

Sailing in Qingdao

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Volvo Ocean Race (VOR) - Qingdao stop-over

After their 2,500 nautical miles long leg from Singapore, the 8 impressive VO70 racing yachts are **estimated** to arrive in Qingdao on January 31, 2009. After the arrival of all 8 boats, there will be held a 'VOR Village' opening ceremony inside the Olympic Sailing Center.

According to the VOR organizer, the in-port race on Saturday, February 7 at 13:00, ".. is sure to be among the highlights of the entire event. This is the closest that spectators can get to the action without actually being on board one of the race boats." Information on the in-port races available here: <http://volvoceanrace.decenturl.com/ipr>

Qingdao International Yacht Club (QIYC) is the organizer of the Qingdao stop-over, and they will produce a 'VOR Port Manual' which will provide comprehensive information about the VOR stop-over and related activities. The manual will be available in Qingdao airport, from the train station, and selected cafes/bars, etc. More VOR information will also be posted on QIYC's website: www.qiyc.cn | Official VOR website: www.volvoceanrace.org

NOCSP Sailing Programs - looking ahead..!

With the 2008 sailing activities of NOCSP coming to a close very soon - and the possibility that this Dec/Jan issue of QD Expat newsletter may be the last issue in the format we know it - I want to make sure that you know where to go for more information about NOCSP, an important organizer of local sailing activities.

Websites: www.nocsp.com | www.sailweta.com/nocsp

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WETA sailing in Qingdao (*update*)

Regatta ready: Mid December another three individuals will receive their new WETA sport trimarans thereby joining the most active group of private leisure sailors in Qingdao. With these boats we'll have enough WETAs in Qingdao to form our own boat class and participate in local regattas - adding a new and exciting dimension to WETA sailing.

These additional boats will also open up for some regular social sailing and friendly racing opportunities which is ultimately the best way to learn from each other and become better sailors. Guaranteed fun..!

Winter sailing (a.k.a. frostbiting): A regular sailing season in Qingdao runs from May to October. This is the period where the water is still so warm that you don't need special clothing to stay comfortable and safe while sailing.

From November to April you will need a drysuit when sailing small boats. A good waterproof and breathable drysuit can be had for less than RMB 4,000. Not particular cheap, but for this amount you effectively double the length of your sailing season. So what are the benefits of sailing during the winter you may ask? There is at least two;

1. Some of the best sailing is to be had during the winter. The wind is generally better than during the warmer months and the water is much flatter (i.e. smaller waves). This translates directly into greater speed and more fun.
2. By sailing during the winter you keep 'sailing fit' and will get a significant headstart on the regular sailing season.

This winter Qingdao will see as many as four WETA frostbite sailors. Watch out for the colourful sport trimarans.

Sail WETA in Sanya: There are already two WETAs in private ownership in Sanya, but by the end of December a company running the watersports facilities for several hotels is planning to take delivery of their first WETA trimaran. This will give anyone with Sanya vacation plans a great opportunity to try out the boat and WETA owners a chance to sail "their boat" in a tropical paradise. When available, more information will be posted here:

www.sailweta.com/sanya/



See also:

Where to sail in Qingdao: www.sailweta.com/sailing-in-qingdao/

Links to previous sailing articles: www.sailweta.com/sailing-articles/

Questions? Call 1388 463 7870 (Jeppe) or email weta@ketav.com