

Can you describe the journey you will be taking when you sail across the Atlantic?

The crew consists of 3 people:

- The Skipper (he is an English Pro who has done the crossing 11 times and is also a RYA examiner)
- The boat owner (yacht master, he is fluent in French and Moroccan; he is also a computer scientist.
- Myself

I will fly to Tenerife on the 3rd of November to meet the yacht; from here we will leave to cross the Atlantic by 8th November, this is the start of 3 weeks sailing day and night to get to the British Virgin Islands.

We will approximately arrive in the BVI's the first week of December, here there will be some downtime to allow for boat repairs and to buy more provisions, this will last a week which will allow us time to cruise islands.

The Second week of December we will leave BVI's and head to Florida Sarasota, after 10 days sailing we hope to arrive in Florida; just before Christmas, here we will clean the boat and handover to owner and his family.

This allows me time to travel Florida for a week and then return back to the UK for the New Year.

Why did you choose to participate in this adventure?

I have no real knowledge of this area and therefore I would be in an alien environment that I have never been comfortable in.

It provides me with a new mental challenge- it is tough, really tough and if I can do it and I can do it well, then I can do anything.

What are the main Challenges you will come across?

Physically I will have to endure 3 hour watches over 3 weeks for the first leg of the journey, I will be manhandling ropes, winches and helming at night.

Mentally I will have to learn to function when hungry, tired and scared. I must learn to be accommodating even in times of crisis and heighten my team dynamics skills.

I will have to bond in extremely close quarters with 2 men that are relatively unknown to me through endeavour and support.

What are your expectations for this experience?

- To learn a new sport/ vocation/ passion, by experiencing a new adventure at the limit of my fear.
- To experience a different Cultural interaction and learn more languages as English, French and Spanish are to be spoken on Board.
- I will be able to learn more about the constellations and learn to cook! :)
- I expect to be able to perform physically but, I fear - if I get sick, will I be able to function adequately?

- Supporting my crew mates whether it be increased watches if sick or using first aid.

What are your Hopes & Fears?

I hope to see the marine environment in all its glory, whether it is rough or calm. Seeing everything from coral, fish, turtles and Whales; I wish to experience amazing snorkelling, diving and cuisine.

I hope to not have to use sea survival training, inflate my lifejacket, use my personal locator beacon or use a life raft.

My biggest fear is poisoning the crew or having to use first aid!

Katie Jenkins