

MARATHON SWIMMER CARINA BRUWER TO TACKLE 16 KM OCEAN CROSSING FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

> Record-holding open-water swimmer takes on a 16 km crossing along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline, between Umhlanga and Durban, on Monday, 26 October, to raise funds for SAAMBR. Logistics group GoReefers is underwriting the entire swim, ensuring that every rand donated goes directly to the cause.

DURBAN, 23 OCTOBER 2026 – Marathon swimmer, keynote speaker and entrepreneur Carina Bruwer will swim more than 16 kilometres along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline on Monday, 26 October, raising funds for the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) – the Durban-based organisation behind uShaka Sea World, the Oceanographic Research Institute and 75 years of marine research, conservation and education.

The crossing between Umhlanga and Durban has been completed by a handful of open-water swimmers over the years, but no formally ratified crossing of the route has been documented. Bruwer's swim will take place under official observation, in accordance with recognised marathon-swimming standards, with the aim of establishing the route as a recognised challenge and encouraging more swimmers to take it on in future.

> "This isn't about being the first to swim the route. A handful of remarkable swimmers have done so before me. There's something incredibly compelling about swimming from one coastal town to another, embracing the unpredictability of the ocean along the way. Beyond raising funds for an important cause, I hope this attempt will help establish the route as a recognised marathon swim and inspire more swimmers to take it on in future."
>
> CARINA BRUWER

The swim is expected to take between four and six hours depending on conditions, and will be livestreamed from the escort vessel, allowing supporters to follow Bruwer's progress and contribute to the fundraising campaign in real time.

CONDITIONS WILL DETERMINE THE DIRECTION

Bruwer had originally planned to swim south from Umhlanga lighthouse to Durban Undersea Club, but a forecast of strong southerly winds may force a change of direction.

The Agulhas Current flows southwards along this coastline, and strong southerly winds opposing the current can create particularly challenging sea conditions, with short, steep and unpredictable waves.

Reversing the route would introduce a different challenge: swimming north against the prevailing current, potentially adding both distance and time to the crossing. In that scenario, Bruwer would finish at Granny's Pool in Umhlanga, approximately 450 m north of the iconic lighthouse.

The final decision on the direction of the swim will be made on Sunday, based on the latest weather and sea forecasts.

SWIMMING FOR MARINE CONSERVATION

Every rand raised through the campaign will support SAAMBR, which has spent 75 years advancing marine research, conservation and education.

Alongside its work rescuing and rehabilitating marine animals, including endangered sea turtles, SAAMBR runs education programmes that have reached more than two million children. These include Catchment to Coast, which takes Grade 6 learners beyond the aquarium to explore rocky shores, mangrove forests and the interconnected ecosystems that sustain marine life.

One of the organisation's recent success stories is Finley, an adult female loggerhead turtle who arrived critically ill and severely anaemic. Following seven months of specialised care, including a blood transfusion, she was successfully released back into the ocean in July. Her movements continue to be monitored through satellite tracking.

> "I've spent twenty years swimming in oceans that are increasingly under threat. Supporting an organisation that works every day to protect marine life, right here on the coastline I'll be swimming, feels like a natural way to turn my passion into something meaningful."
>
> CARINA BRUWER

ONE SWIM, ONE CAUSE, ONE INDUSTRY

The swim is presented by logistics group GoReefers as part of its "See It All" campaign.

GoReefers is covering the full operational cost of the crossing, including support vessels, crew, official observation and livestream production. In addition, the company has pledged **R1,000 for every kilometre** Bruwer completes.

With all operational expenses covered, **100% of public donations will go to SAAMBR**. GoReefers has also challenged its clients, partners and the wider logistics industry to match or exceed its contribution, while members of the public are encouraged to donate whatever they can.

The crossing coincides with the GoReefers conference, where Bruwer will deliver her keynote, *The Art of Turning the Tide*, just hours after completing the swim.

ABOUT CARINA BRUWER

Carina Bruwer is one of South Africa's most accomplished open-water marathon swimmers, having completed iconic crossings including the English Channel, Strait of Gibraltar and False Bay. Her pioneering achievements include becoming the first person to swim across Walker Bay, being the only swimmer to have rounded both the northernmost and southernmost points of Africa, and becoming the only person to complete the 21 km Triple Country Swim from France through Monaco to Italy.

Earlier this year, she completed another crossing of False Bay, swimming approximately 34 kilometres in 9 hours and 48 minutes, twenty years after her first successful crossing in 2006.

Beyond swimming, Bruwer is an internationally recognised keynote speaker, professional musician and technology entrepreneur. She is the founder of Gigster, an AI-powered platform for the events and entertainment industry, which won the technology category at the 2026 Womandla Women in STEAM Awards.

SWIM DETAILS

DATE	Monday, 26 October 2026 · weather contingency: Tuesday, 27 October
ROUTE	Umhlanga to Durban, or the reverse, depending on conditions
DISTANCE	Approximately 16 km
DURATION	Expected 4 – 6 hours, depending on conditions
LIVESTREAM	youtube.com/live/FWJrVxWjsuE
DONATIONS	backabuddy.co.za/campaign/swim-20-km-save-sea-turtles-inspire-kids
FULL INFORMATION	carinabruwer.com/durban-umhlanga-swim

The swim is subject to suitable weather and sea conditions. Formal ratification is subject to successful completion and verification of the crossing.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS

GOREEFERS

Anja Swart
+27 83 280 2478
anja.swart@goglobal.group

SAAMBR

Maryke Musson
+27 83 709 6736

CARINA BRUWER

carinabruwer.com
Instagram @carinabruwer
linkedin.com/in/carinabruwer

IMAGES

High-resolution images are available to download from the folder below, and may be used in connection with coverage of this swim.

DOWNLOAD THE IMAGE FOLDER

dropbox.com/scl/fo/377w4wsrktw6hpsssilkx/AM40bETtXznpprPY6w-MdHU?rlkey=tmglh6z31ozhl6ljhgev82jla&dl=0







ENDS