

## IT ALL BEGINS WITH ...

Your trip starts in one of the ports that the fleet calls at during the race. You will be flown in when it is a foreign port. As soon as you arrive in the port, you are immediately engulfed by the festivities; about a hundred impressive ships, thousands of participants and even hundreds of thousands of spectators turn this city's event into a true happening.

About five in the afternoon the bunks will be assigned, you get introduced to the crew & other participants and have a pleasant dinner together. The safety instructions follow after dinner and there's some time to go around the harbour. Be sure not to miss the fire works! Often the ports have been planning for years to prepare the city for the event. So don't look surprised when all efforts have been made to create a great spectacle. It's no exception when you and another half a million people watch the fireworks bang above the water surface.

## PARADE OF SAIL

The next day is the kick-off with the 'Parade of Sail', an incredibly impressive entry of the complete fleet of Tall Ships, Small Ships and Yachts. Everywhere you look, you will see masts & sails and you are part of this all. Besides the fleet there are another hundreds of thousands of spectators on shore or in the countless smaller barges.

## WATCH KEEPING

Aboard we start off with keeping watch. We mainly work with the three-watch system, which means dividing the trainees into three shifts. Each shift keeps watch two times a day. For instance; your watch can be from 08.00 to 12.00 and then from 20.00 to 24.00. During a watch you and your team are responsible for the ship together with the professional crew. Manoeuvring, watch keeping, climbing the yards, setting the sails, steer the vessel, but also supplying the next shift with snacks and drinks. You name it.

During your shift it can get quite busy. With storm the yards need to be taken down and when the storm has lied down all the sails need to be rigged again. Or the yards need to be turned and all clews reset when the wind or the ship turns in another direction. It is also possible that you hardly have anything to do and then there is plenty of time to relax. Enjoying yourselves together on the quarter-deck with a guitar and singing until sunset. How great can life be?

In between the watch keeping there is also enough time off to read, get to know each other or just simply enjoying the great view. With a bit of luck you see dolphins jumping alongside of the bow! Our goal is to organise group activities at least ones a day - varying from playing hints to singing - to get to know each other. And nothing is too crazy for us.

## THE FINISH

Depending on the leg, the weather and the wind conditions you reach the final port on the prefixed date in time. If the wind is blowing hard and you arrive earlier than planned, then there's time left for a great barbeque together and relax for a while. In case there's no wind you will navigate the last part by motor to arrive in time. Together with the rest of the fleet you all sail into port, welcomed by hundreds of thousands of spectators. Once ashore there is plenty to see and you can check out the various music stands, stages and food corners.

The second day Sail Training International organises in collaboration with the port all kinds of activities, starting early in the morning until late in the afternoon: from sightseeing to rowing races between the teams of the different ships. The Crew Parade starts in the late afternoon and all crews will present themselves to the city. It is an exuberant party, especially when the crews of the Mexican Cuauhtémoc and the Indonesian ships make their introduction. With their energetic music bands they know how to create a great party vibe!

The Parade moves onto the big stage where awards will be presented in presence of a dignitary, like a mayor, a prime minister or even a king! The number of awards is gigantic: imagine there are not only trophies for the fastest ships, but also for the most entertaining team.

As the crowning sensation, all participants of the Tall Ships' Race celebrate the ending of the race together in style with a wildly Crew Party. The party comes to live with big bands, DJ's and great food. Your trip comes to an end the next day. But no worries; The Tall Ship' Races will take place again next year, and you can participate!