

Plastic Odyssey calls at the Port of Compas in Cartagena, Colombia, from September 26 to October 23, 2023, continuing its exploration of solutions to plastic pollution in the South America region.



In October 2022, the ship Plastic Odyssey set off on a 3-year expedition around the world from the Port of Marseille. After several stopovers in the Mediterranean (Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco) and West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Cape Verde), the Plastic Odyssey expedition ship and its crew are continuing their adventure in South and Central America (Brazil, Guyana, Saint Lucia, French West Indies, Dominican Republic) and will be in Colombia for a 3-week stopover in Cartagena.

The programme includes a press conference to launch the stopover, technical training for recycling entrepreneurs involved in the fight against plastic pollution, the incubation of local projects on board, visits to the ship for schoolchildren, the development of new low-tech machines on board and numerous actions in the field.

THE STOPOVER PROGRAMME

This stopover is organised around two main themes:

- Meet and exchange with local recycling entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions to pollution ;
- Explore and share alternatives for building a plastic-free world.

Provide technical training to recycling entrepreneurs

From October 9 to 13, the expedition team will offer a training programme in recycling techniques to local teams, helping to develop skills and promote sustainable management of plastic waste. This session, focusing on experimentation and prototyping on board the ship in the Plastic Odyssey recycling workshop, will be aimed at a dozen entrepreneurs selected through a call for applications for the innovative approach of their project. Companies in Cartagena, Bogotá and Medellín are part of this program.

Discovering low-tech recycling initiatives on the field

Throughout the voyage, the Plastic Odyssey expedition teams will visit local initiatives that are turning plastic waste into resources through the ingenuity of alternative technologies. Colombia is at the forefront of this approach to converting plastic waste into building materials, and the Plastic Odyssey team is learning a great many techniques and models from Colombian entrepreneurs. We are looking for committed players in the sector, so don't hesitate to contact the Plastic Odyssey teams via the online form: [Live of the Expedition | Plastic Odyssey](#)

Present an exhibition on alternatives to plastic

From port to port, the ship carries the exhibition «The Treasure Trunks»: a library of solutions and objects from around the world to replace plastic. The nomadic exhibition is enriched with new objects at each port of call, highlighting the solutions discovered during the expedition. It will be completed by the Colombian reduction initiatives discovered during our stopover in Cartagena.

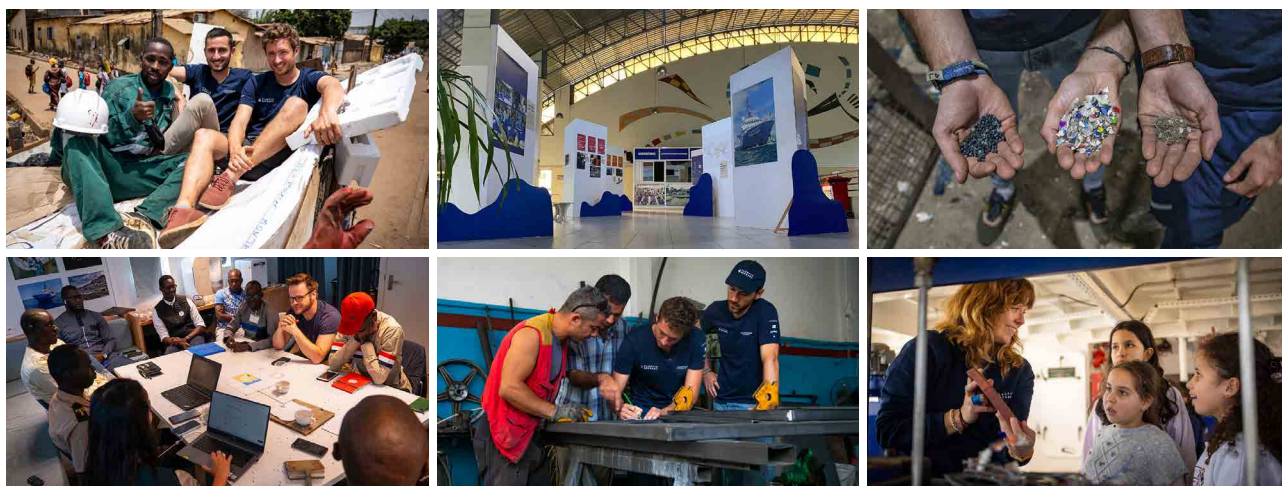
The exhibition is free and open to all at the French Alliance of Cartagena **from October 9 to 20**.

Sharing our experience with school children

As raising awareness of plastic pollution is central to building a more sustainable world, young people of all ages are invited to visit the ship and meet the crew **from October from 17 to 20**, as part of school partnerships with the expedition.

Finding solutions to reduce plastic

The Plastic Odyssey team is also conducting a global research program to understand how we can break our addiction to plastic. Visit plasticodyssey.org to learn more.



OUR STOPOVER PARTNERS

Our partner and first stopover contact, **Fabián Cerro**, supports the Plastic Odyssey expedition and provided invaluable assistance to the whole team in making this port of call a success. He was moved by the importance of such an initiative: innovative, international and local, for the development of Cartagena and the fight against pollution.

The ENTREMAR Foundation made a significant contribution to our team in preparing for Plastic Odyssey's arrival, notably by helping to identify and establish contacts with the local ecosystem and key players in the region.

The Direction of Corpoturismo is a key partner of Plastic Odyssey's stopover in Cartagena, supporting the expedition throughout the organisation of the stopover. From the communication and logistic of welcoming the ship to the opening and closing events, working hand in hand with the Foundation's team is a mark of this institution's commitment to environmental issues, particularly the protection of the ocean and coastlines.

The Port of Compas welcomes Plastic Odyssey's ship to the port area of Cartagena in the best possible conditions, enabling us to organize on-board training activities, welcome recycling contractors and schoolchildren, and work with Colombian experts and technicians to improve the recycling workshop.

The French Alliance of Cartagena hosts our nomadic exhibition, designed to show as many people as possible the solutions the expedition has found along the way to reduce the use of plastic in our daily lives or replace it with more environmentally friendly alternatives.

THE REST OF THE EXPEDITION

After this stopover in Colombia, the Plastic Odyssey expedition team will head to Panama, where it will cross the Canal at the end of October and continue to discover Central and Latin American initiatives until the end of 2023, before heading to Asia in 2024. The boat will be an ambassador for the fight against plastic pollution in these continents. The team will meet the actors who are building the world of today and tomorrow, with the aim of creating a global network of solutions to curb plastic pollution.



WHAT IS PLASTIC ODYSSEY?

Plastic Odyssey was created in 2016 on the initiative of Simon BERNARD, Alexandre DECHELOTTE and Bob VRIGNAUD, two young sailors and an engineer, all three of whom are passionate about low-tech and respect for the environment. It is based on a simple observation: 20 tonnes of plastic are dumped into the ocean every minute. Once at sea, most of this plastic cannot be recovered. The project's action is therefore focused on land, with two main pillars:



Clean up the past: For over four years, Plastic Odyssey has been developing low-tech, open-source technologies to turn plastic waste into resources, treating waste already generated on land before it enters the ocean. The goal of these machines is to economically develop the plastic waste processing industry: creating jobs while tackling pollution at its source.



Build the future: Turning plastic waste into resources isn't enough! In order to eliminate plastic pollution in the long term, Plastic Odyssey is working on several awareness-raising programmes aimed at the communities most affected by plastic pollution. The aim of these programmes is to give everyone access to the concrete solutions that exist to avoid using plastic.

Plastic Odyssey invites local and international media to join them on this stopover. There will be opportunities to interview the expedition team to discuss the progress, discoveries and challenges encountered during their stay.

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You can scan this QR code to see more resources (photos/videos) and the press kit.

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