Welcome

Sailing Round-The-World

On a PDQ 36’ Classic sailboat
Starting May 2026

Captain - Roderick Richards
First Mate - Mateo Richards

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Sailing Round-The-World

Presentation Material – Our Boat

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- Old boat – Iroquois 30’ Mk II:
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- New boat – PDQ 36’ Classic:
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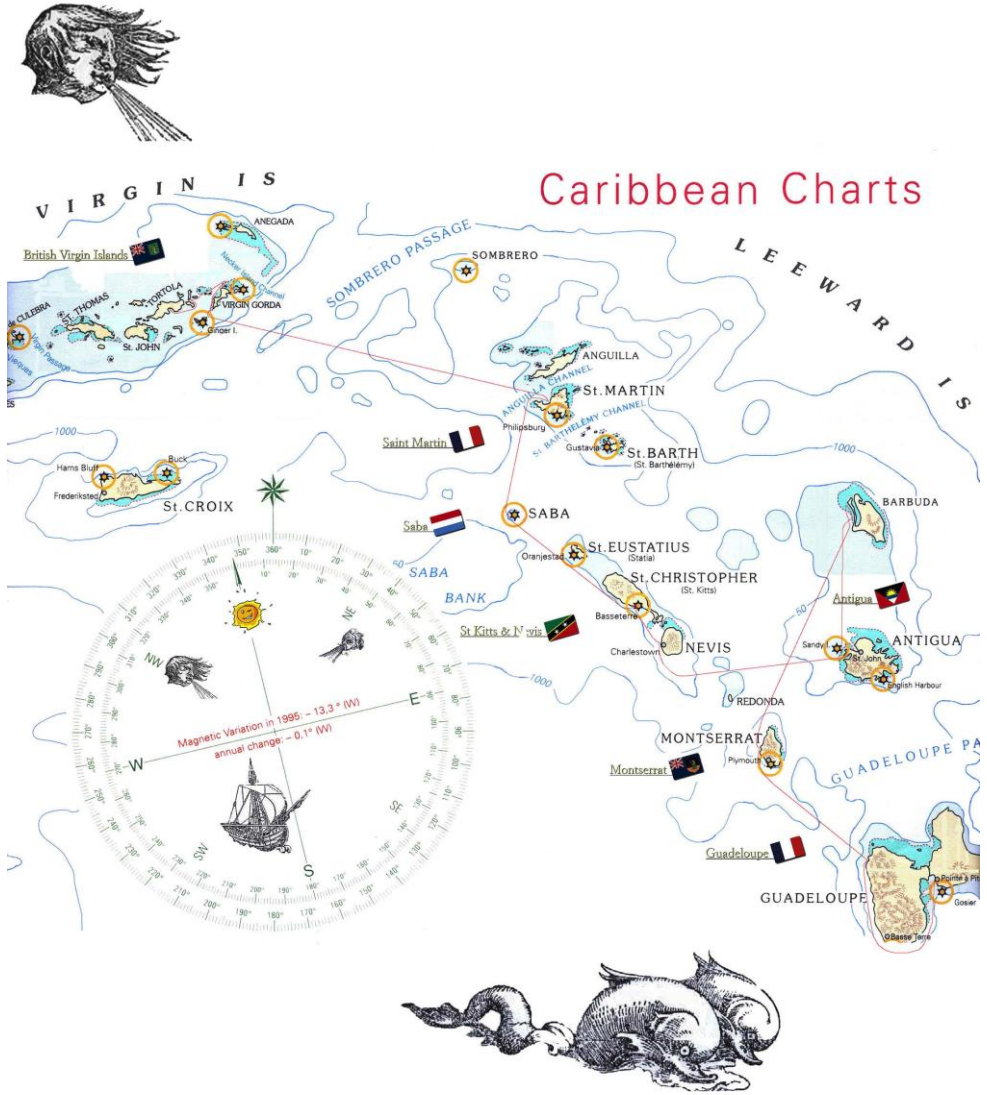
History

- College – Otts Yachts – barely controlled chaos
- British Virgin Islands (BVI) to Guadalupe, Leeward Islands, Caribbean
- French Polynesia – Tahiti, Bora Bora, Huahine, Taha'a, Raiatea
- Mediterranean – Malta to Mallorca
- British Virgin Islands (BVI) to Guadalupe, Leeward Islands, Caribbean
- Many Bahama Trips
- Belize



Old boat – Iroquois 30’ Mk II

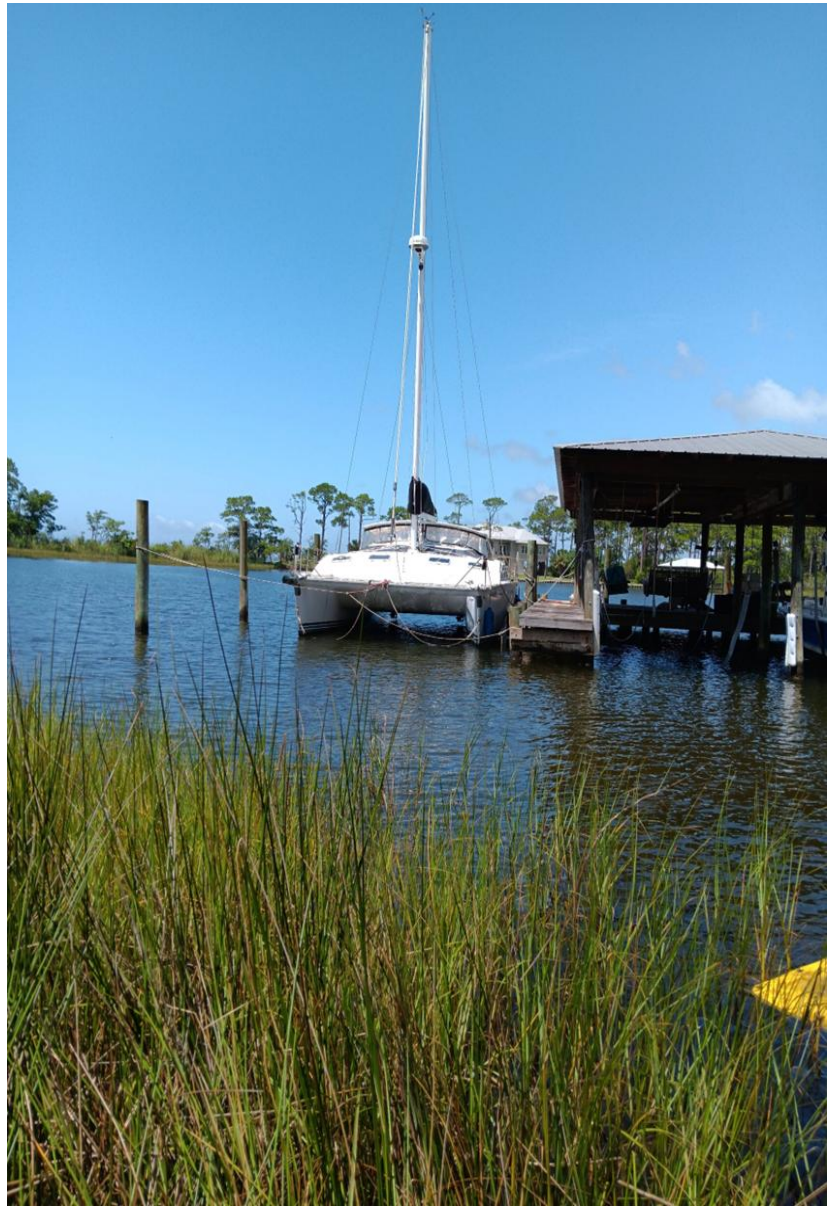
In 2017 we bought a $10,000 boat as a fixer-upper. Mateo was only 9 years old, but enthusiastic about the work to be done. It was a British built, 30’ Iroquois MKII which has a loyal cult following. It was small and rough, marginally capable of a RTW, and most importantly, we could afford it.

Old boat – Iroquois 30’ Mk II

We rebuilt floors, electrical power, cushions, kitchen, bathroom, tillers, mast steps, windows, etc. During this time, little by little, we began to realize that the boat was too small and uncomfortable for us to ever have friends join us on the trip and enjoy it. It was difficult to admit that this boat, that we had worked so hard on, and had been the focus of so many of our world sailing dreams, was not the best decision for us.

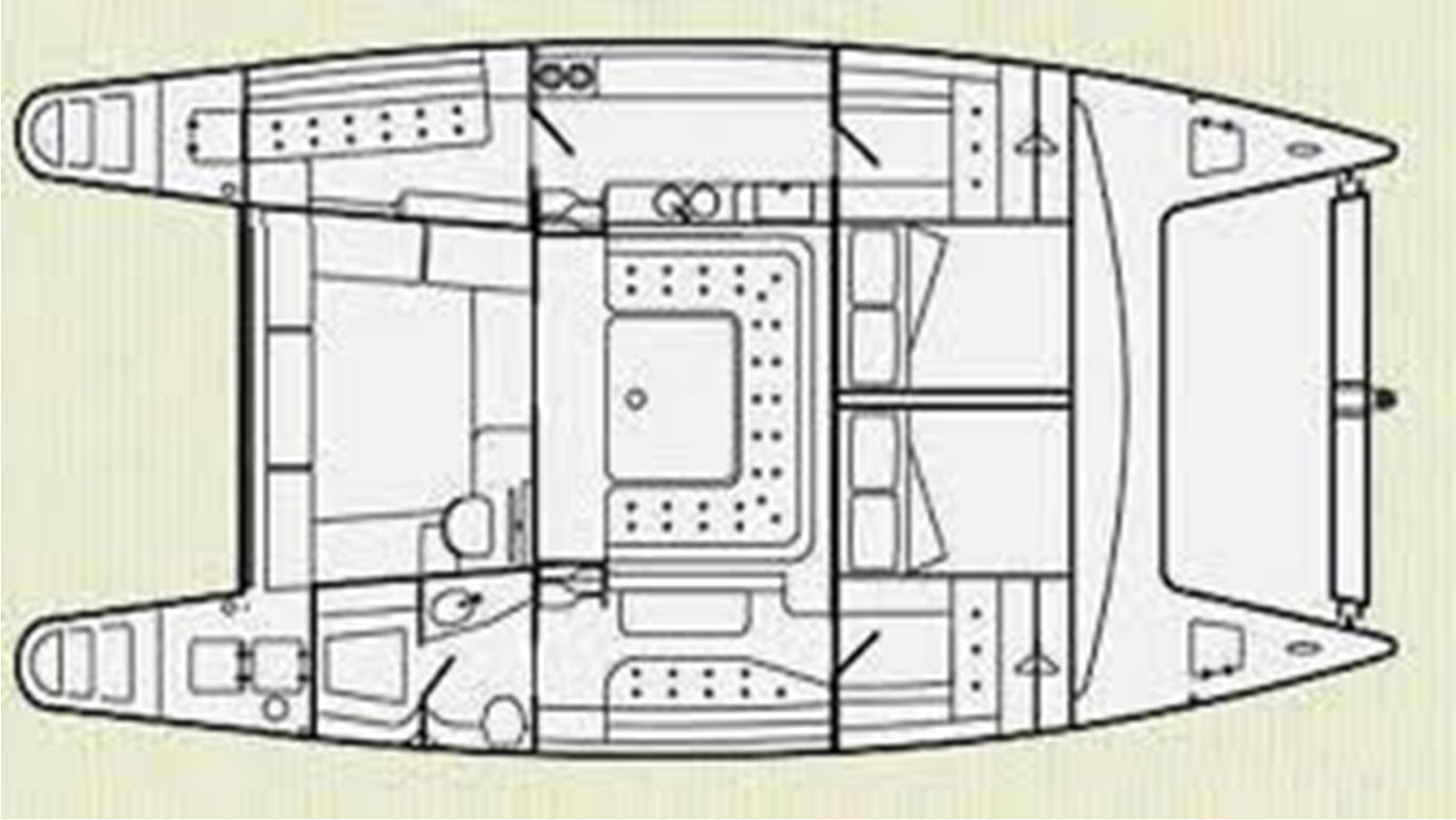
New boat – PDQ 36’ Classic

In 2024 we bought “the” boat. A 1991 PDQ 36’ Classic.



PDQ 36’ Classic – Interior Layout

- Interior layout:
  - Center dining area
  - Two twin beds, one in each forward hull
  - Kitchen in side hull
  - Bathroom in starboard stern
  - Navigation Station in side hull with small quarter berth
  - Quarter berth in port stern hull
- Two Yamaha 9.9 outboard engines



PDQ 36’ Classic – Dining/Salon area

Center dining room/salon with fold-up table.

PDQ 36’ Classic - Kitchen

Kitchen with twin sinks, food storage, and refrigerator/freezer.

PDQ 36’ Classic – One of the Front Berths

One of the twin beds in the starboard forward hull. There is an identical one in the port forward hull.

PDQ 36’ Classic - Bathroom

Bathroom (Head) with shower capability.

PDQ 36’ Classic – Haulout 2025

2024. Getting the boat hauled out at Green Turtle Bay marina to have work done by the boat yard.

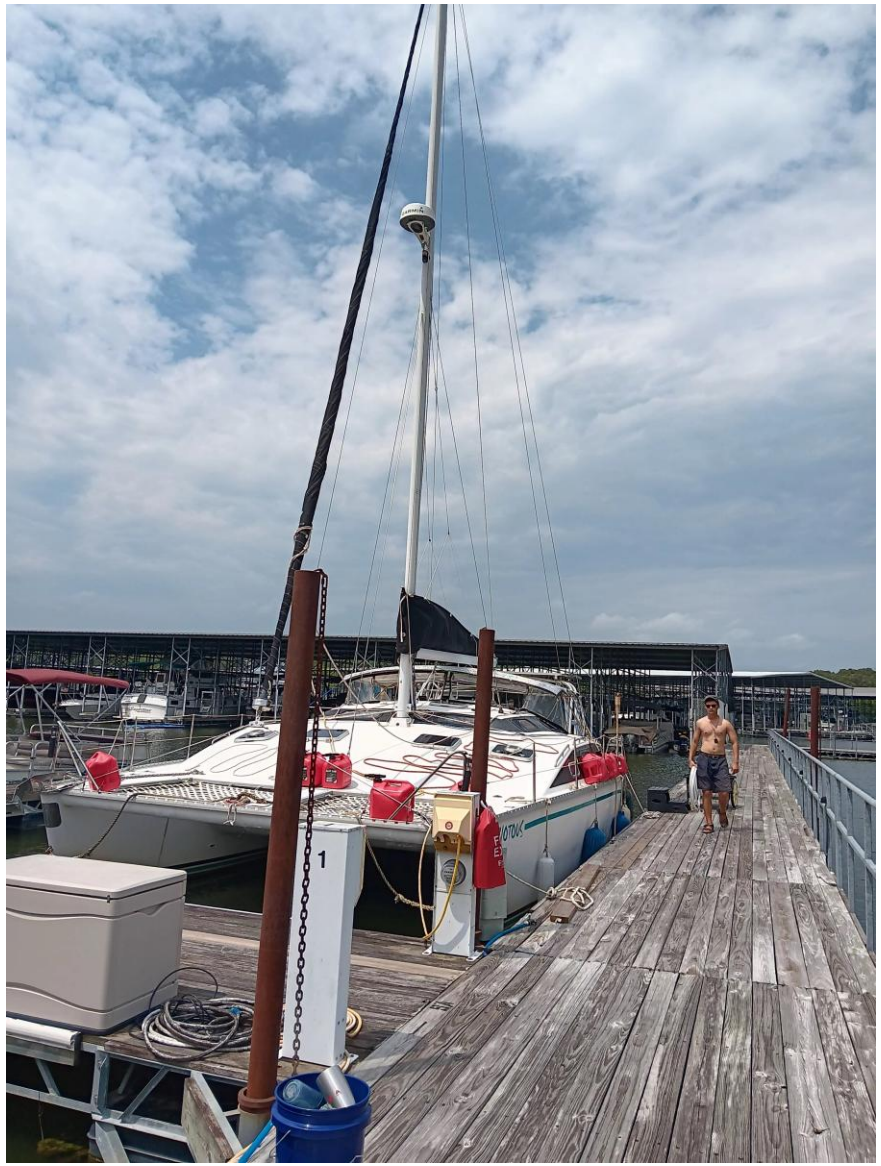
Outline of Round-The-World (RTW) Trip

1. The boat is currently at Green Turtle Bay marina on Lake Barkley, Kentucky.
2. From Kentucky Lake, motor down the Tennessee-Tombigbee (Tenn-Tom) waterway to the Gulf of Mexico.
3. Cross the Gulf of Mexico to the Florida Keys
4. Cross the Gulf Stream to the Bahama Islands
5. Spend a couple of months in the Bahamas to shake down the boat
6. Travel south through the Caribbean, possibly as far south as Grenada
7. Panama and transit through the Panama Canal
8. South from Panama, through the Pacific Ocean to Easter Island
9. Pitcairn Island – Mutiny on the Bounty
10. Numerous South Pacific Islands – to be determined
11. Possibly as far north as the Philippines and South Korea
12. North of Australia and Indonesia
13. Indian Ocean – Seychelles, Maldives, Cocos Keeling, Chagos (Diego Garcia), Mauritius, Madagascar
14. Round the tip of South Africa – Cape of Good Hope
15. Africa - Namibia
16. Atlantic Ocean to Saint Helena – 2nd exile location of Napoleon Bonaparte
17. Possibly Azores and Canary Islands
18. Back to the Caribbean – this completes the round the world

RTW Trip – Starting at Kentucky Lake

We will start from Green Turtle Bay marina, on Lake Barkley, Kentucky.

Our new anchor.

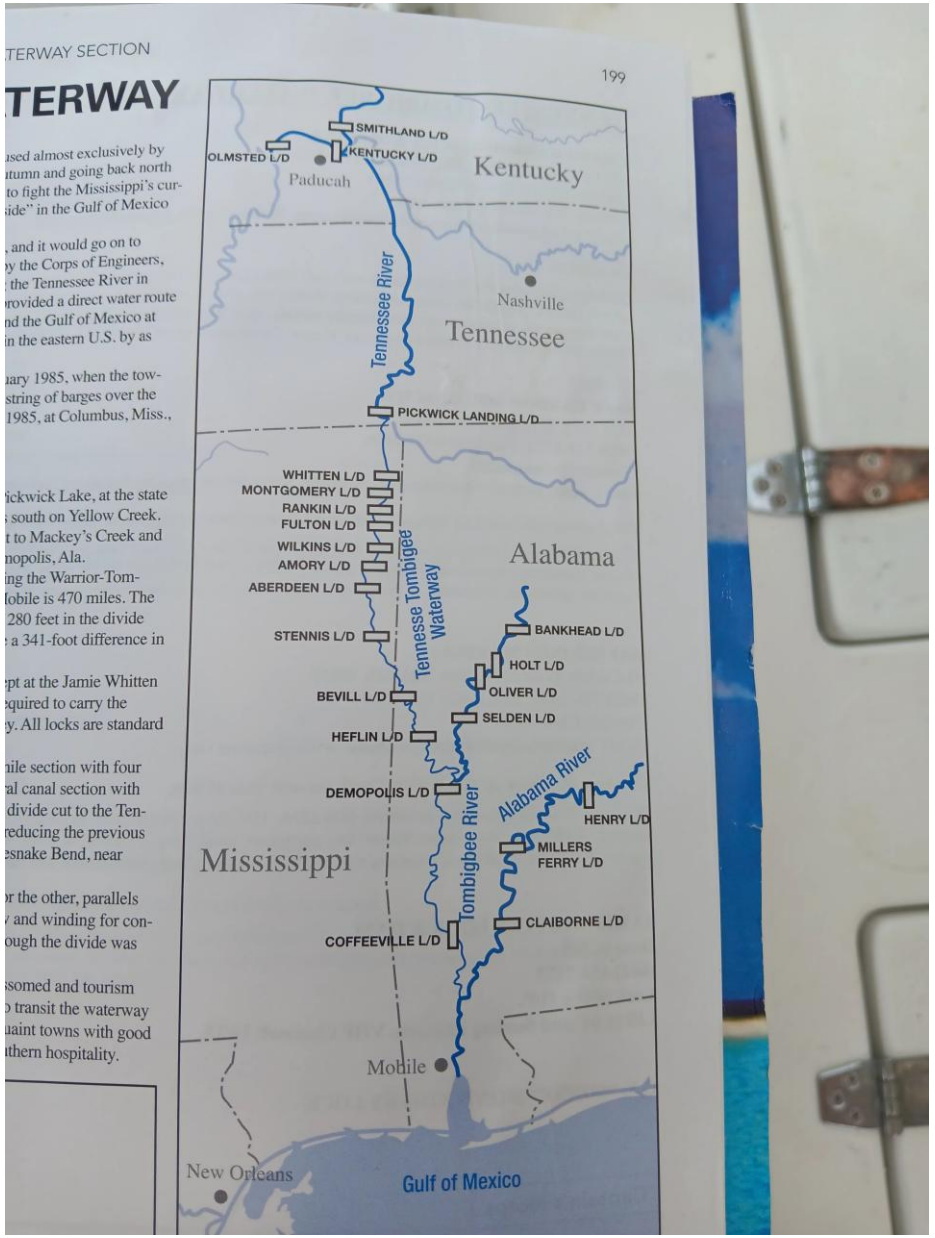


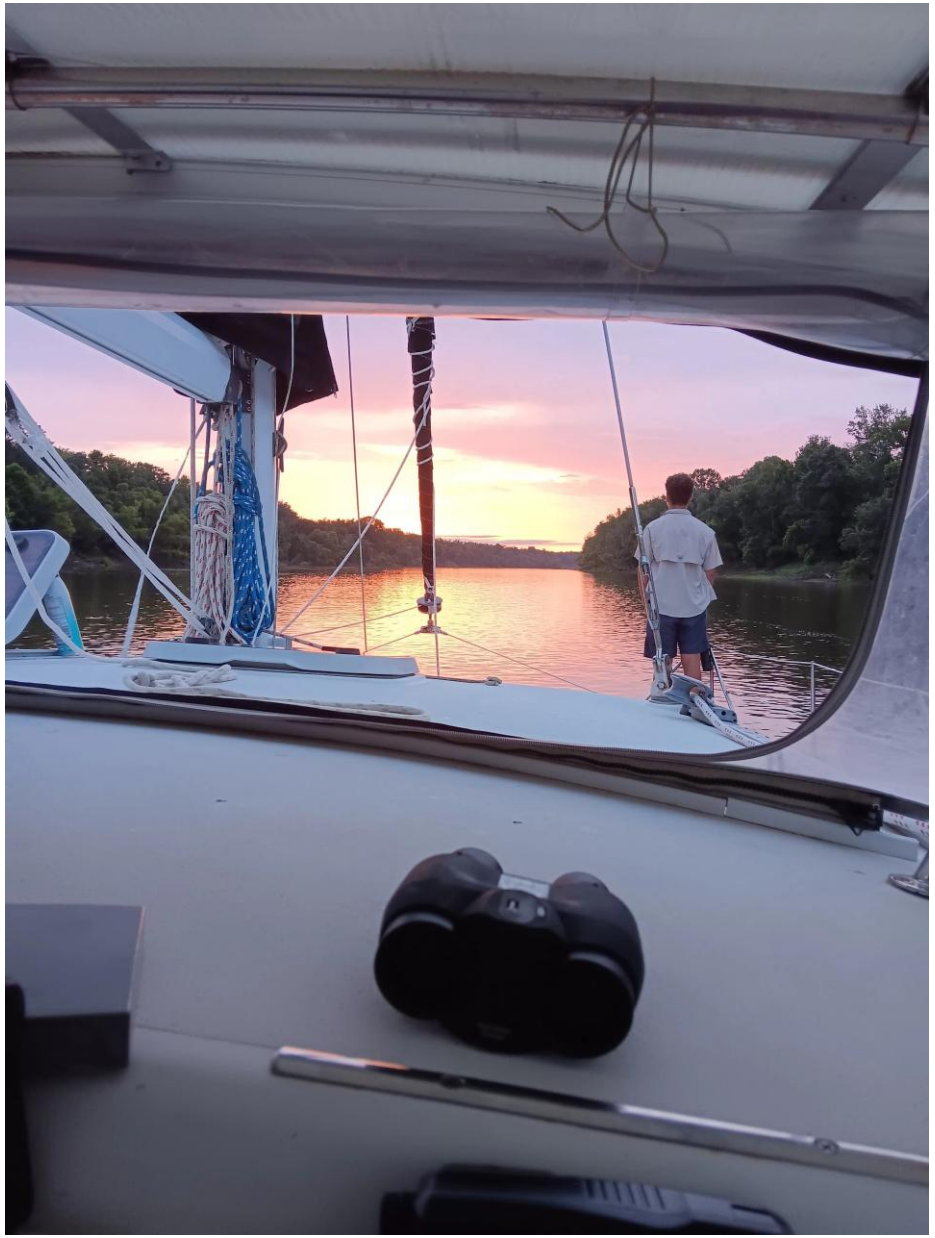
RTW Trip – Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

It is a 10-day trip down the Tenn-Tom waterway, through 13 locks, to get from Kentucky Lake to the Gulf of Mexico.

The boat can keep its mast up the whole way.

Pictures from our trip up the waterway in 2024.





RTW Trip – Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway

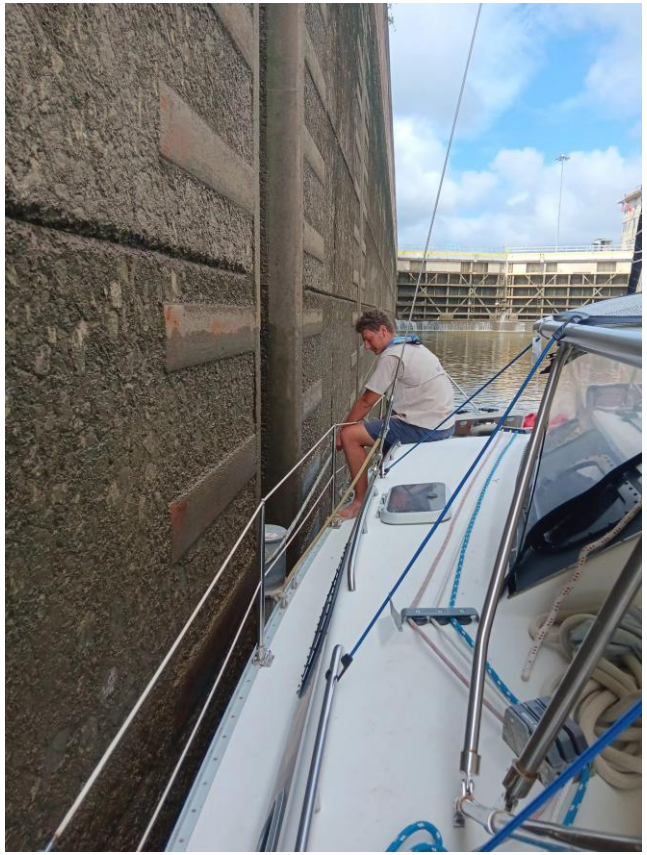
Anchoring at night on the inside bend of the waterway.

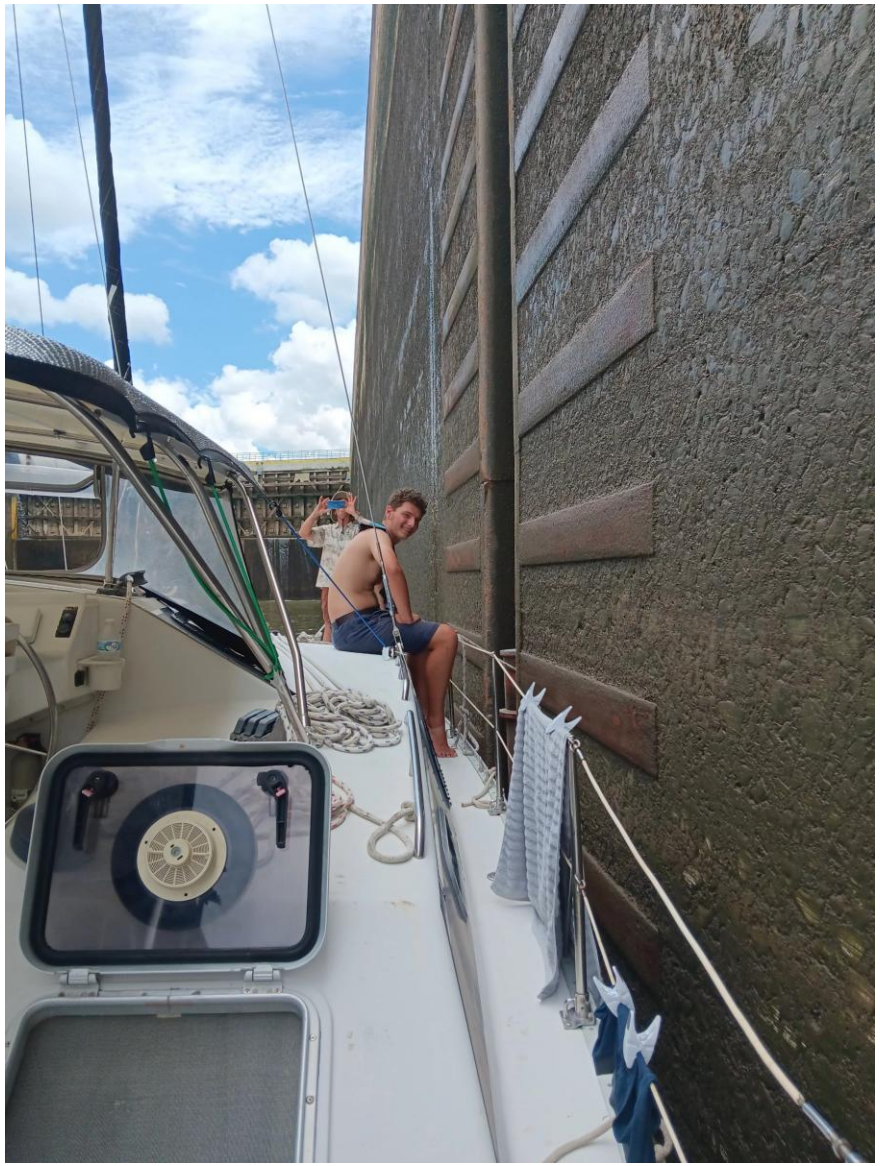
The barges will navigate the river on the outside of the bend.

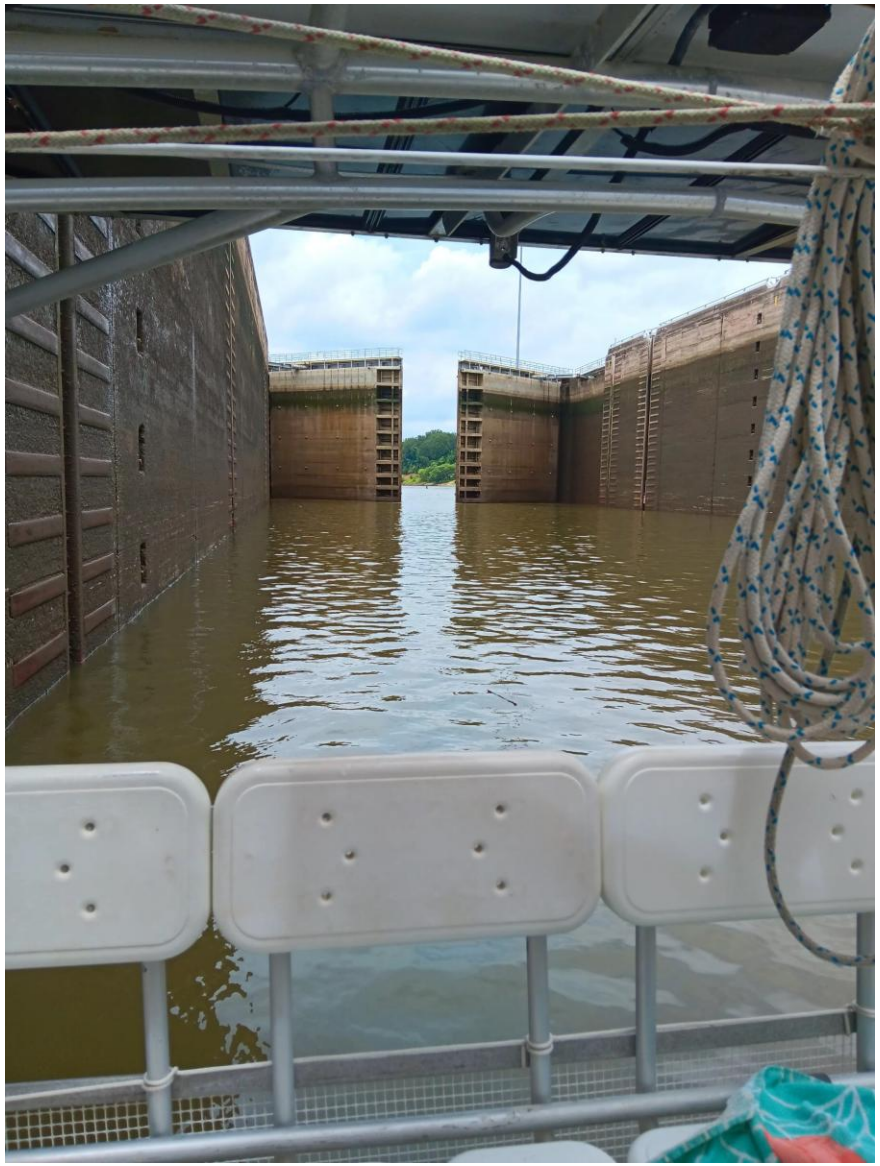
Pictures from our trip up the waterway in 2024.

Transiting one of the 13 locks, to get from Kentucky Lake to the Gulf of Mexico.

Pictures from our trip up the waterway in 2024.





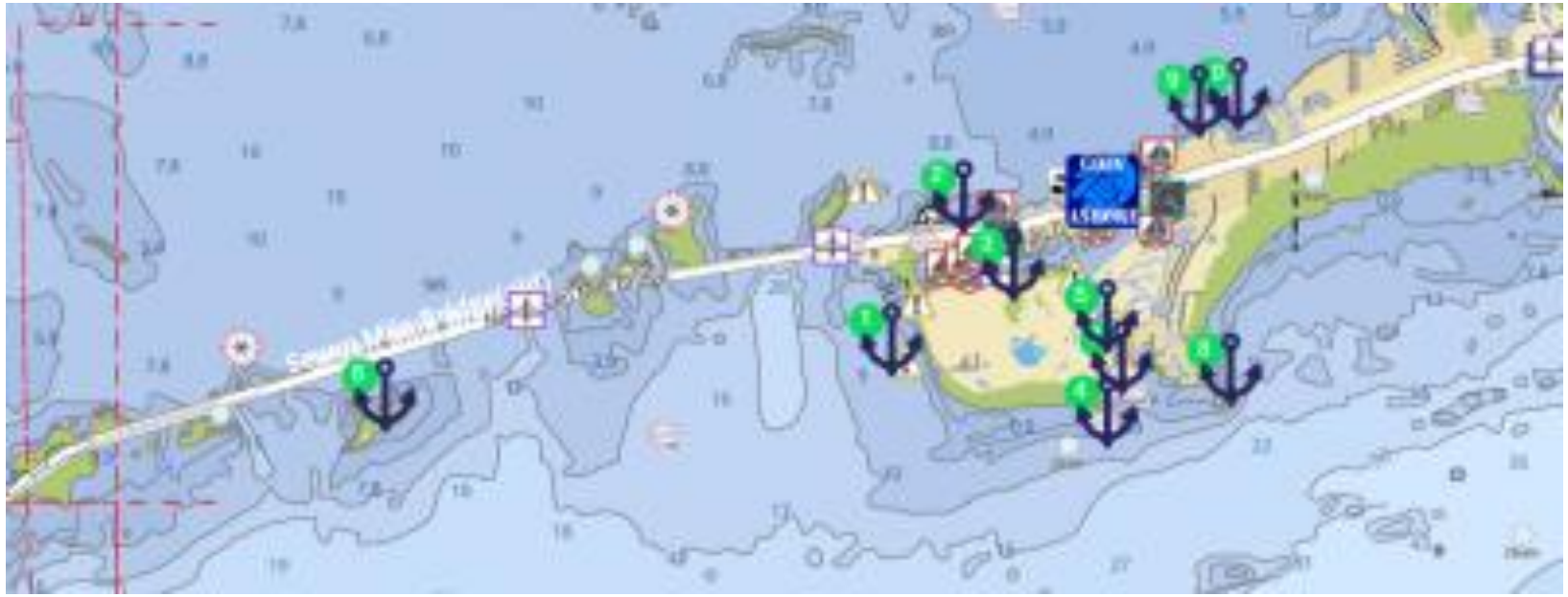


RTW Trip – Cross the Gulf to the Florida Keys

The best route for us through the Keys between the ICW (Gulf side) and Hawk Channel (Atlantic side) is probably Moser Channel at ICW Mile 1195, just south of Marathon. This is where Seven Mile Bridge is located and it has a 65-foot vertical clearance. Currents run swiftly with either tide. A favorable tide from Gulf to Atlantic would be the ebb tide, which is high tide to low tide. Time your crossing with the high tide to get a tidal assist from the tide from Gulf to Atlantic.

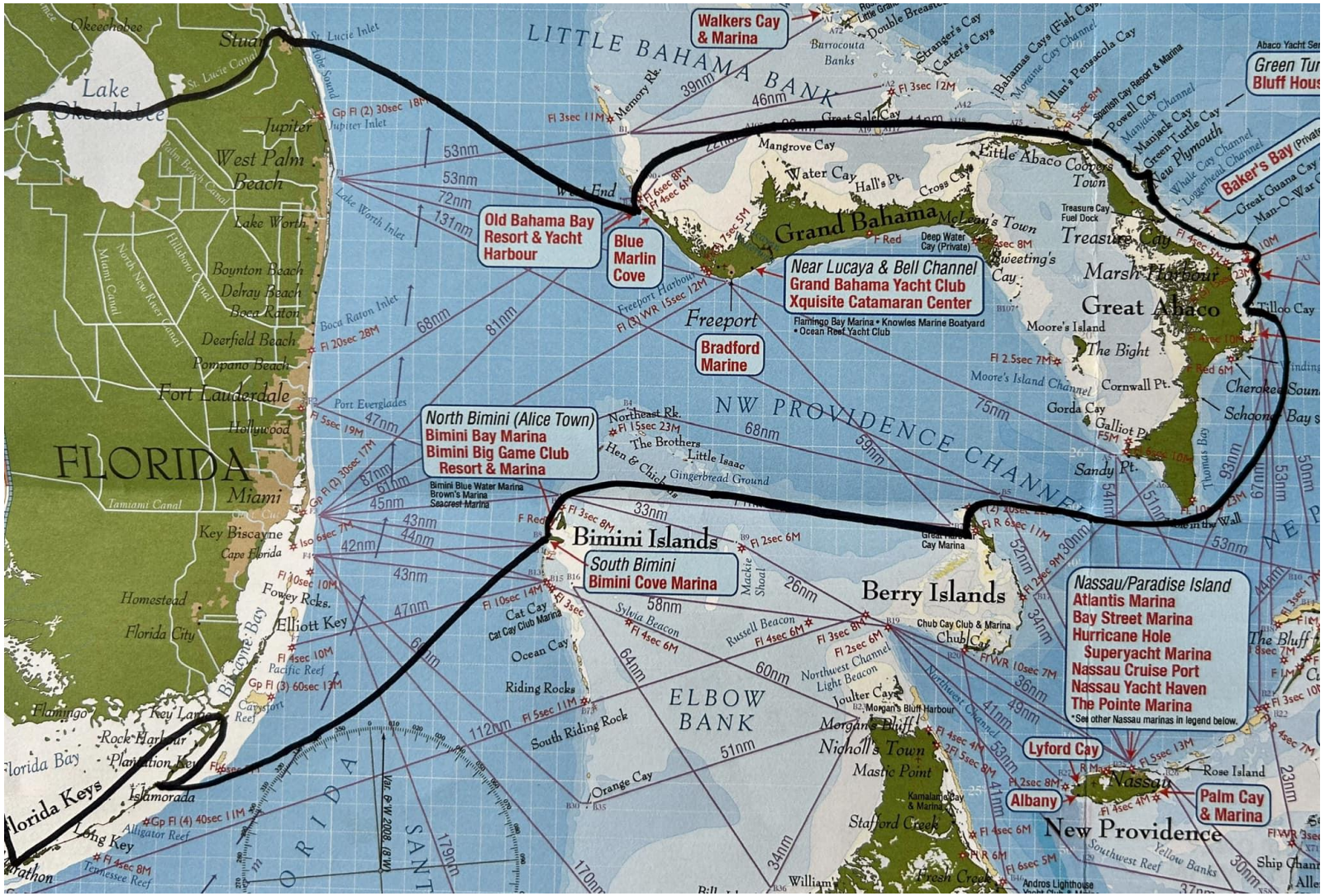
Marathon will be the last place to re-supply before we leave the country.

Anchorages near Seven Mile Bridge and Marathon.



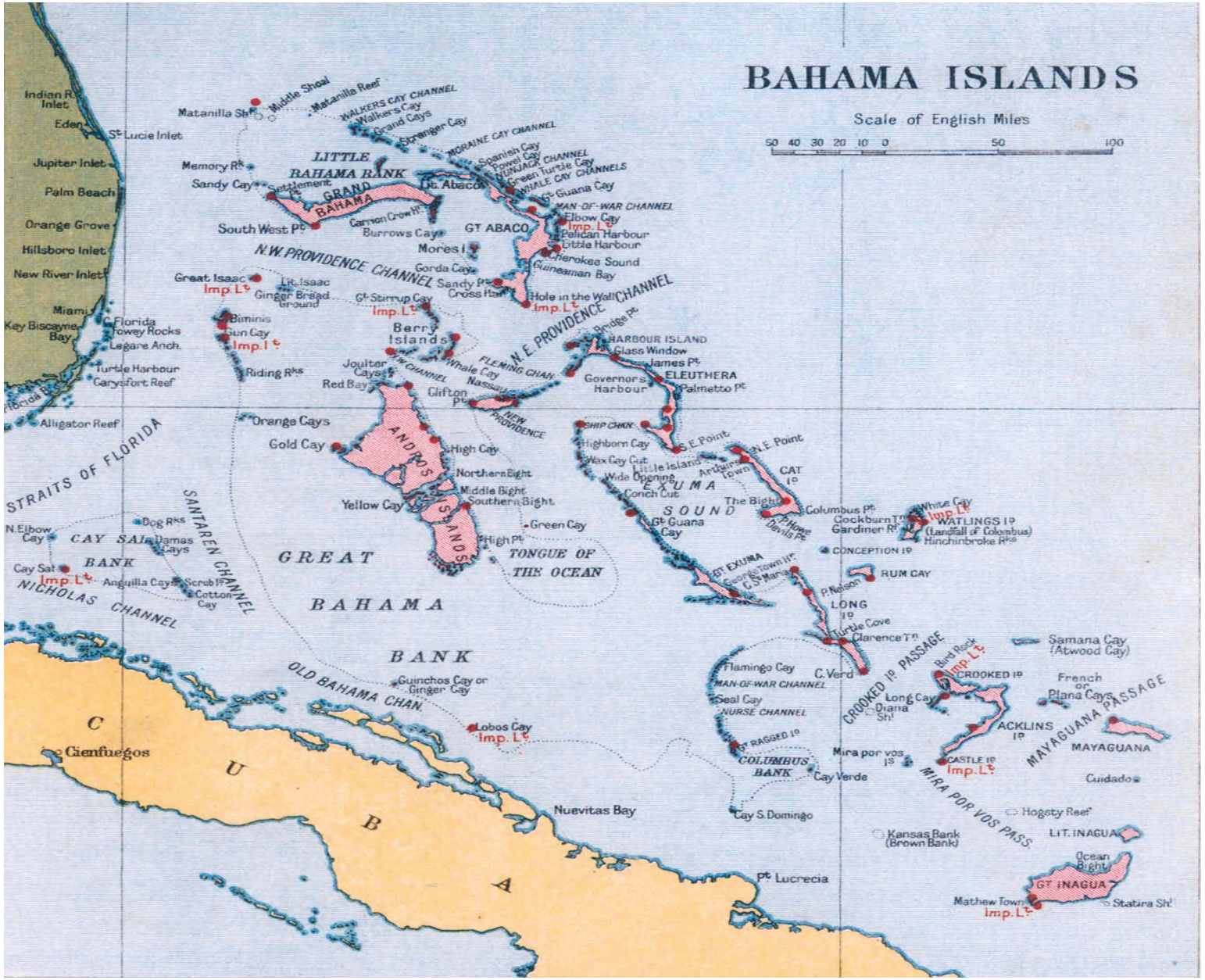
RTW Trip – Gulf Stream to the Bahama Islands

Sailing from Marathon, FL to Bimini, Bahamas involves navigating the Gulf Stream, which flows north, and has a strong current which significantly impacts the journey. We need to factor in the current when planning the route and heading, and consider potential wind conditions. A good strategy is to leave from as far south in the Keys as possible, like Marathon, and aim for a point south of Bimini, allowing the current to help you make your way to the island.



RTW Trip – Bahama Islands

1. Bimini – clear customs
2. Cross the Great Bahama Bank to the Berry Islands
   a. Great Harbor
   b. Blue Hole on Hoffman Cay
3. Abaco
   a. Marsh Harbor
   b. Grabbers
   c. Nippers
4. Eleuthera
5. Exuma
6. Ragged Islands – very remote
7. Gt. Inagua - exit



RTW Trip – South through the Caribbean

The end goal is to get to Panama in December. We will work our way south through the Caribbean islands until we need to cross the Caribbean Sea to Panama.

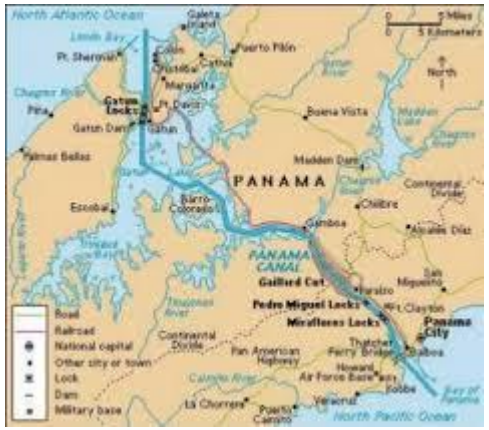
Possibly as far south as Grenada.

RTW Trip – South through the Caribbean

The end goal is to get to Panama in December. We will work our way south through the Caribbean islands until we need to cross the Caribbean Sea to Panama.

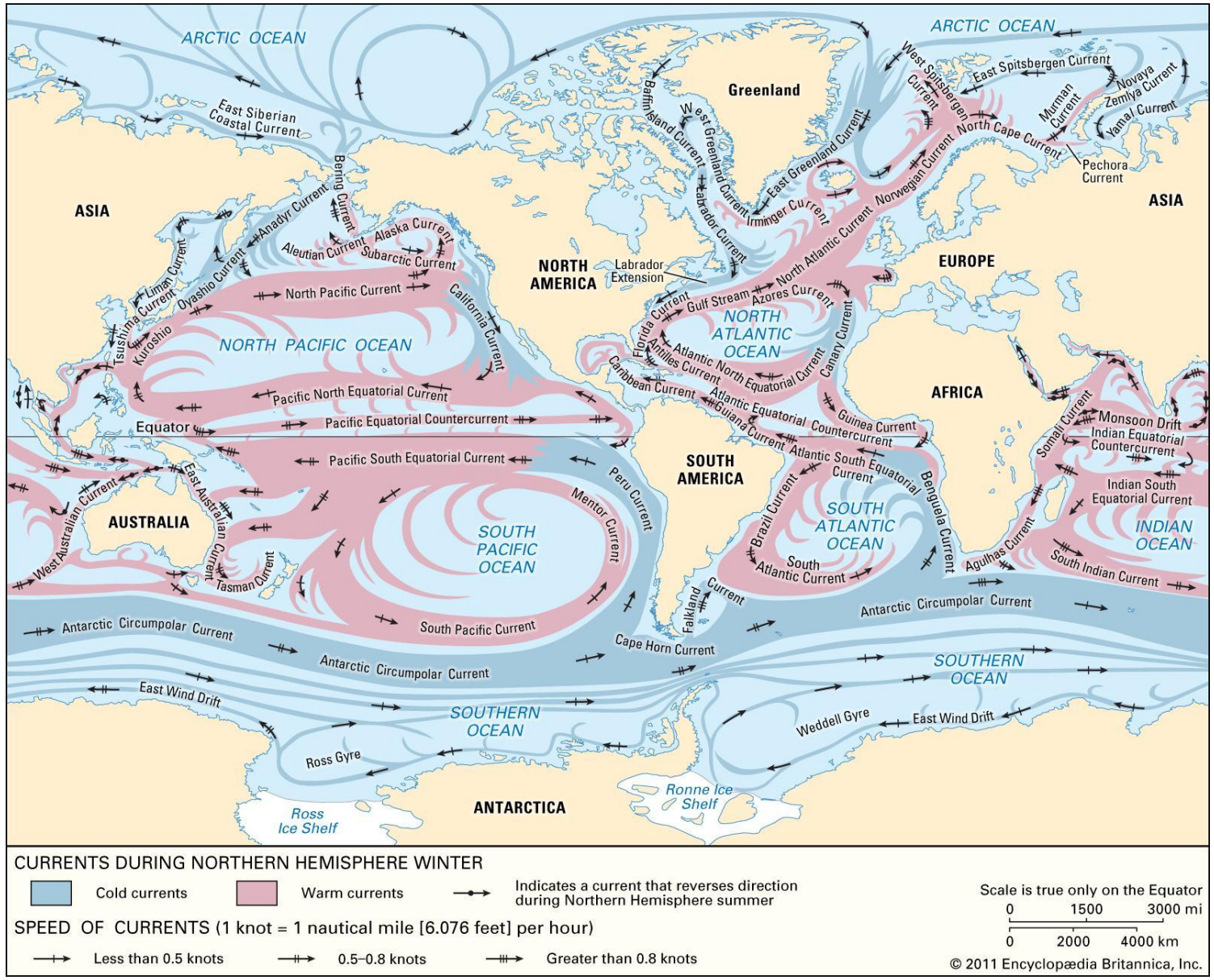
RTW Trip – Panama Canal – east to west

- First to go: Procedures for securing a handline transit of the Panama canal. There are 9 pages and changes occur from time to time. The instructions are detailed and important.
- Scheduling a transit will only happen after you have been inspected and paid your toll and refundable buffer fee.
- Don't be in a hurry. If the boat breaks down it will be costly. Transits may be changed 24 hours prior without penalty.
- See the Shelter Bay Marina (SBM) video on transit process.
- Organize a crew, line handlers are important, be sure to take charge, assign tasks and monitor compliance.
- Relationship with pilot or advisor: Both will give instructions for positioning of the Vessel. You must communicate any problems to the advisor or pilot.
- Most of the problems that occur a]in the canal are due to error of the crew or mechanical problems of vessels.
- It is probably best to hire an agent. They can expedite the process. Agents can pay a bill that you cannot pay while you are in the canal. Agent fees vary widely. Hire one that has offices on both sides of the canal.
- A boat needs at least 5 people on board to transit. Invite guests.
- The best time of year to transit the Panama Canal is during the dry season, which runs from December to April. During these months, travelers can expect lower humidity, minimal rain, and more comfortable, sunny temperatures. For South Pacific-bound boats, December until mid-January is the best for minimal delay.



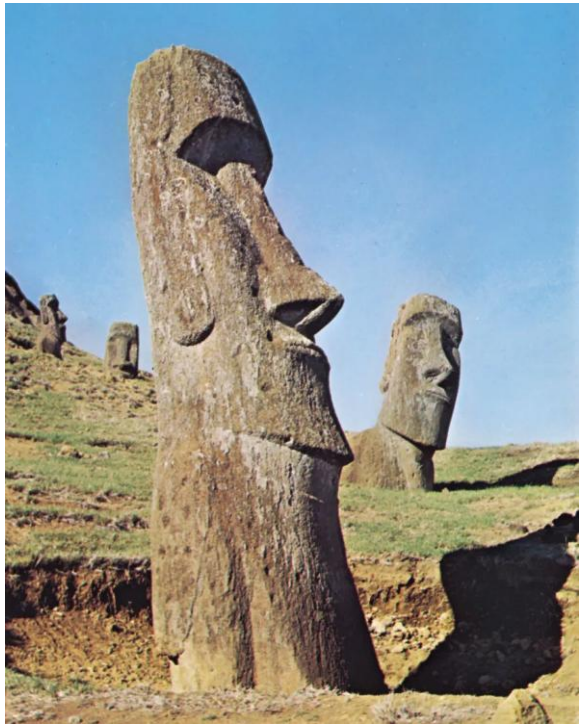
RTW Trip – Panama to Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

- **Timing:** The optimal window to leave is between December and May, with a peak for arrivals at Easter Island around January to April.
- Sailing from Panama to Easter Island is a challenging, long-distance blue-water passage, typically spanning over 3,200 miles, often undertaken as a detour from the standard Panama-to-Marquesas trade wind route. The best time to depart is generally January to April to avoid peak storm seasons, requiring a sturdy boat, thorough preparation for 3-4+ weeks at sea, and strategies to navigate the variable winds and potential calms of the South Pacific.
- Upon arrival, Hanga Roa is the main port, but it is an exposed anchorage, often necessitating that crews be prepared for rough, unpredictable conditions.



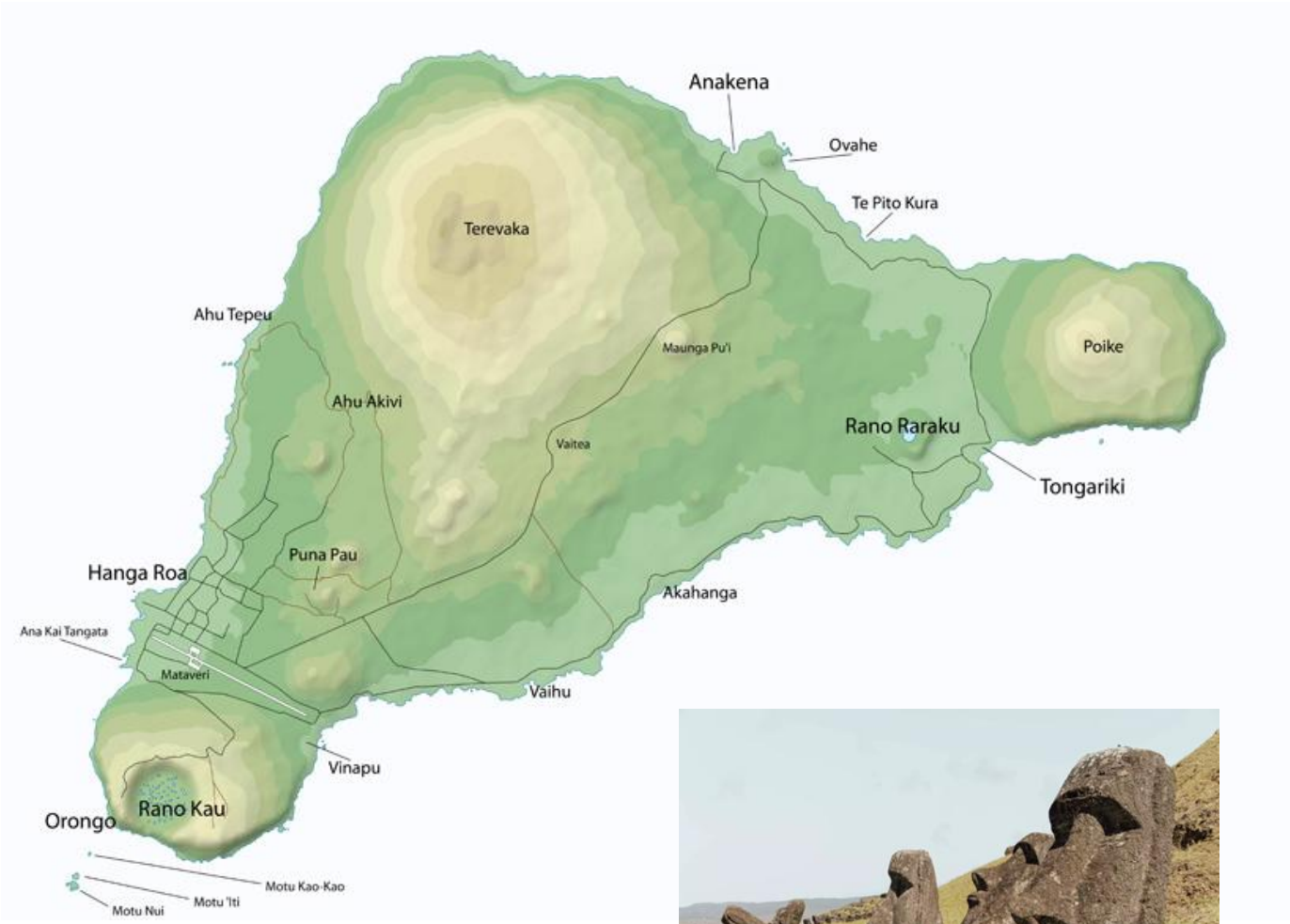
RTW Trip – Panama to Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

Easter Island (Rapa Nui) is considered the most remote inhabited island on Earth, located in the southeastern Pacific Ocean over 3,200 miles (3 to 4 weeks at sea) from Panama and 1,200 miles from the nearest neighbor, Pitcairn Island. It is famous for its ~900+ mysterious giant monolithic statues, the *moai*.



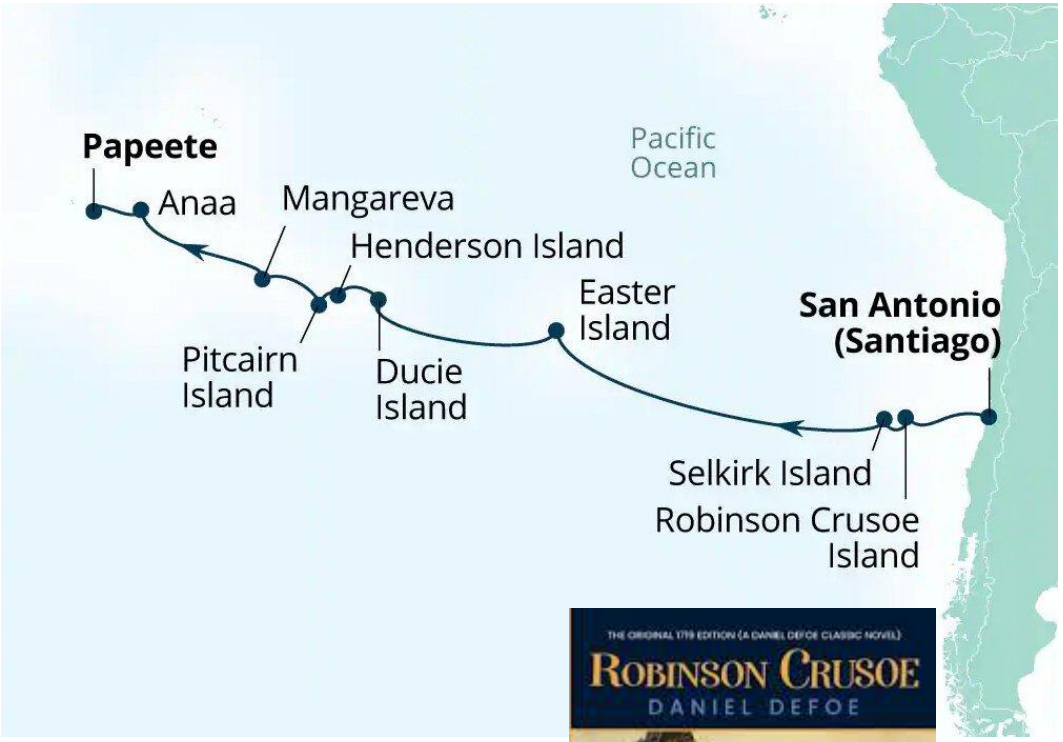
RTW Trip – Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

- Anchorages at Easter Island (Rapa Nui) are limited, offering little protection, and often require yachts to move frequently.
- The Chilean Armada requires someone to be aboard at all times. Anchorages are often "rolly," and you may need to move if winds or swells change.
- **Anakena (North):** Considered the best and most scenic anchorage, featuring a sandy bottom at about 10 meters, located on the north side with stunning beach views and direct access to Moai statues. It is well-protected from SE-S-SW winds, but can become uncomfortable if strong westerly winds arise.
- **Hanga Roa (West):** The primary anchorage for visiting vessels, offering protection from easterly and southeasterly winds. It is centrally located near the main town.
- **Hanga Piko (Southwest):** A smaller, more enclosed bay and port suitable for smaller vessels, often used for tender landings, but with a potentially dangerous, narrow entrance requiring local knowledge.
- **Hotu Iti (East):** A less protected option, useful depending on wind, located near the beach of Anakena.

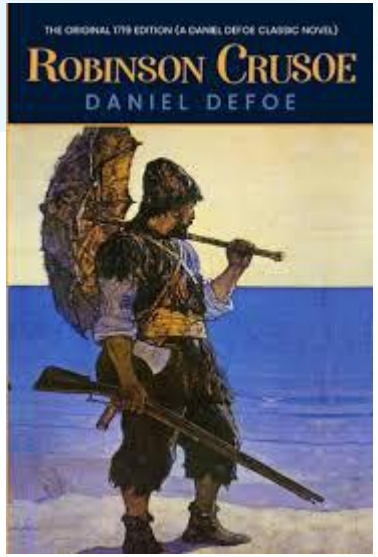


RTW Trip – Easter Island (Rapa Nui) to Pitcairn Island

Sailing from Easter Island (Rapa Nui) to Pitcairn Island is a remote, roughly 1,200-to-1,300-mile journey across the South Pacific, usually taking 10–13 days. This, one of the world's most isolated voyages, typically features, light easterly winds, calm seas, and requires expert navigation to manage the challenging, swell-prone landing at Bounty Bay, Pitcairn.



As an aside, Selkirk Island, off the coast of Chile, is where Alexander Selkirk (Robinson Crusoe) was shipwrecked.



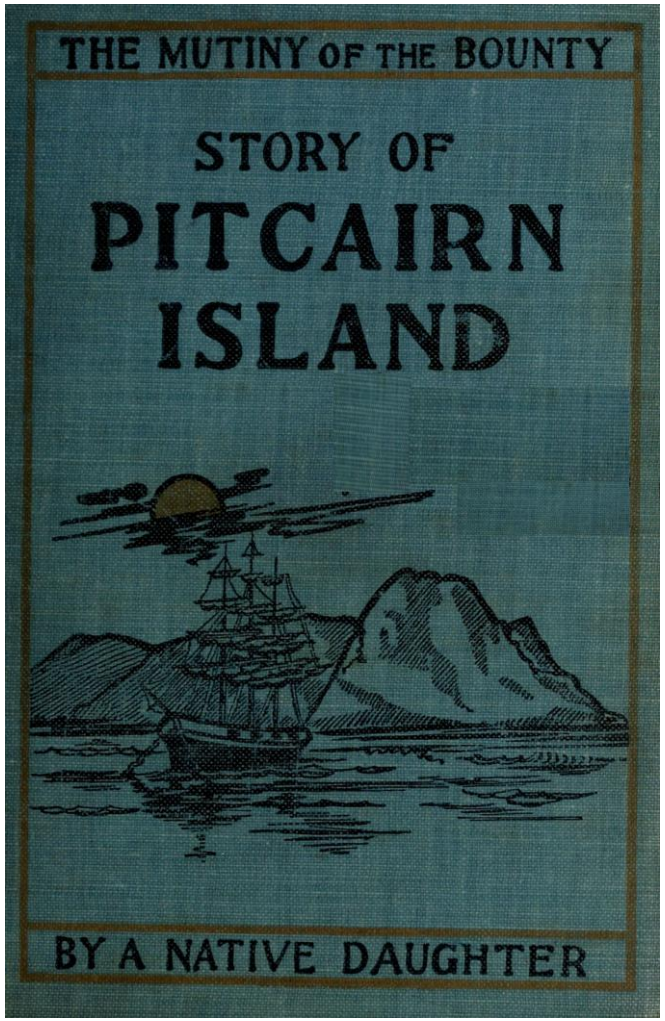
RTW Trip – Pitcairn

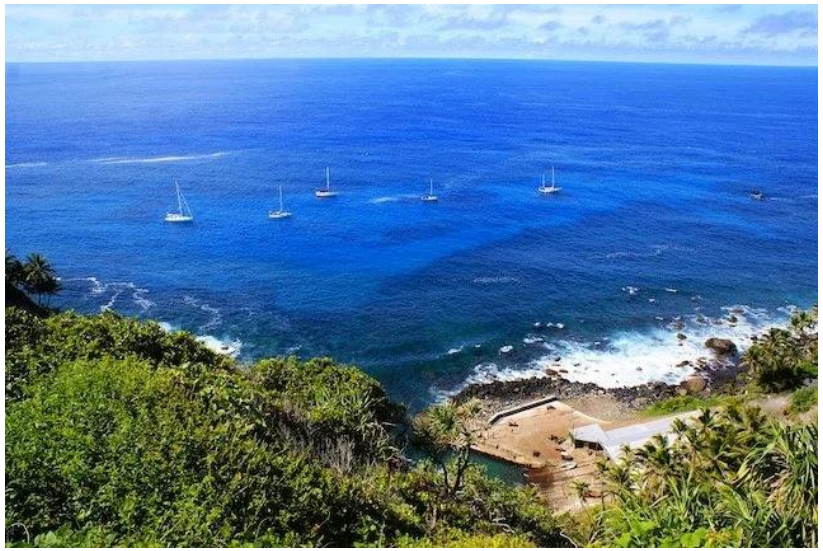
Mutiny on the Bounty:
The island's story starts with the infamous mutiny in 1789; the mutineers, led by Fletcher Christian, fled to the uninhabited Pitcairn to hide from the British authorities.

Unique Descendants:
The island is populated by descendants of these mutineers and their Tahitian companions, forming a small, close-knit society.

Sunken Bounty:
The wreckage of the HMS Bounty remains underwater in Bounty Bay, a significant historical artifact and attraction.

Remote & Isolated:
It's one of the most isolated inhabited places on Earth, with no airstrip, relying on supply ships.



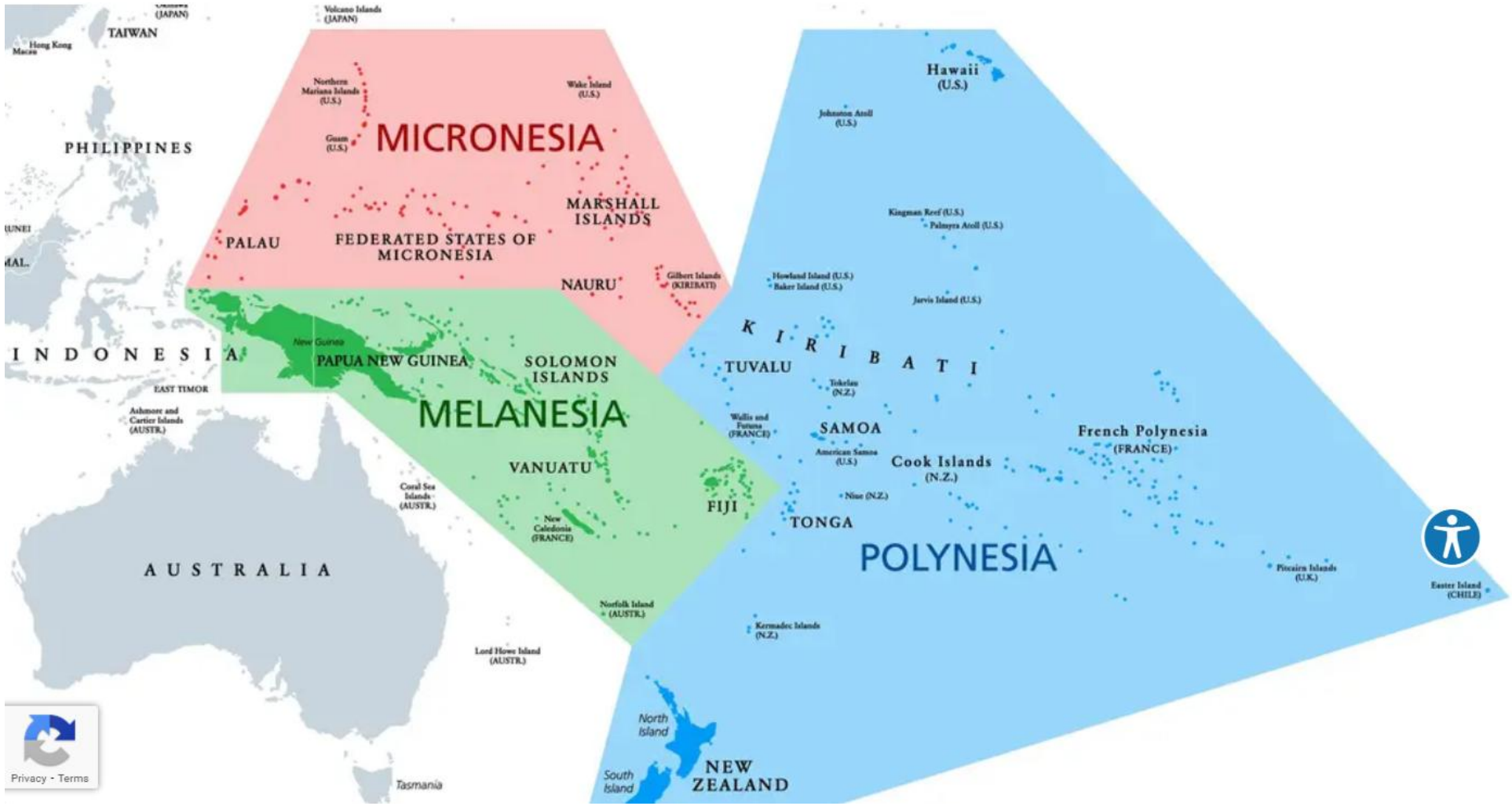


RTW Trip – South Pacific Islands

- Thousands of islands spread over thousands of miles
- Polynesia
- Micronesia
- Melanesia

RTW Trip – Polynesia

- Polynesia
  - French Polynesia
    - Tahiti
    - Bora Bora
    - Marquesas
  - Cook Islands
    - Rarotonga
    - **Palmerston**
  - Samoa
    - American Samoa
  - Tonga
  - Tuvalu



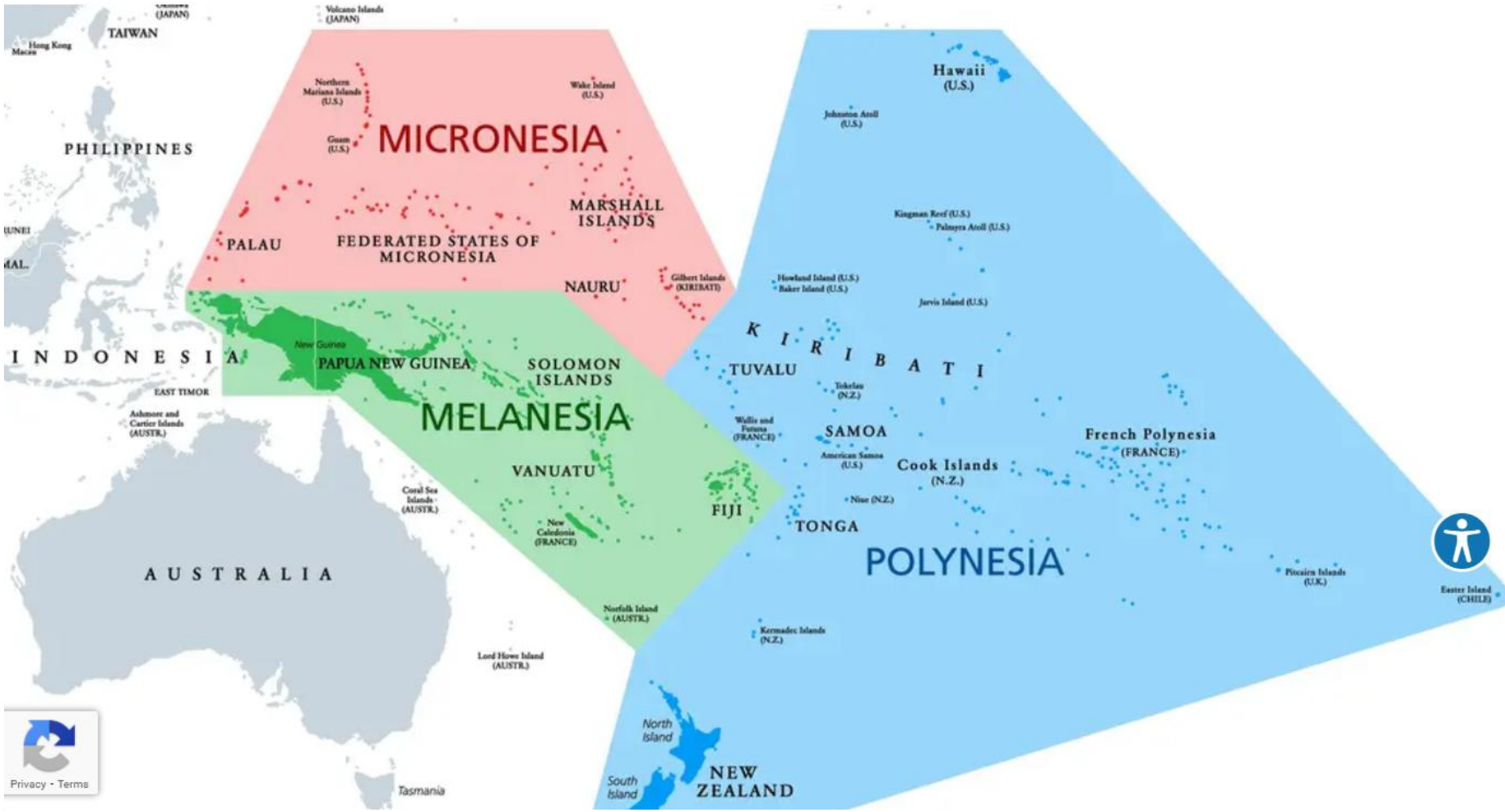
RTW Trip – Polynesia - Palmerston

- It is one of the most isolated island communities in the world. The tiny Pacific island of Palmerston is visited by a supply ship twice a year - at most - and the long and hazardous journey deters all but the most intrepid visitors. What's more, most of its 62 inhabitants are descended from one man - an Englishman who settled there 150 years ago.
- William Marsters was Palmerston's first permanent inhabitant 150 years ago. Marsters was granted possession of Palmerston by Queen Victoria. His wife's cousins became his wives too, and together the three couples had 23 children. Before his death in 1899 he split the island into three parts, one for each of his wives. Today, all but three of the residents are direct descendants of William.

RTW Trip – Micronesia

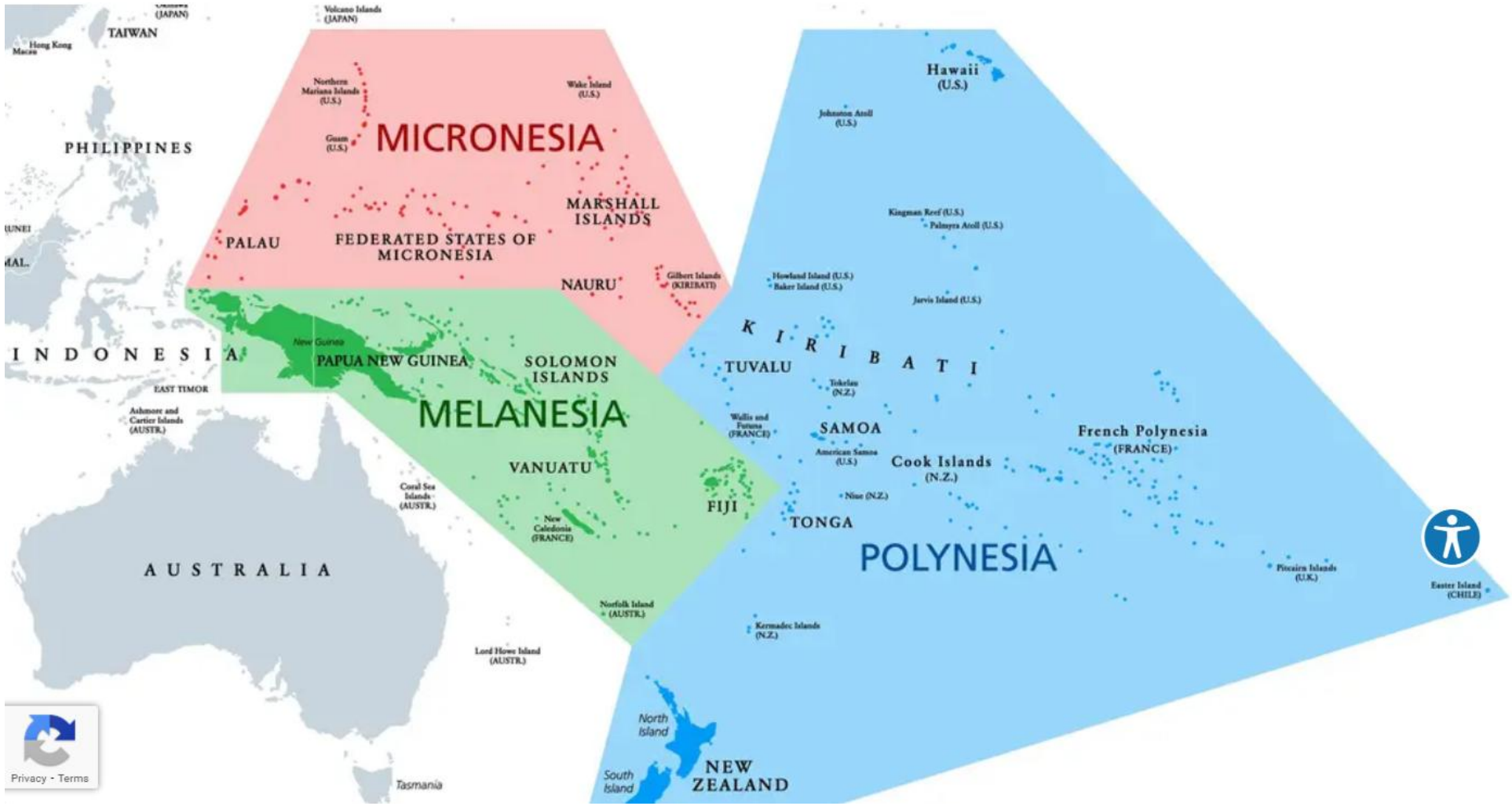
- Micronesia
  - Gilbert Islands
  - Marshall Islands
  - Wake Island
  - Mariana Islands
  - Guam – US military base
  - Palau

Micronesia, a key Pacific region, was a vital strategic theater in World War II, heavily occupied and developed by Japan before becoming a major, destructive battleground for the Allied "island-hopping" campaign against Japan (1941–1945). Major, bloody conflicts occurred in the Marshall Islands, Marianas, and Palau, culminating in the destruction of Japan's fleet at Truk Lagoon and the subsequent U.S. trusteeship.



RTW Trip – Melanesia

- Melanesia
  - Fiji
  - New Caledonia
    - McHale's Navy
  - Vanuatu
  - Solomon Islands
  - Papua New Guinea
    - Headhunters
    - Cannibals

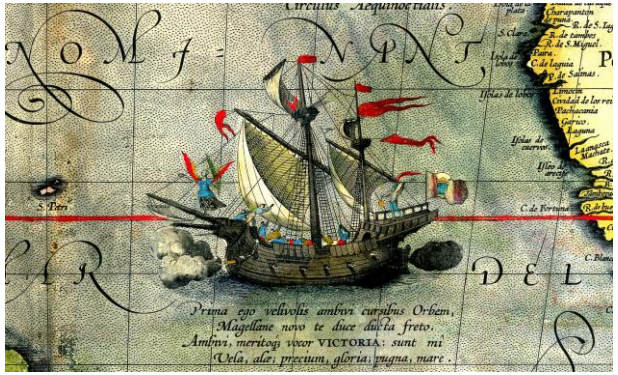


RTW Trip – North Australia and Indonesia

We could go as far north as Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, or the Philippines, but in all likelihood, we will go just north of Australia through the area marked as Indonesia.

RTW Trip – Spice Islands – Banda Islands

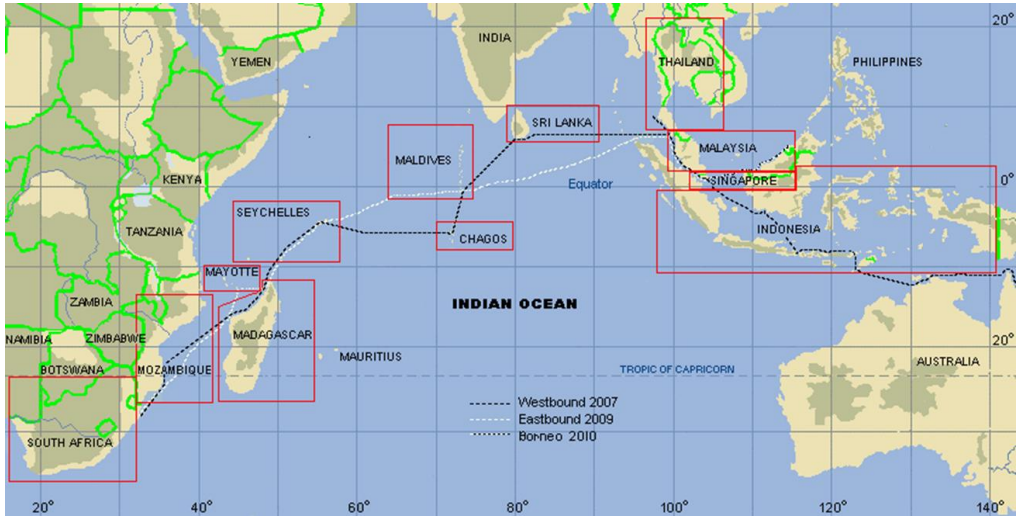
The islands were known as the **Spice Islands** because this was the **only place on earth** where nutmeg, mace, and cloves grew before the 18th century. Clove, nutmeg, and mace are native to only a handful of tiny islands in the middle of the vast Indonesian archipelago.

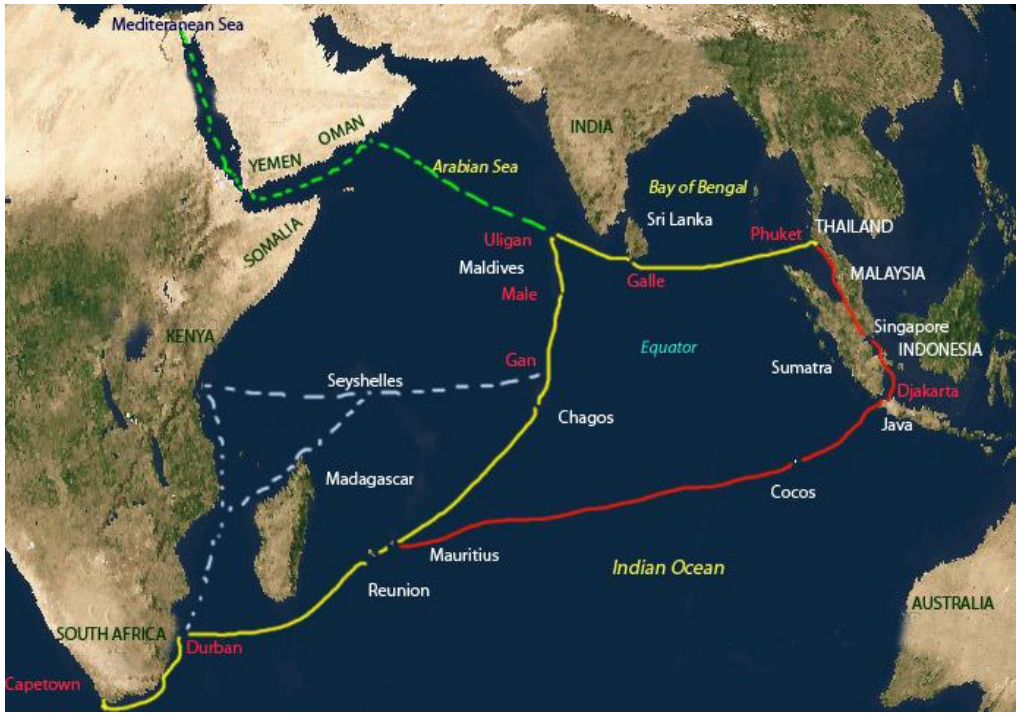


For over a thousand years, the entry of clove, nutmeg, and mace into world trade was dependent on Indonesian sailors. Enterprising Arabs held the location of the Spice Islands secret from the Europeans for centuries, keeping the price exorbitant, and the origin of the spices was unknown to Europeans until the early 16th century. The secret was finally broken by the Portuguese in 1512, soon after they discovered the route to the Indian Ocean.

RTW Trip – Indian Ocean

- Indian Ocean
- Need to avoid the typhoon season, July - November
  - Maldives
    - Time to visit is Nov to April
  - Cocos Keeling
    - Australian territory
    - One of the worlds largest marine parks
  - Chagos
    - Best time is March and June
    - No tourism, very restrictive
    - British owned
    - US military base of Diego Garcia
  - Seychelles
    - May to October
    - No native population
    - British owned, French history
  - Mauritius
    - May - October
    - La Reunion
      - French overseas territory
      - Significant shark risks – swimming banned
  - Madagascar
    - Over 90% of its reptiles, 89% of plant life, and 92% of mammals exist nowhere else on Earth, including various lemur species, chameleons, and birds





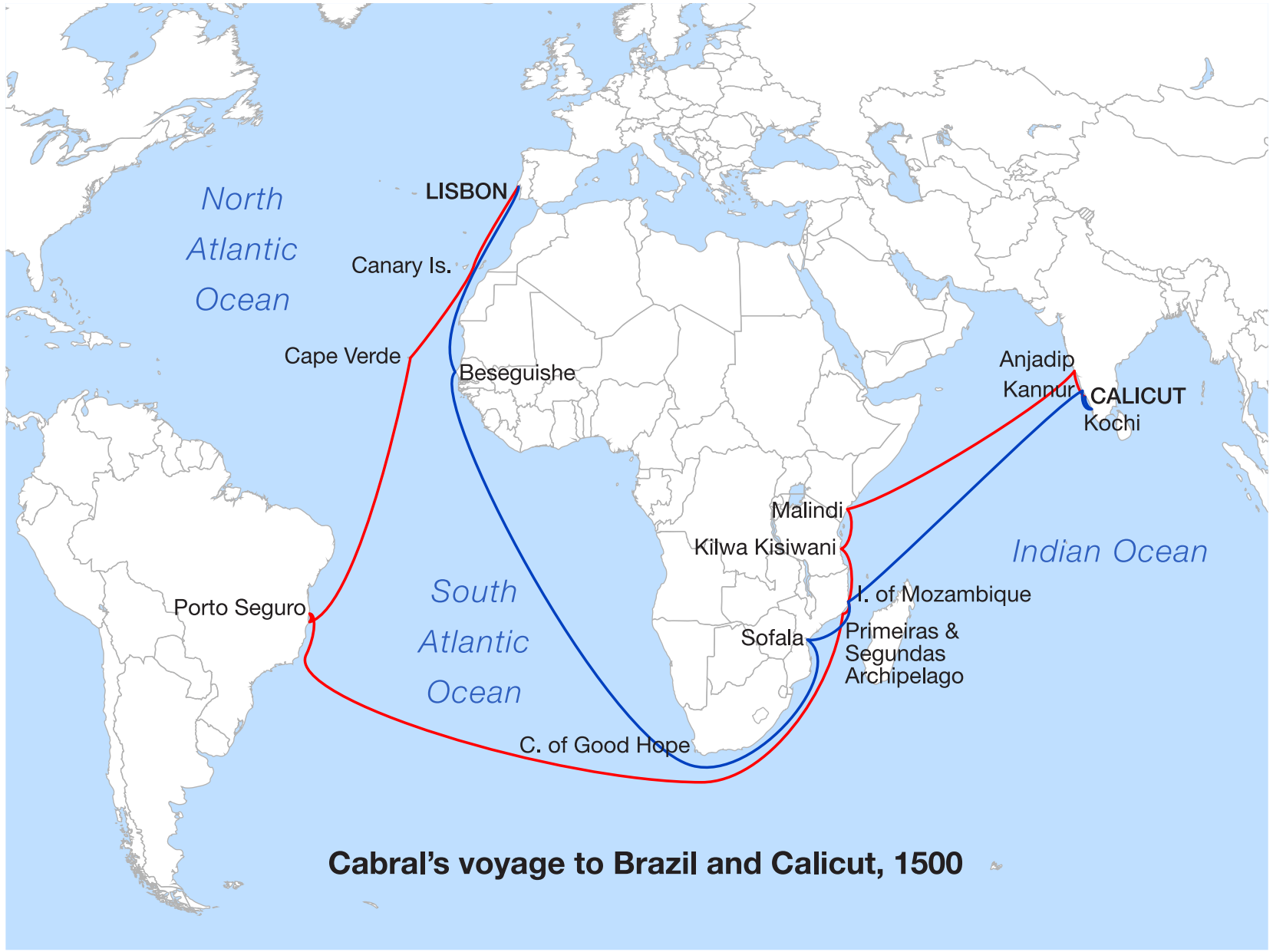
RTW Trip – La Reunion

- Réunion Island, a French department in the Indian Ocean, is known for its volcanic, rain-forested interior, coral reefs and beaches. Its most iconic landmark is Piton de la Fournaise, a climbable active volcano standing 2,632m (8,635 ft.).
- Known as a hiker's paradise with breathtaking landscapes.

RTW Trip – Africa – Cape of Good Hope

Sailing around the Cape of Good Hope, the treacherous southern tip of Africa, was a monumental feat in maritime history, first achieved by Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias in 1488, opening the sea route to Asia and paving the way for global trade and European expansion, a route famously completed by Vasco da Gama later to reach India. This challenging passage, originally named the Cape of Storms, connects the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, symbolizing adventure and the unknown for centuries.

Our plan is to follow the “blue line” route.

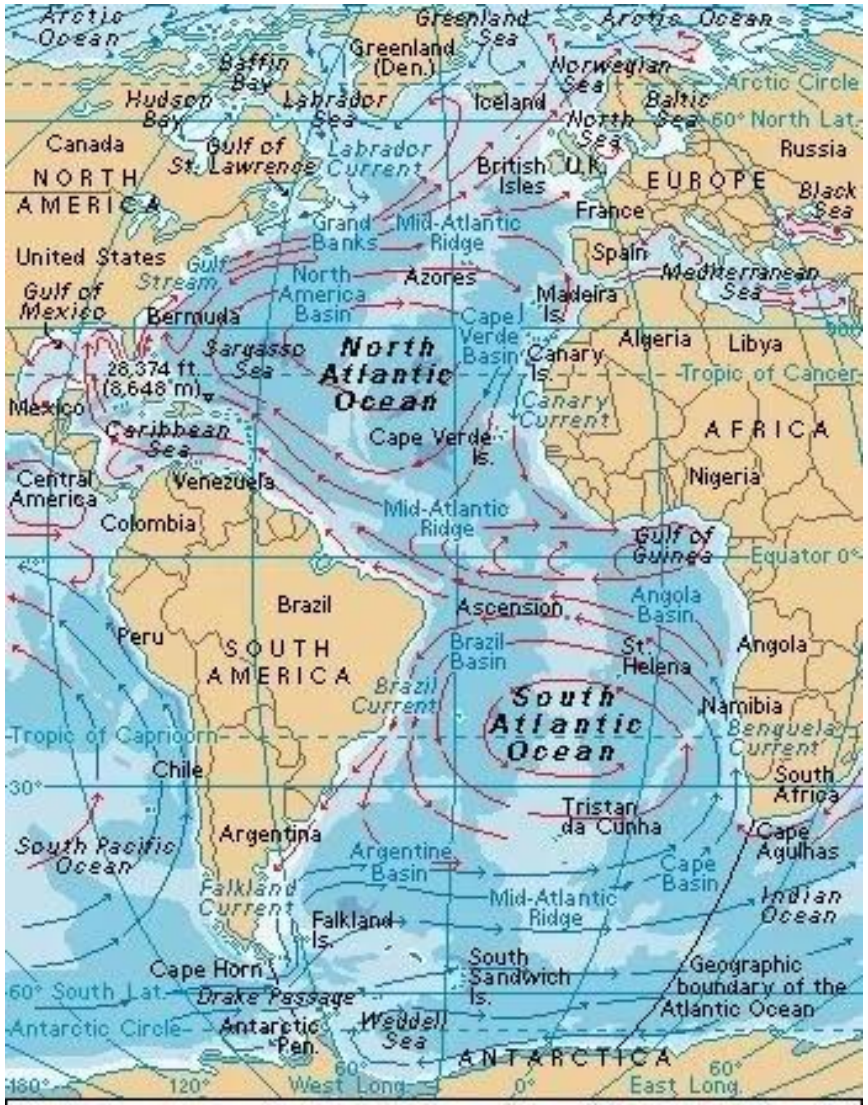


RTW Trip – Africa – Namibia – Skeleton Coast

- Best months, May to September
- Namibia's Skeleton Coast is a land of paradoxes: desert meets ocean, arid landscapes teem with wildlife, and rusty shipwrecks add an eerie dimension to the otherwise timeless expanse. Untouched and seemingly a world away from human civilization, the combination of silence and scope here is utterly entrancing.
- **Namibia has the richest known marine diamond deposits in the world**, estimated to total more than 80 million carats.
- A little more than a century ago in May 1908, loose alluvial diamonds were first found in beach sediments near the small town of Lüderitzbucht in the former German colony of Southwest Africa (now Namibia).

RTW Trip – Sailing Route to St. Helena

- Sailing to St. Helena, a remote South Atlantic island, typically involves a 10–14 day, 1,700–1,800 nautical mile downwind passage from Cape Town, South Africa, usually undertaken between January and March. The route is often part of the "South Atlantic adventure" or westward circumnavigation, favoring light-to-moderate south-easterly trade winds.
- **From Namibia (Walvis Bay/Luderitz):** A slightly shorter, roughly 1,200 nm passage, often chosen for a more direct northerly approach.



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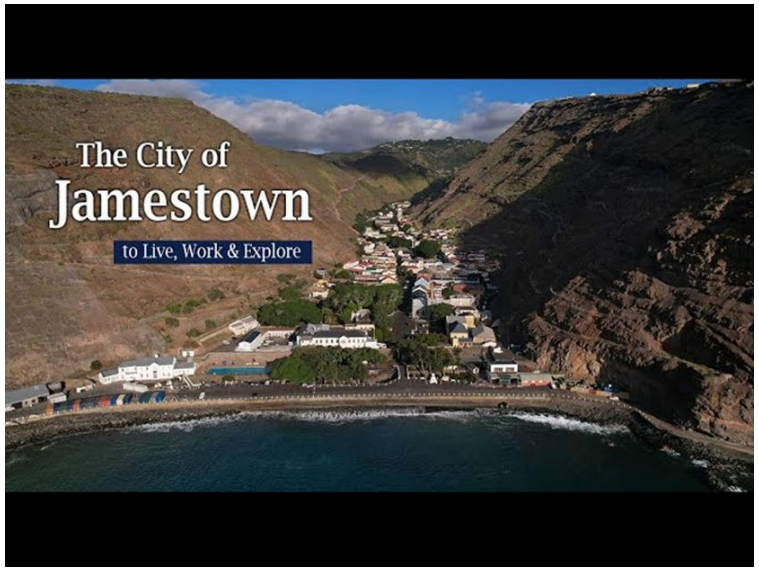
RTW Trip – St. Helena

Jacob's Ladder – steep 699-step staircase built in 1829



High Knoll Fort

RTW Trip – St. Helena – Napoleon Bonaparte exile

- The isle of St Helena, 4,500 miles from England and 1,200 miles from West Africa, was once described as being the place “further away from anywhere else in all the world”.
- Following his final defeat at Waterloo in 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled by the British to the remote South Atlantic island of St. Helena to prevent his return to power. He arrived on October 15, 1815, and lived in confinement at Longwood House under guard until his death on May 5, 1821.
- Today, the island is equally known for Jonathan the Tortoise, a Seychelles giant tortoise born around 1832 (194 years old) and now recognized as the world's oldest living land animal, residing at the Governor’s official home, Plantation House

RTW Trip – St. Helena to the Canary Islands and Azores

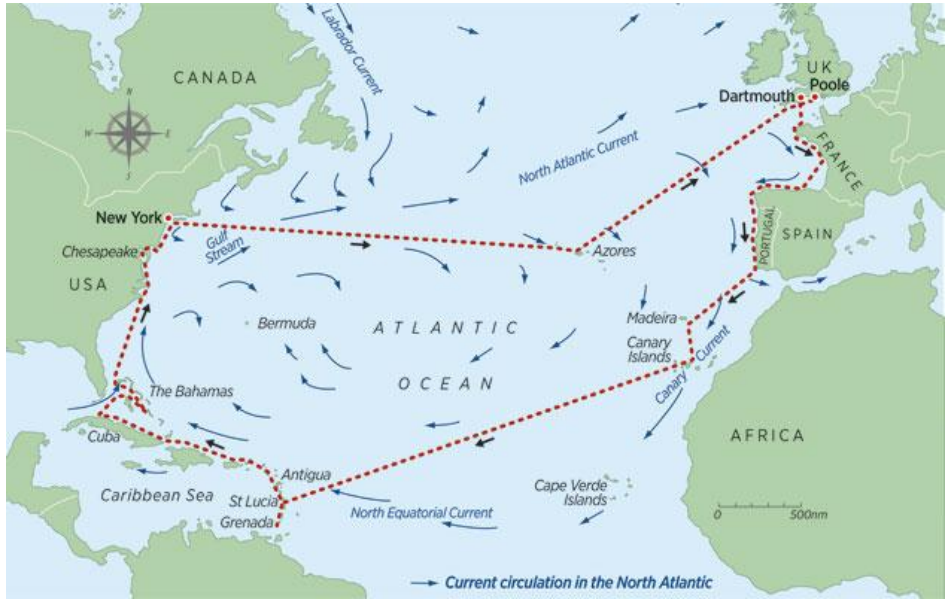
- Sailing from St. Helena to the Azores is best achieved by heading north to cross the equator, navigating the Doldrums, and catching the northeast trade winds in the North Atlantic. The route often requires sailing hard on a starboard tack to reach the Azores High or favorable westerly winds north of the high.
- **St. Helena towards the Equator:** Leave St. Helena and sail north to pick up the southeast trade winds, which will be a following wind or a broad reach. The logical route heads northwest initially to stay closer to the South American coast where the doldrums area is narrower and a helpful current can be found.
- **Crossing the Doldrums (ITCZ):** This area near the Equator can be challenging due to light or no wind, often requiring patience or motoring for a couple of days.
- **North Atlantic to the Azores:** Once in the Northern Hemisphere, you will encounter the northeast trade winds. You'll need to sail hard on a starboard tack, generally heading northwest, until you reach the region of the Azores High or the prevailing westerly/southwesterly winds further north. These westerlies will then carry you towards the Azores.

RTW Trip – The Azores

- "The Azores" (or "Açores") refers to a stunning archipelago of nine volcanic islands, an autonomous region of Portugal, located in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, known for dramatic volcanic landscapes, lush greenery, hot springs, hiking, whale watching, unique culture, and being a less crowded European escape with a distinct Portuguese feel. The islands are divided into eastern (São Miguel, Santa Maria), central (Pico, Faial, São Jorge, Terceira, Graciosa), and western (Flores, Corvo) groups, offering rich nature, adventure, and delicious local flavors.

RTW Trip – Back to the Caribbean

- The distance between the Azores and the Caribbean Sea is approximately 6,174 km (roughly 3,300–3,800 nautical miles, depending on the specific islands). A transatlantic sail from the Caribbean (e.g., Antigua or Guadeloupe) to the Azores typically takes 17 to 25+ days, often undertaken as a "mile-builder" voyage in spring to catch favorable, albeit challenging, conditions.
- Sailing from St. Helena to the Caribbean is a roughly 3,000+ nautical mile, 3- to 4-week voyage across the South Atlantic, typically undertaken by cruisers traveling from South Africa or the Southern Ocean. This route involves navigating the trade winds, crossing the equator, and traversing the doldrums (area of low wind), with many choosing to head west towards Brazil to avoid the wider, calmer eastern equatorial region.



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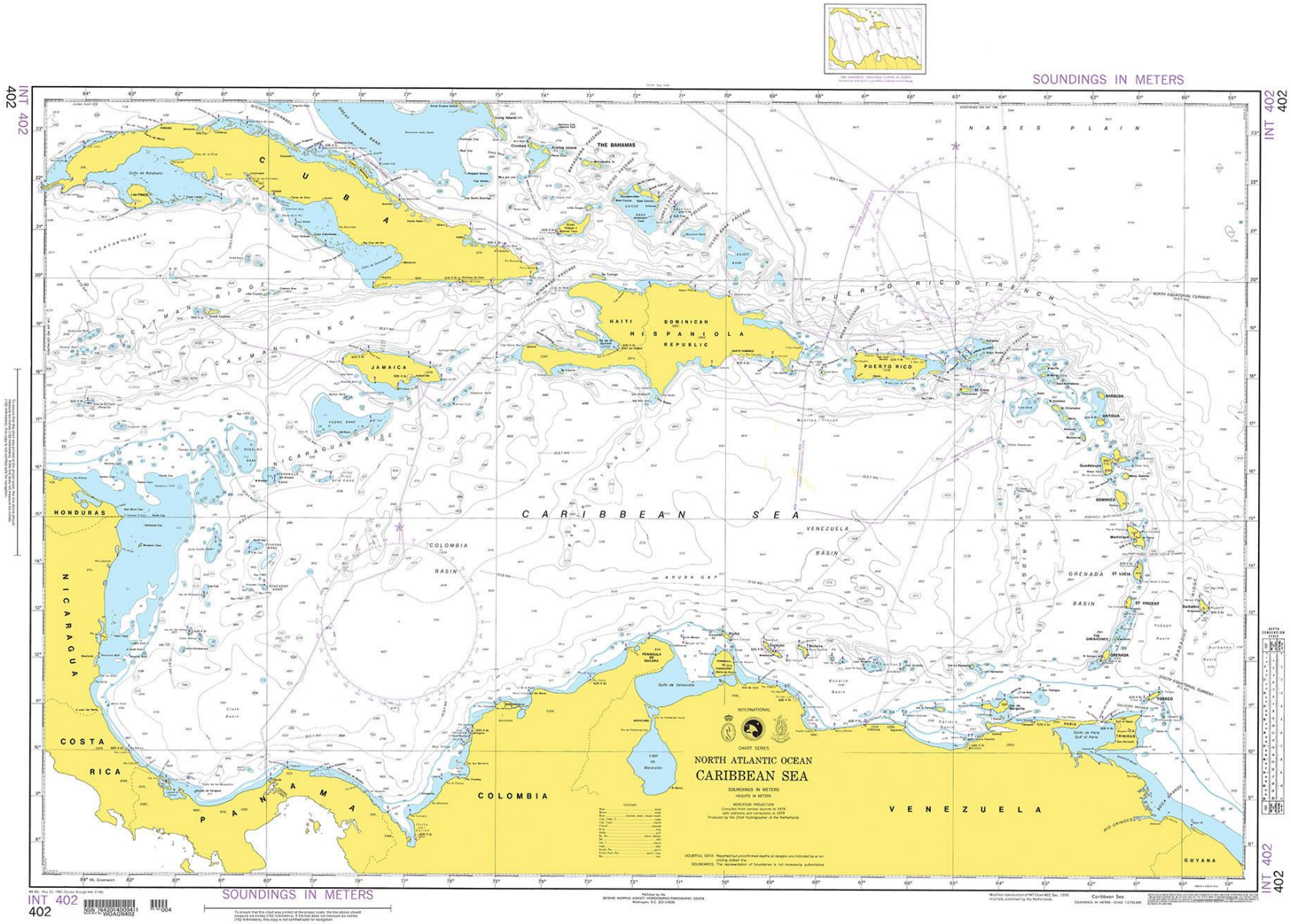
Backup Slides

Backup Slides

RTW Trip – South through the Caribbean



Sailing Round-The-World

Starting May 2026

Roderick Richards
Mateo Richards

Agenda

- Old boat – Years of work
- New boat
- Outline of Round-The-World (RTW) Trip
- Details of Some Places We Plan to Visit
- How to Follow Us

SV Cheshire Cat

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Sailing Round-The-World

Starting May 2026

Roderick Richards
Mateo Richards