

## Sailor's Day

On the Day of the Navigator we remember that the art of navigation comes from Polynesia. These boats would have won every regatta not long ago.



Sailing Polynesian style on a Proa (multihull outrigger sailboat) off the Deboyne Islands, Papua New Guinea. Typical of Polynesia, the Prau is an ocean-going sailing boat with delta wings and an outrigger that is always on the windward side / © Photo: Georg Berg

The Polynesians have always had a reputation as the most perfect sailors. Even today, they are admired for their talent by modern seafarers. Traveling in a classic outrigger sailboat is an unforgettable experience. Until recently, the traditional Prau boats could compete with the fastest high-tech boats at the Americas Cup. The reason is suspected to be the special aerodynamics of the triangular delta sail, which is also called crab claw sail. Hard to believe that this technique was invented in the South Seas 10,000 years ago.



The crew of a Praus consists of at least three people. A rear determines the angle of attack of the sail. Another crew member steers by shifting weight. A loose paddle can be used to steer slightly / © Photo: Georg Berg



The third crew member on a Praus handles the top of the sail. Since the boat is longitudinally symmetrical, the stern and bow are exchanged when changing direction. The tip of the sail is carried around in the picture / © Photo: Georg Berg

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