The crews of the ARC raise the flags of the 34 countries represented in their fleet

By CDM

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Noticias

A colorful and lively parade integrated by the crews participating in the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers 2017 (ARC) regatta has toured the Sports Pier of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on Sunday and concluded with the flag raising ceremony that opens the 32nd edition of this transoceanic regatta. In total, almost 1,500 sailors from 34 countries participate in this nautical event that will leave the Gran Canaria capital in a week, next Sunday, November 19, towards the island of Santa Lucia, in the Caribbean.

The ARC continues in this way with its scheduled agenda in the city, where each year it is received by the Department of Tourism of the City Council of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the Tourist Board of Gran Canaria and the Port of Las Palmas. On this occasion flags of up to 34 different countries have been raised, those of the sailors of the 197 ships that are finally written on the test.

We must remember that the organization already dismissed last Sunday, November 5, from the Sports Pier, the departure of the ARC Plus, a complementary test prepared in recent years to meet the high demand for boats to participate in the event. The ARC Plus stops in Cape Verde before continuing sailing towards Santa Lucia.

Between the two calls, ARC and ARC Plus, the test accumulates about 300 participating boats: a figure that confirms the strength of a regatta that is a classic in the international sailing calendar. An appointment that Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has hosted for 32 editions, as a starting point for sailors who arrive in the city from weeks before their departure, and who enjoy the wide range of leisure activities in the Gran Canaria capital and the island. time they prepare their transatlantic journey.

This is the last great oceanic race that hosts the capital just in the year in which Atlantic City 2017 has been designated by the European Commission on the Atlantic Arc. In addition, this year the capital of Gran Canaria has hosted three other major international nautical events: the already held Rendez-Vous Tall Ships and Discoveries Race Los Alisios, and the iconic Mini Transat, which sailed from the Sports Pier on the 1st of November after completing the first scale of its history in the city.

As for the crews of the ARC 2017, the United Kingdom is the most represented country in the fleet with a total of 62 boats registered in the two groups that will cross the Atlantic Ocean, while Germany occupies the second place with 24 sailboats and catamarans followed of Sweden with 14 yachts that will participate in the ARC under its flag.

18 percent of the crew members are women, 7 of whom are patron saints. A total of 15 boats sail as a family with 20 teenagers under the age of 16, the youngest being a 3-year-old boy who travels with his two brothers and their parents in the 'Quiset'. The oldest navigator, Manfred Kerstan, is 81 years old, comes from Germany and has participated in the competition 22 times.

The current record for the ARC route is in the hands of the Rambler 88 from the United States, who in 2016 completed the adventure of the ARC in 8 days, 6 hours, 29 minutes and 15 seconds, making it the time to beat this year.