



Somewhere on the French Riviera...
Lens Jody MacDonald



Andy Huzdman always puts on a good show.
Lens Gavin Butler



The Odyssey finds a new spot in Savu Savu, Fiji
Lens Jody MacDonald



What's for dinner? Freediving in Tonga...
Lens Jody MacDonald

THE BEGINNING

Gavin McClurg and Jody MacDonald have never walked the traditional path. Although both went to college and earned their respective degrees, they quickly found they had a healthy dislike for conventional life. The two met in 2003 through a mutual friend and have been together ever since their first opportune meeting. Both avid sailors, paragliders, and kitesurfers, their travels have taken them all over the world, which has only made them want to discover and experience more adventures and cultures with likeminded people.

Gavin got into the charter business by default through his father. Like many, his dad had the dream of offshore sailing, but the image of margaritas and exotic sunsets was much different than the reality of the costs and maintenance needed to cruise full time. Gavin decided to buy his father's boat and launched Offshore Odyssey's in 1999. The company started focusing on kiteboarding trips after Jody took a 10-day charter to learn kiteboarding in Antigua and a chance meeting with one of the big players of Quiksilver's "The Crossing."

THE CONCEPT

The Best Odyssey is a unique, yacht share sailing concept embarking on a five-year mission to discover remote kiteboarding, surfing, diving and spearfishing destinations. Gavin commented, "By operating as a yacht share, we can concentrate more on exactly where we want to go and not worry about the bottom line for every expedition like we did when we ran charters. The Best Odyssey allows people to partake in trips that just aren't available by any other means. Owners will see places and do things that until now, were largely only available to the super-rich or those with limitless time."

THE PLACES

In year one, the Best Odyssey will offer 17 expeditions, exploring every corner of the Caribbean and ending in the San Blas Islands, Panama. It will also be hitting some well known, "must stops" such as Antigua, St. Lucia and Bonaire. In addition, The Best Odyssey will pioneer new spots like the Las Perlas Islands, named by the Spaniards for its wealth of gold and pearls. Gavin commented, "We have five trips planned in the first year alone that I am pretty sure have never seen kitesurfers. We'll stop at places that rock and we love, and move on as time and conditions allow." He added, "We've learned that running a boat hard just runs the crew and guest hard as well. It's better to slow down,

take a look around, throw the cell phone in the drink, kick back and enjoy."

THE BUY IN

The current owners are an eclectic group of people including a world-record paraglider, world-class triathlete and even an explosives expert. Their common denominator? All of them are successful, athletic, passionate dreamers ready for exploration. Shares are limited but still available with two buy-in options: Epics (15 days) and Adventures (10 days). Shares can be divided amongst a group of individuals or couples if desired to spread out the costs. When the five year voyage has completed its journey, the boat will be sold with shareholders realizing a return on their investment from the sale.

THE DREAM

Sailing is not the romantic postcard that many people imagine and the Best Odyssey is not for everyone. But if serious exploration is your passion or dream and you are up to the challenges involved in cruising, you will experience some amazing, life changing adventures. The company's website is packed with information, images and video about the places, people and luxury boat, specifically outfitted for water sports enthusiasts and paragliders. Check out offshoreodysseys.com and get ready to enjoy the ride.

The Best Odyssey is scheduled to set sail in February 2007 and is sponsored by Best Kiteboarding, along with Avisa, Zeal Optics, Freestyle, Nobletec, H2O Audio, Ocean Minded, Beyond Coastal, and Kitelauncher.com.

Chasing the Dream

The World's First Global Kiteboarding Expedition

By Marina Chang

Bill Kraft gets ready to enjoy a butter session in St. Croix. Lens Gavin Butler