

Black Duck's Sailing Itinerary

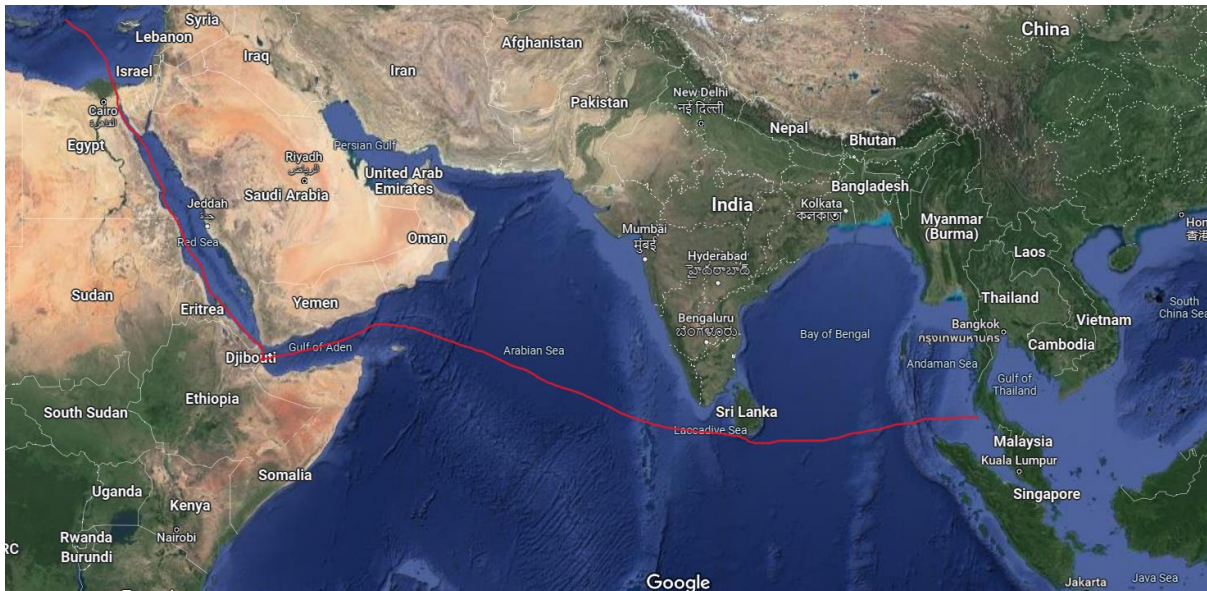
- Thailand to Egypt 2023 -

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This Itinerary of our sailing route is written for our family and friends, to give you an idea of where and when we will go and what it will entail.

As we are so dependent on the weather, it is impossible to precisely predict when we will arrive and leave the different places, and the timeframe given is a very rough estimate.

Our Expected Route to Europe



➤ THAILAND

Phuket

We will be in Phuket in Thailand until the season changes and the winds start blowing consistently from the NE. We expect to leave around the 15th of January.

DECEMBER

JOBS DONE:

- Engine service of our 65-year-old diesel.
- Hauled out Black Duck at Ratanachai Shipyard in Phuket, for a quick paint job.
- Stocked the boat with food, water, and diesel to last us the next few months

THAILAND TO SRI LANKA = 1100 nm (2037km) / 10-12 days

➤ **SRI LANKA**

Port Galle, South Coast

If we get to go to Sri Lanka, we will be headed straight to Galle in the very south. This port has a marina and is really one of the few options for sailboats in all of Sri Lanka.

JANUARY We will arrive in Sri Lanka at the very end of January and probably not spent much more than a week here. Stopping in Sri Lanka will mean we will have a little bit more time pressure to get to the Red Sea, and we will therefore have to split our time spent on land between Sri Lanka and our next stop India.

SRI LANKA TO MALDIVES = 450 nm (1800 km) / 4-6 days

➤ **ULIGAN, MALDIVES**

Only a “short” jump from Sri Lanka, we should arrive in the Uligan, in north Maldives after less than a week at sea.

FEBRUARY We will leave Uligan around mid february and set out on what will be our longest passage, taking us all the way to Djibouti at the entrance to the Red Sea.

I know that this, especially to family, is a passage causing quite a bit of concern as it takes us past the war-torn Yemen, and Somalia which is infamous for piracy. That is why I will include a whole chapter explaining the situation and all our precautions, later in this itinerary.

MALDIVES TO DJIBOUTI = 1900 nm (3518 km) / 17-21 days

➤ **DJIBOUTI**

MARCH It will most likely be MARCH before we arrive in Djibouti, a city-state on the east coast of Africa at the entrance to the Red Sea.

Many sailors have positive reports from Djibouti and hopefully, we won't have too much to repair or prepare before heading north, and we will have a bit of time to see the sites.

➤ **THE RED SEA**

- **Eritrea**
- **Sudan**
- **Egypt**

As it is too hard to make a certain timeframe for the next three countries, I will just write about the Red Sea as a whole. Furthermore, Eritrea is not at this point a place which we know we will stop for sure, as we still need to do more research to assess the situation for sailors. Anyhow, once we leave Djibouti, it will most likely be a slow trip up the Red Sea, this is due to mainly one thing; the weather can be harsh and, in the northern half of the red sea, blows mainly from the north. This means that we will have to do the trip in jumps, waiting for weather windows as we go. Luckily there are lots of places to stop on the way supposedly bestowing some of the most beautiful anchorages in the world.

MAY/JUNE Depending on how we go beating against the headwinds of the Red Sea, we should be nearing Suez Canal in Egypt by the end of May or in June.

DJIBOUTI-SUEZ (stopping) = 1270 nm (2352 km) / 1 month-ish

➤ SUEZ CANAL

Egypt

Suez Canal is an almost 200 km long sea-level waterway dividing Africa and Asia, and the Indian Oceans' shortcut to Europe.

Cargo ships constantly come through the canal and small boats like ours are required to motor through at a minimum of 5 knots.

The entire transit should take around 2 days, with an overnight break in Ismailia.

Once we are through, well, we will be in the Mediterranean hopefully met by a smell of cheap wine and green olives in garlic brine.

JULY And just like that we will arrive in the Mediterranean, Voila!