

Table of Contents

Foreword		XIV
Chapter 1	A new Aventura is born	1
Chapter 2	The Northwest Passage * Fortis fortuna adiuvat * Across the Arctic Circle * Beechey Island * Southbound	5
Chapter 3	One more time * South to Panama * Bound for Alaska * To the end of the world * Herschel Island * Inuit interlude * The Arctic hub * Closing the circle	20
Chapter 4	A passion for the sea * Growing up in Romania * The lure of freedom * A mariner at last * Drifting in Bucharest * A new start in London * Building Aventura	42
Chapter 5	The voyage of Aventura * Caribbean to USA * South America * South Pacific * Indian Ocean * Romania * Back to London	60
Chapter 6	Evolution – Aventura II, III, IV * The voyage of Aventura II * Aventura III * The voyage of Aventura III * Aventura IV * Material * Centreboard * Rig * Mainsail * Rudders * Deck layout * Electronics * Day tank * Concern for the environment	73
Chapter 7	Voyage planning * World Cruising Routes * Weather routing * Passage making * Route planning * Passage planning * Forward planning * Climate change * Carpe diem	90
Chapter 8	Navigation in the age of electronic charts * Moving with the times * Accuracy of electronic charts * Hard landings * GPS: a false sense of security	101
Chapter 9	Destination Antarctica * Deception Island * Danco Island * Cuverville Island * Pléneau Island * Pitt Islands * Port Circumcision * Argentine Islands * Port Lockroy * Practical tips for Antarctica	111
Chapter 10	Weather and weather routing * Tropical squalls * White squalls * Offshore forecasts * Onboard sources * Weather windows * Heavy weather * Storm tactics	129

Chapter 11	Life Afloat	146
	* Meals * Provisions * Markets * The galley * The social side * Our daily bread * Cooking gas * Fishing * Diving * Creature comforts * Entertainment * Communications * Pets * Pests * Photography * Health matters * Prevention * Onboard pharmacy	
Chapter 12	Sails and sailing routines	165
	* Reefing * Heaving to * Downwind sailing * Sailing with a fixed pole * Boom brake	
Chapter 13	A transpacific marathon	171
Chapter 14	Automatic pilots and wind-operated self-steering gears	183
	* Wind-operated self-steering gears * Automatic pilots * Maintenance * Backups * Windvanes surveyed * Autopilots surveyed * Autopilot or windvane?	
Chapter 15	Anchors and anchoring, tenders and outboards	193
	* Anchor rode: chain, rope or a mixture? * Anchor types * Anchoring techniques * Anchoring routine * Anchor winch * Moorings * Tenders * Choice of tender * Outboard motors * Outboard power * Memorable anchorages	
Chapter 16	Return to the South Seas	208
Chapter 17	Engines, maintenance and spares	214
	* Maintenance * Anodes * Tools * Spares	
Chapter 18	Dealing with emergencies	226
	* Dealing with emergencies * Man overboard * Abandoning ship	
Chapter 19	A Polynesian interlude	233
Chapter 20	Crew and watches	242
	* Types of crew * Financial arrangements * Taking on crew * Crew competence * Captain competence * Onboard compatibility * Dealing with crew * Assigning tasks * Crew briefing * Crew incidents * Watch systems * Night watches * Off watch * Night rules * Cooking and washing up	
Chapter 21	Sailing as a family	258
	* Decision to go * Facing reality * Ideal age * Cruising couples * Labour division * Sailing children * Swimming * Education afloat	

Chapter 22	Chasing a dream	269
	* A week in Suvarrow * Caves and chasms * Swimming with whales in Vava'u	
Chapter 23	Sailing in the tropics	276
	* Tropical weather * Tropical squalls * Seasons * Tropical tactics * Eyeball navigation * The Tuamotus * Special considerations * Tackling atoll passes	
Chapter 24	Offshore utilities	285
	* Generating electricity * The surveys * Average electricity consumption * Alternative energy sources * Water and watermakers * Watermaker maintenance	
Chapter 25	To the land of the long white cloud	292
Chapter 26	Practical aspects of cruising	297
	* Formalities and documents * Special requirements * Insurance * Email and internet * Travel * Yacht transport * Languages * Official incidents	
Chapter 27	Safety afloat and ashore	309
	* Personal safety * Safety rules * Travel * Avoiding troublesome areas * Piracy and violent robberies * Guns * Tips for piracy waters * Collisions * Groundings * Structural damage * Weather * Dealing with heavy weather * Lightning * Main areas of concern	
Chapter 28	Farewell to the Pacific	323
	* A cult of the ancestors * The land divers of Pentecost * The Louisiades	
Chapter 29	Cruising in stages	330
	* Flights * Laying up the boat ashore or afloat * Watermaker * Sails, sheets and halyards * Deck gear * Spars * Masthead unit * Anchor and chain * Electronics * Bilges * Seacocks * Batteries * Boat cleaning * Timing * The job list	
Chapter 30	The main factors that may affect the success of a voyage	341
	* The boat * Crew * Finances * Self-sufficiency * The right attitude	
Chapter 31	South Indian Ocean hideways	346
	* Into the Indian Ocean * A favourite hangout * Paradise lost? * A French enclave * African landfall	

Chapter 32	Choosing and equipping a boat for offshore cruising	355
	* Overall length * Monohull versus multihull * Rudders * Keels and draft * Displacement * Hull material * Rig * Running rigging * Deck layout * Interior comforts * Cockpit protection * Sails * Engine * Optimum power * Optimum fuel capacity * Propellers * Equipment * Useful features * Safety * Final decision	
Chapter 33	Closing the loop	371
	* Napoleon's exile island * Miracle on a space-age island * In Neptune's role * Cape Verde landfall * Closing the circle * In the wake of Columbus * A windy passage	
Chapter 34	Cruising rallies	380
	* The Atlantic Rally for Cruisers * Round-the-world rallies * Europa 94 * America 500 * Hong Kong Challenge * Expo 98 round-the-world rally * Millennium Odyssey * The Grand Finale * The Blue Planet Odyssey * The Odysseys * Barbados 50 * The Future	
Chapter 35	Where do all the boats go?	394
	* Atlantic Ocean * Pacific Ocean * Indian Ocean * The Mediterranean * Sailing hubs	
Epilogue		407
	Acknowledgements	408
	Photo credits	409
	Index	410

Foreword

Looking back on a long, happy and fulfilled life, I realise just how lucky I have been to achieve everything that I could have hoped for: a successful professional career, my childhood dream of sailing around the world and, above all, a wonderful family life, without doubt due to the six years spent cruising together during Doina and Ivan's formative years.

Having been so fortunate, I feel that I have a duty to pass on my experience to other sailors planning to set off on their own voyage. Rather than write a typical autobiography, I decided that a memoir would be more helpful to anyone who, like me, has a passion for the sea and sailing. I have tried as much as possible to keep away from theory and concentrate instead on practical examples from my own or other's experience that are relevant to the subject under discussion.

In the 10 years since the publication of my book *Passion for the Sea*, a lot has happened both in my personal life and in sailing generally. Having sold *Aventura III* in 2010, I resumed my previous activity as an event organiser and launched a new series of cruising rallies. The *Blue Planet Odyssey* and the 10 transatlantic rallies that followed have brought me once again into close contact with sailors. Soon I realised that the new generation of sailors setting off on long voyages were, in many aspects, very different to those I had come across on my previous voyages, or while running the ARC and round-the-world rallies. What struck me most was how many of those who had little offshore sailing experience tried to make up for this by buying all the latest gear, thus becoming totally dependent on equipment, much of which they could not repair if it failed. It has been said that sailing is not rocket science, although it seems to be getting very close to it when one looks at the array of equipment on some yachts, including my own *Aventura IV*, not to speak of those latest America's Cup racing machines. But as far as cruising is concerned, I believe that one should resist becoming a slave to technology. After all, offshore sailing is one of the activities that is closest

to nature, and much of the pleasure and satisfaction it gives derives from being on your own boat in the middle of a vast ocean, facing the same challenges as navigators of yesteryear, helped by technology but not dominated by it.

As a journalist trained by the BBC, both in this book and at my lectures and seminars, I have followed its dictum to inform, educate and entertain. The BBC also instilled in me the importance of objectivity in everything that I say or write. This is what led me to conduct the first of many surveys in which I attempted to find out how other sailors dealt with various aspects of cruising. Many of their comments as well as the results of those surveys have been a valuable source of material for this book.

From my earliest days of sailing, I have learned much from my own mistakes as well as those of others, often participants in the rallies I organised. The observations, incidents and anecdotes on the various aspects of ocean cruising mentioned in this book seem to have resulted not in a how-to manual, but rather in a how-not-to guide to long-distance cruising. I hope you enjoy it.

Jimmy Cornell

