



Welcome to the ARC Baltic Handbook

Your adventure starts here!

This year we are hugely excited to see the return of ARC Baltic to the World Cruising Club calendar. Absent since 2019, this Rally is completely unique to other World Cruising Club events as it offers a mix of coastal and offshore cruising. During your adventure, you will visit five countries over a one-month period, covering a distance of over one thousand miles. By participating in ARC Baltic, you will experience the rich cultural history of the Baltic region, as well as the stunning beauty of some of the more remote destinations of the Rally.

This handbook contains a wealth of information about how to ensure you are the best prepared for the trip. It includes safety advice, local information about each destination, top tips for sailing in the Baltic Sea, recommended charts and pilot books, as well as further details about the programme. A digital version of the handbook can also be downloaded from the Members' Area of our website and the team in our Cowes Office will be available to answer any questions you may have. We recommend that you read this handbook thoroughly, as well as share it with your crew so that they are also prepared for the experience.

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. Our shoreside activities are renowned for bringing sailors from different nations together, often creating lifelong friendships.

As an ARC Baltic participant, you will receive first-rate support from World Cruising Club to ensure your trip is as safe and enjoyable as possible, and cruising in the company of other sailors means you will be part of a community of like-minded individuals willing to share knowledge or past experiences which will only serve to enhance your future sailing ambitions.

Thank you for choosing to sail in ARC Baltic 2026 – we look forward to meeting you in Kiel and helping to launch your adventure!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul', is positioned above the name Paul Tetlow.

Paul Tetlow
Managing Director
World Cruising Club

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ARC Baltic 2026 Schedule

Date	Action
16 May	Bluewater Day, UK (See: worldcruising.com/bluewater-day-uk)
30 May	Bluewater Day, Sweden (See: worldcruising.com/bluewater-day-sweden)
3 July	Rally Office opens in Kiel and shoreside activities begin
5 July	Kiel to Stralsund (120NM)
8 July	Stralsund to Bornholm (95NM)
11 July	Bornholm to Visby (200NM)
16 July	Visby to Gotska Sandön (55NM)
17 July	Gotska Sandön to Tallinn (190NM)
21 July	Tallinn to Helsinki (45NM)
24 July	Helsinki to Mariehamn (200NM)
29 July	Mariehamn to Sweden (65NM)
31 July	End of Rally Dinner in Bullandö

Dates may be subject to change - updates will be sent in Rally Update emails.

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About World Cruising Club

The World Cruising Club has been organising rallies since 1986. Since then, more than 7,000 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 supported 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 09:00-17:30 UK time

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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 worldcruising.com.

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

01. Introduction

Includes details on the rally schedule, getting to Kiel, how to follow us on social media, as well as further details about the programme.

02. Preparations

This section covers the preparations for both boat and crew. It is packed with safety advice, tips and information specific to sailing in the Baltic Sea.

03. Local Information

This contains detailed information on each destination, from clearing Customs to boat service facilities, as well as information about key tourist attractions.

04. Rally at Sea

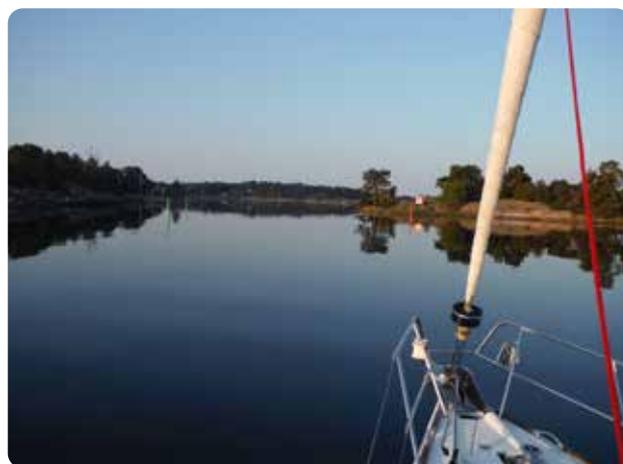
Covers rally communications whilst at sea, key passage planning notes, essential weather forecast information and considers the best way to receive weather information. In addition, there is information on the friendly and fun competition element of the rally.

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 of the 'Yellow Shirts'.



Swedish archipelago sailing

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 operations briefing will outline how the team can be contacted.

Social Activities

The Rally fees include shoreside tours in Stalsund, Bornholm, Visby, Tallinn and Helsinki. Also included will be Rally dinners in Kiel, Visby, Tallinn, Helsinki, Mariehamn and Bullandö. As with all World Cruising Club Rallies, shoreside social activities are a major part of the experience, with sailors forming lifetime friendships.

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Independent cruising

ARC Baltic offers the chance to carry out independent cruising during the Rally. Between the departure from Helsinki on 24 July and the rendezvous in Mariehamn in Åland on 27 July, you can choose your own route through the Finnish archipelago, making the most of this amazing sea of islands.

We'll help you experience wild anchoring and mooring to rock faces, one of the unique aspects of Scandinavian sailing.

Get Featured!

Everyone has a story to tell and we 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

Arrival in Kiel

The ARC Baltic Office in Kiel will open on 3 July, marking the official start of the programme. It is your responsibility to contact the Marina in advance to book your space before this date.

For Friends and Family



The YB Fleet Viewer

Following the boats online

Each boat on a World Cruising Club rally is fitted with a YB 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 Baltic Boats

Fly your ARC Baltic flag in the ports you visit on your journey to Kiel and beyond. Doing this, you will soon meet other ARC Baltic boats and crews.



ARC Baltic Flags