KITLIST

PACKING FOR YOUR SAILING JOURNEY

WINDSEEKER Foundation

SET COURSE FOR NEW HORIZONS

DOCUMENTS & ESSENTIALS

Travel documents

To be able to travel, you must bring the most current and appropriate travel documents with you. This is usually a passport, and sometimes a visa or travel authorisation (see below!) For EU citizens, traveling inside the EU, an international ID is usually sufficient. If you're from the EU, please remember that you now need a passport to enter the UK!

Please check which travel document you need for **all** countries visited during your journey. You should be able to find the latest information on the website of your country's ministry for foreign affairs.

Finally, bring a photocopy or a picture of:
- Your travel documents,
- Insurance card,
- The insurance policy.

ETA and ETIAS – new travel authorisation schemes

ETA: entering the UK from another country (including the EU) – from April 2025

From April 2025, all people entering the UK from the EU/Schengen countries will need an ETA travel authorisation (along with a valid passport). You can apply electronically, currently the cost is 16 GBP.

To read more about ETA, click here.

ETIAS: entering the EU/Schengen area from another country (including the UK) – from 2026

All people entering the EU/Schengen area from abroad, including (but not limited to) the UK, will need either a visa or an ETIAS travel authorisation. This will be done electronically and the estimated cost is 7 EUR. At the moment the scheme is expected to go into effect in the last quarter of 2026, but the exact timing is not confirmed yet. You must check the information about ETIAS closer to the journey date, we recommend checking at least 2 months in advance.

To read more about ETIAS, click here.

Minors traveling without a parent/guardian

In addition to their own valid passport or ID card, all minors (younger than 18) travelling, either alone, with adults who are not their legal guardian, or with only one parent, may need an extra (official) document signed by both their parents, or legal guardian(s) authorising them to travel.

There are no EU rules on this matter, each country decides if it requires the traveller to have an official authorisation from their parent(s) or guardian. Check the exact rules for the countries you are travelling to and from if this applies to you. Also, please be aware that airlines might have additional rules in place regarding an unaccompanied travel of minors.

For Dutch trainees – click here for more info and the official form.

For French trainees – click here for more info and the official form.

Insurance

You are required to carry proof of being enrolled in the following:

- Medical health insurance, for your home country,

- Travel insurance, which covers medical expenses abroad, loss of luggage and third-party liability. Make sure that it doesn't exclude sea sailing!

Please be aware that you need **both** of those in order to sail.

Unless stated otherwise, cancellation insurance is not obligatory, but recommended. If your journey is cancelled by the ship/Windseeker, you will only receive reimbursement of the journey fee, but not any additional costs (like flights).

We've gathered insurance provider recommendations from different countries. Please check that the policy provides sufficient coverage for your journey before purchasing. See the updated list at windseeker.org/insurance/.

Pocket money

Coffee, tea and milk are included. Some ships have little shops where you can buy snacks and soft drinks. These have to be paid for at the end of your journey (with card or cash). Please check the currency at the ports you will be visiting so that you can go out for ice cream with your crew mates, or send a postcard to a friend.

Drugs, Medication and/or Diets

Drugs of any kind are not permitted on board. However, personal medication accompanied by doctor's statement or prescription is allowed. Please inform us in advance about your medical condition in the health statement. We will brief the responsible officer on board.

If you are travelling within the Schengen Area with narcotic drugs and/or psychotropic substances, you must by law bring with you the original prescription (paper) and a Schengen Medical Certificate. The certificate is a form that states the name and dosage of the medication and that the holder needs this specific medication for a health condition. It must be signed by a medical professional. There is no EU standard certificate, but you should be able to find a template on your country's government's or health ministry's website. If you are from, or are travelling to, outside the Schengen area, please check the relevant information for all countries you are visiting.

CLOTHING AND TOILETRIES

Bag

When packing, think of the limited space on board. Pack in a foldable bag; there's no space to store big, hardcover suitcases. Even better if the bag is waterproof!

Make sure that your luggage is clearly labelled with your name and destination on the outside. Also, put a second label or big piece of paper inside your luggage with the same information, the name of the Ship and your mobile number.

Warm and waterproof clothes

It can get **really cold** during sailing, especially at night (even during the summer)! A light down winter jacket, scarf, gloves, and a hat will not be out of place. Bring clothes that can be layered, even better if you have thermals.

Make sure your jacket and/or rain suit are windproof. Bring rubber boots or waterproof shoes, next to your regular set (sneakers or boat shoes). Choose shoes with profile on the soles to avoid slipping on a wet deck. On large tall ships, hiking boots are often an acceptable substitute, but smaller vessels usually have too delicate decks for those. The waterproof jacket, trousers and boots are especially important for smaller vessels, on which waves are likely to get on board once in a while.

Sometimes work on board can get a little messy, so you might get dirty. Bring appropriate clothing and don't forget that doing laundry might not be possible.

Clothes & essentials:

- Comfortable shoes with low heel and non-slippery soles
- Boots or waterproof shoes
- Closed-toe sandals for deck if you like, flip-flops for showering
- Watertight and windproof jacket and pants
- Warm sweaters, fleece, trousers, shorts, t-shirts, etc. Consider a light long-sleeved shirt for sun protection.
- Socks, underwear and pyjamas
- Swimming gear
- Hat or cap, scarf, gloves – even in the summer, unless you're sailing in the tropics
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, shampoo, soap, etc.) Consider a bar instead of a plastic bottle, you can also check the ingredients with the PlasticFreeFuture app. Don't forget the sun lotion! You can check whether it's ocean-safe in the app, or on Reef safe sunscreen.

Other recommendations:

- Sunglasses (with a cord) and if you use glasses, take a spare pair with you!
- Personal medicine plus over-the-counter motion sickness medication for seasickness.
- Small backpack to use in the harbour
- Small musical instruments, a small Bluetooth speaker
- Board games
- Reusable water bottle
- Some special snacks from your country
- Earplugs and an eye mask if you're a light sleeper or your ship has shared sleeping areas
- Torch or headlamp, preferably one with a red light function
- Power adapter if necessary – check the electrical outlet information for your ship below
- Tissues, lip balm, etc. It gets windy at sea!
- Don't bring expensive jewellery

EXTRA REQUIREMENTS PER SHIP: BEDDING AND TOWELS

Astrid*: Sleeping bag, pillowcase, bed sheets, towels.

Bark Europa*: All bedding and towels are provided.

Blue Clipper*: Towels.

Challenge Wales**: Sleeping bag, pillow, pillowcase, sheets and towels, sailing gloves. *No single-use plastic bottles on board. No smoking/vaping on board.*

Christian Radich*: Sleeping bag, towels, small padlock for the locker.

Constantia*: Sleeping bag, pillowcase, bed sheets, towels. *Charging devices only when in port – consider bringing a powerbank with you.*

Eendracht*: Towels. *For Tall Ships Races: bring everything duck-related for the Crew Parade!*

Esprit*: Sleeping bag, bed sheets, pillow, towels. Bring non-slip shoes with light sole that doesn't leave streaks (like gym shoes) for use on deck (separate from land shoes). No hiking boots on deck!

Excelsior**: Sleeping bag, pillowcase, towels. If you can, bring your own pillow.

Gulden Leeuw*: Towels, headlamp/torch.

James Cook:** Sleeping bag, pillow, pillowcase, towels.

Johann Smidt*: Sleeping bag, pillowcase, bed sheets, towels.

Johanna Engelina*: Sleeping bag, mattress cover, towels.

Jolie Brise:** Sleeping bag and towels. Pillow and a flat sheet are recommended for comfort, but not essential. Bring non-slip waterproof boots. *There are waterproofs on board, but if you have your own then please bring them as the availability of sizes is limited.*

Maybe**: Sleeping bag and towels.

Morgenster*: Towels. Sleeping bag for: trainees who booked a hammock or sailing in the Tall Ships Races, Regatta and Exchange@sea (unless other information is given).

Oosterschelde*: All bedding and towels are provided on board. Optionally: beach towel for swimming.

Pascual Flores*: Towels.

Roald Amundsen*: Towels.

Saeftinghe*: Bedsheets, pillowcase, towels. Watertight sailing suit.

Santa Maria Manuela*: Beach towel for swimming.

Sørlandet*: Sleeping bag, towels, pillow + pillowcase and a padlock for the storage locker.

Stad Amsterdam*: All bedding and towels are provided on board.

Statsraad Lehmkuhl*: *Important: you need a passport for this ship, an ID is not valid on board!* Bring a sleeping bag, towels and water bottle. Optionally: pillow and pillowcase; recommended earplugs and sleeping mask.

Swan:** Sleeping bag, pillow, pillowcase, towels.

Svanhild*: Sleeping bag, pillowcase, bed sheets, towels.

Tecla*: All bedding and towels are provided on board.

Thalassa*: All bedding and towels are provided on board.

Valborg*: Sleeping bag, pillow, pillowcase, bed sheets and towels.

Williwaw*: Sleeping bag, towels.

Wylde Swan*: Towels.

* Electricity on board 220V – you need a 2-pin plug (European)
** Electricity on board 240V – you need a 3-pin plug (British)
*** Electricity on board 110V – you need an American/Canadian plug

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Travel

If you would like somebody else to take over arranging the travel to and from the ports, check out the Travel Counsellors website or contact Manon Eeken at:

- manon.eeken@travelcounsellors.nl
- +31 023-5762105

Questions?

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us by email info@windseeker.org or phone +31 (0) 6-82790115 (we use WhatsApp).

In case of emergency, you may contact the Ships through Windseeker – you can give our number to your family or friends.

Fair Winds!

The Windseeker Foundation Team
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