

CALL FOR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION PROJECTS ABOARD ATKA POLAR SAILBOAT

1. TÉMOINS POLAIRES, A COMMITTED ENDOWMENT FUND

Founded in 2020, [Témoins Polaires](#) is a non-profit endowment fund dedicated to raising public awareness about the beauty and fragility of the polar regions, by supporting and promoting projects that highlight the importance of these areas and work towards their protection in the context of climate change. *Témoins Polaires* also targets the school audience by developing educational materials through the [École des Pôles](#), a non-profit organization whose activities have already reached over 40,000 young people.

Since 2023, *Témoins Polaires* has been offering national and international laboratories the opportunity to co-develop future polar scientific expeditions through partnerships lasting one or more years.

2. EMBARK YOUR SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS ON BOARD ATKA

You have a scientific project to conduct in the Svalbard regions and/or the East Coast of Greenland in 2025 ? You would like your project to be communicated to the general public? Then join us aboard Atka!

Témoins Polaires provides the sailing vessel *Atka* for research projects focused on understanding the climate in polar regions. In addition to the vessel and its full range of equipment, *Témoins Polaires* offers scientists media and educational outreach for their projects to the general public and schools. *Atka* also strives to minimize its carbon footprint to support the decarbonization of scientific research.

3. ATKA, PARTNER OF CHOICE FOR POLAR EXPEDITIONS!

This all-terrain sailboat is designed to withstand ice of the polar regions. Its **flexibility** makes it a prime partner for projects requiring access to hard-to-reach locations. Its design (double aluminum hull, lifting daggerboards, lifting shaft line, etc.) allows it to adapt to various situations: wintering, exploration, passive base, and more.

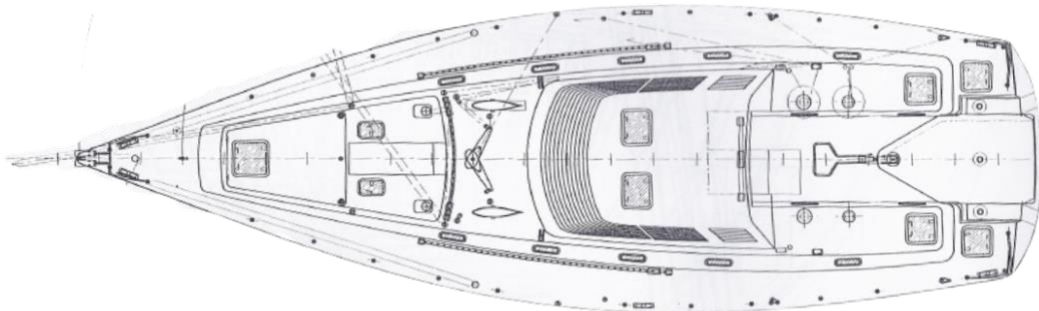
Atka **can accommodate up to three scientists at a time.** Its storage capacity allows for the transport of numerous pieces of **equipment and supplies for several weeks.** On board, **scientists are supported by** a French/English-speaking team of **two professional sailors and a scientific mediator.**

- Equipment & spaces:
 - A winch for deploying deep-sea equipment (CTD, Niskin...)
 - A secondary launching bar
 - Starlink
 - A 24V refrigerator
 - A gas stove

- Electricity (12V, 24V, 220V)
- Forward hold (for storage)
- Dinghy (6 seats)
- Sleeping quarters up to 7 (3 single beds + 2 double cabins)
- A sanitary shower



- Features & amenities:



- Length: 15,25 m.
- Width: 4,88 m.
- Draught: 0,80 m. / 3,20 m.
- Keel: Double daggerboards
- Engine: 100 CV Nanni Diesel, hydraulically liftable shaft line

- Hull: Double skin aluminum insulated with 12 cm of foam
- Water capacity: 1 000 Liters
- Fuel capacity: 2 000 Liters
- Weight: 16 000 kg

4. ATKA AND ITS PREVIOUS SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS

Previously operated by the non-profit organization *Atka*, the sailboat has already supported numerous scientific missions (biology, mapping, bathymetry, glaciology, etc.) and educational missions in polar regions during both summer and winter.

- [Scientific expedition report 2019](#)

In 2024, *Témoins Polaires* conducted its first scientific expedition to Greenland with the *Atka* vessel. This expedition, carried out in the Ammassalik region (East Coast of Greenland), was conducted in partnership with oceanographers and biologists from the University of Basel and the University of Stockholm. Within 10 days, 50 sampling stations were processed in fjords with marine-terminated glaciers. The data collected will be used by 7 scientists (biology, oceanography, geochemistry, glaciology.) in order to:

- Study oceanic properties and associated plankton communities across different gradients (CTD up to 500 meters depth, plankton net);
- Study the release of greenhouse gases (methane, N₂O) in two fjord systems (Niskin bottles, up to 400 meters depth).

Simultaneously, this expedition allowed the deployment of drifting meteorological buoys in less frequented areas for Météo France.

5. COSTS CONTRIBUTION

Cost-sharing will be agreed upon between *Témoins Polaires* and the selected scientific partners, based on the number of passengers, duration and chosen destination, as well as any additional equipment to be integrated into the vessel.

6. CONTACT

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