

Viking ancestors gathers for Atlantic crossing

Sunday afternoon the 15th of December some 60 crew from 18 boats gathered in Las Palmas marina for the first time. From 4 to 76 years old, the mixed group is starting to learn to know each other -many of whom will become friends forever in the near future.

It is the third time the friendly rally Viking Explorers arrange a small cruise-in-company from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, via Mindelo, Cape Verde to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The rally is for the first time sponsored by the local Vincentian distillery brand "Captain Bligh". Many other supporting companies also are making the crossing for the participating boats better by offering discounts or products. (See FAQ of Viking Explorers for details).

There are many nationalities on the 19 different boats, and there is no need to prove Viking ancestry in spite of the name of the Rally; Swedish, Norwegian, Danish sailors are the majority, but also English, American, German, and Australian sailors creates an international mix with the common goal to have a good time and do the crossing in the safest possible way.

Youngest skipper is David Westervik, 24, from Norway, leading a crew of four persons, all under 25 years. They also come along for free as Viking Explorers team wants to inspire more young cruisers out there. The young crew plan to be out for a couple of gap-years and inviting friends along the way. The oldest skipper is Giorgio Daidola, 76, an Italian boating journalist with plans to make articles along the way. He also have the smallest boat in the fleet with a 10 metres boat.

The boats ranges from 10 to 15 metres. One of them, Titti4, was built by the owner Jan Rytenberg during 10 years, but most participants come with fairly new series-produced yachts, many from the West coast of Sweden.