



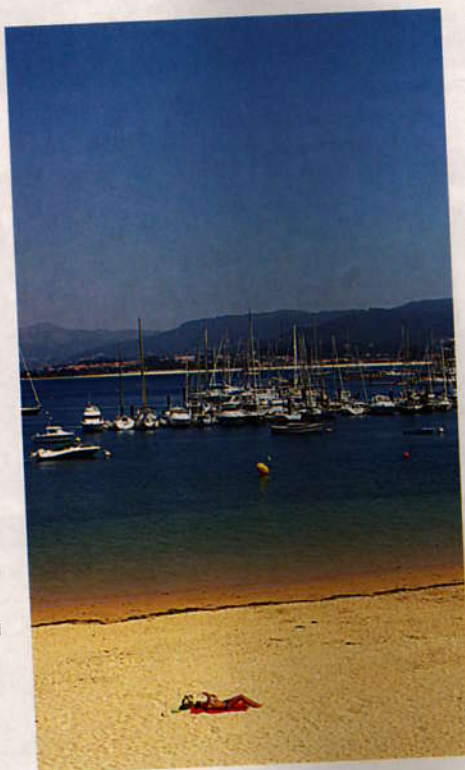
# Rallying together

Dead calm, 40-knot winds, soup on the deckhead and mid-ocean dental work were just a few of the things experienced during the Biscay crossing of this year's Yachting Monthly Rally Portugal. Miles Kendall caught up with the fleet at Bayona

**C**rossing the Bay of Biscay is a milestone for any yachtsman. Spending three or four days out of sight of land makes the passage feel more like an ocean voyage rather than a giant coastal hop. The countless stories of the giant seas that build up in these almost

legendary waters add to the excitement and sense of achievement when landfall is made, normally in northern Spain. For the last 12 years a group of yachts has made the crossing together, as part of Rally Portugal. They set sail from Plymouth in June with the added security of safety checks, weather

briefings and a radio net. The fleet is bound for the stunning port of Bayona where it berths on the pontoons of the Monte Real Club de Yates de Baiona, in the shadow of the town's imposing castle. YM was on hand to take their lines and hear their accounts of an eventful crossing.



**MAIN PHOTO, ABOVE:** Waylander, the first yacht across Biscay, rounds the final headland off Bayona. **RIGHT:** The town boasts clear waters and pristine beaches

