



2018 CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE UK

Details correct to 7th March 2018

Open for individual bookings or booking by small groups any number up to eleven people
(Obviously places subject to availability – check web site)

Following the great success on previous occasions, our 60 ft yacht Thermopylae Clipper will leave from the Hamble on 8th July 2018 and once again spend the next nine weeks sailing around the UK in week long voyages, returning on 9th September. Each of the voyages qualifies for the D of E Gold residential section. RYA Competent Crew qualification may be taken (with advance notice if you require a log book).

THE YACHT

The legendary yacht 'Thermopylae Clipper' is a 60 foot cutter built by Colvic Craft in the UK in 1996 and has a great history. She was designed for the Clipper Round the World race and has been raced around the world four times, previously being renamed 'Leeds' and later 'Hong Kong' for those voyages. Now, she retains her original name 'Thermopylae Clipper'.

Thermopylae is very sturdy and spacious and is ideal for her sail training role. She is fitted out to accommodate 15 people in total. Accommodation is simple and utilitarian, but seamanlike. There are individual bunks with good storage for kit, large galley and spacious communal areas and two heads (toilets). Major improvements and face lifts have taken place below decks.

On deck, lines lead to the cockpit for ease of setting and handling sails. The vessel complies with the most stringent Maritime Coastguard Agency regulations and carries full safety equipment, including personal safety equipment for all the crew. The Skipper and Mates are qualified to the exacting standards laid down by the RYA/MCA.

BOOKING DETAILS

Bookings are taken for individuals or small groups of people of up to eleven people at a cost of £350 per person per week. The price is fully inclusive of berth fees, food, use of water proofs, moorings and fuel. Travel to and from the port of embarkation or disembarkation is not included.

ITNERARY

The following is the proposed programme for each of the weeks, but the actual itinerary may be decided by the Skipper, taking into account weather, wind, tides and crew capability. It is intended that as much as possible the programme will be one of day sailing, with a stopover each night in port but of necessity some weeks may contain overnight sailing or you just might like the experience! The programme should allow for interesting shore visits.

8th – 15th July Channel Islands and Devon – Berths available

Join Thermopylae at Universal Marina, nr Southampton for the initial voyage of the circumnavigation. We'll head across the Channel to the Channel Islands, visiting Alderney and Guernsey before heading back to Devon, visiting Dartmouth or Salcombe before finishing at Plymouth. Approximate mileage 220

15th – 22nd July Cornwall on to Wales – Provisional Booking

The second leg cruises the Cornish coast providing the opportunity to call in at some of the lovely ports such as Fowey, Falmouth, Penzance or Padstow and possibly the beautiful Isles of Scilly before arriving at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Approximate mileage 210

22nd – 29th July Across to Ireland – Booked

Leaving Milford Haven the next port of call is Arklow in Co Wicklow, Southern Ireland. Thermopylae will cruise up the Irish coast visiting lovely Irish ports such as Dun Laoghaire and Carlingford before finally arriving at the beautiful harbour of Donaghadee where we will be made most welcome by the Donaghadee Sea Scouts and many of the local people. We visited there in 2009 and 2015, and the welcome was amazing! Approximate mileage 230

29th July – 5th August Ireland to Scotland – Provisional Booking

On leaving Donaghadee a short hop eastwards takes Thermopylae in to Scotland to explore some harbours on the wonderful West Coast including Campbeltown to the West of the Isle of Arran. A short cruise around Arran and a stop over in Tarbert brings this lovely leg of the journey to an end in Troon. Approximate mileage 150

5th – 12th August West to East and Idyllic Canals – Provisional Booking

A short day sail takes us northwards to Ardrishaig and the lovely Crinan Canal. Once through, a great days sailing sees us in Fort William and onwards for a chance to take in the stunning scenery of the Caledonian Canal. With a stop over in Fort Augustus the voyage ends for a crew change in Inverness. This is surely one of the most stunning voyages you might undertake in the UK. Approximate mileage 160

12th – 19th August The Scottish East Coast – Limited berths available

Joining in the lovely setting of Inverness we are back 'out to sea' sailing along the coast of the Moray Firth to Buckie and thence to Peterhead, the most Eastern tip of Scotland. Continuing South the next ports of call are Montrose and Arbroath with some time to spend exploring ashore and perhaps braving the North Sea for a swim off the golden beach! The final voyage of this Scottish cruise finishes in Edinburgh around the time of the Edinburgh Fringe. Approximate mileage 215

19th – 26th August Onwards and Southwards – Berths available

Moving South towards England there is just one more chance for Thermopylae to call in to a Scottish Port with a visit to the traditional fishing village of Eyemouth. Moving on to Blyth there may be a chance to anchor off the Farne Islands on the way and be truly taken in by the thousands of sea birds who have colonies there. Next stop over is Hartlepool where a fabulous reception is guaranteed by our many sailing and Tall Ships friends there. Finally there is a chance to test your pilotage skills with us as we enter the Humber estuary and find our way to the marina at Hull, City of Culture 2017. Approximate mileage 235

26th August – 2nd September The East Coast Counties Run – Berths available

Leaving the Humber takes us down past the Wash and the mesmerising Wind Farms, arriving at Lowestoft, the most Easterly town in England. From Suffolk we move to Essex and in to Harwich with its position on the estuaries of the Stour and Orwell. Mooring will be away from the busy commercial ports in a quiet marina or anchorage. Keep a good look out as the Thames Estuary is crossed proceeding on to Ramsgate in Kent and finally round to Dover where again we change crews. Approximate mileage 220

2nd – 9th September France here we come! – Berths available

For the last leg of the circumnavigation we cross the English Channel over to France, calling in at some of the North French ports including Boulogne, Dieppe and Fecamp where we will lock in and moor right in the town. Whilst there, you may want to take the opportunity to visit the magnificent Benedictine Monastery. Finally we will cross back across the Channel to spend the last night in a Solent port before returning to our base in the River Hamble. Approximate mileage 220.

Interested? For further details and an application form please contact us

DISCOVERY SAILING PROJECT

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