



Wild Swim Berlin

Explore the beauty of the Berlin lakes with us, at your own pace

Thursday 15th - Sunday 18th May 2025

You might think you know Berlin: from its turbulent history to its cool, laid-back vibe. The bars, the clubs, the cafe culture and the flea markets.

But do you know about the lakes?

Let Wild Swim Berlin be your guide!

From inner-city lakes with currywurst and beer stands, to remote, tranquil stretches of water winding through beech forests. There are over 3000 beautiful lakes within Berlin and its close neighbour, Brandenburg. So, if you love wild swimming, a hidden paradise awaits.

What's included

- Three nights accommodation at the Seehotel Grunewald
- Daily breakfast
- A full swimming and cultural itinerary
- Group guided bike rides in the local area
- A trip into Berlin city centre
- All transport to and from swims, meals and accommodation
- Professional digital photos of you enjoying your holiday
- A swim in the the 1936 Olympic swimming pool (optional)
- An exclusive Wild Swim Berlin tote bag

What's not included

- Return flights or transfer from Berlin
- Lunches and evening meals



Itinerary

This is a suggested itinerary and is subject to change. What *is* guaranteed is you'll be cycling through forests, and swimming in plenty of lovely lakes in and around Berlin.

Please note: lunches and evening meals aren't included in the price.

You don't have to join us for any meals if you prefer to do your own thing.

Thursday 2nd May

Try to book an early flight, so you'll have plenty of time to enjoy a swim in the beautiful River Havel on arrival, and meet your fellow swimmers.

We'll take an early evening bike ride through the forest to Teufelsee, a small lake enclosed by trees, where it's common to do as the Germans do, and bare all – but no pressure!

Evening meal: Local German restaurant.

Friday 3rd May

A gentle five-mile cycle ride to Schlachtensee and Krumme Lanke, two of the best-loved “city lakes”, with easy walking paths all the way around.

Optional paddleboarding activity.

Lunch: Snackbar or restaurant by the lake – the choice is yours

Evening meal: Boat trip to an island for dinner.

Saturday 4th May

A trip by minibus to one of Brandenburg’s many beautiful lakes, Liepnitzsee

Lunch: Restaurant on the island/ packed lunch

Evening meal: Restaurant back in Berlin

Sunday 5th May

An early start to swim in the 1930s brutalist Olympic Pool (optional)

Group trip into town to explore the Mauerpark flea market.

Lunch: at one of Mauerpark’s many food stalls

Flights



Where we'll stay



The [Seehotel Grunewald](#) is tucked away in Berlin's Grunewald Forest, on the peaceful shores of the River Havel. You'll have a double room to yourself, with a balcony overlooking either the river or the forest.

In the morning, you can enjoy a plentiful buffet breakfast in the large riverfront garden and relax in one of the traditional basket beach chairs. There's a bar in the hotel, and a billiards room too, if you fancy a game.

Cost:

£800/£850pp (for a single occupancy double room with forest view/lake view respectively)

What to bring

- Swimsuit and tow float (plus any other swim accessories you like)
- A quick-dry towel
- Summer clothes, with layers/coat for evening
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Shoes suitable for cycling – trainers or sandals are fine

Who you are

We want you to be happy and comfortable while on the trip, so here are some clues to the kind of person who'll enjoy Wild Swim Berlin.

- You love swimming in open water and are a capable swimmer.
- You're up for adventure and seeing what's round the next corner.
- You enjoy exploring by bike, and can easily ride a few miles on trails and roads.
- You don't mind jumping on a train or bus, or being loaded onto a minibus.
- You enjoy communal eating and being sociable.
- You don't expect a luxury holiday with five-star service.



Who we are

I'm Celia, a photographer and writer who's worked for the likes of National Geographic, The Guardian, The Financial Times, BBC and Channel 4. I lived in Berlin for five years, and while there I travelled all over the city and surrounding countryside looking for new lakes to swim in – and now, I'd love to share them with you.

I'm not a travel company, I'm independently running these trips out of my love for wild swimming, Berlin and its lakes. I want to share these waterways with wild swimmers who I know will love them as much as I do.

But I can't do it alone, so I have other Berlin-based friends helping me out along the way. We've got it all in hand, so all you need to do is pack your swimsuit, and book your ticket...

Please note: I'll ask you to sign a waiver – you need to be responsible for yourself – just like you are when you swim with your local swim group, your swim buddy, or by yourself. Insurance is your responsibility.



Your questions answered:

Do I need to be able to swim a certain distance?

You don't need to be able to swim 1, 2 or more kilometres. This is a holiday for dippers, bobbers, and "proper" swimmers alike.

We'll take you to the lakes, but it's up to you how far and how fast you swim. We'll have full support while you enjoy the beauty of the lakes, take a walk in the forest, maybe hire a paddleboard – or just kick back and drink a beer.

Let us make it easy for you to relax in the company of like-minded souls, and enjoy doing what you love.

Will we do anything but swim?

You can take as much time off from swimming as you like. We'll do at least one group trip into Berlin, as we're planning on a visit to the infamous Mauerpark flea market. But it's your holiday, you can swim or explore as much or little as you choose.



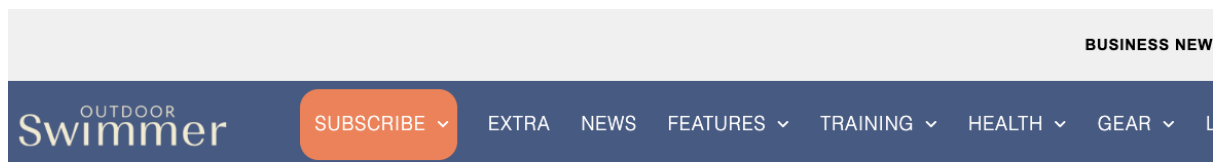
How do I pay?

You can either pay in full straight away, or reserve your place with a £250 deposit. The balance would be payable by 30th November 2024.

Is there a cancellation policy?

You can cancel up to 30th November and get your deposit back. Full payment needs to be made by 30th November. If you cancel after this date, I won't be able to give a full refund unless I manage to find a replacement. But you will get 50% of your payment back.

Read more about Wild Swim Berlin in every outdoor swimmer's essential reading material, [Outdoor Swimmer](#) magazine!



EXPLORE, FEATURES

Where to swim in Berlin

6 APRIL 2024

Celia Topping from Wild Swim Berlin shares her suggestions for wild swimming spots in Germany's capital

Reviews

"I met Celia travelling as journalists in Arctic Finland and was struck by her love of adventure, and her fun, easy-going personality, as we spent a week plunging into scenic lakes and saunas".

Laura Holt, Travel Journalist & Editor

"I spent a gorgeous few relaxing days swimming, riding bikes and enjoying good food and good company with Wild Swim Berlin. Celia's knowledge of Berlin and all the lovely swim spots she showed us meant we could just enjoy the adventure."

Morgan, Wild Swim Berliner

"I had such a great time with Wild Swim Berlin! Celia guided us through the forests to beautiful spots I could never have found on my own. It was wonderful to spend time doing what I enjoy most - swimming, exploring in nature, eating good food, and a city break, all in one trip!

Leah, Wild Swim Berliner

