Travel & Crew Changes
World ARC

You may be planning to have friends, family, or crew join you during your World ARC adventure. This document provides advice on where to change crews, and the documents you'll need when travelling.

Destinations with good international flight options

The following destinations have a good range of international flight options, and should be your first choice for crew arrivals and departures:

- **Saint Lucia** - Hewanorra International Airport (UVF)
- **Panama** - Tocumen International Airport (PTY)
- **Tahiti** (Papeete) - Tahiti Faa'a International Airport (PPT)
- **Port Vila** (Vanuatu) - Port Vila Airport (VLI)
- **Darwin** (Australia) - Darwin International Airport (DRW)
- **Mauritius** - Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport (MRU)
- **Reunion** - Roland Garros Airport (RUN)
- **Cape Town** (South Africa) - Cape Town International Airport (CPT)
- **Recife** (Brazil) - Guararapes International Airport (REC)
- **Grenada** - Maurice Bishop International Airport (GND)

Destinations with good local connections

The following destinations have connecting flights to regional hub airports for international arrivals/departures:

- **Galapagos** - all flights via Ecuador José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport in Guayaquil (GYE) or Mariscal Sucre International Airport, Quito (UIO). Daily flights to San Cristobal Island and Baltra Island. Flights are expensive.
- **Society Islands** - international flights land at Tahiti Faaa Airport (PPT). Direct flights from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Auckland and Tokyo. Air Tahiti flies to Bora Bora Airport (BOB) six times daily.
- **Tonga** - international flights arrive in Tongatapu at Fua'amotu International Airport (TBU). Domestic flights with Lulutai Airlines connect the five main island groups of Tonga.
- **Fiji** - Nadi International Airport (NAN) is the travel hub for the South Pacific with direct flights from Sydney, Auckland and Los Angeles. Daily domestic flights with Fiji Airways to Vanua Levu, Labasa (LBS) and Savusavu (SVU), provide connections to the rest of Fiji.
- **Mackay** (Australia) - Mackay Airport (MKY) is a Queensland regional airport, connecting to Brisbane Airport (BNE) for international flights.
- **Richards Bay** (South Africa) - Richards Bay Airport (RCB) all flights via Johannesburg (JNB). King Shaka International Airport (DUR) in Durban is the closest larger airport (two hour drive).

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Destinations with challenging travel connections

The following destinations are more remote, with no direct flights and often a limited number of flights each week. These are not good places to change crew unless necessary:

- **Marquesas** - no direct flights, all flights via Tahiti's Faaa Airport (PPT) with onward flights to Nuka Hiva Airport (NHV) or Hiva Oa Atuona Airport (AUQ). Air Tahiti and Air Moana have daily flights to these two Islands.
- **Niue** - all international flights to Niue's international Airport (IUE) via Auckland with Air New Zealand.
- **Christmas Island** - two flights per week from Perth (PER) to Christmas Island (XCH).
- **Cocos (Keeling)** - two flights per week from Perth (PER) to Cocos Islands Airport (CCK).
- **St. Helena** - flights opperate twice a week to St Helena Airport (HLE) from Johannesburg (JNB)

Itinerary Options for Visitors

Panama

Transit the canal with you and see the Las Perlas Islands. Particularly good for those less keen on sailing.

Society Islands, French Polynesia

Expensive and far from Europe but Air Tahiti & Air Moana connects many islands and the scenery is amazing!

Tonga and Fiji

Enjoy cruising Vava'u and the short passage to Fiji to explore further. Book an 'open jaw' ticket to fly in to Tongatapu (which connects to Vava'u) and out of Fiji.

Fiji and Vanuatu

Enjoy Fiji then sail to Tanna - the two places could not be more different. Return flights to Fiji and a one-way back from Port Vila in Vanuatu.

Mauritius and La Reunion

Reasonably easy flights from Europe. An overnight sail between the islands meaning two countries in one visit! Return flights to either island with a one-way between the two.

South Africa

Help you sail around the rugged coastline and then celebrate Christmas and New Year in Cape Town.

Grenada and the Grenadines

Cruise the Grenadines and then sail in company up to the finish line in Saint Lucia.

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World ARC Travel Tips

- Single flights are more expensive and less flexible.
- A 'Skippers Letter' template can be found in the Members Area of the World Cruising Club website.
- Obtaining visas is the traveller's responsibility.
- Immigration laws and rules can change at short notice.
- Stay informed about required vaccinations and travel health advice.
- Passports must be valid and should not expire within six months of the end of your visit to a country (some countries such as Indonesia & South Africa require a couple of blank pages in your passport).
- You will need at least two consecutive empty pages in your passport.
- Noonsite.com, embassies and official government websites are the best places to get correct information about travel requirements.

Visas & Passport Requirements

Please remember that obtaining visas for the countries on the World ARC route is the responsibility of the traveller, not World Cruising Club. Visa requirements can change with little notice, and we strongly recommend that you check all visa and immigration rules, passport conditions and health-related regulations before travel.

For most British, EU and American citizens, the only rally destinations where you currently need to apply for a visa in advance are Australia and Namibia. Brazil requires visas in advance for Australian, Canadian and US passport holders. For other rally destinations, visas can be applied for on arrival.

If you or your crew hold a different passport, please check the visa requirements on the country pages of noonsite.com or the immigration departments of the government of the country(s). Use this useful website for searching for Embassies and visa requirements embassies.net

Please note that countries may change their immigration and visa requirements without notice, and you must ensure that you have the correct documentation.

Australia

You will need a multiple entry visa for cruising between Mackay and Darwin, and for visiting Christmas Island and Cocos Keeling. Visas must be applied for in advance when you are outside the country.

- The ETA 601 (Electronic Travel Authority) is valid for a stay of up to 3 months only.
- The eVisitor 651 is valid for stays of up to 3 months and lasts for 12 months.
- Visitor visa 600 can be granted for stays of 3, 6 or 12 months.
- There are specific visas for paid skippers and crew.

More information immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing

Indonesia

Almost all visitors to Indonesia need a visa. If you are joining the rally in Indonesia, you will need to arrange your own visa and immigration clearance. Boats on the rally sailing from Darwin to Lombok will be supported by the rally team. More information to follow. Indonesia eVisa molina.imigrasi.go.id

Brazil

US, Canadian and Australian citizens need a visa for Brazil. The easiest way to apply is for a 90-day online eVisa. More information: https://bit.ly/42PrQoc

Namibia

Apply for a visa online. Visas can be obtained through the MHAISS E-Services Portal
https://eservices.mhaiss.gov.na

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Passports

Please check your passport expiry date to ensure that you have a minimum of 6 months (or the minimum required for that country) when you arrive at your last rally port. It is easier to get a new passport before you depart home than to worry about how many months you have left!

You will also need consecutive free pages for immigration stamps. If you are renewing your passport ahead of a circumnavigation, requesting extra pages may be a good idea.

Additional Documentation

In addition to the usual visas, extra documentation is required at immigration for any crew arriving by air and departing by boat in the following countries:

Saint Lucia

Crew must have a letter from the Skipper of the boat they are joining confirming that they will be travelling aboard and detailing the exact departure date.

Galapagos

Crew must send their passport and flight reservation details to the World Cruising Club team who arrange a permit letter allowing them to fly in without an outbound flight ticket.

French Polynesia

Non-EU citizens must have a return ticket (with a cancellable or refundable return leg).

All visitors must have travel insurance with repatriation.

Tonga

Crew must have a 'Letter of Authority' from the Government of Tonga. It can be arranged by emailing tongapermit@gmail.com no more than one month before arrival, stating the incoming crew will be leaving by boat on a specific date.

Fiji

Crew must have a return ticket or a 'Letter of Approval' from the Department of Immigration or Fijian Consulate. This must be applied for in advance - see Handbook for further information.

Vanuatu

A return ticket is required by anyone flying into Vanuatu.

Mauritius

Crew must have a letter from their skipper confirming that they take responsibility for any crew members arriving by air without an onward ticket. A copy of the letter, flight details and of the crew member's passport must be sent to Mauritian Immigration before arrival. Please provide all details to Rally Control.

See also Travel Vaccinations information sheet.

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