

## **Sinbad by Balloon 2025 - Toamasina to Baia de l'Oiseau – Report**

I talked to Go4iT a few weeks ago about SOL races, or rather their course and finish. Most SOLers use QT, which means that we finish with very small time differences. There are a few races that give a chance for a different result and it is not as dependent on luck as in the case of long races, such as ocean races. It is about analyzing conditions and predicting the future wind situation, and choosing a route even against the automatic indication by QT. This balloon one is one of the examples, although it is hard to call it sailing. This conversation probably motivated me to devote so much attention to this race. Thanks Go4iT.

It was a very difficult and very demanding race. The previous one was a piece of cake, it was quite predictable. This time everything changed after almost every WX change. QT went completely crazy. It took me a lot of time to analyze the changes and make decisions for the next 6 hours. I devoted my participation in all the other races to this. I admire Smo because it seems to me that he did everything very relaxed. But the fact is that he lost. Here, keeping to the west was not as clear as before. Often the point of crossing the finish line was also significant and the differences reached several hours. Horrible, I don't know if I will start in the next flight and why I stubbornly persisted in this one. Maybe I wanted to prove something to myself, not counting the costs.

Greetings to all stubborn people,

Mirek / WRmirekd  
2025-05-02