

Welcome to World ARC

Your Adventure Starts Here!





World ARC 2025-26

World ARC is a round-the-world adventure taking place over 15 months and covering 26,000 nautical miles.

Following the classic tradewinds, the rally avoids regions of political instability, piracy and the storm seasons in both hemispheres.

The 2025-26 edition of the rally will be the fifteenth time following this tried and tested route, and our experience ensures a warm welcome in every port. World Cruising Club has organised a total of seventeen successful circumnavigation rallies since 1992.

The Adventure

World ARC includes: meeting different cultures; the wonders of the Galapagos; making one of the longest ocean passages possible; visiting palm-fringed atolls; diving with tropical fish; climbing an active volcano; visiting Indonesian temples; Carnival in Brazil; safari; Napoleon's prison; spice estates; the Great Barrier Reef; building lifelong friendships; unparalleled support and much, much more.

The Schedule

World ARC is a mix of cruising in company and free time to explore. The pace of the rally allows the fleet to stay together, and to enjoy shore-side activities as a group.

There are longer free cruising periods that allow participants to fly home for work or family, or to travel further by air; for example to New Zealand or Madagascar.

Boats can join in the Caribbean, or in Australia, and sail a half rally or make the whole circumnavigation.

Who Takes Part?

Between 25 and 35 boats will take part in the rally. This size group is small enough to be intimate, and large enough to accommodate all. Previous World ARC participants say that the rally becomes a family.

World ARC attracts a wide range of people and boats hailing from over 20 countries. In a typical edition of the rally, over 400 people aged from 4 years old to over 70 sail on one or more stages.

There are usually families with children, couples taking a sabbatical from work, early retirees and groups of friends.

Requirements

We require all boats to have at least two people on board, and to carry specific safety and communications equipment.

We suggest a minimum length of 12.2m (40') so the fleet can sail together, and so that boats can carry an adequate amount of water and fuel for the longest passages - 3,000NM from Galapagos to Marquesas. Click on the '[What you need](#)' tab for full details.



"The main benefit of our World ARC has been the convenience of customs and immigration clearances, the route planning, and spectacular tours in places visited. Followed, of course, by the amazing camaraderie amongst the World ARC family."

Dan and Agnes Long, *Smoke and Roses*
(USA) World ARC 2018-19

World ARC 2025-26 Schedule

January 2025 - starts 11 January

Saint Lucia to Santa Marta, Colombia	815NM	4-5 days
Santa Marta to Panama	280NM	2-3 days
Sail to Colon, Panama	80NM	1 day

February 2025

Transit Panama Canal		2 days
Las Perlas rendezvous		
Las Perlas to Galapagos	850NM	6-8 days
Cruise Galapagos		

March 2025

Galapagos to Hiva Oa, Marquesas	2980NM	15-24 days
Cruise Marquesas		

April 2025

Nuka Hiva rendezvous		
Cruise Tuamotus and Society Islands	1000NM	

May 2025

Bora Bora rendezvous		
Bora Bora to Niue	1155NM	15-18 days
Niue to Vava'u, Tonga	230NM	2 days

June 2025

Tonga to Fiji	580NM	3-4 days
Cruise Fiji		

July 2025

Fiji rendezvous		
Fiji to Tanna, Vanuatu	450NM	3-4 days
Cruise Vanuatu	210NM	
Port Vila, Vanuatu rendezvous		
Port Vila to Mackay, Australia	1150NM	6-8 days

August 2025

Cruise Great Barrier Reef to Darwin	1500NM	
Darwin Rendezvous		

September 2025

Darwin to Lombok	945NM	5-7 days
Lombok to Christmas Island	625NM	8-11 days
Christmas Island to Cocos	525NM	days

October 2025

Cocos to Mauritius	2350NM	12-18 days
Mauritius to Reunion	130NM	1 day

November 2025

Reunion to Richards Bay, South Africa	1370NM	8-11 days
Cruise South Africa	720NM	

January 2026

Cape Town rendezvous		
Cape Town to Namibia	785NM	26-35 days
Namibia to St Helena	1215NM	with stops
St Helena to Salvador, Brazil	1900NM	

February 2026

Cruise Brazil	730NM	
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March 2026

Cabedelo rendezvous		
Brazil to Grenada	2255NM	15-19 days
Grenada rendezvous		
Cruise Windward Islands		

April 2026

Caribbean rendezvous and end of rally celebrations



An up-to-date itinerary will be posted on the [rally website](http://www.worldcruising.com)





Benefits of Joining the Rally

Most people join a World Cruising Club rally for the security and peace of mind of being part of an organised event; for the camaraderie and friendship of a large group of like-minded people; and for the fun of sailing in a fleet of boats.

Knowing that there will always be our professional and friendly team on hand to help with entry regulations, obtaining spares and repairs, or simply finding the best restaurant in town. Having a schedule makes crew planning and trips home easier to arrange, and the weather information, daily radio contact and satellite tracking at sea are added benefits.

Entry fees

The entry fee is made up of a boat fee and a crew fee payable for each person on board the boat.

There is more information on the costs of World ARC [here](#), or follow the link bottom right.

What do the entry fees include?

Before you even get to the start, we help with your preparations by providing a comprehensive Rally Handbook and regular newsletters, and we're here to help you find crew and answer your questions by phone or email. We also offer discounts on equipment from a host of [Corporate Members](#) and an order service for books, charts and courtesy/signal flags.

In scheduled stopover ports:

- Fees payable to customs, immigration and quarantine officials
- Light dues and similar charges
- Three days docking before the start of each scheduled stage
- Comprehensive social programme (will vary from port to port)
- Prize giving party after each scheduled stage
- Local tourist information
- WCC staff on hand to facilitate the stopover
- Excursions and tours (will vary from port to port)
- Pre-departure briefing, including 5 day weather planning forecast

Additionally

- Transit and agents fees for the Panama Canal
- Loan of lines/ropes and fenders for Panama Canal transit
- The cost of cruising permits, including for Galapagos, and French Polynesia

On passage at sea:

- Radio net / Instant Messaging Net
- Weather forecast sent by email
- Tracking of yachts, including a satellite tracker
- Website for publishing boat positions, blogs and photos

Charges not included:

- Fees or charges incurred during the free cruising periods
- Fees normally incurred by tourists visiting the country, such as visas, vaccination certificates arrival and departure taxes
- Charges for water and electricity
- Entry fees to tourist sites, including Galapagos National Park
- Additional fees for line handlers for the Panama Canal



“The big difference of circumnavigating as part of a rally is how much extra time you have to enjoy a country and how many real friendships grow over a year of shared experiences of laughter and tears. For us as family boat, being part of World ARC was way beyond our best expectations and the experience has been priceless.”

Caspar & Nichola Craven, yacht *Aretha* (GBR) World ARC 2015-16

[Click for Entry Fees](#) ➤

www.worldcruising.com/worldarc



World ARC 2025-26 Fees

The fees are made up of a boat fee and a crew fee payable for each person on board the boat.

Boat entry fee

World ARC full rally boat fees for boats between:

12.19m to 15.24m (approx. 40' to 50') LOA £ 27,500

15.25m to 19.81m (approx. 50' to 65') LOA £ 28,500

19.82m to 24.38m (approx. 65' to 80') LOA £ 29,500

A limited number of yachts may join half of the Rally, for which the entry fees are:

Half rally boat fees for boats between:	To Aus	From Aus
12.19m to 15.24m (approx. 40' to 50') LOA	£17,500	£12,000
15.25m to 19.81m (approx. 50' to 65') LOA	£18,500	£12,500
19.82m to 24.38m (approx. 65' to 80') LOA	£19,500	£13,000

All multihulls pay a docking supplement of £1,500 (whole rally) or £750 (half rally)

Booking fee

Payment of a non-refundable and non-transferable booking fee of £3,000 will reserve a provisional place in World ARC 2024-25 until 31 March 2024. The booking fee will be deducted from the entry fee.

Entry fee payment

Payment of 50% of the boat entry fee must be made by 31 March 2024 irrespective of the start port. The full balance is payable by 1 September 2024 for the Panama Canal route, or 1 May 2025 for boats starting in Australia.

Crew fees are payable by 1 September 2024 for whole rally and half rally to Australia, and before 1 May 2025 for half rally from Australia.

Crew fee

Crew fees are payable for each person onboard, including the skipper and/or owner. Whole and half rally crew fees are for a place on the boat - the individual may differ between legs. If extra crew are needed for certain legs, individual leg crew fees can be purchased. Leg crew fee credits can be purchased in advance in bundles if crew numbers are likely to change.

Responsibility for paying the crew fee remains with the skipper and crew fees paid are tied to the boat, not to a named crew member. The core crew is considered to be for a place on the boat for the duration of the rally; the person may change.

Crew Fees

Whole rally crew fee	£3,000
Crew half rally to Australia	£1,500
Crew half rally from Australia	£1,500
Individual Leg crew fee (Non-Refundable)	£175
Leg crew fee credits (Refundable)	£1,750 for 10

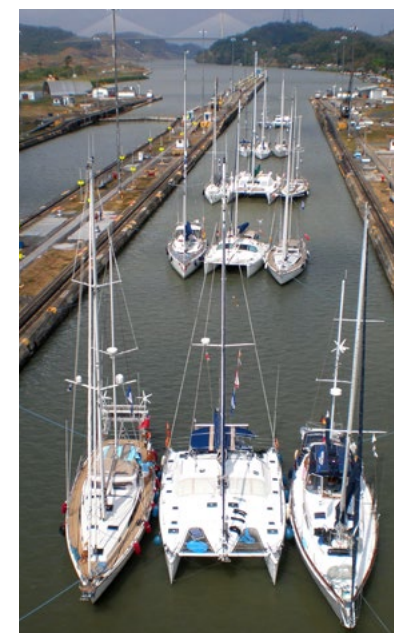
Children

Children aged under 6 on 1 January 2025 are free of charge (tours not included). Children aged 6 to 16 on 1 January 2025 will cost 50% of the relevant adult crew fee.

Refunds

Entry fees paid before 31 December 2023 are fully refundable (less the booking fee) for withdrawals made by 1 June 2024. For withdrawals made after 1 June 2024, or where the entry fee was paid after 31 December 2023, [standard World Cruising Club Terms and Conditions apply](#) (the booking fee remains non-refundable):

- A 50% refund is available for withdrawals made in writing (by email) between 24 and 12 weeks before the start date.
- For withdrawals after the rally has started, consult the [World ARC Conditions of Entry](#)
- Alternatively, you can choose to transfer your entry fees as a credit for the next edition, less an administration charge of £500.





How to Join the Rally

To enter, all you need to do is to complete an entry form online and pay your boat fee - you can online or opt to pay by bank transfer. Visit www.worldcruising.com and click on 'Join a Rally'

For costs and further information, please see the [Conditions of Entry](#).

What happens next?

After you have completed your entry and paid your fee, we will send you a confirmation email and receipt.

We encourage you to start using the [Members' Area](#) of the website, which will have the current edition of the Rally Handbook to aid your initial planning, plus lots of informative videos and articles, and equipment offers from our partners. We will mail out your copy of the updated Rally Handbook in Spring 2024, and we'll encourage you to update your boat and crew information online.

As the start approaches, you'll begin receiving the rally newsletters. These are packed with useful tips and reminders. You will also be invited to join ARC Networks to connect with fellow participants.

World ARC 2025-2026 entry schedule

20 July 2023

Entry list opens online.

31 December 2023

Last date for early booking benefits.

31 March 2024

Last payment date for 50% of all boat fees.

1 September 2024

Last payment date for balance of boat fee and all crew fees for boats starting the rally in Caribbean (or similar).

1 May 2025

Last payment date for balance of boat fee and all crew fees for boats starting the rally in Australia.

Friendly Competition

There are three divisions for World ARC; Cruising, Multihulls and Open. Boats in the Cruising (competitive) Division will have a handicap calculated, so that some friendly competition can be arranged. Motoring is permitted but a penalty for engine hours will be applied when results are calculated. Other boats will sail in the Open (non-competitive) Division with no results calculated.

Having official start times for the stages ensures that the timetable works, and encourages boats to sail together. The fun competition is just that - fun! Some crews take it more seriously than others, but all boats will be recognised in the prize giving ceremonies; speed isn't everything.



"We'll truly miss making landfall in new places every few days, and the camaraderie of our fellow World ARC participants. We've enjoyed being kept moving by the schedule and the support a rally provides."

Susie and Paul Ellis, *Firefly* (GBR)
World ARC 2016-17



Equipment and Training

We take the safety of participants in all of our rallies very seriously. Over 500 boats sail in World Cruising Club rallies each year, representing more than 1800 people. The job of a rally organiser is to provide a safe framework for participants and to provide them with the information they need to make safe decisions for their boat and crew.

We require all of the rally boats to carry a minimum quantity and quality of safety and communications equipment, and to have undertaken training in using that equipment, heavy weather sailing techniques, and managing emergencies. Our team of experienced safety equipment inspectors will come on board and check your equipment before the start of the rally, and of course, we're always happy to help new cruisers talk through decisions about safety and communications at sea.

Download a full copy of our [Safety Equipment Requirements](#) that provides details about the mandatory and recommended safety and communications gear, and about crew training.

Safety equipment

We expect the boat to carry a range of safety equipment that is fit for purpose and ready to use. Our requirements are based on the [World Sailing](#) standards, and include: an approved offshore liferaft with a more than 24 hour pack, 406MHz EPIRB, [SSB radio or suitable alternative satcoms](#), AIS transponder and man-overboard equipment.

We also require every person on board to have an inflatable combined lifejacket-harness (PFD) with a spray hood, crotch strap and safety line as well as an AIS personal crew overboard beacon for each crew member. In addition, the boat must have a means of sending and receiving emails while at sea.

Qualifying passage

The boat must reach the start port on her own keel, or the skipper and one crew member must complete a non-stop voyage of at least 500NM on board the rally yacht. This helps to identify any problems with the boat and equipment before the start of the rally.

Crew and crew training

Each boat must have two people on board, including the skipper. Many boats have extra crew on board, especially for longer legs of the voyage. Use www.oceancrewlink.com to find sailors interested in ocean passage-making. It is simple to register a crewing opportunity on your boat, and you can filter the crew by level of experience, nationality and other useful factors. You can also ask in your local sailing club, get referrals from sailing friends, or use a fee-based service.

We require that the skipper and one other person on board have completed training within the last 5 years on a range of topics including using the safety and communications equipment, heavy weather sailing techniques and managing emergencies - the [World Sailing Offshore Safety](#) or related [Sea Survival](#) courses are ideal.

Our [Ocean Cruising Seminars](#) cover all aspects of making an offshore passage and are a great way to start your planning.

Whatever your experience, careful preparation will pay off with a successful and happy voyage. We're always happy to offer help and advice, simply [contact us](#).



“Circumnavigating with World ARC was the wisest and best decision we made. It's been a dream since I was 12 years old, and now it's checked off my bucket list! ”

Ken and Eileen Swan, yacht *Aurora*
(USA) World ARC 2017-18



Rally Communications

Staying connected is important both for the safety of rally boats and for the social interaction between crews. During ocean stages of the rally, World Cruising Club send out daily lists of boat positions, taken from the YB trackers on each boat. A weather forecast is provided from a professional meteorologist and sent directly to the boats via email, and throughout the rally – cruising and ocean stages – there are daily radio nets between the boats with SSB, and Instant Messaging Net for those with Sat-coms based systems.

Rally boats are required to have the following equipment fitted:

A.I.S. Transceiver (Class B) – your AIS (automatic identification system) enables vessels nearby to know your boat name, course and speed.

MMSI Number – this will be provided via your national radio licensing authority and is unique to your vessel. When used with the DSC (digital selective calling) function on radios, it allows a direct vessel-to-vessel call, similar to dialling a telephone number. DSC works on VHF and HF (SSB) radios. Your MMSI is also programmed into your AIS transceiver.

VHF Radio with DSC – used for short range (10NM) communications between vessels and to shore.

Email at Sea – you will need to be able to send and receive email on whilst at sea. This covers the offshore sections of the rally, and is how Rally Control communicate with the fleet. As you are away from land-based mobile phone networks, e-mail at sea needs to be sent either via a satellite system (Iridium or Inmarsat), or via a suitable HF (SSB) radio with pactor modem. The [communications page](#) on our website has a simple guide to help you choosing equipment, or [contact us](#) for advice.

YB Satellite Tracker – these are provided for you by World Cruising Club as a rally benefit and are yours to keep at the end of the rally. The YB Trackers provide the exact positions of all the boats, which are then sent back out to the whole fleet, and are displayed on the rally website. The YB trackers also have a two-way messaging function that enables crew to stay connected with family and friends.

HF (SSB) Radio with DSC or suitable alternative satcoms-based system

The SSB radio operates on specific short-wave (HF) frequencies reserved for marine use and provides voice communication over long distances. All commercial ships have HF radio as part of the global safety net (GMDSS). During the rally, there is a twice-daily SSB radio net – a time when all the boats can communicate as a group – which is an aid to safety, especially when boats are in the more remote areas of the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Boats without SSB radio must have a suitable alternative satcoms-based system capable of transmitting and continual monitoring an instant messaging app (eg Iridium Certus 100 or Fleet One, Starlink).

World Cruising Club are happy to offer individual advice on selecting and fitting satellite and SSB radio communications equipment.

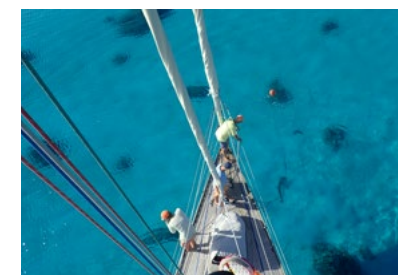
[Contact us](#) to discuss any questions you may have.

Why have SSB Radio?

The key benefit of SSB radio is the ability to communicate directly with the whole fleet at one time. This is what previous rally skippers have said about the benefits to them of using SSB radio, both for safety and social support.

“SSB is the only way to communicate in real time on a daily basis. The radio net breaks the day up, and adds interest to the day. Talking on SSB is much better than communicating by e-mail.” Hal Haltom, yacht *Cayuse*

“Having circumnavigated I now fully understand why SSB is important. SSB keeps boats in contact despite distance between them. The radio net is fun, and extremely useful during problems at sea, particularly in remoter areas on the route.” Dave Tipton, yacht *Mischief* (GBR)



“Participating in World ARC has provided us with so much more time to cruise and explore. The WCC support is excellent, both from the office and at the stopovers. We can highly recommend the World ARC.”

Maren & Gorm Gondesén, yacht *Nlca*,
World ARC 2019 & 2024



Your Questions Answered

What is the minimum size of boat and crew? 12.19m (40') length overall (LOA) with at least two people on board.

How long will the rally take? Just over 15 months for the whole rally. The longest passage is Galapagos to Hiva Oa which takes 15 to 22 days.

When does the rally start? World ARC 2025-26 starts from Saint Lucia on 11 January 2025. For more information go to [About the rally](#).

Can I start elsewhere? Boats can join the rally in Australia for the second half to the Caribbean. See the [schedule for details](#)

Do I have to sail the whole way? No, you can join a half rally to Australia, or a half rally from Australia to the Caribbean. You can join the next edition of the rally to complete your circumnavigation.

Can I use my engine? Boats in the Cruising and Open Divisions may use their engines for propulsion, but Cruising Division boats must declare their engine hours for their results to be calculated.

What safety equipment do I need? We have a list of mandatory and recommended safety equipment that we will inspect on board the boat before the rally starts. For more information, go to [What you need](#).

What training should I do? We do require the skipper and at least one of the crew to have done some safety and communications equipment, heavy weather sailing and emergency management training within the last five years – see [What you need](#)

You can learn more about the rally and tips for preparing your boat and crew by attending one of our 2 hour [boat show forums](#), or 2 day [residential seminars](#). We also have a number of helpful videos on our [YouTube channel](#).

Can I take my children? Families with children of all ages have sailed in World ARC, and all are very welcome.

Can I fly home without missing anything? Combining a trip home with a free cruising period is a good idea. Some suggestions are Panama, Tahiti, Vanuatu, Australia, South Africa and Brazil.

Do I need an SSB radio? World Cruising Club will accept boats that have either a HF(SSB) radio with DSC and a pactor modem for email, or a HF(SSB) radio with DSC plus an Iridium or Inmarsat system for email, or a suitable alternative satcoms-based system capable of email and transmitting and continual monitoring an instant messaging app (eg Iridium Certus 100 or Fleet One, Starlink). For more information, see [Rally Communications](#)

How do I find crew? Personal recommendations are the best way of finding crew, but you can also register free on Ocean Crew Link at www.oceancrewlink.com to look for crew or respond to adverts. The [World ARC Facebook page](#) is another good way to connect.

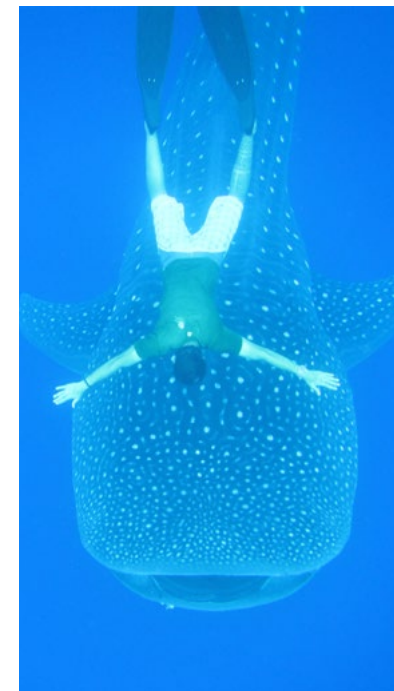
What about visas? We will provide information about visas in the Rally Handbook, and the country information pages on noonsite.com are also helpful.

Can I take my pets? We would strongly recommend that animals are not kept onboard during the Rally, given the limitations of the World ARC schedule and the laws and regulations of the countries visited. If you are considering taking a pet, look up the country information on noonsite.com and contact us to discuss your plans

How many people take part? World ARC usually has around 25-35 boats in total, some sailing with couples, others with changing crew. There are usually over 200 people involved in the whole rally, of all ages including children. Crew come from over 20 nationalities.

What about support on the rally? The World ARC team will meet you in every official stopover, so you will get to know each other well. They will help with entry formalities, local contacts, docking, excursions, social activities and emergencies.

How can families at home stay in touch with the boats? All boats will be fitted with an Iridium satellite tracker, which will display the boats positions on the online [Fleet Viewer](#). All boats can also blog for free on the [rally website](#).





Contact Us

If you have any questions about joining the rally, the suitability of your boat, selecting equipment or any other issue please contact us:

World Cruising Club

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About World Cruising Club

World Cruising Club organises sailing events around the world. The rallies are devised for the 'average' cruising boat and crew; helping people to realise their dream of making a long offshore passage.

The company was formed by Jimmy Cornell following the success of very first ARC in 1986. We now help more than 450 boats and 1200 people to achieve their sailing dreams every year.

The World Cruising Club team are here to help make your participation as enjoyable as possible. All of our team members are keen sailors with a wide range of experience in cruising and racing offshore.

During the rallies all of the team will wear yellow World Cruising Club polo shirts. Our 'yellow shirts' will be on hand to help every day, from taking your lines to ensuring the social activities go with a swing.

World Cruising Club Rallies

ARC - Atlantic Rally for Cruisers The original sailing rally has run every year since 1986 and over 200 yachts take part sailing from Gran Canaria to Saint Lucia. The ARC offers a two week pre-departure programme, fun competition for cruising sailors, or competitive racing, and a spectacular welcome.

ARC+ sails the Atlantic in November departing from Gran Canaria sailing via Cape Verde either to Grenada.

World ARC The ultimate circumnavigation rally takes 15 months, departing from Saint Lucia in January sailing via Panama, Galapagos, Pacific islands, Australia, Indonesia, Cocos, Mauritius, South Africa and Brazil.

ARC Europe Explore the Atlantic Islands of Bermuda and the Azores, on passage from St Maarten or USA bound for Lagos, Portugal.

ARC USA Sail from the Caribbean via Bermuda alongside the ARC Europe fleet, before setting off for the U.S. East Coast with tracking and weather support.

ARC Portugal Cross the Bay of Biscay in company then day sailing to Marina de Lagos on Portugal's Algarve, exploring ashore and afloat. Much more than a delivery trip - a real holiday!

Seminars and Forums

Helping you prepare for your offshore adventure is an important part of our role. We run a number of 2 hour panel Forums and 2 day intensive Seminars in locations across the UK, USA and Europe plus regular online sessions. For more information go to www.worldcruising.com/training

Supporters and Sponsors

World ARC is supported by tourist boards and commercial organisations in the countries visited and is run in association with Yachting World magazine.



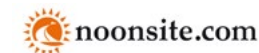
"World Cruising Club takes the aggravation out of a circumnavigation!"

Ros & Howard Cheetham, yacht *Misto* (IRL) World ARC 2018-19

Ocean Crew Link

Find Crew with Ocean Crew Link

Need crew? Want to find new sailing buddies? Then visit Ocean Crew Link, the only crew connect website specifically for ocean voyaging.



The global resource for cruising sailors www.noonsite.com features essential information on all matters of interest to sailors planning an offshore voyage - a one-stop website providing essential information on all maritime nations of the world.