



# THE ULTIMATE OCEAN RACE

A fleet of 15 sleek high-tech yachts are competing in the gruelling, nine-month Whitbread Round the World Race. The six legs of the race, totalling 32,000 nautical miles, take the crews and their boats through some of the most unforgiving sea conditions on earth – the stifling heat of the doldrums, fog, icebergs and the freezing gales of the southern ocean

## Previous winners:

1973-74

**Sayula II**  
Country: Mexico  
Length: 19.8m  
Displacement: 25,590kg  
Average speed: 7.78 knots

1977-78

**Flyer**  
Netherlands  
19.8m  
25,000kg  
8.36 knots

1981-82

**Flyer**  
Netherlands  
23.2m  
30,390kg  
9.35 knots

1985-86

**L'Esprit d'Equipe**  
France  
17.6m  
14,935kg  
9.57 knots

1989-90  
**Steinlager 2**  
New Zealand  
25.6m  
30,845kg  
10.69 knots

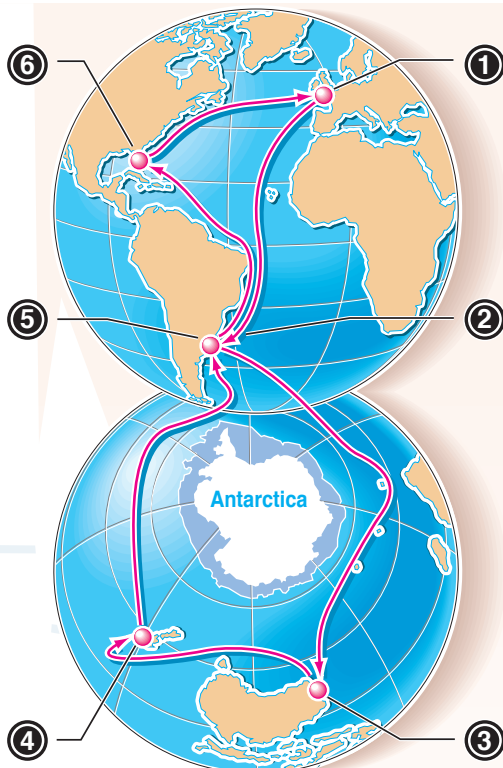
1993-94: A new class is born  
**Whitbread W60**

18-19.5m  
13,500-15,000kg  
28 knots over short distances

The 15 yachts are comprised of two basic design types.

Maxis carry up to 18 crew to counterbalance the side force of the wind while the new W60s carry up to 12 crew – with water ballast tanks for added stability.

The effect is to enable the boats to take more sail in stronger winds



Leg	Port	Departure	Nautical miles
1	Southampton	25 September	5,938
2	Punta del Este	13 November	7,558
3	Fremantle	9 January 1994	3,272
4	Auckland	20 February	5,914
5	Punta del Este	2 April	5,475
6	Fort Lauderdale	21 May	3,818
Total distance covered			31,975

## Anatomy of a W60

### Mainsail

Up to 117 sq m, lightweight Kevlar with carbon fibre battens

### Cockpit

Helmsman Up to 12 crew

**Mast mounted instrumentation**  
Displays boat and wind speed to helmsman

**Inmarsat satellite aerial**  
For telephone and live TV communications

**Foresail**  
83 sq m

**Spinnaker**  
300 sq m

Bunks

**Watertight bulkheads**  
Minimum of three

**Rudder**  
Carbon fibre

**Main engine**  
Minimum 60hp with auxiliary generator

**Galley and sail storage**

**Hull**  
Kevlar or glassfibre with epoxy, vinylester or polyester resins

**Water ballast tanks**  
Up to 5,000kg for stability

**Keel**  
5-tonne lead bulb