

Odyssey of AION

PRESS KIT · EN
APRIL 2026 EDITION

POLAR SAILING EXPEDITION

Odyssey of AION

An Antarctic circumnavigation
maintained *south of 60°S*.

DEPARTURE MARSEILLE · 16 AUGUST 2026

ODYSSEYAION.COM

The expedition *in numbers*

60°S

LATITUDE MAINTAINED

From start to finish of the loop, without drifting north

~20
000

NAUTICAL MILES · LOOP

Full circumnavigation of the Antarctic continent

~38
000

NAUTICAL MILES · TOTAL

Marseille, outbound, loop, return

365 d

DAYS AT SEA

A full year under sail

2

CREW

The Captain and Sarah, three-hour watches

47'

ARION · 14.32 M

Strongall aluminium hull, lifting keel

What you're covering

In August 2026, a 47-foot sailing yacht leaves Marseille to close the most hostile loop in offshore sailing.

A complete circumnavigation of the Antarctic continent, held south of the 60th parallel from start to finish. No ports of call. No shelter. No assistance possible. The loop closes, or it does not.

The yacht is called **ARION**. The expedition, **ODYSSEY OF AION**. On board, two people: a doctor-navigator with 25 years of offshore experience and 120,000 nautical miles sailed, and Sarah, a marine biologist specialised in polar cetaceans.

Together they will navigate one of the few ocean areas where no rescue can arrive for several days, where depressions follow every 48 hours and where tabular icebergs drift without radar signal.

This is more than a sailing voyage. ARION carries rigorous scientific observation protocols: **cetaceans, meteorology, oceanography**. Collected data feed the AION Data Hub, a portal open to researchers and institutions.

A **feature-length documentary** is also filmed on board. An excerpt shot in Patagonia, "Patagonia, Between Sky and Sea", is available for press screenings.

The complete expedition route covers approximately **38,000 nautical miles** from Marseille, via the Atlantic, Patagonia, the Drake Passage, the Antarctic circumnavigation, then the return via Suez. Estimated duration: a full year at sea.

*Beyond human latitudes,
where the sea decides.*

AION PRINCIPLE



The Captain

NAVIGATION · WEATHER ROUTING ·
SYSTEMS

Medical doctor by training, offshore navigator with **25 years at sea** and more than **120,000 nautical miles** sailed. STCW Captain 500 GT certification.

A career split between medicine, transoceanic deliveries and command of polar expedition yachts. A specialist of high southern latitudes, he handles the route, weather routing, critical systems and all engaging decisions at sea.

Solo from Marseille to Ushuaia. Then in crew with Sarah, from Ushuaia through the full return.

25 years at sea

120,000 nm

STCW 500 GT

MD

Cold seas 2016-2022

Sarah

ONBOARD SCIENCE · CO-NAVIGATION

Marine biologist specialised in **polar cetaceans**: killer whales ecotypes A to D, Antarctic baleen whales.

Offshore sailor trained from childhood. She stands crew watches while running observation protocols in parallel: photo-identification, passive acoustics, standardised context notes, curation of series destined for the Data Hub.

Joins ARION at Ushuaia for the circumnavigation and return. Prior experience in the Ross Sea and in Patagonia.

Marine biology

Type D killer whales

Photo-ID

Passive acoustics

Offshore sailor



ARION · 47-foot Strongall aluminium



ARION is not a performance yacht retrofitted for expedition. It is an expedition yacht built *to remain repairable when everything wears*. Aluminium, heavy, sober, designed so two tired hands can still intervene on every system.

Every critical system is redundant: energy, steering, heating, communications. South of 60°S, the nearest icebreaker is several days away. Repairs are made with what is on board.

ARCHITECTURE	Strongall aluminium
LENGTH	47 feet · 14.32 m
DISPLACEMENT	17 tonnes
BALLAST	Lifting keel · 5.2 T
RIG	Cutter (main, genoa, staysail)
ENERGY	1,800 Ah LiFePO ₄
SOURCES	Solar · wind · hydro
COMMS	Starlink Maritime + Iridium
FLAG	French
DEPARTURE	Marseille · August 2026

From Marseille *to the bottom of the world*

The expedition unfolds in several acts over a year at sea. Solo departure from Marseille. Sarah joins in Ushuaia. Antarctic circumnavigation in a two-person crew. Return via Suez.

<i>Act 1</i>	Solo transatlantic · Marseille → Ibiza → Canary Islands → Cape Verde → Atlantic → Patagonia → Ushuaia. The Captain alone on board.	~3 MONTHS
<i>Act 2</i>	Ushuaia prep · Sarah joins, sea trials, final adjustments. Drake Passage into Antarctica.	PREP + DRAKE
<i>Act 3</i>	Antarctic circumnavigation · Bellingshausen, Amundsen, Ross, Indian sector, Weddell. ~20,000 nm south of 60°S.	AUSTRAL SUMMER
<i>Act 4</i>	Return to Europe · South Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Suez, Mediterranean, Marseille.	~3 MONTHS

Geographic certainty: no land exists between 60°S and the Antarctic continent across 360° of longitude. A port of call is physically impossible for anyone maintaining 60°S. The loop closes, or it does not.

Data *nobody else* produces

Three oceans, five sectors, an uninterrupted trajectory around the continent. For the first time, biological and oceanographic data collected across the entire periphery of Antarctica from the same yacht, by the same observer, under the same operational conditions.

Cetaceans

Non-invasive observation protocols:

- Photo-identification (dorsal fin, eye patch, saddle)
- Killer whales, ecotypes A to D, focus on type D
- Antarctic baleen whales, behaviour and migration
- Passive acoustics when conditions allow

Oceanography

Continuous measurements en route:

- Surface temperature and salinity
- Sea ice extent, geolocated visual observations
- Physico-chemical parameters at fronts
- Seasonal biological productivity

Polar meteorology

High-frequency readings:

- Wind, pressure, temperature, humidity
- Validation of Antarctic forecast models
- Timestamped weather log, six times daily

AION Data Hub

Portal open to researchers and institutions:

- Raw timestamped and geolocated data
- CSV exports, documented API
- Scientific partnerships under formalisation
- Secure access, terms on odysseyaion.com



A feature-length documentary filmed on board.

The film accompanies the full expedition, from Marseille to return. **4K** footage, sound and edit made on board. Not a formatted adventure film: the real, the watches, the repairs, the decisions, the fatigue, the long hours of nothing, then the minutes when everything tips.

A 90-minute edited excerpt, "**Patagonia, Between Sky and Sea**", is available for press screenings and events. It covers the Patagonian phase: channels, glaciers, katabatic gusts, the approach to Drake.

Associate co-production possible before rights assignment. Full film dossier on request.

DISTRIBUTION CONTACT:
CAPTAIN@ODYSSEYAION.COM

Going *further*

HD press-cleared photos, logos, detailed bios, extended ARION technical sheet, Data Hub access for scientific verification. All available on request.

Online

Official site
odysseyaion.com

Press kit FR
[kit-presse-odyssey-aion.pdf](#)

English version
[odyssey-aion-press-kit.pdf](#)

Assets

HD photos
on request, press use rights granted

Patagonia film excerpt
odysseyaion.com/patagoniafilm

AION Data Hub
odysseyaion.com/aion-data-hub

PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT

captain@odysseyaion.com