

# Round the World

The Journey of Tania Aebi

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# Introduction

What makes an adventurer? Most people see a classic adventurer as a large, strong man, braving new lands and seeking riches or fame. Sometimes, the true definition of an adventurer couldn't be more different.

Once, not too many years ago, a brave eighteen-year-old girl left behind her life in the big city and began a death-defying journey.

It all started with a **challenge** from her dad.



*Tania and her father, Ernst Aebi*



*New York City*

Tania Aebi, a young girl from New York City, was struggling to figure out what to do with her life. She'd left both her home and high school a few years before, and was working as a bicycle messenger. She knew she didn't want to go to college, but she also knew that she was ready for a new challenge.

Tania's father was equally worried about Tania's future. He'd spent his life following daring dreams, and he feared that his oldest child might get into trouble, or – even more frightening to him – do nothing with her life.

Then, in 1983, Tania's father developed an interest in sailing, and as always, Ernst Aebi followed his new hobby with all his heart. He bought a sailboat in England, and invited his children to help him crew the boat on a journey to the Canary Islands.

After only three days of training, Tania found herself on the ocean for the first time. Before she knew what was happening, Tania was hooked. On her second trip, somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, her father

came up with a plan. Since Tania wasn't interested in going to college, what if he took her college money and instead bought her a sailboat? Then, she could have an adventure of her own.



*Tania with her father  
and sister Nina*

Ernst's idea was for Tania to sail around the world... and to make it interesting, she'd need to do it by herself.

Before she knew it, Tania's journey started to fall into place. For months she and her father searched for the perfect boat, finally finding it at a boat show: a tiny sailboat named *Varuna*, which was 26 feet (7.9 m) long, and only  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet (2.3 m) wide.



*Tania Aebi*