PACKING LIST – COLD-WEATHER LEGS

S/Y Celeste of Solent · Farr 65R

Cape Town–Namibia, Lagos–Cowes, Fastnet, Cowes–Ellös and other cooler legs · Version November 2026

*Everything you bring must fit in **one (1) soft bag**. There are no private cabins on Celeste, and on longer passages the crew may share bunks. Your bag is your wardrobe for the whole trip – dress in layers, pack smart and use packing cubes so you can find your things, even in the dark. Cold-to-warm leg (e.g. Cape Town–Brazil)? Add the warm-weather list.*

Good to know before you pack

Bag	A **soft duffel bag of 60–80 litres** plus a small daypack. No hard suitcases – they cannot be stowed on board.
Berths	No private cabins. On shorter legs you have your own bunk. On long passages, crew take turns in the aft bunks (least motion).
Bedding	**Pillows are provided on board.** Bring your own pillowcase, fitted sheet and a warm sleeping bag.
Safety	Lifejackets, safety harnesses and tethers are provided for everyone on board. Safety briefing before departure.
Power	**USB-A/C sockets** at sea. 220 V (EU plug) when the inverter is running.
Charging	**Power bank** – we normally charge our power banks on the boat and then charge our electronics from our own power banks (Note: *Check with your airline, but we recommend max 100 Wh (approx. 27,000 mAh), max two, always in your hand luggage. Many airlines do not allow them to be used during the flight.* AirHelp).
Watches	Watch teams with 3-hour watches around the clock on longer passages. Everyone takes part in sailing, navigation, cooking and cleaning.
Going ashore	We often anchor and take the tender ashore – expect wet landings.
Laundry	No washing or drying clothes during the passage – only ashore when possible.
Climate	Cool and often wet. On night watch it can feel below 10 °C in wind and spray – even in summer. The sun can still be strong during the day.

Packing list

Documents and money

- ☐ Passport – valid for at least **6 months** after you leave the destination country
- ☐ Visa and any vaccination certificates – check the entry rules for every country on the leg
- ☐ Proof of insurance – check that your travel insurance covers ocean sailing, medical care and repatriation
- ☐ Bank cards and some cash (euros/USD plus local currency)
- ☐ Flights and hotel before/after the sailing – accommodation on board is not included before or after

Clothing

- ☐ Offshore foul-weather gear: jacket with high collar and hood, plus bib trousers
- ☐ Mid-layer jacket with synthetic insulation, plus a fleece
- ☐ Base layers, top and bottom – preferably merino, ideally two sets
- ☐ Quick-dry outdoor trousers
- ☐ Long-sleeved tops and T-shirts (quick-dry)
- ☐ Comfortable clothes to rest and sleep in when off watch
- ☐ Underwear and warm socks – merino, several pairs
- ☐ Warm, windproof hat – ideally two – plus a buff/neck gaiter
- ☐ Gloves: warm, waterproof ones for helming plus a pair for handling lines – at least 3 pairs
- ☐ Cap with cap clip – the sun can be strong even when it is cold
- ☐ Clothes for going ashore, including a warm jumper
- ☐ Swimwear

Footwear

- ☐ Calf-high sailing boots with light, non-marking soles – **no black soles**
- ☐ Warm insoles (e.g. sheepskin) – consider boots one size up
- ☐ Deck shoes with light soles for dry days on board
- ☐ Shoes for going ashore, e.g. trainers

Sleeping

- ☐ Pillowcase (pillow provided on board)
- ☐ Fitted sheet
- ☐ Warm sleeping bag (comfort approx. +5 °C) – ask the skipper what suits your leg
- ☐ Silk or cotton sleeping-bag liner – adds warmth and is more hygienic
- ☐ Earplugs and eye mask – so you can sleep during the day

Personal gear

- ☐ Head torch with **red** and white light, ideally USB-rechargeable
- ☐ Water bottle approx. **0.7 l** – leak-proof, ideally with a loop for a carabiner
- ☐ Polarised sunglasses, at least **UV category 3** – ideally two pairs and a retaining strap
- ☐ Spare glasses or contact lenses if you use them
- ☐ **Power bank** – we normally charge our own power banks on board and charge our electronics from them (note: check your airline's limits).
- ☐ Phone and charger with **USB-A** or **USB-C**
- ☐ Small waterproof backpack / dry bag for tender trips
- ☐ Packing cubes and a dry bag or two – keep your sleeping clothes dry

Hygiene and health

- ☐ Wash bag with eco-friendly soap and shampoo – everything goes straight into the sea
- ☐ High-SPF sunscreen – cream or stick, **no spray**
- ☐ Lip balm with sun protection (at least SPF 50)
- ☐ Rich hand cream – salt and cold dry out your hands
- ☐ Quick-dry towel (microfibre dries faster than cotton)
- ☐ Your own medication for the whole trip, plus a list or prescription
- ☐ Seasickness medication / patches (Scopoderm – prescription only in many countries)
- ☐ Wet wipes (biodegradable)

Optional

- ☐ E-reader/Kindle and headphones – download books and podcasts before you leave
- ☐ Insulated mug with lid – for hot drinks on night watch
- ☐ Hand warmers (disposable or rechargeable)
- ☐ Knee pads for working on the foredeck
- ☐ Carabiners to hang your bottle and small items by your bunk
- ☐ Dry bag for electronics
- ☐ Logbook if you are building sea time (e.g. IYT/RYA) – our skipper and first mate will sign it :-)

Provided on board – no need to pack

- Lifejacket, safety harness and tether
- Pillow
- Ship's medical kit
- Charts, pilot books and reference literature

Leave at home

- Hard suitcase
- Jeans and cotton clothing – cold and slow to dry once wet
- A down jacket as your only warm layer – it insulates poorly when damp
- Ankle boots – they scoop up water on the foredeck
- Black-soled shoes that leave marks – or you'll be scrubbing the marks off yourself ;-)
- Jewellery and valuables you don't need
- Laptop and other large electronics, unless you really need them – dry storage is limited

Packing tips

How to pack

- Your things stay in your bag for the whole trip. Pack in packing cubes or dry bags so you can find things quickly.
- Keep your passport, medication and a change of clothes in your hand luggage.
- Wear your bulkiest jacket when you travel to free up space in your bag.
- Make a list of what you check in, in case your bag goes missing.

Dress in layers

- A base layer next to your skin wicks away moisture – preferably merino.
- The mid layer keeps you warm: a fleece or a synthetic-insulated jacket, which stays warm even when damp.

- Foul-weather gear on the outside keeps out wind and water.
- Long johns under your foul-weather trousers beat shorts or regular trousers – less sweaty and less bulky.

Foul-weather gear

- Choose gear made for sailing, not for shore: waterproof, with sealing wrist cuffs, a good hood and zipped pockets.
- Check it is waterproof before you go – hose it down or sit in a puddle.

Boots and shoes

- Boots should be calf-high – ankle boots fill up when a wave washes over the foredeck.
- A thick sole and a sheepskin insole keep your feet warm. With an insole and thick socks you often need one size up.
- Good grip and non-marking soles. Keep one pair of shoes for the boat and one for shore.

Hats and gloves

- Gloves get wet – with three pairs they have time to dry between watches.
- Your hat should be windproof, not just warm. A buff keeps your neck warmer than a scarf.

Stay dry, sleep warm

- Change into dry clothes when you come off watch, and keep your sleeping clothes in a dry bag.
- Drying clothes on board is difficult – pack an extra base layer instead.

Power and charging

- The sockets on board are USB-A/C (check the cable for your phone – it is a good idea to bring both types, as we have a mix of USB-A and USB-C sockets)
- 220 V is only available when the inverter is running.
- Cold drains batteries – keep your power bank and phone warm, close to your body.

Being considerate on board

- There can be up to 14 of us on board with no private cabins. Keep your things in your bag, not spread around the boat.
- Take off wet foul-weather gear before entering the saloon or your bunk – keeps the cushions dry.
- Don’t walk around in just your underwear – wear sleepwear when off watch.
- Go easy on the fresh water and use eco-friendly products.

Going ashore by tender

- We often anchor and take the tender ashore. Landings can be wet, so pack your phone, wallet and passport in a small waterproof bag.
- Bring a dry, warm jumper ashore.

Health

- Tell the skipper in advance about any medical conditions, allergies and medication.
- There is a ship’s medical kit on board, but bring your own medication for the whole trip.
- Take seasickness medication in good time, before you feel unwell.
- Eat and drink regularly, ideally something hot – your body burns more energy in the cold.

Tips for women

- Leggings or yoga pants work well for sleeping and under foul-weather trousers.
- A sports bra or comfy top beats a regular bra – you may end up wearing it around the clock.

A warm welcome aboard! Questions about packing? Contact the skipper for your leg.