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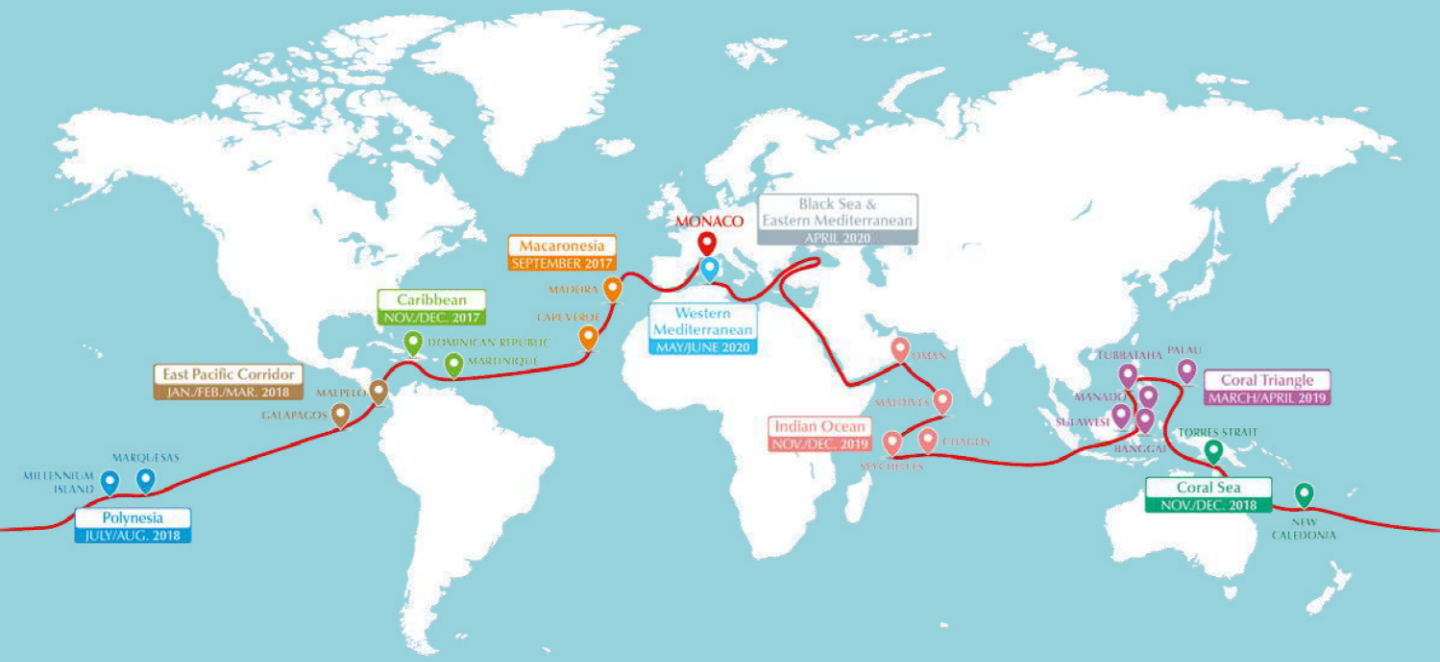
YACHT SUPPORT VESSELS

— BY PIRIOU —

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# YERSIN, A FIRST REFERENCE AND THE SCIENTIFIC PLATFORM OF MONACO EXPLORATIONS

First reference of our « Navire de Voyage » concept, Yersin was delivered in May 2015.

After two test campaigns in 2015 and 2016, in hot and ice zones, Yersin is now the support platform of Monaco Explorations and departed from Port Hercules in Monaco in July 2017 for a 3 years circumnavigation. The vessel will navigate during three years the globe with the Monaco Explorations team alongside scientific and media teams, and will visit approximately nine areas to conduct scientific research in remote locations on the sea.

Initiated by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and with the support of the Princely Government and the ship's owner François Fiat, the Monaco Explorations campaign will continue the Principality's long tradition of sea exploration as well as its influence in politics and policies of sea conservation. The campaign provides a research platform for dozens of scientists worldwide and aims to raise public awareness regarding the research findings as well as the many threats facing the seas today. Robert Calcagno, Director of the Institute Oceanographic in Monaco, will lead the missions.

## The Route: a 3 years circumnavigation 3 years

The first stop of the campaign was in Macaronesia, a group of four archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean, and next one will be Cape Verde off the western coast of Africa. The focus on this stop will include studying biodiversity and mega fauna, marking for data collection, extracting environmental DNA, and developing a deeper understanding of the chemical and biological effects of global warming. Researchers will study little known but very rich areas of biodiversity such as seamounts and, finally, there will be a focus on the development of programs dedicated to protecting endangered species.

The Monaco Explorations campaign's scientific programs as well as the equipment on the vessel were carefully selected by the Scientific Steering Committee; a global team of internationally renowned scientists who are also leaders of recognized research organizations in marine biology. Professor Patrick Rampal, Director of the Centre Scientifique de Monaco, a coral and marine research center based in the Principality, heads the Committee.



