

Vol. 07

OCEANMAN MAGAZINE

OCEANMAN Chronicles

"How Lago d'Orta taught me to breathe again"

Training Tips

The essential training blueprint for the 2026 season

OCEANMAN Stories

Inside OCEANMAN Youth Ambassador Program

OCEANMAN Travels

Maldives, Malta, Miches & more...



THE HORIZON IS JUST THE BEGINNING

CONNECTED BY WATER

Welcome to the shoreline. You are holding the first pages of a story that, although printed here for the first time, began years ago in the deep blue of our world's oceans.

When we first conceived OCEANMAN MAGAZINE, we didn't intend to create just another sports publication. There are already plenty of manuals on stroke technique and spreadsheets of race results. What you have in your hands is the manifesto of a global movement. It is the voice of a community that understands that open water swimming is not just an activity you do; it is an identity you inhabit. As we say at every one of our finish lines: OCEANMAN is more than a race; it's a way of life.

The Call of the Water: Beyond the Chronometer

What is it that drives us to wake up at five in the morning in a foreign city, pull on a tight

neoprene suit, and walk toward a horizon where the sun has barely begun to stir? It isn't just the desire for a medal. If it were only about the metal, we would stay in the comfort of a heated 25-meter pool.

We are searching for something deeper. We seek that primal connection with the element that saw our species begin. The year 2025 served as the ultimate testimony to this hunger for adventure. We witnessed an explosive 48.52% growth in our global registrations. But that figure is more than a statistic in a financial report; it represents thousands of individual stories of people who decided the world was too vast to be viewed only from the shore.

From the conquest of North American markets to the roar of the waves in our established European and Asian venues, OCEANMAN has become the bridge between high-performance sport and the

CONNECTED BY WATER

profound soul of global travel. We are the engine of a "sports tourism" that does not settle for "visiting," but demands "immersion."

A Sense of Place: Explore, Taste, and Belong

In this magazine, the journey is just as vital as the stroke. Our philosophy, "A global family" permeates every article you will read in this issue and those to come. We are convinced that to truly know a place, you must swim it.

When you swim in Maafushi, Maldives, you aren't just crossing a channel of crystal-clear water; you are interacting with a breathing ecosystem. When you take on the epic ULTRAOCEANMAN Tabarca in Spain, you are navigating a marine reserve that is the pride of a region's heritage. This is why OCEANMAN MAGAZINE dedicates a significant portion of its pages to "immersive tourism." We want you to know what to eat in Krabi after your 5km effort, which secret corner of Bali to visit after the awards ceremony, and how the local culture of each host city transforms a race into an indelible memory.

Currently, 36% of our swimmers travel internationally to compete. This makes us a family without borders—a "home" that moves every month to a different point on the map, yet always maintains the same core values: respect for the sea, passion for the challenge, and a camaraderie that can only be understood when you share fatigue and salt on your skin.



CONNECTED BY WATER

One of the pillars of this first issue is the human story. In 2025, 78.55% of our swimmers joined the OCEANMAN ecosystem for the very first time. This number fills us with a sense of great responsibility. We know that the moment someone pulls on that silicone OCEANMAN cap, they stop being a stranger and become part of our global family.

That cap is a symbol. It doesn't matter if you are an elite athlete chasing a spot in the World Final or a beginner facing your first 2km Sprint. Underwater, we are all equal. We all face the same currents, the same winds, and the same vastness. In these pages, you will find chronicles of perseverance that will give you goosebumps, from the swimmer who conquered a lifelong fear of the deep to the OCEANTEAMS relay members who proved that swimming, despite its reputation as a solitary sport, is the strongest social glue there is.

Looking Toward 2026: A Global Odyssey

The calendar awaiting us in 2026 is nothing short of a treasure map. With over 32 races across five continents, the challenge is greater than ever. From the exotic debut in Penghu, Taiwan, to the consolidation of classics like the Lago d'Orta in Italy, the 2026 World Tour is designed so you never stop discovering.

But OCEANMAN is a 360-degree ecosystem that stays with you 365 days a year. This magazine is just one piece of the puzzle. Our OCEANMAN ACADEMY will continue to be our educational arm, ensuring every swimmer has the technique and confidence to face open water safely and efficiently. Excellence and safety are the foundations upon which we build our legends.

Our promise is simple yet ambitious: we want to be your compass in the world of open water swimming. We want you, upon closing this magazine, to feel an uncontrollable urge to grab your goggles, look at a map, and choose your next destination.

The legacy of OCEANMAN is not measured in minutes or seconds. It is measured in the "remember when" moments that our athletes will recount for decades. We are in the business of creating personal legends, of transforming participants into members of a family that never stops growing.

Thank you for joining us for this first lap. The water is perfect, the sun is rising over the sea, and the finish line is waiting for us on the other side of the world.

Welcome to OCEANMAN MAGAZINE.

Swim the world with us.



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Dive into these stories and let's continue to celebrate the incredible world of open water swimming together.



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THE NEW WAVE

INSIDE OCEANMAN YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



At OCEANMAN, we have always believed that the ocean is the ultimate teacher. It doesn't care about your age; it only cares about your stroke, your spirit, and your resolve. As we reflect on a 2025 season that saw a record-breaking 48.52% increase in registrations, one trend stands out above all others: the rise of the youth.

To nurture this energy, we have officially launched the **OCEANMAN Youth Ambassador Program**. This initiative isn't just about finding the fastest teenagers; it is about empowering young leaders who embody our core values: discipline, resilience, and a deep-seated connection to the water. These ambassadors are the bridge between the OCEANKIDS program and the adult World Tour, serving as an inspiration for every young person dreaming of their first open-water crossing.

Meet the faces of the "New Blue": 27 young athletes who are redefining what it means to be a swimmer.

A Life-Changing Discovery

For many of our ambassadors, the transition from the pool to the open sea wasn't just a change in venue; it was a total transformation of self. **Silvana Levy**, an 18-year-old from Colombia, describes her 2023 debut in Cartagena as a turning point. "I am a Colombian girl who discovered open water swimming in 2023... That race completely changed my life, as it was where I qualified for my first world championship and truly fell in love with this sport," she shares.



YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

This sentiment is echoed by her compatriot, 17-year-old Gabriela Vega, who proved that age is no barrier to endurance. "One of the moments I am most proud of was completing a 10 km open-water swim when I was 14 years old. It was a major physical and mental challenge that required months of preparation. Finishing that race showed me that I am capable of pushing my limits and achieving goals that once seemed impossible."

The Water as a Sanctuary

Beyond the medals and the rankings, our Young Ambassadors speak of the water as a place of mental and emotional healing. In an increasingly noisy world, the "Blue Silence" offers a unique form of therapy.

Zinedinne Ben Bahar, a 15-year-old from Malaysia, finds a supernatural sense of peace in the waves. "Everything feels right when I'm in the water. I feel calmer. I'm like Percy Jackson and the water heals me," he notes, adding that his goal is to "show how swimming can help people."

Perhaps one of the most poignant reflections comes from 15-year-old Neel Machhindra from India. For Neel, the ocean is a place where he can truly be himself. "Swimming gives me calm, clarity, and confidence. As someone on the autism spectrum, the water helps me regulate my mind and emotions in a way nothing else does. In the sea, everything becomes simple: my breathing, my rhythm, and my connection with nature. It is not just a sport for me; it is my safe space, my strength, and my way of expressing myself without words."

"Some people find themselves in mirrors. I found myself in the sea." — Abril Gomez



Discipline, Balance, and Identity

Being a Young Ambassador requires a high level of maturity, specifically in balancing academic demands with elite-level training. Emiliano Ramirez Renteria, an 18-year-old from Mexico, views this balance as a core part of his mission. "I want to... maintain a balance between my academic education and my athletic development, showing that both can grow together through discipline and consistency," he says.

Similarly, 15-year-old Emilia Nikiel from Poland emphasizes that greatness is built slowly. "Swimming has taught me the importance of consistency; achieving big goals is the sum of small steps," she observes, highlighting the value of the OCEANMAN community and teamwork.

For Abril Gomez, a 15-year-old from Mexico, the sport has provided something even more profound: an identity. "Open water swimming didn't just give me a sport, it gave me an identity. When I'm in the ocean, I feel powerful. I feel free... It's about becoming the person I want to be, one stroke at a time. It taught me that success is not loud, it's quiet, daily, disciplined... This sport shaped who I am today."

Leading the Next Generation

The ultimate goal of the Young Ambassador Program is leadership. These athletes are committed to ensuring that those who follow them feel supported and capable. Alanis Barrantes, 14, from Panama, sees her role as a guide for those facing setbacks. "I want to commit to guiding young athletes... showing them that results are built day by day... and telling them that even though things don't always turn out as we hope, we have to get back up and not let a bad day get us down."

Finally, the program emphasizes that OCEANMAN is a global family. Harith Muses, a 14-year-old from Kenya, reminds us that the experience is often a family affair. "Competing at Oceanman with my family last year was not just about swimming and winning, it was an incredible experience that enriched our lives," he reflects. His vision for the future? "To build more international relationships where we can strengthen the friendships globally across the Oceanman Kids Community."

When you see Silvana, Neel, Abril, or any of our ambassadors at the start line in Malta, Maldives, or Lago d'Orta, know that you are looking at the future of the sport.



MALDIVES, THE CRYSTAL FRONTIER



If you close your eyes and imagine the "perfect" swim, you're likely picturing the Maldives. For years, this archipelago has been the crown jewel of luxury travel, but in April 2026, OCEANMAN is turning the dream into a competitive reality. We aren't just taking you to a resort; we are taking you to Maafushi, the beating heart of local Maldivian culture, for the largest open-water event in the country's history.

The Swim: 50 Shades of Blue

Forget the black line at the bottom of the pool. In Maafushi, your "lane lines" are coral reefs and your "pace clock" is the rhythmic pulse of the Indian Ocean.

- **Visibility:** We call it "unrivalled" for a reason. With the water as clear as gin, you'll be able to see the sandy bottom and tropical fish 20 meters below you. It's almost distracting—don't forget to keep your head down and focus on your stroke!
- **The Conditions:** Expect a bath-like 29°C to 30°C water temperature. Wetsuits? Leave them at home. This is pure, skin-to-salt swimming.
- **The Challenge:** While the water looks like a postcard, don't let the beauty fool you. The 10km and 5km courses will test your navigation skills against subtle tropical currents.

Maafushi is unique. Unlike the secluded, private island resorts the Maldives is famous for, Maafushi is a local island. This aligns perfectly with our "Sense of Place" philosophy.



MALDIVES, THE CRYSTAL FRONTIER

- **Explore:** Between races, hop on a traditional dhoni boat. Maafushi is a hub for sandbank trips and manta ray snorkeling. You're not just a tourist; you're an explorer in the "Ocean Nation."
- **Taste:** You haven't lived until you've tried Mas Huni, a traditional breakfast of tuna, coconut, and chili served with roshi flatbread. It's the ultimate pre-race fuel.
- **Belong:** Stay in local guesthouses, walk the sandy streets in your flip-flops, and experience the legendary Maldivian hospitality. The locals are as excited about the race as we are.

Why Maafushi in 2026?

The Maldives government has designated 2026 as the year of the "Ocean Nation." By joining us, you are becoming part of a national celebration of the sea. You arrive as a participant, but after 10 kilometers of Maldivian blue and a sunset dinner on the beach with 500 other "Oceanmen," you leave as family.

The Final Stroke

Maafushi in 2026 is where technical strategy meets absolute serenity. It is the place where our 21.45% of returning "Loyalty Swimmers" will find their new favorite challenge, and where thousands of newcomers will finally understand why we say OCEANMAN is a way of life.

The crystal frontier is waiting for you. Are you ready to leave your mark on the blue?



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Florian Wellbrock

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THE ESSENTIAL TRAINING BLUEPRINT FOR THE 2026 SEASON

by Michal Tomaszowski

OCEANMAN COACH



Transitioning from the controlled environment of a 25-meter pool to the unpredictable majesty of the open sea is more than just a physical change; it is a psychological and technical evolution. As we embark on the 2026 World Tour, our data shows that nearly 80% of our swimmers are entering the OCEANMAN ecosystem for the first time. Whether you are aiming for the podium in the 10KM OCEANMAN or tackling your first 2KM Sprint, the "Technical Corner" is designed to bridge the gap between "swimming" and "conquering."

In this edition, we dive deep into the specific strategies required to excel in our most popular distances, drawing from the pedagogical pillars of the OCEANMAN Academy.

The Strategy of "Double Trouble": The Sprint as a Warm-Up

One of the most significant trends we identified in 2025 was the rise of the "Double Registration." Swimmers are increasingly using the Saturday Sprint (2KM) as a tactical warm-up for the Sunday Half OCEANMAN (5KM) or the full 10KM.

If you are following this path, your training must reflect this "back-to-back" demand.

- **The Drill:** Implement "Recovery Intervals" in your long sets. Instead of a 2,000-meter straight swim, try 4 x 500 meters with only 30 seconds of rest, maintaining a "Race Pace" that feels like 80% effort. This teaches your body to flush lactic acid while staying in a horizontal, hydrodynamic position—essential for that second day of racing.

THE ESSENTIAL TRAINING BLUEPRINT FOR THE 2026 SEASON

Tactical Tip: During the Sprint, focus on your navigation. Treat it as a reconnaissance mission. Note the current's direction at the second buoy and the sun's position. This intelligence will be your greatest asset when you dive in for the longer distance the following morning.

Sighting: The "Alligator Eyes" Technique

The greatest drain on an open-water swimmer's energy isn't the distance; it's the extra meters covered due to poor navigation. In a pool, the black line is your guide. In the ocean, you are the navigator.

To master sighting without breaking your rhythm, we teach the "Alligator Eyes" method:

1. **The Lift:** Just before your hand entry, lift your eyes, and only your eyes, above the water line. Your nose and mouth should remain submerged to maintain a high hip position.
2. **The Snapshot:** Do not look for the buoy; look for a larger landmark behind it (a mountain, a building, or a specific tree). Landmarks are easier to spot when you are bobbing in a swell.
3. **The Integration:** Breathe to the side after you have sighted. Sighting and breathing in the same forward movement drops your hips, creating massive drag. Think: Sight forward, breathe side, stroke through.

The "Washing Machine": Surviving the Mass Start

With our 2026 races seeing record-breaking participation, the mass start can be intimidating. This is what we call the "Washing Machine", a chaotic mix of arms, legs, and bubbles.

- **Positioning:** If you are not a sub-1:30/100m swimmer, do not line up in the front row. Position yourself to the side of the main pack. You may swim an extra 10 meters, but you will have "clean water," which allows for a more consistent stroke and lower heart rate in the critical first 400 meters.
- **The High-Elbow Recovery:** In a crowded start, keep your elbow recovery high and "compact." This prevents your arms from getting tangled with other swimmers and protects your personal space.

Drafting: The Art of "Free Speed"

Drafting is legal and highly encouraged in OCEANMAN races. A well-executed draft can save you up to 20-30% of your energy expenditure.

- **The Lead-Follow:** Position yourself directly behind the feet of a swimmer slightly faster than you. Look for the "V-wake" created by their shoulders. Stay close enough to see their bubbles, but avoid touching their feet.



THE ESSENTIAL TRAINING BLUEPRINT FOR THE 2026 SEASON

- **The Diamond Draft:** If the rear draft is crowded, move to the side. Position your head level with the lead swimmer's hip. This is often more stable in choppy water, as you aren't fighting the direct bubbles of the kick.

Managing the Tropical Element: Heat and Salt

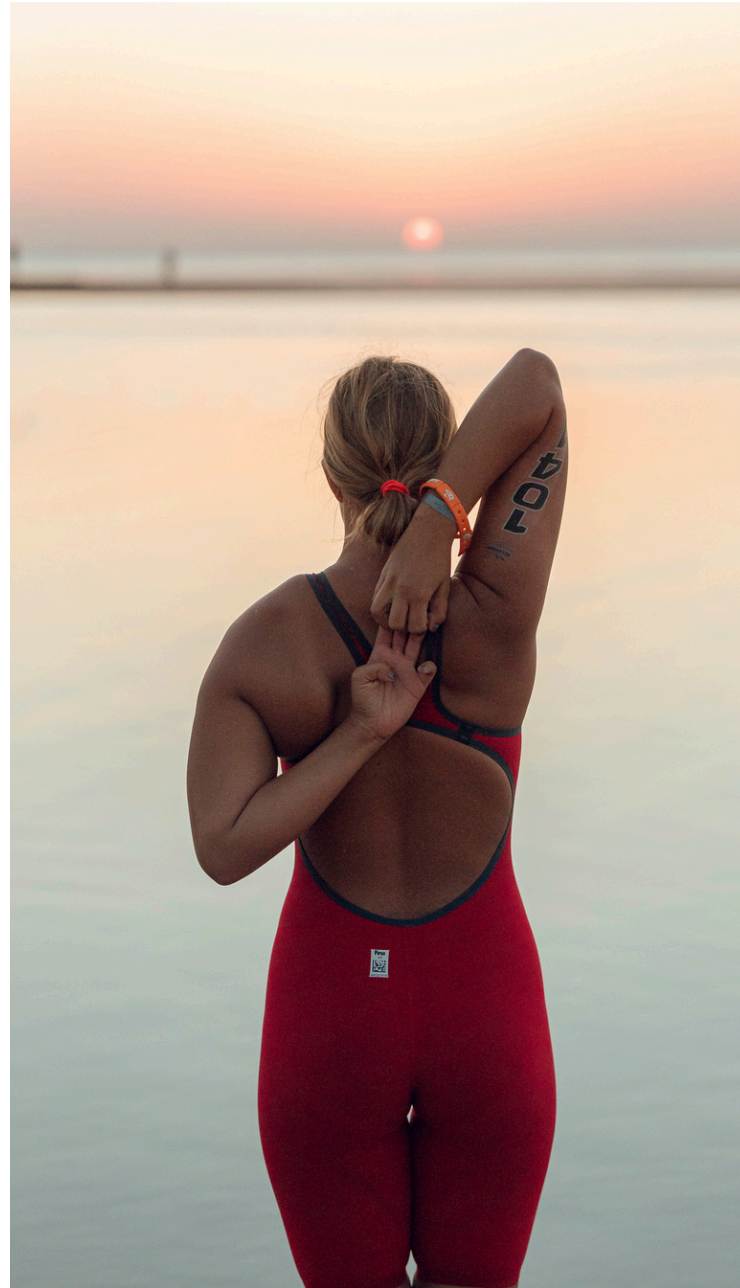
As we head to destinations like Maafushi or Krabi, the technical challenge shifts to physiology. In 30°C water, your body cannot dissipate heat as efficiently as it does in a pool.

- **The Salt Factor:** Saltwater is more buoyant, which is great for your body position, but it is brutal on your skin. Use a high-quality, eco-friendly anti-chafing balm on your neck, armpits, and the edges of your swimsuit.
- **Internal Hydration:** Saltwater dehydration is real. In a 10KM race, you must practice your "feeding" during training. Practice treading water while opening a gel and drinking from a collapsible cup. If you wait until you are thirsty in tropical waters, you are already dehydrated.

Final Thought: The 365-Day Athlete

As part of our 360-degree ecosystem, remember that training doesn't end when you leave the water. Proper "dry-land" mobility, specifically in the shoulders and ankles, is what allows for the high-volume training required for our 2026 World Tour.

The ocean is a grand arena, but it is also a fair one. It rewards the prepared, the patient, and the technically sound. Use these tips, join an Academy session if you can, and we will see you at the start line.





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HUMAN STORIES

HOW LAGO D'ORTA TAUGHT ME TO BREATHE AGAIN

BY JULIA THORNE

Three years ago, if you had told me I would be standing on the shores of a misty Italian lake, adjusted into a tight neoprene suit and staring at a 4.5-kilometer stretch of open water, I would have laughed. At that time, my only relationship with water was the ice cubes in my third glass of scotch at 11:00 PM.

My life was a series of closed rooms. High-pressure boardrooms, air-conditioned cars, and a house that felt more like a museum of things I didn't have time to enjoy. I was 39 years old, fifty pounds overweight, and my doctor had just used words like "chronic," "hypertension," and "danger zone." But the physical weight wasn't the problem; it was the spiritual heaviness. I had forgotten what it felt like to be challenged by anything other than a spreadsheet.

I found OCEANMAN by accident on a sleepless night. I saw a video of a "sea of caps" at the start of a race. There was a look in the

swimmers' eyes, a mixture of terror and absolute clarity. I wanted that clarity. I registered for OCEANMAN Lago d'Orta that night.

"I didn't start swimming to win a race; I started swimming so I wouldn't lose my life."

The training was a slow, painful awakening. In the pool, I was a "sinker." I struggled to finish 100 meters without gasping. But every time I submerged my head, the world went quiet. No notifications, no demands. Just the rhythm of the stroke.

As I grew stronger, I realized I wasn't just losing weight; I was shedding layers of the person I had become to please the world. By the time June rolled around, and I arrived in Omegna for the Lago d'Orta event, I was 20 kilograms lighter, but infinitely more grounded.

HUMAN STORIES

Lago d'Orta is known as the "Cinderella of Italian Lakes." It is smaller, quieter, and more secretive than Como or Garda. When I stood on the shore on race morning, the fog was clinging to the surface of the water like a soft blanket. The Island of San Giulio sat in the distance, a stone jewel in the middle of a mirror.

This is where the "OCEANMAN effect" hit me. I was one of the new swimmers that year. I felt like a fraud. I felt like I didn't belong. But then, a man from Belgium and a woman from Brazil, both wearing the same green cap as me, struck up a conversation. We didn't talk about our jobs or our bank accounts. We talked about the water.

In that moment, I understood the slogan: Connected by Water. We weren't strangers; we were a family preparing for a journey.

"Under the surface, the world doesn't care about your resume. The water only cares about your resolve."

When the horn sounded, the "Washing Machine" began. For the first 500 meters, it was chaos. Hands, feet, bubbles. My heart rate skyrocketed. I almost stopped. I almost turned back to the shore. But then, I remembered the "Chunking" technique from one of my coaches. Don't look at the island. Look at the next buoy.

I settled into a rhythm. The water of Lago d'Orta is remarkably clear and strangely sweet. As I neared the Island of San Giulio, the silence of the "Lake of Silence" took over. I could see the ancient monastery walls rising from the depths. I felt a profound sense of insignificance, but for the first time in my life, that insignificance felt like freedom. I wasn't a CEO. I wasn't a patient. I was just a human being, moving through the element that sustains all life.



HUMAN STORIES

The last kilometer was the hardest thing I've ever done. My shoulders were screaming, and the salt, even in a freshwater lake, the sweat and the effort feel like salt, was stinging my eyes. But then I saw the finish arch. The bright colors of the OCEANMAN village.

The Transformation

Crossing that finish line wasn't a "movie moment." I didn't collapse in tears; I simply walked out of the water and stood still. A volunteer draped a medal around my neck and said, "Congratulations, Oceanman."

Since that day in Italy, my life has changed irrevocably. I still have the high-pressure job, but the pressure doesn't have me. I wake up at 5:30 AM to find the nearest lake or pool, not because I have to, but because I need that connection to the blue.

I've become part of that loyalty swimmers who keep coming back. I've already booked my slot for Maafushi in 2026. I'm no longer chasing a promotion; I'm chasing the horizon.

"You arrive as a participant, but you leave as family. I arrived as a broken man, and I left as a swimmer."

If you are reading this and you are sitting in a closed room, feeling the weight of the world on your shoulders, I have one piece of advice: Get in the water. The sea, or the lake, doesn't have any answers, but it has a wonderful way of helping you forget the wrong questions.

See you at the start line in 2026. The water is waiting.

Julia Thorne



OCEANMAN LAGO D'ORTA



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2 0 2 5 I N R E T R O S P E C T

THE YEAR OF THE GLOBAL LEAP



If 2024 was about recovery and stabilization, 2025 was the year OCEANMAN truly took flight. As we look back at the trail of salt and triumph left behind by our athletes across five continents, one thing is abundantly clear: the "Ocean Nation" is no longer just a community, it is a global phenomenon.

In 2025, we didn't just organize races; we curated a movement that bridged the gap between competitive excellence and the soul of world travel. From the icy, pristine waters of the European lakes to the humid, vibrant coasts of Southeast Asia, the OCEANMAN cap became a universal symbol of belonging. Let's dive into the data, the milestones, and the moments that defined our most successful year to date.

The Numbers: A Surge in Global Participation

When we look at the raw data from the 2025 season, the word "explosive" is the only one that fits. We witnessed an unprecedented 48.52% increase in total registrations compared to the previous year.

This growth wasn't just a matter of luck; it was the result of a calendar expansion. We successfully executed 32 international races, a 28% increase in our global footprint. Our average participation per race also climbed to 707 swimmers, proving that our brand's density is growing just as fast as our geography.



CONQUERING THE NEW WORLD

While Europe has traditionally been our stronghold, 2025 saw a seismic shift in our demographic reach. North America emerged as the runaway leader in regional growth, boasting a staggering 376% increase in participation. By adding 9 new races to the circuit in this region, we tapped into a hunger for organized open-water swimming that had previously been underserved.

Asia followed suit with a robust 53% growth, confirming that our strategic focus on emerging markets is paying off. These aren't just numbers on a balance sheet; they represent thousands of new people discovering the joy of the open sea.

The "Newcomer" Phenomenon: 78% First-Timers

Perhaps the most surprising (and rewarding) statistic of 2025 is that 78.55% of our participants were new to the OCEANMAN ecosystem. This means that for nearly 8 out of every 10 people at the start line, OCEANMAN was their introduction to the world of competitive open-water swimming.

We have become the world's greatest "acquisition engine" for the sport. At the same time, we have nurtured a loyal core of 21.45% "Repeaters"—the veterans who provide the backbone of our community and the living proof that once you start this journey, it's hard to stop.

Sports Tourism

In 2025, we validated our role as a major player in the global tourism economy. Our data shows that 36% of our swimmers traveled internationally or across continents to reach a race. These athletes aren't just visiting; they are immersing themselves in local cultures.



With an economic impact exceeding €1.5 million in our top-tier venues, OCEANMAN has proven that a well-organized swimming event is a powerful engine for local development. We didn't just bring swimmers; we brought families who stayed in local hotels, ate in local restaurants, and left with a piece of that destination's soul in their hearts.

The Dubai Miracle: A World Final for the History Books

While the entire season was a series of peaks, the OCEANMAN World Final Championship in Dubai was the summit. It wasn't just a race; it was a statement to the world.

For the first time in the history of open-water swimming franchises, we shattered the glass ceiling of participation. Dubai saw a record-breaking 2,503 registered swimmers for a single event weekend.

A Global Melting Pot

Dubai was the ultimate realization of our "Home Without Borders" philosophy. An incredible 76.08% of participants were international travelers, flying in from over 90 different nations. The race village felt like a mini-United Nations, but with more goggles and less suits.

Prestige and Performance

Dubai stood out not only for its volume but for its prestige. It commanded the highest entry price in our Asian circuit and the third highest globally, reflecting the high value our community places on this "Bucket List" experience.

The atmosphere was electric, blending the high-tech, futuristic backdrop of Dubai's skyline with the timeless challenge of the Persian Gulf.

The "Late Surge" Trend

Interestingly, Dubai taught us a lot about our athletes' psychology. We observed that 69.16% of swimmers waited until the "Final Call" registration period to sign up. This created a massive surge of energy leading up to the event, a trend we are now using to refine our communication strategies for the 2026 season.

When those 2,500+ swimmers entered the water, it wasn't just about the World Championship title. It was a celebration of a year where we proved that no matter how big we get, we remain a family. The sight of 2,500 orange and yellow caps stretching across the horizon in Dubai is an image that will define this organization for decades to reflect.



2025 IN RETROSPECT

Quality and Satisfaction: The Heart of the Brand

Beyond the growth, we are most proud of the quality of the experience we provided. In our 2025 post-race surveys, we maintained a Global Satisfaction Score of 4.13 out of 5.

We didn't just grow; we grew well. We maintained our safety standards, our technical excellence through the OCEANMAN Academy, and our commitment to local hospitality.

Closing the Books on 2025

As we close the editorial ledger on 2025, we do so with a sense of profound gratitude. To the 22,611 of you who dove into the waves: thank you. You are the reason we do this. You are the ones who turn a buoy into a milestone and a finish line into a lifelong memory.

The 2025 season proved that the horizon is not a limit, it's an invitation. Now, with the momentum of Dubai and the growth of North America at our backs, we look toward 2026.

The water is calling. Are you ready for the next chapter?

Join our family. Swim the world with us.





THE ELITE REVOLUTION

REDEFINING THE SPEED OF WATER

In 2025, the open water landscape shifted. While OCEANMAN has always been the home for the "everyday hero", the thousands of swimmers who challenge themselves to finish their first 2km or 5km, we realized there was a hunger for something more intense, more spectacular, and more demanding: OCEANMAN ELITE.

Launched as a premier project to bring the world's fastest swimmers together, OCEANMAN ELITE isn't just a race; it's a high-stakes tactical battle fought in a revolutionary new format. It was designed to bring the drama of the sport closer to the fans and push the world's best to their absolute breaking points.

The Format: The "Beach Loop" Innovation

Traditional open water races often happen far out at sea, away from the eyes of the spectators. OCEANMAN ELITE changed the game with the "Beach Loop" circuit.

Instead of one long distance, athletes tackle a grueling 7.5 km course divided into six laps of 1.25 km. But there's a twist that changes everything: at the end of every single lap, swimmers must exit the water, sprint across the sand, and dive back in.

"The transition from horizontal to vertical, from swimming to sprinting on sand, is where the heart rate hits the red zone. It's not just about who is the fastest swimmer; it's about who can recover the quickest." — Mykhailo Romanchuk, Olympic medalist.

This format requires more than just endurance; it requires versatility.

The constant change in heart rate, the struggle for position at the water's edge, and the tactical "drafting" opportunities created by the laps make this the most spectator-friendly format in the history of the sport.

THE ELITE REVOLUTION

Cayo Santa Maria: A Historic Debut in Cuba

The inaugural OCEANMAN ELITE event took place in the turquoise paradise of Cayo Santa Maria, Cuba. On September 6th, 2025, over 25 of the world's top elite athletes converged to test this new "Beach Loop" circuit.

The energy was electric. The race was narrated by Olympic stars Misha Romanchuk and Leonie Beck, who provided fans with professional insights into the pain and strategy unfolding on the sand and in the surf.

French Olympic medalist Marc-Antoine Olivier proved why he is a legend of the sport, seizing victory in a performance that combined raw power with tactical brilliance. Meanwhile, the USA's Brooke Travis dominated the women's field, showcasing unmatched strength during the difficult sand-sprint transitions.

The Grand Finale: Dubai Elite

If Cuba was the debut, Dubai was the coronation. Held during our record-breaking World Final weekend—which saw over 2,500 total participants, the Elite race in Dubai took the intensity to another level.

The Dubai Elite race benefited from the "Late Surge" of energy we saw in the 2025 season. Against the backdrop of the most modern skyline on Earth, the world's best once again faced the laps, the sand, and the heat.

The Dubai event solidified the ELITE project not just as an experiment, but as the pinnacle of the OCEANMAN calendar. It proved that there is a massive global audience eager to watch the world's best athletes fight for every meter in a format that is as unpredictable as the ocean itself.



THE ELITE REVOLUTION

The launch of the Elite circuit serves three vital purposes for our global family:

1. **Aspiration:** It gives our 22,000+ age-group swimmers a "Front Row Seat" to greatness, inspiring the next generation of kids in the OCEANKIDS program.
2. **Innovation:** The "Beach Loop" format is designed for the modern era. It's fast, it's visual, and it's perfectly suited for digital broadcasting.
3. **Professionalism:** By bringing in Olympic-level talent like Olivier, Filadelli, and Pozzobon, we are elevating the professional standards of open water swimming worldwide.

Looking Toward 2026

As we move into the 2026 season, the ELITE project will expand to more iconic locations. We are taking the lessons learned from the sands of Cuba and the heat of Dubai to create an even more immersive experience for fans and athletes alike.

The world's best have found their new arena. The question is: who will have the strength to master the sand and the sea in 2026?



2026 SEASON

NEXT EVENTS

07/03-08/03
CÓRDOBA
ARGENTINA

20/03-22/03
L I M A
P E R U

28/03-29/03
K R A B I
THAILAND

04/04-05/04
SALVADOR
B A H I A
BRAZIL

10/04-11/04
MAAFUSHI
MALDIVES

09/05-10/05
C O S T A
A Z A H A R
S P A I N

16/05-17/05
CARACAS BAY
CURAÇAO

23/05-24/05
CATTOLICA
EMILIA ROMAGNA
I T A L Y

30/05
TABARCA
S P A I N

12/06-14/06
PENGHU
TAIWAN

12/06-14/06
LAGO D'ORTA
I T A L Y

19/06-21/06
VOUGLIAMENI
GREECE

19/06-21/06
B A L I
INDONESIA

26/06-28/06
K Y I V
UKRAINE

03/07-05/07
ALMATY
QAZAQSTAN

04/07-05/07
KOTA KINABALU
MALAYSIA

01/08-02/08
COZUMEL
MEXICO

14/08-16/08
A K T A U
QAZAQSTAN

22/08-23/08
SAN ANDRÉS
COLOMBIA

28/08-30/08
SALINAS
ECUADOR

28/08-29/08
BALKHASH
QAZAQSTAN

05/09-06/09
G I J Ó N
S P A I N

12/09-13/09
BANYULS
FRANCE

02/10-03/10
MELLIEHA
M A L T A

06/10-08/10
AYIA NAPA
CYPRUS

16/10-18/10
I B I Z A
S P A I N

09/11-15/11
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

A N D M O R E . . .





THE GOLDEN CURVE OF THE NORTH AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MELLIEHA

While the honey-hued limestone of Valletta and the yacht-lined marinas of St. Julian's often capture the spotlight, those in search of Malta's more expansive, elemental beauty head north. Here, perched atop a ridge overlooking the Mediterranean, lies Mellieha, a village that balances hilltop tradition with the island's most celebrated shoreline: Ghadira Bay.

This is not just a destination for a day trip; it is a place to linger. From the baroque silence of its sanctuary to the crystal-clear shallow waters of the bay, Ghadira is where the Maltese archipelago reveals its softer, more luminous side.

Boutique Sophistication

In recent years, the northern coast has moved away from mass-market resorts toward refined, intimate stays. For a truly elevated experience, look beyond the beach.

- Lure Hotel & Spa: An adults-only sanctuary in the heart of Mellieha village. Its Art Deco-inspired design and rooftop infinity pool offer a stark, sophisticated contrast to the rugged cliffs outside.
- DOMS Boutique Living: Located in the village square, this property focuses on "slow luxury." Each room is a curated blend of Maltese heritage and contemporary minimalism.
- Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Golden Sands: If you prefer the drama of the cliffs, this resort sits just minutes away on a private stretch of sand, offering one of the most spectacular sunset views in the Mediterranean.

DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

Maltese cuisine is a sun-drenched fusion of Italian technique and North African spice. In Ghadira, the dining scene has reached a new level of maturity.

- **one80 Kitchen & Lounge:** Perched on the steep road leading down to the bay, this is the place for long, indulgent lunches. The menu focuses on seasonal local catch and "small plates" designed for sharing as you watch the ferries glide toward Gozo.
- **Amami:** For those craving something different, Amami offers high-end Japanese-inspired cuisine right on the water's edge at Ghadira. Their tempura and signature rolls are best enjoyed with a chilled glass of local Gellewza rosé.
- **Commando:** Situated in a 300-year-old stone building in the village, this Michelin-recognized spot is where traditional Maltese flavors, like rabbit (fenek) and local pork, are reinvented with modern precision.

Ghadira Bay is the longest sandy beach in Malta, a Blue Flag haven where the water remains knee-deep for meters, creating a mesmerizing palette of turquoise.

- **The Morning Glide:** Rent a paddleboard at 7:00 AM. Before the beach clubs wake up, the bay is a mirror. It is the only time to truly appreciate the silence of the Ghadira Nature Reserve, which sits just behind the sand and hosts rare migratory birds.
- **Private Charters to Comino:** While the Blue Lagoon is a must-see, the crowds can be daunting. Arrange a private boat from the Mellieha quay to explore the "Crystal Lagoon" and the hidden sea caves of L-Ahrax Point, where the limestone has been carved into gothic arches by the sea.
- **The Red Tower (St. Agatha's):** Standing guard over the bay since 1649, this vivid crimson fortress offers the best 360-degree view in Malta. From its roof, you can see clear across the channel to the islands of Comino and Gozo.



DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT

A Sense of Heritage

To walk through Mellieħa is to walk through layers of history. Visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Mellieħa, a site of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages. Its Byzantine-style fresco, painted directly onto the cave wall, is shrouded in myth and provides a cool, silent refuge from the Mediterranean sun.

As the sun sets, the village square transforms. The bells of the Parish Church chime, and locals gather for an aperitivo. It is in these moments, between the salt of the sea and the warmth of the stone, that you realize Ghadira isn't just a place to visit; it's a place where the soul finds its rhythm.





**POWERSKIN
STORM**

**THE WETSUIT
OF CHAMPIONS.**



50 years of scientific research in the field of hydrodynamics has cumulated into one ultimate wetsuit: the new POWERSKIN STORM. Designed in collaboration with elite athletes, its groundbreaking technology provides unparalleled buoyancy without the need to compromise on flexibility, comfort, or insulation.

*No blocks, no lanes.
Just the open water.*
Florian Wellbrock



GEAR GUIDE

THE "SURVIVAL KIT" FOR THE MODERN OPEN WATER ATHLETE

BY DANIEL ORTEGA

While the silicone cap is undoubtedly the badge of honor that unites our global family, it is only one piece of the puzzle. To face the unpredictable moods of the ocean, from the choppy Atlantic off the coast of Gijón to the tropical salt of the Maldives, you need equipment that acts as an extension of your body.

In this edition of the Gear Guide, we're looking at the essential "machinery" that will help you navigate the 2026 World Tour with efficiency, comfort, and a touch of professional flair. Forget the black lines of the pool; it's time to gear up for the blue.

The Eyes: Photochromic and Wide-Angle

In a pool, you have a fixed roof and consistent lighting. In the ocean, you have the rising sun, the glare of the water, and varying depths. The most common mistake? Wearing dark lenses for a 7:00 AM start when the sky is still grey.

- **The Tech:** Look for Photochromic lenses. These are the "transition lenses" of the swimming world. They darken automatically when the sun hits and clear up when the clouds roll in.
- **The Fit:** Unlike pool goggles, open water goggles should have a wider gasket. This provides two benefits: it increases your peripheral vision (essential for spotting competitors in the "Washing Machine") and reduces the pressure on your eye sockets during long-duration swims like the 10KM.

The Invisible Hero: Anti-Chafe Balm

If you've ever finished a 5KM swim only to feel like your neck was scrubbed with sandpaper, you know the importance of lubrication. Saltwater is an abrasive; combined with the repetitive motion of your stroke and the seal of a wetsuit or swimsuit, it creates the perfect storm for "salt-burn."

GEAR GUIDE

- **Pro Tip:** Don't just apply it to your neck. Apply it to your armpits, the backs of your knees, and the edges of your swimsuit.
- **Eco-Logic:** Since we are the "OCEANMAN Family" ensure your balm is reef-safe and petroleum-free. We protect the playground we play in.

The Buoyancy Battle: High-Performance Wetsuits

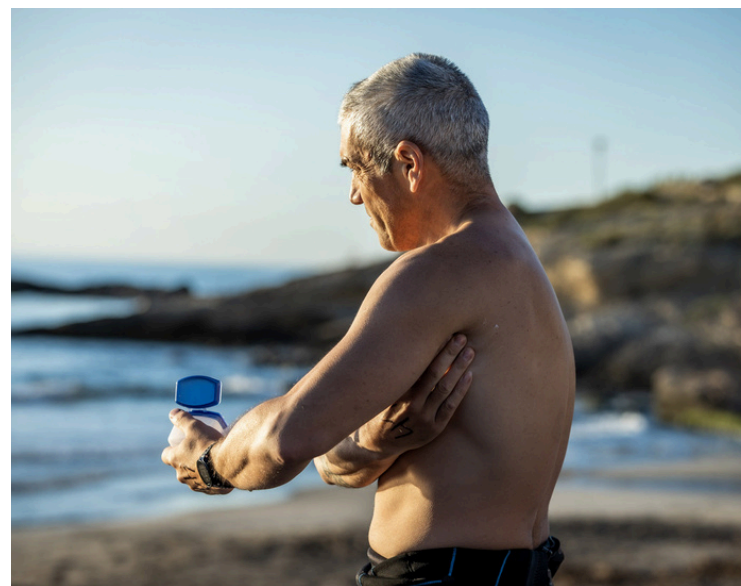
For our colder venues or for those looking for a speed advantage, the wetsuit is your best friend. However, not all neoprene is created equal.

- **Flexibility vs. Float:** The 2026 trend is moving toward graduated thickness. You want 4-5mm of neoprene on your hips and legs to keep your lower body high in the water (reducing drag), but you need 1.5-2mm on the shoulders. If your shoulders feel heavy or restricted, your technique will collapse by kilometer three.
- **The Quick-Release:** In the OCEANMAN ELITE or Sprint formats, every second counts. Look for suits with "break-away" zippers and silicone-coated wrist/ankle cuffs for a lightning-fast transition.

The Data: GPS on the Wrist

In 2025, we noticed a trend: swimmers who used GPS watches tended to have better navigation scores. Why? Because the watch doesn't just track your heart rate; it tracks your S-curves.

- **The Feedback Loop:** Modern watches now offer "Open Water Mode," which accounts for the loss of signal every time your arm enters the water. Reviewing your "GPS track" after a race is the best way to see if you actually swam 5KM or if your poor sighting turned it into a 5.5KM odyssey.



GEAR GUIDE

Training Wheels: The Role of Fins

Since OCEANMAN features the OCEANFINS category (which was a huge hit in 2025!), choosing the right fin is a science.

- **Training:** Use short, stiff fins for interval training. They force a higher kick frequency without allowing you to "cheat" with slow, lazy movements.
- **Competition:** If you are entering the Oceanfins category, long, flexible fins are the standard. However, remember that the longer the fin, the more stress on your ankles. Strength training for your Achilles and calves is a prerequisite for a 2KM fin-sprint.

The "Senses" Check

Before you dive into your next race, do a "Senses Check" on your gear:

1. **See:** Are my lenses clear and treated with anti-fog?
2. **Feel:** Is my suit or swimwear rubbing anywhere before I even start?
3. **Trust:** Do I know how to use my watch/safety buoy without looking at it?

Gear won't do the work for you, but the right gear will get out of your way so your talent can shine. Choose wisely, test everything in training, and never—ever—try something brand new on race day.



FUELING YOUR OPEN WATER ODYSSEY



Swimming in the open ocean is a magnificent dance with the elements, but it is also a relentless battle against currents, salt, and fluctuating temperatures. It is not merely a test of physical endurance; it is a sophisticated game of energy management. In this edition of the Technical Corner, we break down the nutritional strategy that will carry you from the starting arch to the finish line.

Pre-Race: Strategic Glycogen Loading

The preparation for an OCEANMAN event does not begin on race morning; it starts 48 hours before you even touch the water. Your primary objective is to maximize your muscle glycogen stores, the high-octane fuel your body needs for sustained efforts in the 5KM and 10KM distances. While pasta is the global gold standard for "carb-loading," at OCEANMAN, we encourage our athletes to explore the local fuel of each host city.

- **The "Slow-Carb" Foundation:** Focus on complex carbohydrates such as local sweet potatoes, grains, or basmati rice. These ensure a steady rise in blood sugar without the "crash" associated with refined sugars.
- **Hydration Loading:** Do not wait until you are thirsty. In tropical climates, where we have seen a 53% surge in participation, you must increase your electrolyte intake (sodium, potassium, and magnesium) days in advance. This offsets the significant salt loss caused by heavy sweating and the osmotic effect of prolonged immersion in saltwater.



NUTRITION & RECOVERY

During the Race

Swimming in salt water accelerates dehydration and can lead to significant gastric irritation if not managed correctly. Your strategy during the event must be precise, practiced, and portable.

- **The Sodium Factor:** Sodium is the most critical electrolyte lost in the ocean. It is the "glue" that keeps water in your cells. We recommend using gels or liquid nutrition with a higher-than-average sodium content to balance the inadvertent intake of seawater, which can otherwise cause stomach upset.
- **The "Feed" Technique:** emphasize practicing your feeding maneuvers during training. In the middle of the ocean, you don't have a wall to hold onto. You must master the "vertical tread" or "back-float" while opening a gel or sipping from a collapsible cup. Efficiency here saves vital seconds and, more importantly, prevents your heart rate from spiking due to the stress of the maneuver.
- **Consistency is Key:** For the 10KM distance, aim for 30–60 grams of carbohydrates per hour. Small, frequent "micro-feeds" are much easier on the stomach than one large intake halfway through.

Recovery: muscle repair

Crossing the finish line is a moment of triumph, but it is also the critical moment when your body is most vulnerable. The first 30 to 45 minutes after exiting the water are known as the "Golden Window" for recovery.

- **The 3:1 Ratio:** To halt muscle breakdown (catabolism) and kickstart glycogen resynthesis, aim for a snack or drink with a 3:1 ratio of carbohydrates to protein. This combination ensures that the protein is used for muscle repair rather than being burned as an emergency energy source.



NUTRITION & RECOVERY

- **Rehydration Ritual:** Immediately consume at least 500ml of an electrolyte-rich recovery drink. While the post-race celebrations are a hallmark of our community, alcohol should be avoided until you have re-established your baseline hydration levels.
- **The Salt Rinse:** Beyond internal nutrition, remember that your skin has been "feeding" on salt for hours. Rinsing off the salt and applying a high-quality moisturizer prevents skin dehydration, which can actually contribute to overall feelings of fatigue.

Final Thought: The 365-Day Approach

Nutrition is not a "race day only" concern. It is the foundation of the 360-degree ecosystem that follows the athlete all year round. By fueling your body with respect and curiosity, you ensure that you aren't just ready for the next race, but that you are vibrant, healthy, and ready to "Explore, Taste, and Belong" in every corner of the globe. The ocean is a grand arena that demands your best. Give it the fuel it deserves.

PHASE	GOAL	KEY NUTRIENTS
48H BEFORE	Glycogen Loading	Complex Carbs, MCT Fats
RACE MORNING	Topping up	Low-Fiber Carbs
DURING	Sustained Energy	Sodium, Glucose/Fructose
POST RACE	Repair & Rebuild	3:1 Carbs to Protein





2026 SEASON START

THE ARGENTINE RENAISSANCE

CÓRDOBA SETS A NEW GOLD STANDARD FOR 2026

The 2026 OCEANMAN World Series has officially left the shore, and it did so with a roar that echoed across the South American continent. On March 7th and 8th, the inland waters of Córdoba, Argentina, served as the stage for the season opener—and the results were nothing short of historic.

If there was ever any doubt that open water swimming is the fastest-growing endurance sport on the planet, Córdoba silenced it. This wasn't just a race; it was a manifestation of the "Global Leap" we've been predicting. As the sun rose over the Sierras, 1,517 athletes stood ready to dive, signaling a new era for OCEANMAN in Latin America.

The Numbers of a Revolution: +72% Growth

When we look back at the 2025 season, we were proud of the 879 participants who gathered in Córdoba. It was a solid event, a cornerstone of our regional strategy. But what happened in 2026 was a vertical take-off.

By welcoming 1,517 athletes, OCEANMAN Córdoba experienced a year-on-year growth of over 72%. In the world of sports events, these numbers are staggering. They tell us that the "Ocean Nation" isn't just expanding; it's intensifying. This surge isn't just about marketing; it's about a community that has found its home. People aren't just signing up for a swim; they are signing up for a transformation.

This 72% jump is a testament to the tireless work of our local organizing teams and the magnetic pull of the Argentine spirit. Córdoba has officially cemented its status as a "Powerhouse Venue" on the global circuit.

A Female-Led Future: 57.6%

Perhaps the most significant statistic to emerge from the waters of Córdoba isn't the total number of swimmers, but who those swimmers were. In a landscape where endurance sports have traditionally been

THE ARGENTINE REINASCENCE

male-dominated, Córdoba flipped the script. The participant structure was a revelation: 57.6% female participants vs. 42.4% male participants. This is more than just a "remarkable trend." It is a benchmark for the future of the sport. At OCEANMAN, we have always strived to be an inclusive ecosystem, but seeing the women of the water take the majority share in Córdoba is a proud moment for our organization.

It highlights the growing role of women in the most demanding distances, the 5KM and 10KM, and proves that the "Power of the Cap" transcends gender. These women didn't just participate; they led the charge, bringing a unique energy and resilience to the start line that has set the tone for the rest of the 2026 season.

A Crossroads of Nations: 24 Countries in the Heart of Argentina

True to our "Home Without Borders" philosophy, Córdoba became a global village for 48 hours. Despite being an inland destination, the event attracted athletes from 24 different countries.

Why does a swimmer from Europe or Asia fly to the center of Argentina? Because of the "Sense of Place." Córdoba offers a rugged, earthy beauty that contrasts perfectly with our tropical or Mediterranean stops. The race was a vibrant tapestry of accents and cultures, all unified by the same salt-less but challenging freshwater. This international draw reinforces the region's attractiveness as a premier sports destination. When you swim in Córdoba, you aren't just a tourist; you are part of a 24-nation brotherhood and sisterhood.

The Córdoba Experience

Following our editorial mission to "Swim the World," Córdoba delivered on every front of our lifestyle pillars:



THE ARGENTINE REINASCENCE

- **EXPLORE:** Between races, athletes and their families ventured into the Sierras Chicas, exploring the colonial architecture of the Jesuit Estancias and the hidden waterfalls of the valley. To swim OCEANMAN Córdoba is to discover the rustic heart of Argentina.
- **TASTE:** The post-race "Recovery" in Argentina is legendary. The smell of the asado (traditional barbecue) filled the air as swimmers traded stories over world-class Malbec and grass-fed beef. This is where the 3:1 carb-to-protein ratio gets a gourmet upgrade.
- **BELONG:** The local "Cordobés" hospitality is famously warm. Whether you were a first-time Sprinter or an Elite contender, the locals treated every athlete like a returning hero. This is the "Belonging" that defines us.

Setting the Bar for the World Series

As OCEANMAN, we look at the success of Córdoba as a "North Star" for the rest of 2026. It proved that our growth is sustainable, our community is diversifying, and our reach is truly global.

We want to extend a massive "Gracias" to the 1,517 athletes who made history, to our partners who shared the vision, and to the local organizing team who turned a lake in Argentina into the center of the swimming world for one weekend.

Córdoba has shown us that OCEANMAN is more than a race. It is a shared passion that knows no limits. If this is how we start the year, imagine where we will be by the time we reach the World Final.





THE CROWN JEWEL: 2026 WORLD FINAL MICHES: WHERE LEGENDS ARE BORN

The road will be long, salted by the waters of thirty-one destinations across five continents. From the freshwater lakes of Argentina to the limestone karsts of Thailand and the crystal frontier of the Maldives, every stroke of the 2026 World Tour will be leading to this.

As the sun begins to dip lower in the sky this November, the global OCEANMAN Family will converge on a single, breathtaking point on the map: Miches, Dominican Republic. From November 9th to 15th, Miches will not just be a town; it will be the center of the swimming universe. This is the OCEANMAN World Final Championship 2026, the pinnacle of our year and the ultimate celebration of the sport that has redefined our lives.

The Destination: Miches, The Unspoiled Eden

For years, the Dominican Republic was synonymous with Punta Cana, but for the 2026 Final, we wanted something deeper. We wanted a place that embodied our philosophy of "A Sense of Place." We found it in Miches.

Located on the northeastern coast, tucked between the emerald mountains of the Cordillera Oriental and the shimmering Samaná Bay, Miches is the Caribbean's best-kept secret. It is a land of "virgin" beaches, where giant coconut groves meet a sea so clear it feels like swimming through glass.

Why Miches for the Final? Because the World Final deserves a stage that matches its prestige. Miches offers a raw, elemental beauty that hums with energy. Here, the Atlantic is calmer than the rugged north but more spirited than the Caribbean south—providing the perfect "Championship conditions" for our athletes.



THE CROWN JEWEL

Miches is an explorer's playground. We encourage every athlete and family member to venture beyond the race village:

- **Montaña Redonda:** Just a short drive away, this iconic "rounded mountain" offers 360-degree views of the lagoons and the sea. Sweeping on the famous "swing at the edge of the world" is the perfect way to calm the pre-race nerves.
- **Los Haitises National Park:** A labyrinth of mangroves, keys, and caves. Take a boat tour through this prehistoric landscape to see ancient Taino petroglyphs, a reminder that we are swimming in waters steeped in history.
- **Playa Esmeralda:** True to its name, the water here is a stunning emerald green. It is the ideal spot for a light "taper" swim as you prepare your body for the main event.

Taste: Fueling with Dominican Soul

In the Dominican Republic, food is an act of love. Recovery here is a gourmet experience:

- **La Bandera Dominicana:** The "National Flag" meal, rice, beans, and stewed meat, provides the perfect carbohydrate-to-protein ratio for muscle repair.
- **Fresh off the Boat:** In Miches, the seafood is caught hours before it hits your plate. Grilled lobster or Pescado con Coco (fish in coconut sauce) is the ultimate reward for a 10KM finisher.

The World Final Championship is unlike any other stop on the tour. While every OCEANMAN event is special, the Final is where the OCEANMAN community reaches its maximum intensity.



THE CROWN JEWEL

Imagine the scene: Thousands of swimmers representing over 95 nationalities, all standing on the same stretch of white sand. You aren't just standing next to a competitor; you are standing next to someone who, like you, braved the cold of the European lakes or the humidity of the Asian tropics to earn their spot here.

This is where our motto "Connected by Water" becomes a tangible reality. In Miches, the language barrier disappears. Whether you speak Spanish, English, Thai, or Italian, the shared exhaustion and the salt on your skin are all the communication you need.

As we prepare for Miches 2026, we are reminded of the 78.55% of new swimmers who joined our family last year. To those of you who started this journey just months ago: the World Final is for you, too. It is the proof that with discipline and passion, any horizon can be reached.

The 2026 World Final in the Dominican Republic will be **the largest gathering of open water enthusiasts in our history**. It is an economic engine for the region, a cultural bridge for our athletes, and a safe space for every person who finds clarity and confidence in the sea.

In Miches, we don't just crown champions; we celebrate survivors, dreamers, and families. We celebrate the fact that, no matter where we come from, we all return to the water.

The water of Miches is waiting. The "OCEANMAN Family" is calling.

Join our family. Swim the world. See you at the Final.

