



Rally Update 6: September

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Hello fellow sailor

It's time to prepare your passports and paperwork.

It's now four months until the start of the Rally in Saint Lucia and we hope that you are excited for the adventure of a lifetime to begin! The World ARC 2026-27 fleet departed Darwin on 8 September, bound for Lombok in Indonesia and you can [track their progress here](#) as they make their way across the Indian Ocean.

The deadline for uploading crew personal information to the [dashboard section](#) of the World Cruising Club website is **30 September**. This is for all crew sailing in the first half of the Rally between Saint Lucia and Australia (irrespective of start or finish port). We need this information in advance to share with maritime safety, Customs and Immigration and port authorities - this significantly speeds up your arrival paperwork.

In this Rally Update:

- Key dates
- El Niño update
- Passports and boat data needed
- World ARC Branded Clothing
- Tell us about yourself

As you finalise preparations for the Rally, we recommend that you thoroughly read the [Rally Handbook](#) and review the [Safety Equipment Requirements](#) in detail. Preparing early, will save you time and money closer to the time.

If you have any questions, remember that we are here to support you on every step of your adventure, so please contact Martine and Emma in our Cowes office on mail@worldcruising.com or +44 (0)1983 296060

We'll see you soon!

Suzana, Paul and the Team
World Cruising Club



World ARC fleet check out the local wildlife at sunrise in Mackay

Key Dates

From now	Download the Rally Handbook
From now	World ARC shop is open
30 September	All boat and core crew details must be complete (see below)
November onwards	Register with SailClear.com for clearance into Saint Lucia for Caribbean starters
8 November	ARC+ starts
22 November	ARC starts
4 January 2027	Rally Office opens in Saint Lucia
9 January 2027	World ARC 2027-28 starts: Saint Lucia to Panama
7 September 2027	Darwin to Lombok start
15 April 2028	Parade of sail and final prizegiving in Saint Lucia

Provisional Rally Itinerary

El Niño update



As of August 2026, NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has an El Niño Advisory in place and forecasts a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño developing during late 2026 and early 2027. The extent to which this affects World ARC will depend largely on both the timing and intensity of the event.

One area we are already monitoring closely is the Panama Canal transit. Based on current water levels and rainfall forecasts, we expect that special lockage will not be available. However, Panama is now entering its supposed rainy season, and we will continue to assess conditions as they develop. We faced similar restrictions for the Rally in both 2024 and 2025, when canal transits required greater coordination and flexibility but were completed successfully and without overall impact on the rally schedule.

For the Pacific passages, the potential effects will again depend on the strength and timing of the El Niño peak. Current guidance suggests the possibility of weaker trade winds on some of the early and central Pacific legs, along with an increased likelihood of unsettled weather, squalls and areas of low pressure. To help crews prepare, all World ARC participants will receive an in-person weather and routing briefing in Saint Lucia before departure. In addition, our weather forecasting provider will deliver regular updates and presentations throughout the Rally. This in-person support in St Lucia is a new initiative for World ARC.

We will continue to monitor developments closely and assess any implications for the 2027 programme. At present, however, we are not planning any changes to the route or schedule.

Important: Boat Documents



The deadline for skippers to submit boat data and documentation to the **dashboard section** of the website is **30 September**.

We need:

- MMSI number
- EPIRB number
- Gross Tonnage (GRT). Sometimes this figure is part of the boats registration, others will have a certificate and others will have to request to their yacht manufacturer
- Liferaft type and model, plus scan/photo of the manufacturer's certificate and the latest inspection certificate
- Your at-sea email address
- Details of your communications equipment
- Boat dimensions, including hull and sail measurements, plus the correct model name, year of build and information on downwind sails
- Fuel tank capacity
- Shore power requirements (110/240v 50/60Hz)

Please check that the **format of your boat name is the same as on the registration documents** (for example, spelling and capital letters).

The correct information is needed to share with maritime safety authorities, port authorities for docking, Customs and Immigration authorities and for us to run the Rally.

Important: Personal Documents



The deadline for submitting crew passports to the **dashboard section** of the website is **30 September**.

This is for all crew sailing any leg between Saint Lucia and Australia. We need this information as we liaise with the authorities on behalf of skippers to smooth and speed-up clearances and issue permits.

By the time you meet the local officials, they have already checked the paperwork. Issuing visas (where needed) and stamping the passports is the final part of the formalities. This saves you a lot of time!

Please ensure your passport has six months of validity remaining at the end of the Rally (Australia or Caribbean). Also, ensure you have sufficient empty pages. Some countries require two consecutive blank pages for entry stamps.

A colour scan or photo of your passport must be uploaded to the **dashboard section** of the website. We will check and approve it, or reject it if the photo or passport details are illegible. All passport and personal data is stored and shared securely.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email **mail@worldcruising.com**

World ARC Shop



PURCHASE YOUR RALLY MERCHANDISE

Wear your adventure with pride –
order your official rally merchandise today
and celebrate every mile of the journey.

SHOP NOW

 shop.worldcruising.com



**PERSONALISATION
AVAILABLE**

The World ARC shop is open!

Make the adventure of a lifetime even more special by purchasing official World ARC apparel which can be personalised to include your boat name. On top of being comfortable and stylish, your World ARC clothing will act as a physical memento of this once in a lifetime experience.

Shop now

Meet the fleet

World ARC is made special by the people who take part.

Every participant has a unique story and we would love you to share yours before you arrive in Saint Lucia.

Our 'Meet the Fleet' form is a chance to introduce yourselves to the rest of the fleet. Tell us a bit about who you are, share a few photos, and let everyone know what brought you to World ARC.

During your World ARC experience, you are likely to form lifelong friendships with the other members of the fleet, and filling out this form is the first step in getting to know each other.



Tell us about yourself

Useful Links and Downloads

Information sheets:

Potable water

Provisioning

Maintenance

Vaccinations



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