

One day, the filmmaker Max Jourdan was asked a strange question. It was actually an offer. What might that have been?

- taking part in a cruise across the Pacific on a boat made of plastic bottles with five other people he didn't know

He had some doubts about it. What might they have been?

- safety
- weather conditions
- being seasick
- food
- poor construction of the boat
- being with strangers all the time
- being with the same people all the time
- getting help in case of emergency would be problematic

Did he accept the offer?

- yes

The name of the boat is Plastik. Where do you think this name came from?

- It's a reference to the Kon-Tiki – a raft used in an expedition in 1947. The raft was manned by Thor Heyerdahl. He had a theory that the settlers of Polynesia had migrated from South America, not Asia. His theory wasn't accepted because it was claimed that such an expedition would have been difficult due to unfavourable currents. In order to prove his theory, he constructed a raft using only materials and construction methods available to South American indigenous peoples. Although his project was successful, it wasn't enough to convince the academic world. Nevertheless, Heyerdahl made his point.

How do you think Max prepared for the cruise?

- he had a 100-mile trial cruise

They set off on the 23rd of March 2010. What was the distance of the cruise?

- 8,398

How long did it take them to cover this distance?

- 60 days

How many plastic bottles were used to make the boat?

- 12,000

What happened on the boat?

- humidity
- high temperatures – even 39 degrees in the cabin
- little space – the cabins were not much bigger than tents
- being seasick
- fishing, getting food – the food was getting scarce, it was difficult to prepare proper meals, fishing was really challenging
- night watches – they were tiring, especially at night
- fear of sharks
- fear that in case of emergency, they would have to wait for help really long
- problems connected with hygiene
- ripped sails – as a result of a storm

They arrived in Sydney Harbour on the 26th of July 2010. Now the Plastik boat is in the Australian National Maritime Museum.

Why do you think Max agreed to take part in the expedition?

- to have a topic for an interesting documentary
- as a personal challenge
- to make a statement about rubbish and pollution

Follow up (optional)

What do these numbers refer to?

- 6 the number of people who took part in the expedition
- 39 the temperature in the cabin (in degrees)
- 60 the length of the expedition (in days)
- 100 the number of miles of the trial course
- 1947 the year of the Kon-Tiki expedition
- 8,309 the distance of the expedition (in miles)
- 12,000 the number of plastic bottles used to prepare the boat