

Ahoy August, It's Sail 2010!

From 19 August, Amsterdam and the IJ river will host over 600 ships in the cultural spectacle **SAIL**. With a programme of water sports and entertainment, it is an event sure to enliven the sailor in everyone.





Photo: Sail 2010

Preview

By Jens Wejsmark Sorensen

Every five years in August the IJ River and Amsterdam are transformed into a grand nautical and cultural spectacle.

Approximately 60 large traditionally rigged sailing vessels (tall-ships) from all over the world and a fleet of nearly 550 ships representing the Dutch national heritage participate in SAIL Amsterdam.

Held for the first time in 1975 to celebrate the city's 700th anniversary, the event was a huge success and it was repeated again in 1980.

Stichting Sail Amsterdam (SSA) was established in 1977 to organise the event.

SAIL 2010 marks the seventh time

situated along the North Sea canal estuary, which discharges into the sea via enormous sluices, or water locks.

Around 60 tall-ships will be escorted by thousands of boats during their crossing of the North Sea Canal and will begin arriving in the IJ harbour of Amsterdam around noon.

The parade and the day's other activities will be covered extensively by the NOS television station, giving the whole country a chance to follow the start of the largest sailing event in the Netherlands.

New additions

The main theme for SAIL 2010 is a nautical encounter between the past, present and future.

But innovation also plays a prominent role in this theme. One of the event's ne-

And for the first time there will be entertainment on the decks of the tall-ships, ranging from storytelling to music ensembles.

"It seemed like such a nice idea to have entertainment, even brief appearances," says Meijer.

"The ships will provide a unique and wonderful setting that will make it even more attractive to step on board."

Youth focus

This edition of SAIL will also pay special attention to children between the ages of six and 12 years-old and to young people between 15 and 25-years-old.

On the IJ river the main sponsor ING will create a pirate island, which during the day will serve as a paradise for some breathtaking adventures and at night will be the location for some spectacular pirate parties.

Kids will be further entertained at the 'Jeugdeiland' in the Bogortuin with exciting shows by the Belgian entertainer Kapitein Winokio, while the Dutch song and dance band Zirkus Zirkus sets the tune for some hip dance moves.

In the Aquarena they can learn to sail, canoe and built rafts. Amsterdam-Noord will be the hotspot for the youth where they can experience the atmosphere of other harbour cities like Casablanca, Sydney, Tokyo and New York through a lively program full of music, dance, sports and arts.

"We want the youth to get acquainted with the maritime history of the Netherlands and life aboard the big windjammers," Meijer says of the youth programme.

"The sooner they come into contact with marine issues and history, the more likely it will become a lifelong interest."

"Sail is one big celebration for everyone - you don't even have to be a boat lover or a water sports enthusiast."

the foundation will be heading one of the largest maritime manifestations in the world.

Beyond boats

"SAIL 2010 is much more than boats," says Daan Meijer, director of SSA. Meijer draws attention to the extensive sports and cultural programme held during SAIL that will provide the public with five days of free activities at various locations on and around the IJ river.

Starting around 10 o'clock on Thursday 19 August the SAIL-IN parade will set off from the town Velsen-IJmuiden,

west additions is a racing area called SAILSation, where the audience can expect plenty of action on the water.

"As usual there will be a regatta for the different boat classes, but for the first time there will be a race for the skûtsjes up the IJ. That should be a spectacular sight," says Meijer.

Skûtsjes are traditional sailing ships about 100 years old and originally made to carry cargo on shallow lakes.

In addition the public can see the Royal Dutch Navy give rescue and anti-piracy demonstrations in the SAILSation area.

A few highlights from the SAIL 2010 programme

- SAIL-IN Parade
- Crew parade through the city
- Guided tours on the Tall Ships
- Classical music performances on Tall Ships
- ING Pirate Island
- SAIL Jazz Swing
- SAIL Sing-Along
- Sailing lessons for children
- Boating for children in Aquarena
- Skûtsje-sailing with traditional Frisian sailing vessels
- Match races between top Dutch sailors
- Fireworks shows on the water
- SAIL-OUT Parade

See more on www.sail2010.nl

Special voyage

Believing that also the sick, bedridden and disabled should be able to enjoy SAIL 2010, the SSA has, in cooperation with Red Cross and through financial contributions from dozens of companies organized a special voyage.

This will give around 4,500 people with special needs the opportunity to sail on some customized vessels accompanied by several hundred volunteers to take care of provisions, medicine and any other requirements.

“For us as organizers it’s a very big task, but also a very gratifying one, because we give the participants a day they will always remember,” Meijer explains.

Sunny SAIL

Meijer recommends that if you want to experience the most of SAIL 2010, your best bet is to follow the route from Amsterdam Centraal Station to Amsterdam-Noord, via the Veemkade and Java island. You can then make your return on the ferry.

A daily SAIL Sing-Along on the main stage (hoofd-podium) at the head of Java island promises to be quite entertaining.

Various choirs supported by an orchestra singing well known maritime songs. The public will of course be expected to sing along as loud as possible. “There are simply too many events to mention them all,” Meijer notes.

“Let me draw your attention to the tall-ships, the entertainment from the main stage and of course to the fireworks that conclude every day,” says Meijer.

Grand Exit

On Monday 23 August, all participating ships will for the first time in the history of SAIL leave Amsterdam at the same time in the SAIL-OUT parade.

By then, a capacity crowd of almost one and a half million people will likely have visited SAIL 2010.

Given that the weather plays an important role, it is hard to predict the exact number of visitors, but the organizers’ main goal is not to outnumber the capacity.

“The most important issue for us is that SAIL 2010 passes without serious incidents and that the ships’ crews, the many visitors and all the volunteers enjoy the event,” says Meijer.

Although, a little sunshine is certainly an added bonus, even for the SSA director.

“Above all we have our fingers crossed for nice sunny weather.”





WITTENBURGERGRACHT - OOSTENBURGERGRACHT - ZEEBURGERSTRAAT - ZEEBURGERDIJK

Raadpleeg voor de meest actuele versie van de plattegrond www.sail.nl

Thanks to this handy map from Stichting Sail Amsterdam, you can plan all of your Sail activities!

Legenda

Looproute	JONGEREN EILAND Belangrijke publiekactiviteit of publieklocatie (veelal met podium, horeagelegenheid, toiletten, informatiepunt, EHBO-Post)	Vertrekpunt Publiekvaarten
Omleiding autoverkeer	KNRM Bezienswaardigheid	Horeagelegenheid
Afsluiting autoverkeer	ING Piraten Eiland Belangrijke bezienswaardigheid	Toiletten
P+R terrein	Tail Ships	Eerste Hulppost
Spoorlijn	Marine schepen	Infopunt
Fietstalling (gratis afgeplaat)	Grens stremming tijdens activiteiten SAILsation	Tribune
Tramlijn	Verplichte vaarroute	Miva-podium
Buslijn GVB	Reguliere pontverbinding	Pinautomat
Buslijn Connexxion/Arriva	Extra pontverbinding	PODIUM Podium
Metrostation		GAASTRA Gaastra Verkooppunt
		Sail Shop Sail Shop