



2024 Van Diemen's Land Circumnavigation Cruise *Notice of Cruise*

If a challenging cruise-in-company circumnavigating Tasmania: either 800 nautical miles from Hobart to Hobart, or 1,220 nautical miles Queenscliff to Queenscliff, with experienced, friendly people appeals to your sense of adventure, then don't delay in registering your interest in this truly unique and unforgettable event. This cruise is gaining a considerable national and international reputation and a place in the 45-boat fleet may be hard to obtain closer to the start of the event.

This will be the 16th VDL-C cruise staged by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and the 10th run in conjunction with the Royal Geelong Yacht Club. The 5-week cruise follows a well-researched anticlockwise route around the island which allows time for plenty of relaxation, social occasions, exploring ashore and sheltering from inclement weather.

The Hobart fleet leaves on **Wednesday 7th February 2024**, and the Port Phillip fleet leaves from Queenscliff on **Sunday 18th February 2024**. The two fleets join in the Hunter Group at the north-west corner of Tasmania and plan to arrive in Hobart on **Tuesday 12th March 2024**. The Port Phillip fleet then continues its cruise, with a planned return to Queenscliff on **Wednesday 27th March 2024**.

Full details of the cruise itinerary and other requirements are available on the RYCT website:

www.ryct.org.au/vdl-c-cruise-2024.

A cruise commodore and radio officer will accompany each fleet to ensure your cruise is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Twice-daily radio scheds will keep you informed about forthcoming attractions, get-togethers and weather forecasts. Nothing is compulsory except reporting to a radio relay vessel each day at the evening sched to ensure the safety of the fleet.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WORLD HERITAGE AREAS:

Application for Group visitation will be made in accordance with Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service regulations prior to the event. Because time is spent in and around National Parks & World Heritage areas such as Macquarie and Bathurst Harbours, **pets of any air-breathing kind are not permitted under any circumstances.**

ELIGIBILITY:

The cruise is open to seaworthy vessels with an overall hull length exceeding 9 metres that meet cruise safety and crew experience requirements.

The vessel must be insured for public liability and third-party damage to the value of \$10,000,000. A Certificate of Currency is mandatory.

Due to limited space in marinas and some anchorages, the number of sailing catamarans will be restricted to 5 in the total fleet of 45 vessels.

ENTRY FEE AND PAYMENT DETAILS:

The full entry fee for the cruise is \$650 payable in two parts - firstly as a \$200 deposit with your Expression of Interest (EOI) in participating in the cruise; and a second payment of the remaining \$450 approximately 2 months before cruise commencement, within 7 days of receipt of an invoice.

Payments can be made by cheque snail-mailed to the address given below, by credit/debit card over the telephone or by electronic funds transfer. The RYCT's banking details are as follows:

BSB: **067 102**, Acct No.: **1049 3268** (*Please ensure the reference field contains **VDLC24** and your **Boat's Name***).

Apart from entry to the cruise, included in this fee is a VDL-C 24 backpack containing a comprehensive range of useful cruising information: the latest edition of the 170-page Tasmanian Anchorage Guide, a Cruise Manual, a *Choices Flooring* cruise flag, bow stickers, two T-shirts, commemorative plaque, two complimentary tickets to the cruise dinner at the RYCT in Hobart, as well as fishing and tourist information.

HOW TO ENTER:

To register an expression of interest in the cruise, please complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) form and return it, complete with \$200 deposit to the address given below. The EOI form is downloadable in one of two formats. It can be downloaded in printer-ready PDF format to be completed by hand (legibly in black ink, please); or it is available in MSWord <.docx> document to be completed on your computer. In the latter case, please preserve the tabs when typing; then return the EOI form as a PDF document because not everyone's version of MSWord works quite the same way.

CRUISE PLAN:

A map of the planned route and a cruise plan can be downloaded from the RYCT website. Note that this plan is just that - a plan. When the fleet arrives and departs from any port or location is very much weather-dependent. Although nothing is compulsory about your cruise itinerary (except a requirement to report to a radio relay vessel at least once each day), the various social occasions mentioned in the plan are used as targets to help keep the fleet together. The dates of these occasions may vary (or not happen at all) depending on the prevailing conditions. However, the cruise plan has spare days built into it to minimise the need for major variations in the **Cruise Plan**.

INSURANCE:

It is mandatory that your vessel be comprehensively insured to protect third parties should there be an incident involving other vessels. You are required to provide proof of your insurance on arrival at RYCT (or prior to departure if joining the fleet from somewhere else), and to carry a **Certificate of Currency** on board during the cruise. **Public Liability Insurance** must be to the value of at least \$10M.

PHOTOGRAPH(S) OF THE BOAT:

The EOI form should be accompanied by one or more recent photographs of your boat (preferably as digital images (between 256K and 1024K) that clearly show her lines and colour(s), and that also can be used for identification purposes in case of an emergency during the cruise. The photographs are particularly important if the boat is a one-off or of a less well-known cruising design. For those that have participated in a previous cruise, please supply a recent picture or, if nothing has changed, the same picture(s) again.

PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE:

Based on the information contained in the completed EOI form and the boat photographs (and any other information to which the committee has access), the VDL-C cruise Organising Committee will assess the appropriateness of the boat and her crew for participation in VDL-C 2024. Once this has been done, you will be notified of your provisional acceptance on the cruise, subject to satisfying the various cruise prerequisites and safety requirements.

**The RYCT reserves the unconditional right to refuse
an entry to the *Choices Flooring 2024 VDL-C Cruise*.**

THE SIZE OF THE VDL-C FLEET:

The size of the *Choices Flooring 2024 VDL-C* fleet is limited to 45 boats (including up to 5 sailing catamarans). Please be aware that most recent cruises have been over-subscribed by up to 20 boats; thus, it would be wise not to delay submitting your EOI once you have decided to give it a go. On the other hand, by the time we get to the cruise commencement date, we have never yet had to leave anyone behind who still wanted to come.

Please note your provisional place in the fleet (or in the queue of prospective participants) is **not** reserved until the \$200 deposit has been received at the RYCT in Hobart.

WITHDRAWALS:

If you decide not to come after all, your deposit and perhaps your full entry fee may be refunded in accordance with our **Refund Policy**, a copy of which is available on the website.

The closer to the cruise commencement date you decide to withdraw, the more it will cost to do so.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

As time goes by and the date of the cruise gets closer, further announcements will be made concerning such matters as HF radio certification procedures, recommended charts and deadlines for payment of the remaining fees and charges, as well as anything else of relevance or general interest to prospective participants. Our primary means of communication is via the internet: email and the RYCT website.

In the meantime, to find out more about the VDL-C cruises, here are two web links:

- <https://www.oceancruisingclub.org/webinars>
This is one of a series of online seminars. It was given in December 2021. Scroll down the screen to *OCC Webinar 2021: Tasmania*. (The Ocean Cruising Club is a UK-based worldwide virtual club for serious blue-water cruising sailors.)
- <https://youtu.be/JY-8xc8zN1U>
This is an interesting account of the experiences on board one of the boats participating in the VDL-C 2022 cruise.

Please address all correspondence (preferably by email) to:

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Marieville Esplanade
SANDY BAY Tasmania 7005

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Email: membership@ryct.org.au

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