



All-female crew to sail North Pacific Gyre on pioneering journey to investigate the crisis of plastics in our oceans

100 Days to Go - Starting in Hawaii, 23rd June via Vancouver ending Seattle, July 28th 2018

With a focus on micro-plastics and links to environmental and human health, eXXpedition North Pacific 2018 aims to make the unseen, seen

eXXpedition North Pacific 2018 is a pioneering all-female sailing expedition and scientific research mission starting in Hawaii and ending in Seattle via Vancouver this summer led by British skipper and ocean advocate Emily Penn.

It will see a diverse and international group of 24 women, split over two voyage legs, journey over 3,000 nautical miles through the densest ocean plastic accumulation zone on the planet, the North Pacific Gyre - better known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The expedition aims to: raise awareness of the devastating impact of single-use plastic and toxics in the world's oceans; celebrate women in science, leadership and adventure; create a community of female change-makers and inspiring global ambassadors to tackle the environmental and health impacts of plastic pollution; and champion and contribute to innovative scientific research to tackle the crisis.

eXXpedition, the British Community Interest Company behind North Pacific 2018, specialises in all-women sailing expeditions. This is their 10th eXXpedition voyage and the first in the North Pacific Gyre. It has the endorsement and support of the UN Environment Clean Seas initiative and Ocean Wise.

Public interest in ocean plastic pollution is at an all time high and the crew want their voyage to put a spotlight on the lesser understood issue of microplastics. During the month long voyage, the crew will make daily trawls for plastics and pollutants, and collect data for a variety of global datasets and scientific research studies.

The eXXpedition crew is made up of scientists, students, artists, filmmakers, business women, psychologists, actors, ocean activists and sustainability professionals, and novice as well as experienced sailors.

In the four years since the first voyage across the Atlantic, eighty six amazing women have sailed on missions all over the world creating their own narratives about plastics and toxics, utilising their specific skills and their eXXpedition experience. These eXXpedition Ambassadors have gone on to give inspirational talks, organise plastic-free community projects, implement plastic policies within their organisations, campaign for better legislation, release impactful films and create inspiring ocean plastic artworks.

Emily Penn eXXpedition co-Founder and ocean advocate: "eXXpedition is a radical mix of adventure, science, advocacy and action to help understand the nature of a complex problem; the contamination of our bodies and our seas. Each voyage is designed to be a platform for ambassadors to take forward projects tackling plastics and toxics, and raise the profile of the issues to create change at a personal and organisational level, and influence national and international policy makers. We hope our journey from the tropical islands of Hawaii to the wild coastlines of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest will contribute to important scientific studies while inspiring action to protect these great places of

outstanding natural beauty and importance.”

Erik Solheim, Head of UN Environment: “eXXpedition North Pacific will be pioneering sailing and research, and also helping build the case for urgent, decisive action on the throwaway plastic apocalypse that our oceans are facing. Such front-line support for our [#CleanSeas campaign](#) will help get the message further out!”

The eXXpedition crew will be sailing Sea Dragon, a 72ft scientific exploration vessel (owned by Pangaea Exploration) from Oahu, Hawaii to Vancouver, British Columbia (June 23rd - July 15th 2018) and then from Vancouver to Seattle (July 21st - July 28th 2018) where the journey will end. A roster of events in each place will be announced closer to the departure.

All costs are covered by crew contributions and mission sponsors which to date includes The Copernicus Marine Service, Princess Yachts, Hawk Yachts, Daedalus Yachts, Y.CO, Iridium and Finisterre.



Image © eXXpedition

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information, interview opportunities or to sign up for event updates for your area, please contact Larissa Clark: E: media@exxpedition.com T: +44 (0)207 097 1734 (a 24/7 UK line) via the Another World Adventures office or Cell: +1 (604) 441 7608 (Vancouver PST).

You can find out more about the history of eXXpedition, why we are focused on women, plastics and toxics, and more information about Sea Dragon on our website, www.eXXpedition.com

NOTES TO EDITOR:

For high resolution images- All images must be credited to as per the caption in the image plus 'eXXpedition' when used, including the images included in this release.

Please see [Google Drive Link](#) where you'll be able to download and use images directly or email media@exxpedition.com.

North Pacific specific images and video content will be available, on request, from the beginning of the sail.

The eXXpedition social media accounts are:

[@exxpedition](#) on Twitter

[@exxpedition](#) on Instagram

[eXXpedition](#) on Facebook (link is www.facebook.com/eXXpeditionCIC/)

Follow news and updates via #eXXpedition

CREW DETAILS - photos and bios of the participating crew are available on request and summaries [are available here](#).

For details on the impact and actions of the 86-past eXXpedition participants please email media@exxpedition.com

EXXPEDITION SPONSORS

Gold sponsors

- The EU Copernicus Marine Service (implemented by Mercator Ocean)

Silver sponsors

- Princess Yachts
- Hawk Yachts
- Iridium

Bronze sponsors

- Daedalus Yachts
- Y.CO
- Finisterre

Partnerships

- UN Environment & Clean Seas, Ocean Wise, Pangaea Explorations, Biodiversity Research Institute, Marine Debris Tracker, Another World Adventures

BROADCAST OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Telephone or Skype interviews** with eXXpedition co-founder Emily Penn, eXXpedition and additional crew, including scientists
- **On-location interviews** – please inform us if you'd like one of these and we will organise a mutually convenient time slot with appropriate crew members for your audience
- **Press events** – these events are invite only, please let us know if you are interested in attending - dates tbc around the start of the first voyage leg.

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