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ADVENTURE: they tell the story of their voyage around the world, following the winds for eleven years in a 7.70 metre sailing boat



The log of this eleven-year circumnavigation: over 50,000 nautical miles, 10,000 hours of sailing and 600 anchorages. Photo credit: Into the wind

By Édith Anselme

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(Translated from French by Carina Juhhova)

On Friday 15 November, at the Sokoburu Yacht Club in Hendaye, Carina Juhhova and Christophe Mora told local sailors about their life at sea during the eleven years it took them to circumnavigate the globe aboard "L'Envol", a small yacht measuring just 7.70 metres. Since leaving Concarneau on 28 October 2013, they have covered 50,000 nautical miles, sailed 10,000 hours and made 600 stops.

Finally, on 28 August, at the end of their westward voyage driven by the trade winds that had taken them around the South American continent, up the Patagonian channels, through the Marlborough Sounds in New Zealand and all around Australia, they anchored in Txingudi Bay.



Carina and Christophe told the sailors at the Sokoburu Yacht Club in Hendaye about their circumnavigation. Photo credit: É. A.

Their place is on the water

Nothing destined this man of the summits to become a sailor. Christophe was a mountain guide and ski instructor in the Alps. He took to the sea in 2007 and discovered sailing by hitchhiking on yachts for eight months. The experience was a revelation and he decided to sail around the world. For her part, in 2012, Carina, from Estonia, had already hitchhiked the

roads of 58 countries before finally arriving in Puerto Williams, the southernmost village in Chile and the world.

"The challenge of circumnavigating the globe on a small boat is that you have to stick to what is essential and leave out the superfluous".

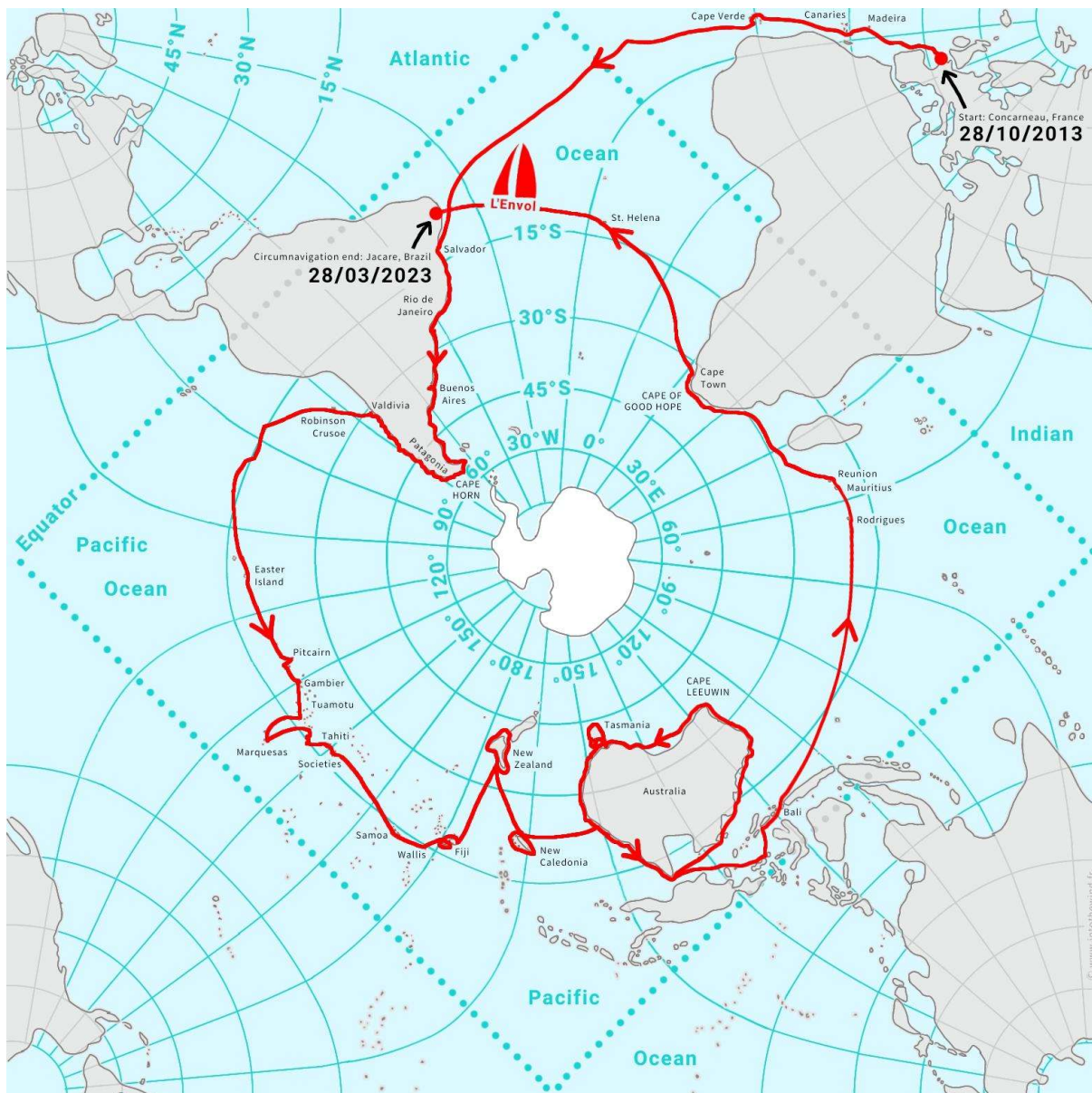
"When I met Christophe, I knew that Puerto Williams was just a waiting room". In May 2015, the two of them continued their voyage aboard "L'Envol", with a certain poetry, but many limitations. "The challenge of circumnavigating the globe on a small boat is that you have stick to what is essential and leave out the superfluous," admits Christophe.



A life on the water. Photo credit: Into the wind

Imposed limitations

The couple's charter of values reads: Sail around the world, yes, but without taking a plane, which means no visits home; without buying or hiring a car, which means hitchhiking, using public transport or walking; and without being connected to terrestrial electricity grids, which means generating their own energy using a solar panel and a hydro generator.



The journey. Photo credit: Into the wind

There was no air conditioning, freezer, fridge or water heater on board, and Christophe and Carina only used 3 litres of drinking water per person per day, plus 1 litre for showering. They also avoided stays in marinas, always preferring anchorages.

"True to ourselves"

"We didn't have an inboard engine, but with an outboard, in ten years we've only used 1,200 litres of fuel." There was no motor on their dinghy and no electric windlass. The couple rowed ashore and upped the anchor by hand. They also sailed without insurance or an EPIRB distress beacon, so the risks had to be minimised.

Carina and Christophe admit that by respecting this charter, they enjoyed life without being (too) dependent on the material and financial aspects of the voyage. They developed a method of navigation and collection of information leaving little to chance. "We have been true to ourselves, without giving in to the myth of infinite growth on a finite planet. These limitations have not stopped us from sailing around the world for the past decade, but admittedly at the cost of considerable stress", say the couple, who intend to continue this lifestyle on the water...or not.

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