



Welcome to the ARC Europe 2026 Handbook

Your adventure starts here!

Whether this is your first event with World Cruising Club, or you're completing an Atlantic circuit or even a circumnavigation after sailing an ARC or World ARC rally, we welcome you to the 26th edition of ARC Europe.

ARC Europe is a little different from other rallies, as participants will be joining the event in Sint Maarten and Bermuda. Wherever you join the rally, our supporters and hosts in every port ensure that you'll receive the traditional warm rally welcome and experience a slice of Atlantic island life.

The social activities, prize givings and tours ashore are a great way to reconnect with others and make new cruising friends. The west to east Atlantic crossing can be testing – if nothing else, you'll need warm clothes for the first time in months! Your fellow sailors, the rally team and our hosts along the route will ensure that whatever the weather, this will be a memorable experience.

This Rally Handbook is designed to support your preparations in the months before the rally, and to answer some of your questions about what happens in port and during the crossings. There is a wealth of information in these pages, drawn from the World Cruising Club team, from marine industry experts and from previous rally participants. A PDF copy of the handbook is available for download from the Members Area of the website. Even if you've recently crossed an ocean, please read, share, and discuss with your crew.

Every month before the rally all registered crew members will receive a Rally Update email, with useful information, important dates and links to actions. When you arrive in port, the rally team (known as yellow shirts) will have a detailed programme of activities for you to enjoy.

Thank you choosing to sail in ARC Europe 2026 – we look forward to meeting you in Sint Maarten or Bermuda and helping to launch your adventure!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul".

Paul Tetlow
Managing Director
World Cruising Club



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ARC Europe 2026 Schedule

Date	Action
	Sint Maarten
4 May	Rally office opens in Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten
8 May	Skippers Briefing for leg 1a Sint Maarten to St. George's, Bermuda
9 May	Leg 1a Start: Sint Maarten to Bermuda 870NM
	Bermuda
13 May	Rally office opens in Bermuda
14 May	First arrivals expected from Sint Maarten
17 May	Leg 1: Prizegiving
19 May	Skippers Briefing for Leg 2 Bermuda to Horta, Faial Azores
20 May	Leg 2 Start: Bermuda to Azores 1800NM
	Azores
29 May	First arrivals expected in Azores
3 June	Azores programme commences See provisional programme and rally update emails for more details
11 June	Leg 2: Crew dinner and Prizegiving Reception
12 June	Skippers Briefing for Leg 3a/b Azores to Lagos or Northern Europe
13 June	Leg 3a Start: São Miguel to Lagos 875NM Leg 3b Departure: São Miguel to Northern Europe (weather dependent)
	Lagos
18 June	First boat arrivals in Lagos, Portugal
21 June	Final Prizegiving Reception for ARC Europe 2026, Lagos

Dates may be subject to change - updates will be sent in Rally Updates and by email.

Introduction Rally Handbook



About World Cruising Club

The World Cruising Club has been organising rallies since 1986. Since then, more than 5,000 boats from scores of countries have taken part in our events, looked after by our dedicated teams in every port en route. Our rally organisation ensures that participants are prepared for the voyage and supports them on their adventure.



Paul and Suzana Tetlow briefing the yellow shirt team

Meet the Team

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

Before the Rally you can email or telephone us in the office during working hours - we're happy to answer any questions about preparations and what to expect of the rally.

During the Rally, all of the staff 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.

Leading the team...



Paul Tetlow: Managing Director

Paul joined World Cruising Club in 2008 as an Event Manager, following an eight-year stint in the British Army. He learnt to sail as a child

and was fortunate to gain sea miles and yachting qualifications whilst serving in the military. Now, he has overall responsibility for the planning and logistics of our events, and relations with our sponsors and corporate members.



Suzana Tetlow: Operations Director

Suzana has worked with World Cruising Club for more than a decade and has a lifetime of experience in the event and travel industry. She is

fluent in Portuguese, English, German, Spanish and Italian and through her role has travelled to almost every location where World Cruising Club operates, including on the World ARC route.

At our HQ in Cowes...



Martine Waitt: Event Administrator

Martine has administered the entries for World Cruising Club events for over a decade and, using her wealth of knowledge is one of the first points of

contact to assist skippers and owners. She answers any questions they have about their entry or the places they are planning to visit.



Emma Dymock: Event Administrator

Emma has completed two ARCs and another five Atlantic crossings. Emma supports our participants with their entries and pre-rally preparations and

ensures that handbooks and branded clothing all get to you.



Claire Taylor: Marketing & Communications

Claire leads creative marketing and brand communications. She manages social media and digital storytelling, while overseeing photography and

video for marketing, press, and participants. Claire also manages the websites, and organises and delivers our shoreside events. Claire has sailed halfway around the world with her family, and took part in ARC 2019.



Peter Gilmore: Marketing & Communications

Peter works closely with external media outlets and participants to publicise World Cruising Club events, as well as filming content at the start

and finish of our rallies. He has cruised and raced all over the world, including two Atlantic crossings.

Contact the Team in Cowes

Monday-Friday 0900-1730 UTC

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How to Use the Handbook

The Rally Handbook is the starting point for preparing for and participating in the rally. It is intended to be useful both before and during the Rally, so ensure you bring the handbook onboard with you.

The handbook is available in print and as a PDF, downloadable from the members area on worldcruising.com.

The handbook is not intended to supplement normal cruising reference books and does not replace those that should be onboard for the crossing including pilots, almanacs and list of radio signals.

01. Introduction

Includes details on the rally schedule, and World Cruising Club team.

02. Preparations

This section covers the preparations for both boat and crew. It is packed with advice, tips and information on everything from essential safety equipment to guidance on selecting crew.

03. Local Information

This contains detailed information on each destination, from clearing Customs to finding a restaurant or sailmaker.

04. Rally at Sea

Covers rally communications whilst at sea, key passage planning notes, essential weather forecast information and considers the best way to receive weather information. In addition, there is information on the friendly and fun competition element of the Rally.

Rally Support

World Cruising Club staff will be on hand in each port to welcome you, support with docking and clearance; to help with local knowledge and contacts; and generally ensure you have a great time. Our rally team includes experienced sailors who understand how to help you make the most of your adventure. The same team will be available in each port, so you will be able to get to know them.

Rally Office

There will be a Rally Office in each port. This will be the 'Rally Headquarters' for the duration of the stay in port. Come to the Rally Office if you have any questions, or ask any 'yellow shirts'. Details of the location and opening hours of the Rally Offices in each port are covered in the 'Local Information' section.



ARC Europe start Sint Maarten

Safety Inspections

All boats must pass the safety inspection prior to departure to be able to take part in the rally. Full details of the equipment required are covered in the **Preparations** section.

Skippers' Briefing

Before the departure we will hold a Skippers' Briefing, which is compulsory for all skippers to attend. Further details are included in the 'Local Information' section.'

Rally Control at Sea

Support from the World Cruising Club continues whilst at sea, the Rally at Sea section in this handbook outlines how the team can be contacted.

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Get Featured!

Everyone has a story to tell and often get requests from the press for stories and images from our boats and crews. If you have a story to share, please email us at media@worldcruising.com - you never know you might find yourself featured in a popular yachting magazine!

Share your photos

We'll be setting up a dedicated link where you can upload high-resolution photos for us to share with the press and use in our marketing. If you'd like your images to be featured, please upload them when the link is shared — and don't worry, we'll always credit you for any photos used!

Social media

We love following your adventure! When sharing your journey on social media, please tag us so we can see and share your posts. Your photos and updates not only inspire sailors thinking of taking part in future rallies but also keep family and friends back home connected to your incredible journey.

Facebook

ARC Atlantic Rally for Cruisers

World ARC

WorldCruisingUSA

Instagram

@arc_rally

@world_arc_rally

@worldcruisingusa



'Yellow Brick' tracker

For Friends and Family Following the boats online

Each boat on a World Cruising Club Rally is fitted with a 'Yellow Brick' satellite tracker which sends regular position reports. The Fleet Viewer tracks the whole fleet and provides an overview of boat locations; daily distance sailed; and distance to the next port.

The fleet viewer goes live a couple of days before the start of the rally. It can be found on the rally web page or via the 'YB Races app' for mobile devices.

Meeting Other ARC Europe Boats

Fly your ARC Europe flag in the ports you visit on your journey to Sint Maarten, and you will soon meet other ARC Europe boats and crews.



ARC Europe 2025 Flag



Boats at the start