

# ST MARTIN TO BERMUDA

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# THE NORTHERN ROUTE VIA BERMUDA

It is high time to continue our journey back to Europe. Cyclone season is approaching. At the end of May, we need to be far away from Bermuda to comply with the rules from our insurance company. Many boats take the direct route to the Azores - much closer, of course. The risk is getting stuck in the high pressure of the Azores without wind. The surrounding wind blows clockwise, so on the north side, the wind goes in a west-east direction. That's the one we want to catch.

It is 900 nm to Bermuda from St Martin. The estimated time is ten days, as it is a bit windy here as well. We knew there would be rain and thunder for a few days. Still tired from the dengue fever, we planned to go once it passed. A friend urged us to go earlier to take advantage of the wind. So we did.

Tuesday afternoon we left St Martin in the rain, and not long after the rain caught us too.

We had a tough start with increasing wind. At first, we set the pole, as it was downwind sailing - but after a while, it wasn't, so down with the pole and out with the Genoa. To set the post we both have to be on deck - in rain and waves it's always a risky moment. We use our harnesses and are clipped on.

At night the lightning came, so we took two reefs. Not much sleep that night. We have learned to take every chance to rest anyway, and trust sleep will come.



# MORE RAIN AND THUNDER

## DAY 2

We had more rain and thunder the next day, with some sun in between. After the evening's wall of rain, we got nice wind, around 15 knots. It's perfect, over 18 we have to hold on and be very careful when we move. It's also nice that the temperature is slowly going down - only 26° now.









# GREAT SAILING

## DAY 3

Today has been a lovely sailing day, with sun and wind around 10-12 knots. At a slow pace, so plenty of time to rest, do crafts, read and enjoy the beautiful day. Very welcome after the rainy start. Weather reports change a lot. Yesterday we had a large area of thunderstorms ahead of us - which is already gone and replaced with another threat - strong gusts on arrival. We are keeping calm and taking it day by day. Today is perfect, thank you.









# 24°

## DAY 4

We slide slowly forward in the light wind. The swell from far away still creates waves that cause the Genoa to flap from time to time. The sunset is magnificent, surrounded by mackerel-good-weather clouds high in the sky.

A crescent moon rises.

The temperature is perfect, 24°, not too cold and not too hot, just nice, easy to feel relaxed in. Tonight I will sleep under my covers again. The last time was a year ago when we left New Zealand.

We make 2 knots - both Arthur and I can stand this calm. We know that will change at some point, we think tomorrow morning.









# HALFWAY

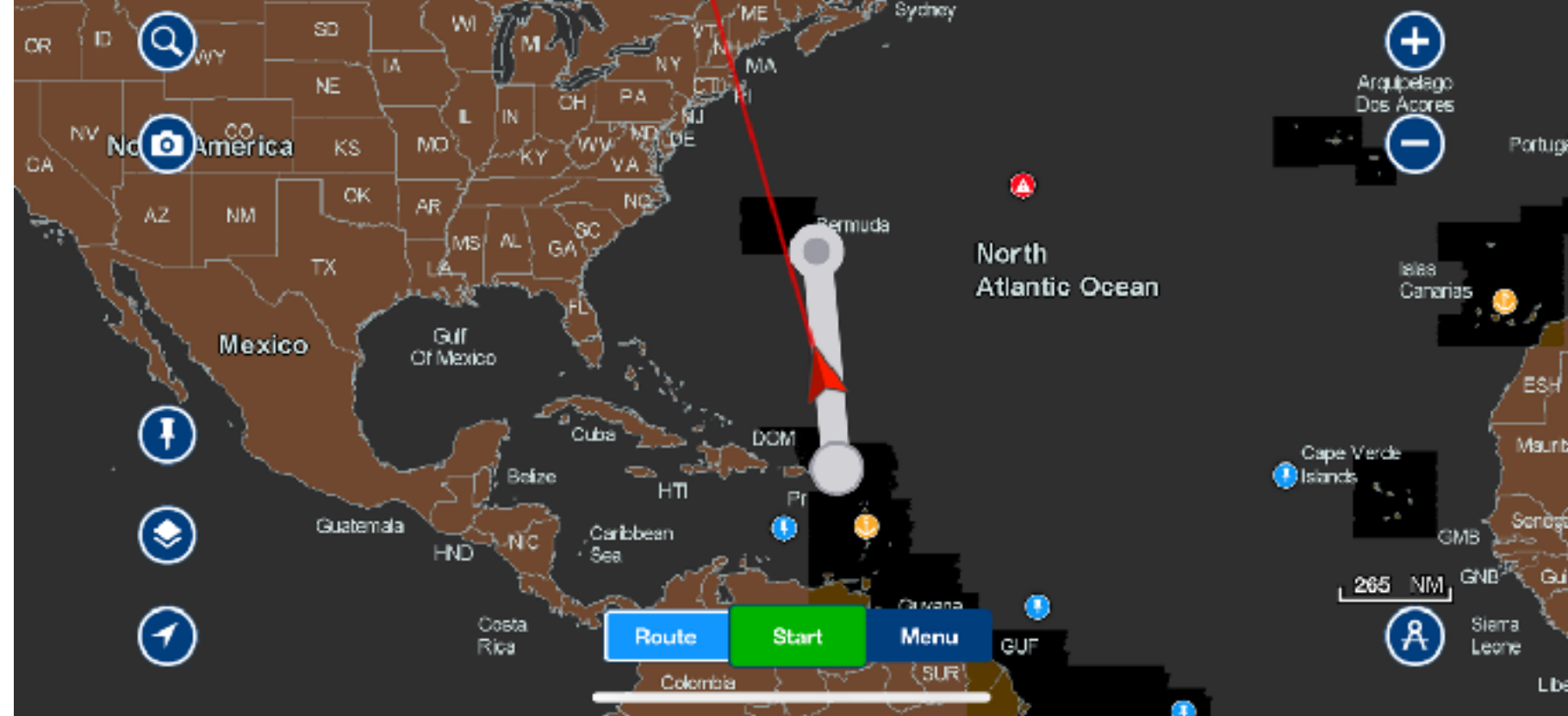
## DAY 5

We are halfway there today!

The wind has turned, and now we have it from behind - wonderful and smooth sailing, thank you!

Late tonight, the wind will increase again, the weather reports say. It is enough to look at the sunset to understand it. The sun looks mysterious and is hidden in veils. A strange-looking sun, I've learned, always brings some strange/bad weather.

I'm also seeing some cirrus clouds here and there - they used to indicate rain, so time to close all the hatches again.









# CHANGES

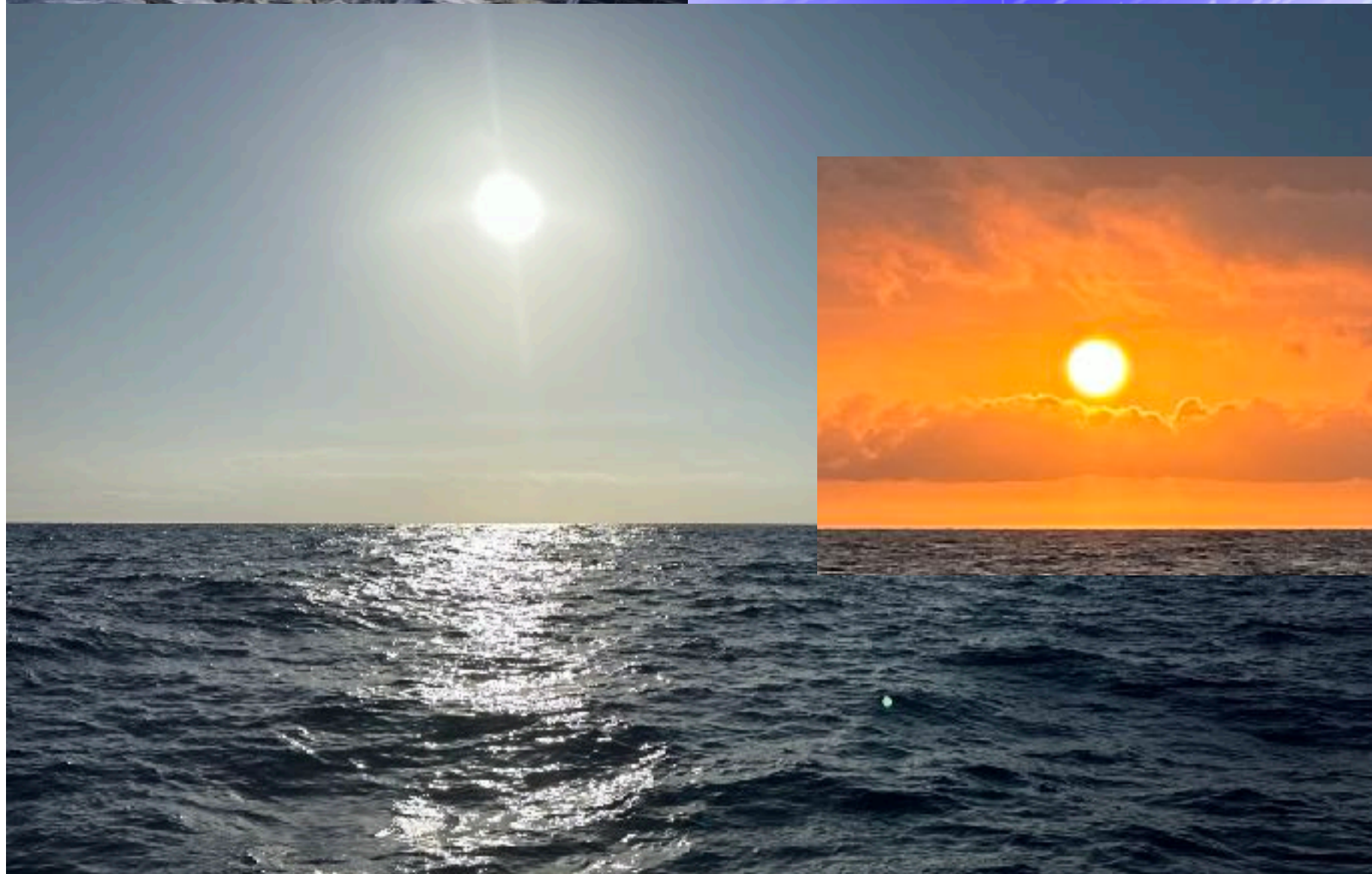
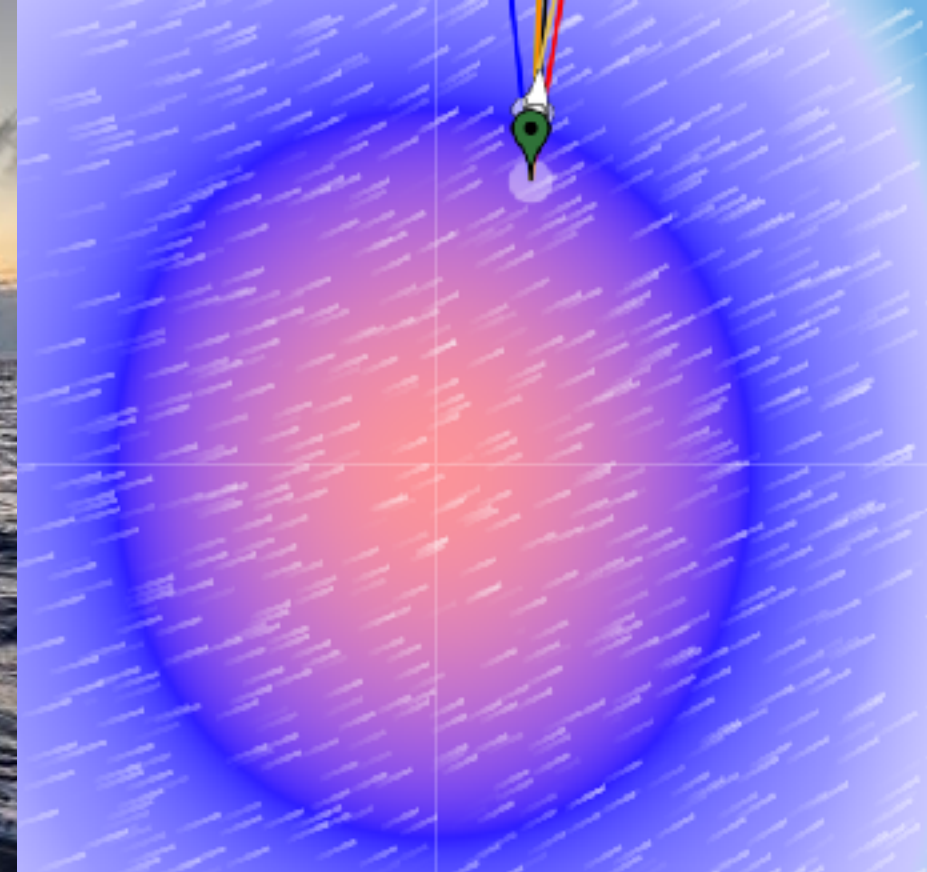
## DAY 6

We had rain, massive, and thunder in the afternoon; see the blue photo from Predict Wind, showing us on the edge of it.

Now we have a wind shift ahead, and maybe a little more thunder. The rain and thunder circles do not move much, rather they dissolve.

We drove through, as short a time as possible near lightning, is our opinion. When we run the engine, we get hot water quickly, so I treated myself to washing my hair.

The evening sky changes from pale silver to dark yellow. Looks like we can expect a sunny day tomorrow.





# SUMMERTIME

## DAY 7

The days are getting longer. The sun rises around 6:00 and sets at 20:00. I almost forgot how wonderful the late evening light is after being around the equator for a long time, where it goes down quickly around 18:00, all year round. In Sweden, light is a big deal, and Midsummer - our brightest day of the year is almost sacred, and everyone celebrates. Also, it will be a bit cooler, around 25° now, and will go down to 18°. Perfect if you ask me.

I love the complexity of the evening sky - look how playful and light it is above the dark clouds - a message to lift our gaze when it feels heavy.









# NO MORE TACKING

## DAY 8

Today was the day we decided to go upwind, with a direct course for Bermuda. We had cruised 130 nm but were only 50 nm closer to our target. At that speed, it would take two more days to arrive. Then there would be strong winds in Bermuda - dark red on the weather forecast.

So now we drive, slowly, against the waves to get before the bad weather.





# ARRIVAL BERMUDA

## DAY 9

The morning is bright. The sky presents a wide range of clouds, announcing the strong wind that will come tomorrow.

The yellow-white house on the left is Custom. That's where we docked and checked in. The harbour is small and is currently filled with the ARC rally. So we stay at anchor like the majority of boats and save about \$130/night. Around the corner, you fill up with diesel for USD 2.10/litre - the most expensive to date. It's ok, we've learned that it evens out eventually, and we appreciate being in safe and clean places.

See you next time!





