

A STORY OF SEA ROOM, NERVE AND RETURN

Gipsy Moth IV

A story that still sails

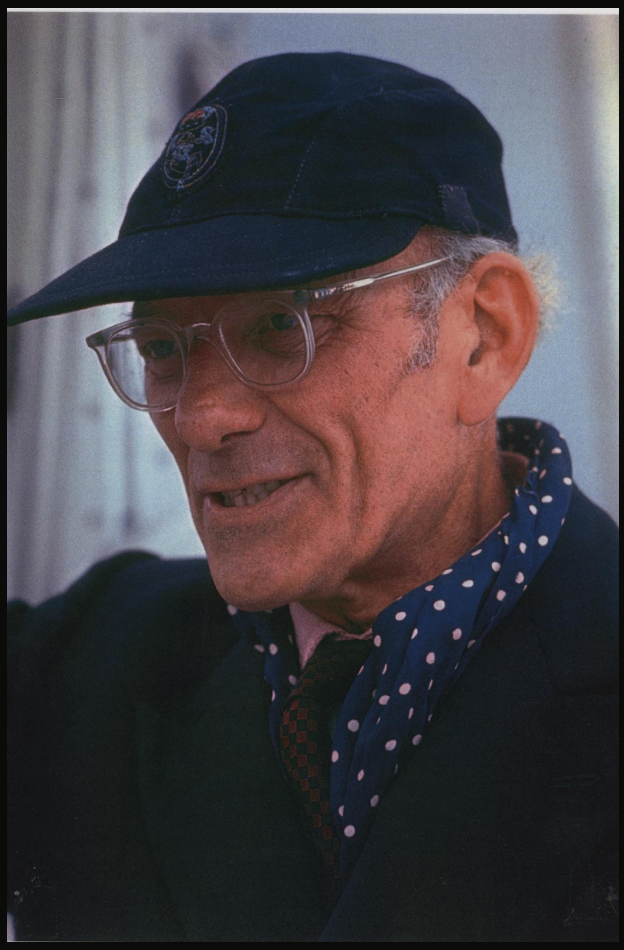
THE SOLO VOYAGE OF SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER · 1966–67

01 / A LIFE ALREADY POINTED TOWARD THE HORIZON

He crossed an ocean before the world.

Francis Chichester was an aviator before he became one of the defining sailors of his age. In 1929, he flew alone from England to Australia. Decades later, he would bring the same appetite for distance and self-reliance to the sea.

In 1960 he won the first single-handed transatlantic yacht race. The achievement sharpened a bigger idea: take the old clipper route around the great capes, alone, and race the long average passage times of sailing ships.



SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER
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A NAVIGATOR BY INSTINCT

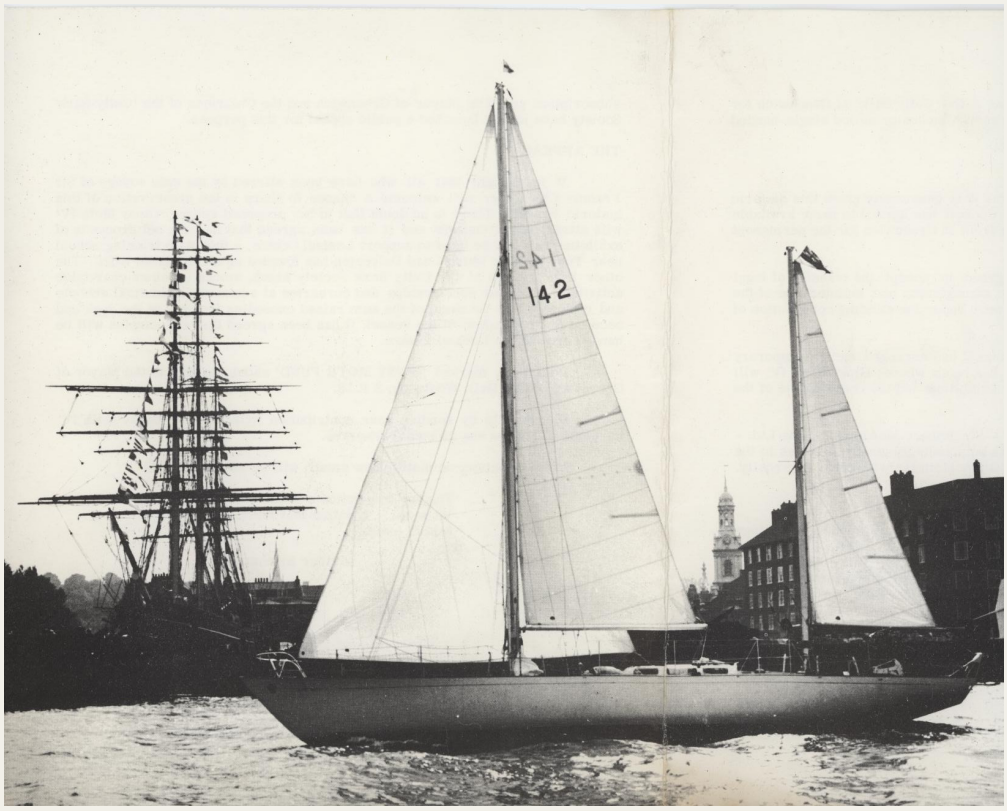
At 65, Chichester set out with a lifetime of hard-won experience behind him. The challenge was not simply to go farther. It was to keep making sound decisions when land, help and certainty were all far away.

> “Because it intensifies life.”

SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER, ON WHY HE MADE THE VOYAGE

02 / BUILT FOR A PASSAGE FEW HAD ATTEMPTED

Small against the ocean. Ready for distance.



GIPSY MOTH IV IN FULL PROFILE, WITH HER HULL AND RIG IN VIEW

Designed by John Illingworth and built by Camper & Nicholsons, the 53-foot Gipsy Moth IV was created around a demanding brief: a fast, seaworthy yacht that one person could take around the world.

Chichester relied on self-steering gear to hold a course while he slept or worked on deck. When the mechanism failed in heavy weather, he improvised repairs and a way to steer. The boat was repeatedly battered and flooded; near the start of the return leg, a freak wave rolled her over.

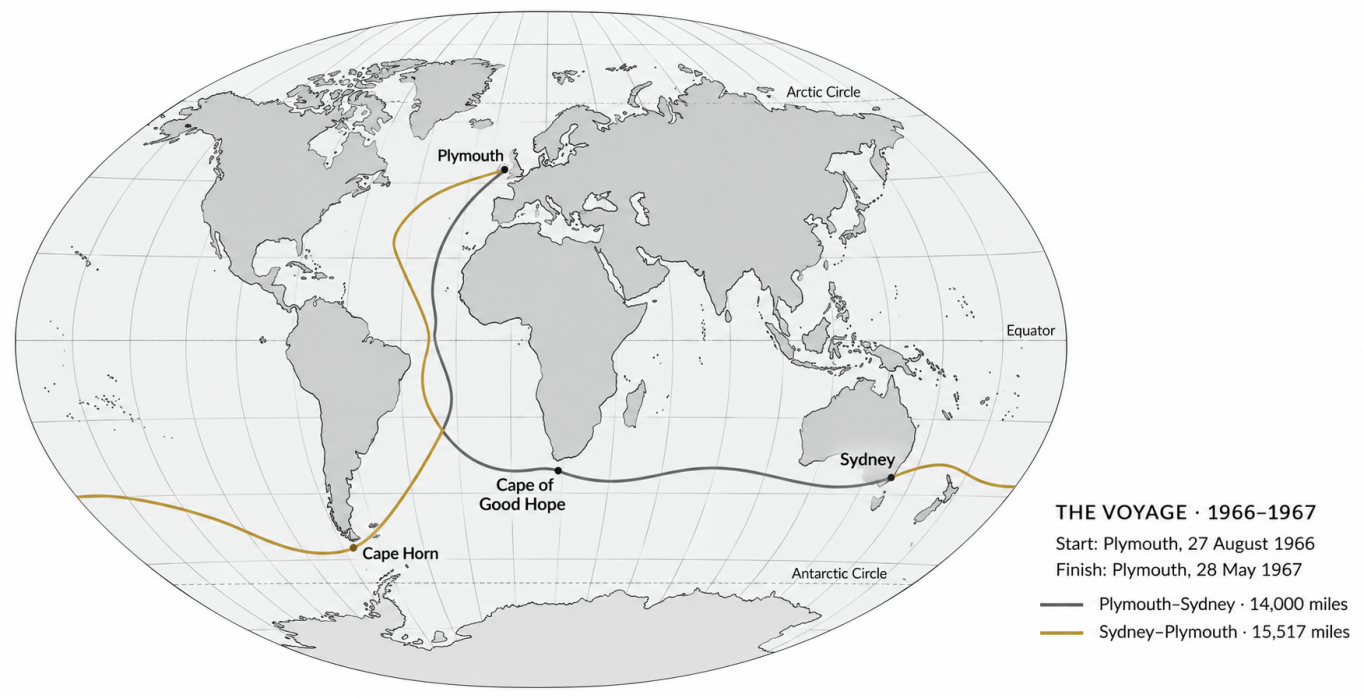
53

FEET OF OCEAN-RACING YACHT

Designed around one sailor and an immense horizon.

03 / ONE STOP. ONE WORLD.

A line drawn around the globe.



On 27 August 1966, Chichester left Plymouth westbound. He crossed the Atlantic, rounded the Cape of Good Hope and made the sole stop of the voyage in Sydney. From there he turned east, passed Cape Leeuwin and Cape Horn, then headed north across the Atlantic toward home.

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27 AUG 1966

Plymouth departure

SYDNEY

The single stop

28 MAY 1967

Home to Plymouth

Nine months and one day.

The return was a national event. A crowd lined Plymouth Hoe to welcome the sailor and his yacht home.

04 / A HOMECOMING BECOMES A BEGINNING

The welcome was enormous. The wake was larger.



PLYMOUTH, 28 MAY 1967

Chichester returned to Plymouth after 226 days at sea. The voyage made a solitary act feel shared: millions followed the progress, and crowds gathered for the homecoming. Soon after, Queen Elizabeth II knighted him for his achievement in navigation and seamanship.

Gipsy Moth IV was preserved at Greenwich after Chichester's death. A restoration campaign later returned her to the water, and in 2007 she completed another circumnavigation. Her story continues through new restorations, public visits and time at sea.

A LIVING VESSEL, NOT A RELIC

The yacht has been grounded, repaired and restored more than once. Each return to sailing has carried the same idea forward: a historic boat earns her future by meeting the water again.



CHICHESTER WORKING ABOARD GIPSY MOTH IV

05 / HERITAGE CARRIED FORWARD

A sailor’s gin.
A true story in every bottle.



Gipsy Moth IV Gin brings a British sailing story together with Dutch distilling craft. Made in Schiedam by Onder de Boompjes, the London dry gin takes juniper as its base, with angelica root, liquorice and coriander among its botanicals.

The Sailor’s Edition is distilled through five sequences and made in small batches of 600 bottles. Its balanced botanical character is intended to work neat, with tonic or in a cocktail.

Keep the story afloat.

Part of the proceeds from gin sales supports the upkeep of Gipsy Moth IV and the promotion of sailing. It is a small way to connect a modern gathering to a yacht whose story still belongs on the water.

GIPSY MOTH IV · A REAL YACHT. AN UNFINISHED STORY.

History checked against Royal Museums Greenwich and The Box, Plymouth. Product details from the supplied Gipsy Gin materials.