the race so that the vessel can continue to support other swimmers.



THE SAFETY SUPPORT CREW

The race will be supported by over 100 different types of safety support. The safety team will be wearing bright yellow T-shirts to be visible.

The safety team might not speak English. Please ensure you follow the safety steps above.

The race will close after 1.45 hours at 10.15am. Any swimmers remaining in the water will be picked up and taken to the finish point.

THE RACECOURSE

The distance of the Hellespont swim is approximately 4½km. As the swim is current-assisted, the distance is equivalent to swimming approximately 3-3½ km.

Currents are very strong and run in a southerly direction; this will push swimmers down the channel. Swimmers should **NOT FOLLOW THE DIRECT LINE** but should aim to the east, out into the channel, for the first section of the swim.



RACE FINISH

Swimmers must finish at the designated finish point and cross the timing mat to record their official finish time. Swimmers who land at any other point will not qualify as a completed swim.

Failure to start, swim or finish with the swim hat will lead to extraction from the water and disqualification from the event.

All swimmers must return their timing chips. Please return your race chip to ensure all swimmers are accounted for and to prevent any unnecessary search and rescue procedures.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Awards ceremony will start at 11.30am at the Race Village. Awards will be made for the fastest times for males and females in the designated age categories.

RESULTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

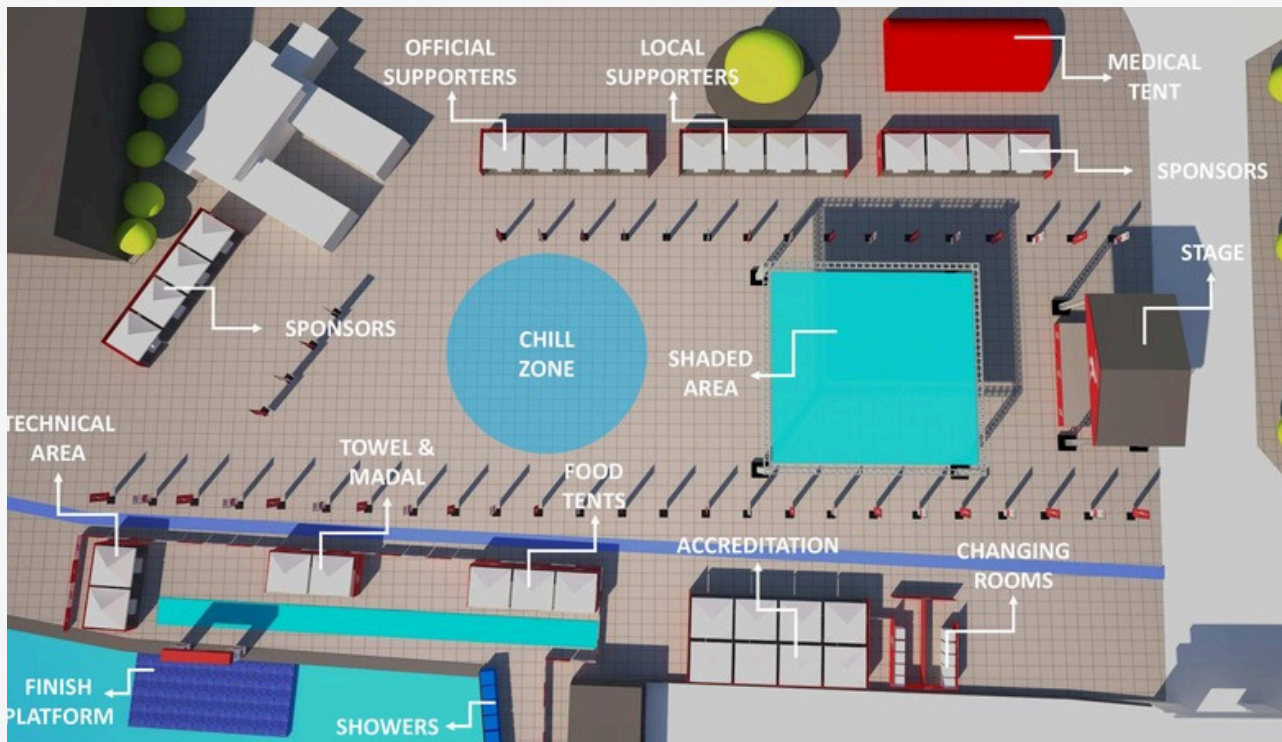
Results will be posted at the Hellespont Swim Race results page after the event, or scan the QR code:



And, later on
<https://hellespontswim.com/> and
<https://www.canakkaleyuzmeyarisi.com/>



RACE VILLAGE MAP



STARTING AREA (ECEABAT)

