

OVER 90 SAILING ENTHUSIASTS BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO SIR BANI YAS ISLAND FROM DUBAI

Sailors will stop at Emirates Palace before heading to the island to take part in the Sir Bani Yas Offshore Race

Abu Dhabi, April 10, 2014 – Over 90 sailing enthusiasts aboard 13 sailing boats have begun their journey to Sir Bani Yas Island from the Dubai Offshore Racing Club, heading towards Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi, their only stop on the way to Sir Bani Yas during which sailors will rest before heading out to Sir Bani Yas for the island's inaugural Offshore Race, which will take place the following week from April 18-20.

“We're excited to be a part of Sir Bani Yas Offshore Race, which is happening for the first time. Sailing into unchartered waters is just the perfect challenge that any sailor could ask for,” said David Worrall, Captain of the Shahrazad. “It is also an opportunity to test our skills against fellow experienced sailors on our way to explore Sir Bani Yas for the first time and trying out the unique activities and offerings available on the island,” Worrall added.

Expected to arrive at Sir Bani Yas on April 12, sailors will berth and be given the opportunity to either fly back to Dubai and prepare for the main race, which will take place on April 18, or stay at any of the island's three celebrated resorts, which are managed by Anantara, and enjoy its diverse nature-based activities, including a Nature and Wildlife Drive, nature walks, biking, horseback riding, snorkelling, kayaking and many more.

Sailing lovers and interested members of the public can track the progress of the boats – Omnia, Shahrazad, Feochan, Tazo Too, Diablo, Andorra, Tripple Dutch, Maverick, Yours Truly, Nia Ben Aur, Exodus, Lady Lucies, Bin Toak – and observe the race's drama unfold in real time through <http://www.xtra-track.com/sirbaniyastour2014>. Updates will also be provided through Sir Bani Yas' twitter account @sirbaniyasae and Facebook, as well as the hashtags #SirBaniYas and #SBYOffshoreRace.

The exciting racing event is organised by Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC), in partnership with Anantara Hotels Resorts & Spas, Rotana Jet, Dubai Offshore Sailing Club (DOSC), and Volvo Ocean Race Abu Dhabi Stopover.

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About Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC)

Tourism Development & Investment Company (TDIC), established in 2006 and fully owned by Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority, is a master developer of major tourism, cultural and residential destinations in Abu Dhabi.

These include Saadiyat, a natural island ten minutes drive from downtown Abu Dhabi featuring luxury resorts, championship beachfront golf courses, sophisticated residential communities, retail destinations and cultural institutions - designed by world-renowned Pritzker Prize-winning architects - such as Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. TDIC is also

developing Desert Islands, a heritage-based tourism destination composed of eight islands - Sir Bani Yas Island, the historical Dalma Island and the previously unexplored Discovery Islands.

TDIC has built a strong reputation among international industry players for its compelling value proposition, transparency of business approach and ability to deliver. The company has been awarded high investment grade ratings of A1, AA, and AA by three top credit rating agencies, Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings, respectively. These ratings reflect TDIC's strong financial position and support the company's credit worthiness to investors, lenders and other market participants.

By creating investment partnerships and joint ventures, TDIC's developments are helping to support the Emirate's evolution into a world-class destination for tourists, businesses and residents. TDIC offers significant employment and vocational training opportunities for Emiratis keen to enhance their careers and professional qualifications.

For further information, please visit <http://www.tdic.ae>.

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