


## Navigational Aids

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**Zenith Star**  
Stars that appear directly above an island when they are at their zenith or highest point in the sky.




**Star Path**  
Distinctive sequences of stars that rise or set in the direction of an island.
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**Sun**  
Used for navigation when it is low in the sky in early morning and late afternoon.



**Clouds**  
Clouds are studied for formation, shape and colour. They are indicators of land hidden beyond the horizon.
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**Wind**  
Wind direction provides important cues for navigation.



**Swells**  
Ocean waves or swells reflected or diffracted around islands create distinctive patterns that serve to locate land.
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**Birds**  
Large seabirds such as boobies may be encountered far from land, while smaller birds such as terns and noddies indicate that land is nearby. Homing birds, which feed at sea during the day and return to land in the evening, are especially helpful.



**Sea Marks**  
Navigators learn to use different elements encountered at sea as sign posts to guide them on their journeys. These may be submerged reefs that are detected by a change in the colour of the surrounding waters, or sea life, even extraordinary sea life, such as dolphins or sharks that are always encountered at the same locations.