

Re: Anyone Have Transatlantic Waypoints for a Crossing by Ship?

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- *From:* "Tom K" <tkanitra@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 30 Mar 2008 19:59:01 -0400
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"Lars" <Lars@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:sq40v35unembp442qjcqok4c6iitgqo8pp@xxxxxxxx

Previously, on Usenet "Tom K" <tkanitra@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Anybody have, or know where to get, waypoints for a transatlantic crossing by ship from Southampton to New York?

We booked the Queen Mary 2 for a crossing from England to NYC in June, and I'm wondering what the route will be.

In June the route will most likely be a great circle from Lands End to Grand Banks, and then along Rhumb Lines to Ambrose.

If it was March or April the route may well have been much further south, maybe as far as The Azores, before heading northwestward towards Ambrose.

The aim obviously is to make as fast a crossing as possible. In summer when the North Atlantic is relatively calm one can mostly take the shortest route, which is the Great Circle. But in autumn and spring it is often wiser to opt for a considerably longer route to have better weather.

In the depth of winter, say January and February, it is not uncommon that the weather systems are pressed so far south that one will have no real option other than to pass North of them, at or near the Great Circle.

I doubt anyone at the Shipping Company will be able to tell you much beforehand any details about the route. Usually the Ships Master will decide the planned route only some 24 hours before departure, depending on the wether forecasts. That plan may well change several times during an Atlantic passage.

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Since many years now the Master is adviced by meteorologists from some "Weather Routing" service that have access to *very* powerful computers where loads of data about winds and currents etc are updated frequently.

(I am a Sea Captain, since many years now I work in the archipelago around home. But previously I have sailed on cargo ships around the world, and crossed the North Atlantic maybe a hundred times or so.)

Lars
Stockholm

Quite interesting... I didn't know the route from England to NYC changed seasonally. Though I guess it makes a lot of sense. I know a lot of the Caribbean based ships cross from Ft. Lauderdale/Miami along a more southward route to Europe, often to the Mediterranean, but the QM2 still does the Southampton to NYC itinerary.

What are the seas typically like in early June? Or is the North Atlantic in June to unpredictable for there to be typical seas? I'll have my Bonine just in case.

--Tom

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