

## **CARNARVON TO DONDRA BY BALLOON 2025**

For this race I started getting as far north as I could, as fast as possible. By day 4-5 it became clear that I would have to get as far west as I could to create enough northern movement. For the next eternity, I went as far as I could to the west, finally running out of room at the boundary. My turn to the north I was hoping would take me as far north as I could to then make my way back to the east. It was during this time, that life happened, and I only checked in once a day.

As we got to 5-6 days to go, I started to look at how to get to a spot where I could get to the end on the correct side of the finish line, I had thought about going to the northwest of the line, and come back to it, but I found that I could go a bit to the east and have the last four weather updates to come back to the line. The rest of the people I was chasing were headed directly to the line, which I hoped would start to turn to the west to slow them down. The last two weather updates helped make a gentle curve to the end.

I was already shocked the last balloon race that I came in the Top 10. I am even more shocked now. I have been sailing online for 7-10 years, and never had this much go my way to make a competitive run to the finish.

jay8s/December 2025