Man swims to work every day with his laptop, suit and phone

(part 1)

A man fed up with the commute has found a new way to get to work, carrying his computer and clothes in a waterproof bag. Benjamin David, 40, is a familiar sight swimming 2km down the river every morning, dragging his orange bag behind him. He is not stuck in traffic or cycling in lorry fumes anymore. Admit it – you’re a bit tempted?

David, from Munich in Germany, got the idea by watching the river Isar flow right past his apartment in Baldeplatz. He realised it would take him all the way to work and after trying it for the first time two years ago, he hasn’t looked back.
Each morning he hauls himself out of the river bank (no need to shower), dries off and waits for his colleagues to arrive. He zips up his computer, suit, shoes and mobile phone in the bag, which is called a ‘Wickelfisch’ and is designed to be a buoyancy aid and storage, so helps him just float downstream if he feels a bit tired.

It was designed in Switzerland, where enough people swim in rivers to make it a profitable invention. But so far there aren’t many people doing it in Munich – and you don’t see anyone in the Thames either. (By the way, if you want to copy it in London, swimming in the Thames is banned between Putney Bridge and Crossness.) River swimming can be dangerous, so Benjamin always checks the temperature and current strength before jumping in.

Speaking to CBC, Benjamin explained why he does it: ‘I’m not a monk. When I was on my bike, I would yell at cars. ‘When I was on foot, I would yell at cyclists, and so on and so forth. ‘And just a few metres to the side of that is the river, and if you just swim down that, it’s completely relaxed and refreshing.’ ‘I look a little bit like David Hasselhoff,’ he added. ‘Not that I look like David, but me with my – [bag] – I think you get me.’

Adapted from:
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