



STATUE OF LIBERTY **SWIM**

24-28 JUNE 2027

[FAQ Document](#)





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What is the Statue of Liberty challenge?

The Statue of Liberty Challenge is one of our annual overseas events that are organised to raise vital funds for Velindre Cancer Services. For this event, we will run two private swims – the first will be a 1 mile loop around the famous statue of liberty and the second will be the iconic 2.2-mile open-water swim across the Hudson River from Manhattan to New Jersey. Both distances will offer participants the unique opportunity to swim past the Statue of Liberty, a symbolic route steeped in resilience and remembrance. This event is not a race but instead, a friendly swim in an exciting and safe environment with Velindre at its heart. As a group, you will collectively complete this challenge and help raise vital funds to further support cancer patients and families across Wales.

Who can take part? Are there specific entry requirements?

Due to the challenge difficulty of this event, ALL participants must be a confident swimmer. For those completing the 2 mile swim, participants must have previously completed an Ironman distance swim and provide evidence of this to be accepted onto the challenge. This must be a minimum of 2.4 miles in an organised open water event. This evidence will be given to Velindre Ambassador and Swimming Coach, Dave Tonge, to verify as part of our application process.

How do I apply?

For this event, we ask supporters to complete an Expression of Interest form that will be shared with our events team and Ambassador Swimming Coach, Dave Tonge, for review. At this point, the team will be looking at fitness levels and previous experience to determine whether you will be offered an official space on the challenge. All individuals who complete an expression of interest entry will receive correspondence from the team explaining whether they have been successful or not in securing a place on the challenge.

If accepted, you will be invited to complete a formal application form where you will be required to pay a £200 non-refundable deposit to Velindre Cancer Charity. By registering, you will confirm your pledge to raise a minimum of £3,800 in fundraising for the charity.

How much do I need to pay or fundraise towards the challenge?

To secure your place on the trip, each successful participant will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of £200 to Velindre Cancer Charity. A further £3,800 in sponsorship/fundraising will also be required to be raised no later than 4th April 2027.

We understand this is a lot of money, but we have an experienced Fundraising Team who will help and support you with your fundraising ideas, activities and events. Each year, we support over 100 participants prepare for their overseas challenges so are confident we can share our expertise to help you reach the finish line. We can also share a range of tools and resources that can help you plan, deliver and promote your fundraising efforts.

Most participants pay the initial deposit themselves and then fundraise the remaining total required for the challenge however, you may wish to cover the total costs yourself. Should you want to follow this option, you will be able to count gift aid towards your final total (this will be subject to the gift aid being successfully screened by HMRC). If you would like more information on this please contact our event lead Amy Penketh: amy.penketh@wales.nhs.uk. It is the responsibility of each participant to manage their fundraising page and ensure their total accurately reflects the funds they have raised both online and offline.

Please see the next page for a full breakdown of what is and is not included in these fees.

What is the Itinerary?

Day 1 - 24th June 2027 : Fly to New York

Day 2 - 25th June 2027 : Event briefing, sight seeing and free time

Day 3 - 26th June 2027 : Swim Day 1

Day 4 - 27th June 2027 : Swim Day 2 and post-event celebratory evening

Day 5 - 28th June 2027: Fly to London

What is included in my £3,800 fundraising and £200 deposit?

- International return flight London - New York
- 4 nights accommodation in New York City - twin share
- Daily breakfast at hotel
- Round-trip airport transfers - private coach service between JFK or Newark Airport and your hotel depending on airport selected
- IF a UK London airport is selected as best option, transfers will be provided to and from Cardiff.
- Experience of Lead swimmer, Dave Tonge
- Access to group training sessions (supplement)
- Personal training plan
- Support boat
- Support Canoes
- Medical support
- Experienced guides

What is **not** included that I will need to cover myself.

- Swimming kit
- Personal expenses
- Single room supplement if required
- Gratuities
- Personal travel insurance
- Any arrangements made to stay on after the paid return flight to UK.
- Entry fee paid directly to Urban Swim (NYC based event organisers) for Swim 1 or Swim 2 outlined below:
 - Swim 1: 1m Loop around Statue of Liberty
\$450 (Approx. £335)
 - Swim 2: 2.2m from Manhattan to the Statue of Liberty.
\$500 (Approx. £372)

Can I cover the cost of the trip myself?

Your initial £200 non-refundable deposit will meet some of the cost of travel and general organisation. A percentage of these costs will also, however, come out of the money you fundraise - with an event of this size, this is inevitable. This means that each person that sponsors you must realise that a percentage of their sponsorship will be used to cover these costs. If you feel unhappy about this, you can talk to us about paying for the cost of your travel yourself (around £1900 depending on numbers) and fundraise for the remainder, 100% of which will go directly to Velindre Cancer Centre.

Will I be insured for the challenge?

YOU are responsible for taking out adequate travel insurance to participate. We recommend If you have an existing annual policy, you call and check that you are covered. We also recommend that you check you don't need to pay an upgrade for this specific challenge.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice
Please visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for all updated advice prior to departing.

Where will I sleep?

We stay in the same hotel each night. The room configuration will be shared. If there is someone specific you would like to share with, please let us know in advance. If you would like a single room, a supplement will apply.

Can I stay in NYC for longer after the swim?

You do have the option to extend your trip after the swim but participants will have to make their own arrangements in regards to flights, accommodation and transfers. We will however need to know your plans so that we can cancel your return flight.

What is the weather like?

In June the sea water temperatures in New York are usually between 17-22 degrees celsius.

The water in the Hudson River is classed as 'Brackish' water due to it's salt water and fresh water mix making it less buoyant than previous Velindre swim challenges in West Wales and San Francisco.

The weather can always change unexpectedly and a contingency will be in place if the swim can't go ahead for what ever reason. For example the swim window may change time or to the following day.

Have another question?

If you have any questions about the event that you'd like to ask the team, please don't hesitate to call us on 029 2031 6211 or email: amy.penketh@wales.nhs.uk



www.velindrefundraising.com

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