

# ROUND THE SOUND

Four accessible distances make the Bermuda Round the Sound swim a must-do international event.  
By Holly Apple



Keith Kelly, Liz Makman, Steve Lee, Denise Smart, Kathy Allaire, Holly Apple

**B**ucket list, destination swimming, warmer than Montana, ocean lover... those are all the reasons I gave my non-swimming friends as why I would travel all the way to Bermuda during hurricane season. The Bermuda Round the Sound swim was the first open water event I heard of 20 years ago as a novice open water swimmer. I thought the Bermuda swim seemed like an attainable goal for me. I am not interested in super long-distance swimming, preferring to be done and enjoying a drink and snack after a maximum of two hours in the water.

Keith Kelly, a friend of mine and my sister's teammate in Oklahoma, went to the Bermuda RTS swim in 2017 and after seeing his photos and hearing his glowing review I knew I wanted to go: "We had such a great experience last year at the Bermuda Round the Sound Swim that we decided to return this year. The Bermuda Round the Sound Swim should be on your bucket list of international open water swims."

It did not take long to convince my sister that we really needed to go. Finally we ended up with a group of

seven making the trip to Bermuda: three Oklahoma swimmers, one Oklahoma cheerleader, two Montana swimmers and one Georgia swimmer.

All of us had travelled to other open water events including Waikiki Rough Water swim, St. Croix Coral Reef swim, Big Shoulders swim and many regional events. We were thrilled to finally check off the Bermuda RTS swim.

## CAMARADERIE

The event from the beginning was very well organised. The registration process was easy and informative and when arriving at the host hotel, Grotto Bay Beach Resort, the list of events for the weekend was clearly posted. The event offered practice swims, yoga, local tours and social occasions – providing an atmosphere of camaraderie among the participants along with the competition. The organisers, Randy Nutt of Aqua Moon Adventures and local organisers Mike Cash and Nick Strong, were friendly, patient and had a great handle on all the many details required to

THE LOCALS LOVE TO WATCH AND CHEER ON THE SWIMMERS



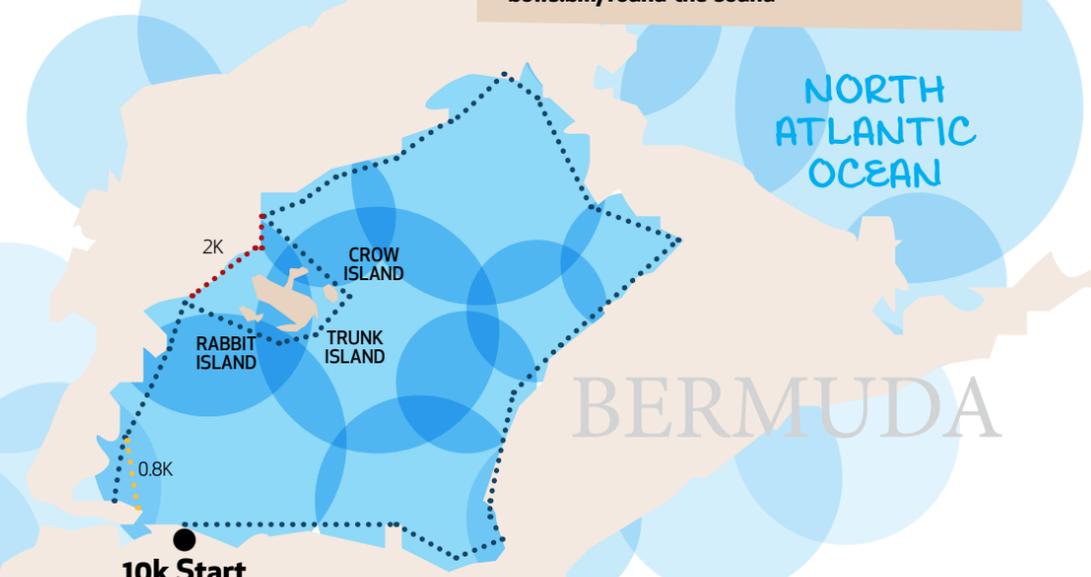
The start of the 10k

organise an event. The orientation was thorough and left time for questions, the transportation was timely, the instructions were clear at the start and the course was clearly laid out.

Four distances were offered: 800m, 2km, 4km and 10km with approximately 90 swimmers entered in each distance. Five of our group

participated in the 4km swim and one swam the 2km. The timing of the starts allowed everyone to finish around the same time so we all were able to gather at the finish area within a few minutes of each other. The water was about 80-82F with only a minimal amount of chop at certain areas. Wetsuits are not allowed or necessary. The swim is in a protected sound with beautiful and colourful houses on all shores. The locals love to watch and cheer on the swimmers. The finish line was very clearly marked and the exit out of the water was easy to manage. The event raises money (about \$12,500-15,000 per year) for the Bermuda Zoological Society which includes Bermuda Aquarium and Zoo where the race finished. After the swim we enjoyed beer, food and music

Credit: Garland illustration created by Freepik.



and a free entry in to the aquarium, museum and zoo where we learned more about the political and natural history of Bermuda. To cap off the race, all participants convened one last time at The Swizzle Inn for their dangerous, but delicious, name-sake drink, Rum Swizzle and delicious food.

## HIDDEN GEM

Bermuda is a gem that many people are unaware of. As an American, it was interesting to learn how the history of the two countries are so interconnected. We found the locals very friendly and welcoming to tourists. The US dollar is accepted equally with the Bermuda currency so there is no reason to exchange money. We felt safe and secure everywhere we went.

My sister, Denise Smart, summed it up for all of us: "I loved it and would love to go back!"

## SWIM DETAILS

**Name:** Bermuda Round the Sound

**Distances:** 10k, 4k, 2k, 800m

**Wetsuits:** not allowed

**Average water temp:** 25 degrees Celsius

**Next event:** Sunday 13 October 2019

**MORE INFO:** contact Mike Cash at [mike@bows.bm](mailto:mike@bows.bm).

If you are going to be in Bermuda at any other time of year feel free to contact him and he'll find a way to get you to one of many beautiful open water locations and take you for an open water dip!  
[bows.bm/round-the-sound](http://bows.bm/round-the-sound)