

Dover, 9 October 2025

SailLink completes inaugural season : over 450 travellers experienced a wind-powered Channel crossing

A season like no other

From April to early October, SailLink — the wind-powered passenger service between Dover and Boulogne-sur-Mer — completed its first full season, offering a new way to cross the Channel under sail. In just six months, more than 70 crossings carried over 450 travellers between the UK and France, by foot, by bike, and even by tandem.

Passengers came not only from the UK and France, but also from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the USA, Taiwan, and beyond, all drawn by the same idea: to reconnect with the sea, travel at a human scale, and rediscover the adventure at the heart of travel.

A pioneering service

Departing directly from town-centre marinas, SailLink's 17-metre sailing catamaran carries up to 12 guests and 12 bicycles on a four- to five-hour wind-powered voyage, offering a truly unique Channel crossing experience. Thanks to a special agreement with the UK Border Force and France's PAF, passport control is handled directly on board at both ports, making the process smooth, personal, and efficient.

Throughout the summer, travellers experienced the Channel not as a barrier but as a bridge; a shared space between communities, powered by the elements and human connection.

A milestone and a beginning

For Andrew Simons, Founder & Director of SailLink, the first season represents more than a milestone:

"We set out to show that travelling differently was possible, and thanks to our passengers and supporters, we did. This first season was a learning curve, a joy, and above all a testament to the power of small-scale, meaningful experiences on the water."

Looking ahead, SailLink is now preparing its second season, building on this first success while continuing to promote responsible, adventurous travel across the Channel.

Learn more and stay informed about next season's voyages at: www.saillink.co.uk

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