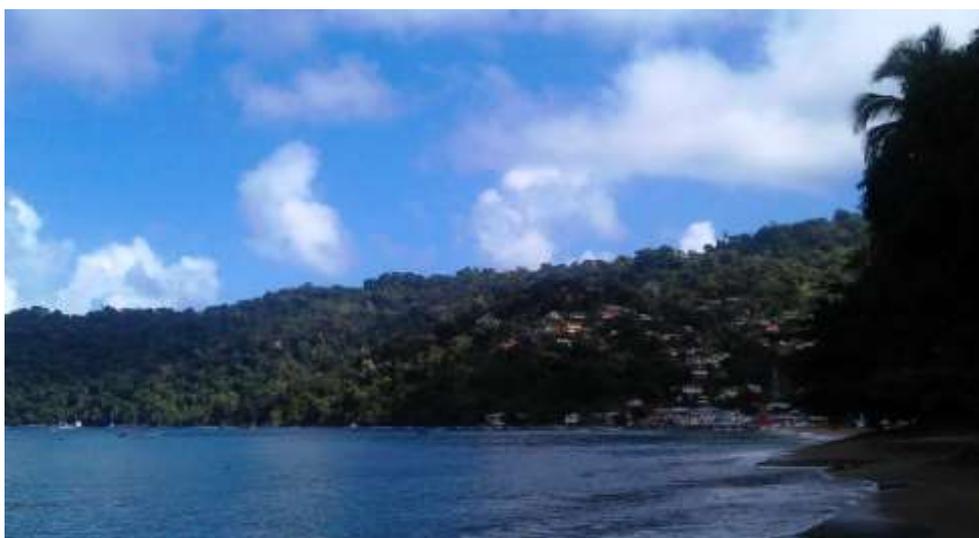


To Go or To Bago, that is the question

A few quick words and our best wishes for the New Year, may it bring joy and happiness.

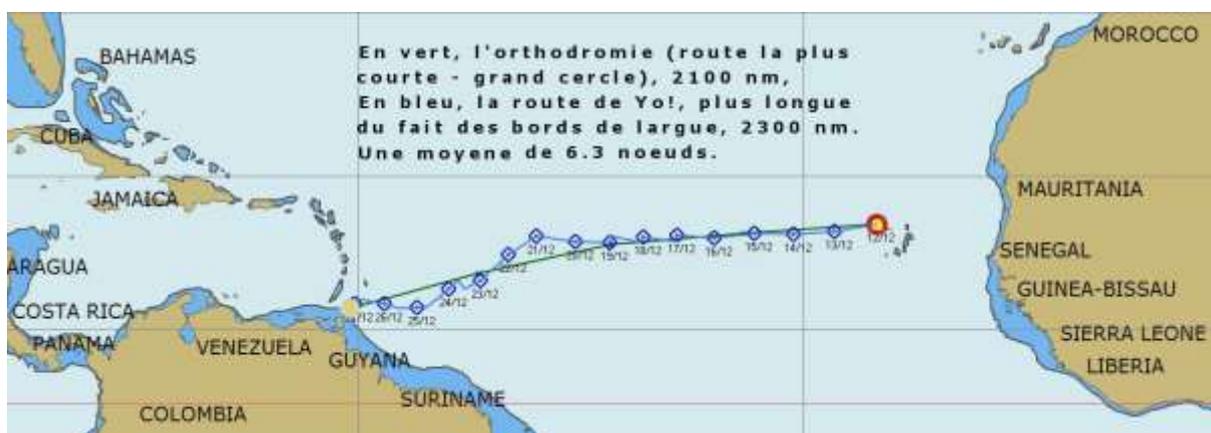
On Friday 27th December, by the end of the day, we are anchored at Man of War bay – Charlotteville
– Tobago 11°N19.8 – 60°W33.4





We did it! We sailed across the Atlantic.

The choice of the departure date was dictated by the intrusive presence of Friday the 13th (not really superstitious, but some may have heard about Pascal gamble), we cast off on Thursday the 12th at 2 pm. The navigation lasted 15 days (and 6 hours to be precise), for a total of 2 300 miles for a direct route (orthodromic) of 2 100 nm, so 200 nm in excess (to follow the wind or fleeing when it became too rough). According to the conditions encountered with a gust up to 51 knots, winds permanently around 30 knots and big waves, this navigation could be qualified as hairy. Simply not for the faint hearted.



Magnificent skies, massive squalls, buckets of water, whales, etc... even Santa Claus came to visit us, we are eager to do it again.

Roughly 1000 sailing boats cross every year, that is approximately 5000 people (proxy of an average crew), on a length of “useful” life from 20 to 70 years, this represent 50 years of opportunities for one man, so an estimation of the number of transatlanters of 250 to 300 000 in the European population – 0.1 %, un very selective club (Nicolas would have said to Carla, that the one who would not have cross before 50 is ...).

This intermediate post (Reverent Tom and Cabo Verde are due in January), will present beforehand the first results on the end of the Transat myth by our Royal Society of Nautical Ethnology.

1 – In the Atlantic Ocean, there is always wind. **FALSE.**

At Mindelo, we encountered many crews from the ARC Rally exhausted and disgusted, dry on gasoil and beer after a week of absolute no wind coming from the Canary Islands. The best being a catamaran which left for the Antilles with 4 barrels of 220 liters of gasoil loaded at the back. In fact, the Azores high pressures went up to Hamburg red zone at the end of November which induced panic in the normally well established wind regimes.

2 – Santa Claus trade winds, get stable in December round force 5 or 6. **FALSE.**

We crossed with winds mainly of force 7 with gusts up to force 8.

3 – During the Transat, we have time to read, think or watch the stars. **FALSE.**

We, being a small crew, we did not get a minute to ourselves. Our timetable during the first week was reduced to the 3S, No! No! Not the enticing Sea/Sex /Sun but : Soup/Steering Wheel/Sleep.

4 – During the Transat you get initiated or improve your skills in astronomical navigation. **FALSE.**

How do you manage to get the sun down to the horizon with waves of 3 to 4 meters?

5 – You find flying fish all over the deck at sunrise. **FALSE.**

We collected very few. Due to the waves the poor ones hardly manage to take off, crashing sadly (making light “plouic” noises) on the sides before landing on deck. But we nearly collected a superb whale of 10 meters, aïe, aïe, in fact jumping many times in front of us. Magic.

6 – It is not advised to buy a full banana regime because they all get ripe at the same time. **FALSE.**

We had 12 in our food stock. They stayed green. May be we sailed too fast?



7 – During the Transat, guaranteed fishing allows you to fulfill your protein needs. **FALSE.**

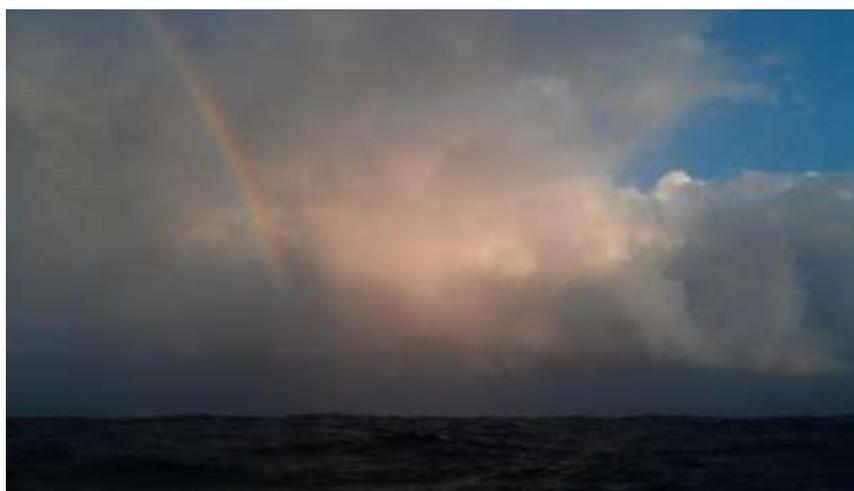
We never felt like fishing. Due to the roughness of the sea, bringing back the fish on board would have been impossible.

8 – During the Transat, one never meets anybody. At night you put the automatic pilot on and you go to sleep. **FALSE.**

We were on a collision route with a cargo and had to change route. We proposed a bottle of French wine via the vhf to a US warship which politely declined and observe a submarine surfacing on Christmas night.



9 – Like Samantha Davies, we steer wearing only a bathing suit and like in the OBAO advertising, we get shampoo under squalls. **FALSE.**



We didn't take off sailing garments for days and after four hours of getting drenched, surely no need to rinse again. Doing so, we identified new type of squalls (meteorologists usually speak of raining or dry): the evil ones. They are large, dry and heavy, wind rotates 90° one way or another increasing by 10/15 knots (leaving cross seas) and turning back again when one thinks it is over... and here it goes again... Irritating.



10 – We liked it very much. It was real pleasure. **TRUE.**

Best wishes, Sanity and Sobriety,

Stéphanie / Christophe

Charlottetown – Tobago

December 30, 2013

www.yodyssey.com