**Volvo Ocean Race**

The **Volvo Ocean Race** (formerly the **Whitbread Round the World Race**) is a [yacht](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yacht" \o "Yacht)race around the world, held every three years.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-Volvo_Cars_.E2.80.93_Volvo_Ocean_Race-0) It is named after its current owner, [Volvo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo). At this moment the [Netherlands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_the_Netherlands) holds the record of three wins with the Dutch skipper[Conny van Rietschoten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conny_van_Rietschoten) being the only skipper to win the race twice.

Though the route is changed to accommodate various ports of call, the race typically departs Europe in October, and in recent editions has had either 9 or 10 legs, with in-port races at many of the stopover cities. The last completed edition of the race started in[Alicante](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alicante), [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain), on October 11, 2008.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-Volvo_Cars_.E2.80.93_Volvo_Ocean_Race-0) The route for the [2008-2009 race](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008-09_Volvo_Ocean_Race) was altered from previous years to include stopovers in [India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) and [Asia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asia) for the first time.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-1) The 2008-09 route covered nearly 39,000 nmi (72,000 km), took over nine months to complete, and reached a cumulative TV audience of 2 billion people worldwide.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-2)

During the nine months of the [2011–12 Volvo Ocean Race](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011%E2%80%9312_Volvo_Ocean_Race), which started in [Alicante](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alicante), [Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spain" \o "Spain)in October 2011 and concludes in [Galway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galway), [Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland), in early July 2012, the teams are scheduled to sail over 39,000 nmi (72,000 km) of the world’s most treacherous seas via[Cape Town](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Town), [Abu Dhabi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abu_Dhabi), [Sanya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanya" \o "Sanya), [Auckland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland), around [Cape Horn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Horn) to [Itajaí](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itaja%C3%AD" \o "Itajaí), [Miami](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miami), [Lisbon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lisbon), and[Lorient](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorient).

Each of the entries has a sailing team of 11 professional crew and the race requires their utmost skills, physical endurance and competitive spirit as they race day and night for more than 20 days at a time on some of the legs. They will each take on different jobs on board the boat, and on top of these sailing roles, there will be two sailors that have had medical training, as well as a sailmaker, an engineer and a dedicated media crew member.

During the race the crews will experience life at the extreme: no fresh food is taken on board, so they live off freeze-dried fare; they will experience temperature variations from -5 to +40 degrees Celsius and will only take one change of clothes. They will trust their lives to the boat and the skipper and experience hunger and sleep deprivation.

**History**

In 1972 England's [Whitbread](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitbread) company and the British [Royal Naval Sailing Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Naval_Sailing_Association) agreed to sponsor a globe-circling [regatta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regatta), which would be called the 'Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race'.

17 yachts and 167 crew started the first race of 27,500 nmi (50,900 km), which began from [Portsmouth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth), [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) on September 8, 1973. Approximately 3000 spectator boats set out to witness the historic start.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-3)

The original course was designed to follow the route of the [square riggers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Square_rig), which had carried cargo around the world during the 19th Century.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-4)

From 2001 the ownership of the race was taken over by [Volvo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo) and [Volvo Cars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Cars) and the race was renamed the ‘Volvo Ocean Race’. Stopover ports were added in [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany" \o "Germany),[France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France), and [Sweden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden) being Volvo's three biggest car markets in [Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe).

Winning the race does not attract a cash prize, as the feat of competing is presented as sufficient reward; however [Waterford Crystal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterford_Crystal) trophies are awarded to the winners of each leg and the race overall.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Volvo_Ocean_Race#cite_note-5)

Only two people have won the Volvo 3 times they are Brad Jackson and Mark Christensen. Brad is currently on puma and Mark has retired to America where he can spend more time with his kids. The worst weather conditions are usually encountered in the [Southern Ocean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Ocean) where waves sometimes top 100 feet (30 m) and winds can reach 60 knots (110 km/h).