



OLAF'S GREAT ADVENTURE!

- with Carlotta's crew straight across the Atlantic Ocean

Olaf was up and away!

Early November 2021 in Aachen. It was cold, rainy and stormy outside. Olaf was faced with the decision – should I now look around for warm, weatherproof clothing or should I decide to go in search of warmer places ...? And then the opportunity came along – Paula had been wanting to take on a special challenge for a long time to take on new adventures. She immediately agreed to accompany a skipper on his winter sailboat trip towards the South Sea. The crew was quickly put together and Olaf was on board.



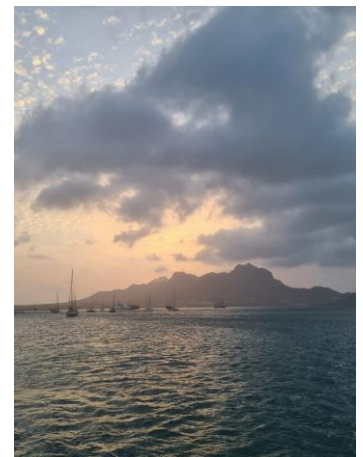
Action! Setting sail!

However, he was not allowed to pack very much only what Paula took aboard had to be enough for the both of them. But the backpack looked reassuringly big, Olaf thought. They hopped into the plane and were off to Lanzarote. His new home for the next few weeks was called Carlotta and was lying in the harbor. Here the crew had the chance to get to know each other and the sailing route was discussed in detail.



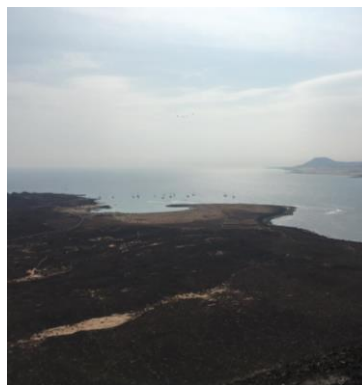
However, Olaf quickly noticed that the Spanish clocks somehow tick differently to those in Germany. The people there are much more relaxed and take their time to do things steadily. Carlotta had a complete check-up and was even lifted out of the water with a crane. Olaf found that all already very exciting. He learned a lot about the boat, what needs to be planned and payed attention to - AND - that one always has to adjust to new situations.

He met many new people, including those who had already sailed across the Atlantic or were planning to do so - somehow an entirely different world!!! But most of all, Olaf enjoyed having time to just let things take their course, to be open to new impressions - AND - the warm temperatures. He was convinced that as soon as Carlotta's check-ups were completed they will be heading for the great adventure sailing trip across the Atlantic.



The darned wind!!

It was really a drag with the wind ... Patience was required and Olaf had to wait. Sometimes things just don't go as planned. The stay in Tenerife dragged on. The art is to make the best of it! Paula quickly learned - to take the situation as it is and work with the given circumstances. She experienced completely new things - climbed a volcano, baked her first own bread, saw many colorful fish and even a shark while snorkeling for the first time 😊!!!



Above all, she has learned an infinite number of new things about sailing. There was a lot to learn and to see ... a few smaller sailing trips between the Canary Islands shortened Olaf's waiting time until the wind towards Cape Verde and the weather were just right.



Up and away!! Cast off into the great adventure!!

It was a bit annoying, that they had to wait so long before the great adventure could start. Fortunately, the waiting period at some point was over and the winds were just right. First, they headed for Cape Verde, a volcanic group of islands off the northwest coast of Africa. Wow that was exactly to Olaf's liking - lots of wind and great waves.



He really like Cape Verde - a beautiful island with great flair. Together with Paula he was allowed to explore the island, met many new people – and it was perfect that one of the crew members spoke the local language. And the local food was really delicious, which met exactly Olaf's taste 😊!!!



Finally!! Off to the Caribbean!!

They merely arrived when things suddenly went very fast and FINALLY it meant for Olaf, Paula and the entire Carlotta crew – setting sail and yippie ei yeah – the start of the last section of the great adventure - crossing the Atlantic Ocean!!! Olaf was a bit nervous at first, being all alone in the middle of the sea and only water as far as the eye could see ... But together they made it, braved the wind and the waves, sailed around all the cliffs and mastered all the challenges - what a wonderful experience this adventure was!



As scheduled, a little tired but overjoyed, the crew reached the Caribbean island of Martinique at the beginning of the New Year. Olaf is very grateful for all the experiences he was able to make and is especially proud to realize - together you can do anything!!!

A special thank you goes to the captain of Carlotta and of course to the whole crew for the permission to accompany Olaf & Paula on their adventure!!!

Fair winds and following seas, have a good trip and good luck for 2022!

Break your limits!