



FLEET DEPARTURE AND SPECTATOR INFORMATION

CLIPPER RACE FLEET DEPARTURE AND SPECTATOR CRAFT INFORMATION FOR OBAN, SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026

SUMMARY

The Clipper Race fleet consisting of ten yachts will depart Oban on Sunday 19 July and will start Stage 13 off Dunstaffnage to the north.

All times are local time (UTC +1 Hour)

All communications for the Clipper Race fleet will be on VHF CH 72

The backup channel for the Clipper Race fleet will be VHF CH 77

High Water (HW) Oban Sunday 19 July 2026 – 0905 LT 3.43m

NARRATIVE PLAN

Sunday 19 July

The first of the ten Clipper Race yachts will slip lines from Oban's North Pier at 1200. They will slip at intervals of three minutes. The final yacht will slip its lines at 1227 and be clear of the berths and North Pier by 1235. All yachts slipping will keep clear of the "Isle of Mull" ferry slipping lines at 1215. As soon as each yacht departs North Pier, they will proceed across Oban Bay to Ardantrive Bay and rendezvous together. They will hoist mainsails (weather permitting) and prepare for the Parade of Sail (see diagram below).

The Parade of Sail will start at 1300 and the Clipper Race Fleet will be directed by the Deputy Race Director and will be under engine at all times (they will NOT be racing).

After the Parade of Sail, the Clipper Race Fleet will head northeast (approx. 2.5nm) towards Dunstaffnage and manoeuvre into the pre-race start area in Ardmucknish Bay and prepare for Race Start.

The start for Stage 13 – Oban to Portsmouth will be at 1500 in the vicinity of the entrance to Ardmucknish Bay (see diagram below).

The Race Start Line will be between two Orange Inflatable Buoys. There may also be a Committee Vessel on station.

The Clipper Race Fleet will race southwest from the start line and down through the Firth of Lorn and away towards the northwest tip of Ireland. They will be clear of the starting area by 1530 latest.



TIMINGS

All timings local (UTC +1 Hours)

1000 All Crew to assemble at Station Square

1010 – 1030 Cultural performance

1030 - 1050 Parade to Yachts

1050 Crew Photos onboard

1100 Shoreside Skippers Brief

1200 – 1227 Slipping Lines

1215 Departure "*Isle of Mull*" ferry

1300 - 1325 Parade of Sail

1325 – 1430 Transit to Race Start

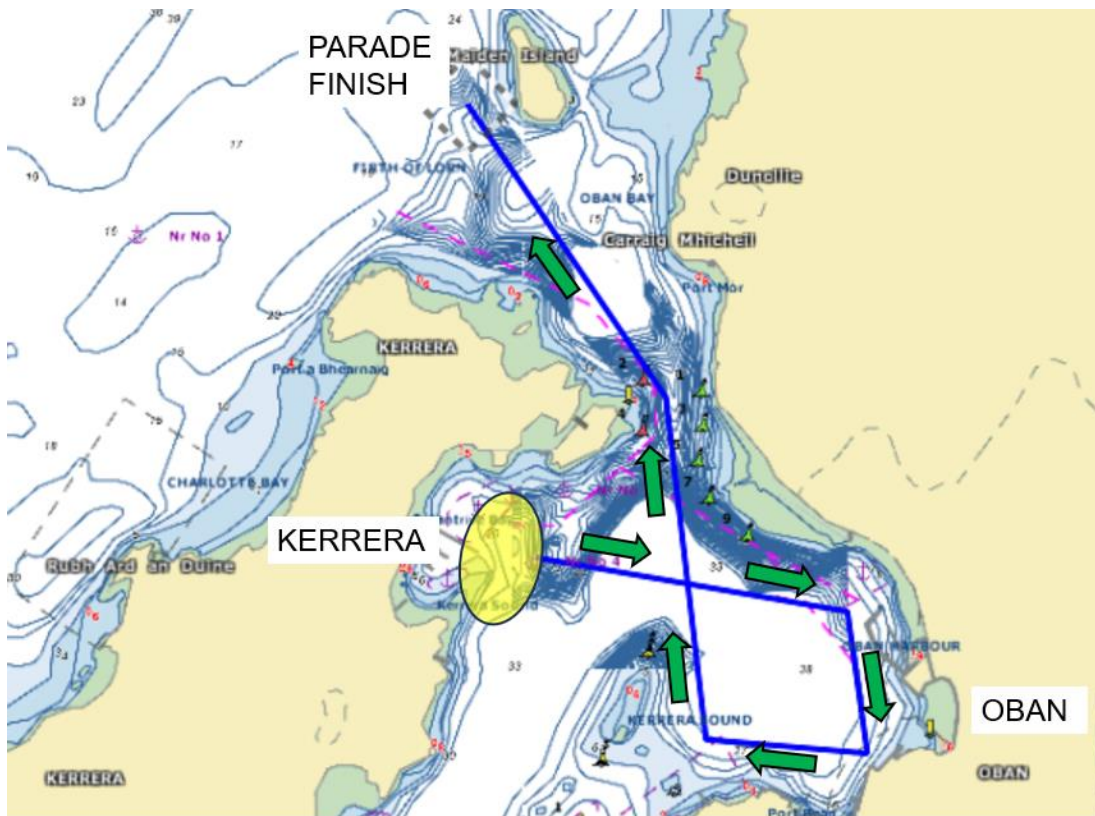
1500 Stage 13 Start

PARADE OF SAIL

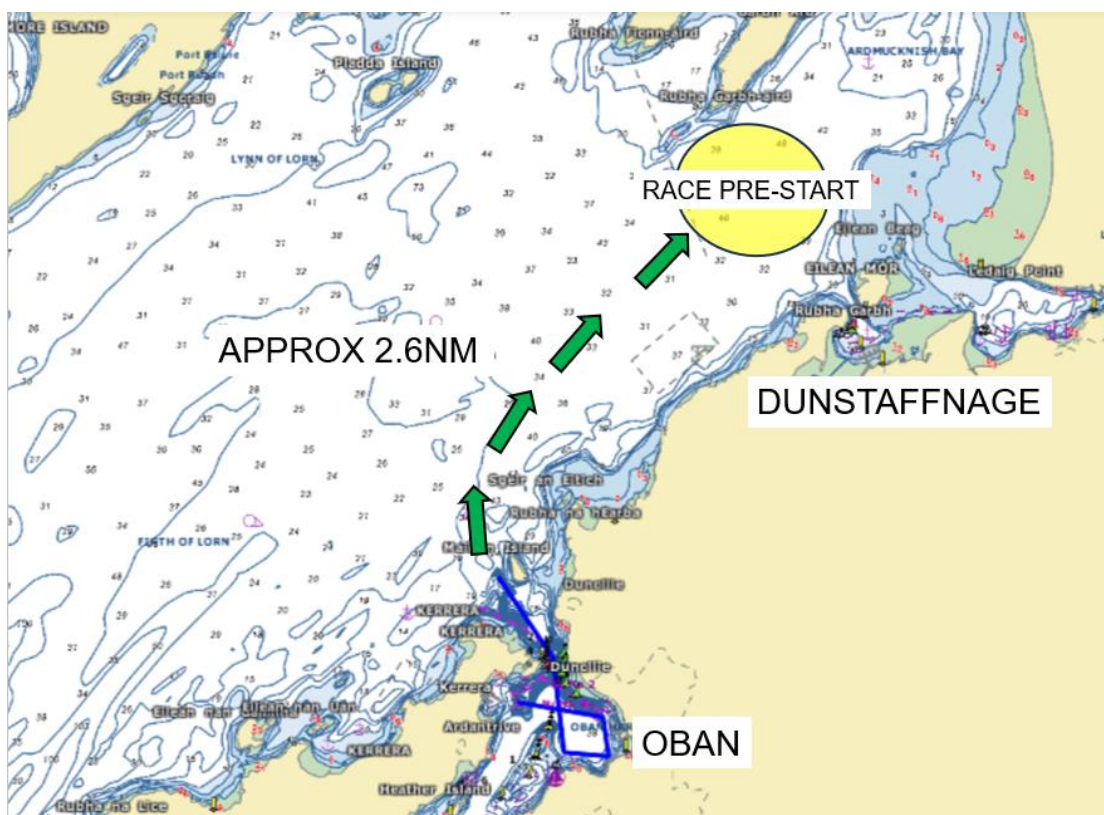
Sunday 19 July

At 1300 the Clipper Race fleet of ten yachts will begin the Parade of Sail which will be a line astern formation from Kerrera Marina across Oban Bay before turning 90° to starboard heading down to the Railway Pier, 90° to starboard to head towards the North Cardinal Mark and then north out of Oban Bay, past Dunollie Lighthouse and clearing the northern entrance, finishing at Maiden Island.

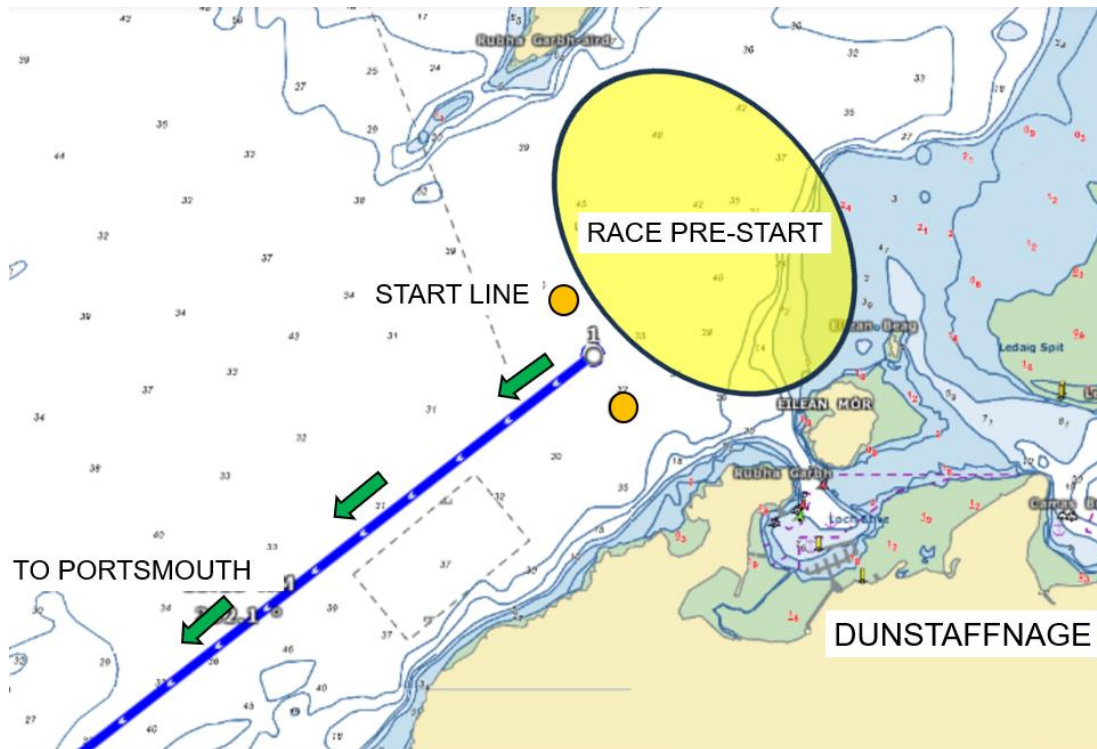
Each yacht shall have a speed over the ground (SOG) of approx. 5 knots and a spacing of between 1 to 2 boat lengths from bow to stern. The total distance for the Parade of Sail will be approx. 2 nautical miles long and it is estimated that it will take a maximum of 25 minutes to complete.



TRANSIT TO RACE START



RACE START



ABANDONMENT PLAN

If for any reason (eg, adverse weather or shoreside security issue) the departure ceremony needs to be abandoned then the Clipper Race fleet shall proceed out of the bay in a line astern formation. If an individual yacht has cause to abandon due to engine failure, collision, grounding, fire or crew injury then the rest of the fleet shall proceed as planned. The decision to abandon the event shall be made and communicated by the Clipper Race Director in consultation with Oban Harbour Master and Oban organising committee.

OVERVIEW

Event Clipper Race Fleet Departure Oban

Organising Authority	Clipper Ventures
Race Officer	Dale Smyth – Race Director
Primary Emergency Contact	Max Rivers – Deputy Race Director
Operating area	Kerrera Sound/Lynn of Lorn/Oban Bay
VHF channels	72 (back up channel 77)
Callsign	'Clipper Race Control'
Supporting documents	Sailing Instructions, Course Instructions.
Date of event	Sunday 19 July 2026
Operating period	1200 to 1600 approx.
Website	www.clipperroundtheworld.com
Number of boats	10



THE RACE
OF YOUR LIFE

SPECTATOR CRAFT GUIDELINES



- All Clipper Race communications to the fleet will take place on VHF CH 72 – Please keep this channel clear between 1200 and 1600 on departure day.
- The backup channel for the Clipper Race fleet is VHF CH 77 – Please keep this channel clear between 1200 and 1600 on departure day.
- Any communications from Clipper Race Control to spectator vessels will take place on VHF CH 72 – Please monitor this channel at all times.
- There will be a Moving Prohibited Zone of 250m around all Clipper Race yachts.
- All spectator craft must keep at least 250m clear of the Clipper Race fleet at all times.
- All spectator craft must be clear of the Parade of Sail and Sailing Exhibition areas by 1200 latest and must remain clear until after the Clipper Race start.
- Any spectator craft wishing to follow the Clipper Race Fleet must stay behind the last Clipper Race yacht and must not pass ahead of any Clipper Race yacht.
- Please note that the arrangements may change on the day and this will be communicated to all spectator craft on VHF CH 72.