



# SET COURSE FOR NEW HORIZONS

 International Exchange

## VEGA GAMLEBY: HALMSTAD (SE) - KOTKA (FI)

02 July - 15 July 2017

Halmstad (SE) - Kotka (FI)

15-25: € 1.330,00

>25 : € 1.680,00

LAST MINUTE PRICE AFTER 26 OF JUNE: 20% DISCOUNT AT THE MENTIONED BOARDPRICE. Tall Ships Races 2017 – Race 1. Youthvoyage. Join the Vega in the first race of the Tall Ships Races 2017 and sail across the Baltic from Sweden to Finland. Become a Trainee in one of the biggest annual sailing events, with over 70 vessels racing to be the first to cross the finish line. Enjoy the port festivals with trainees from many different countries and make lasting friendships and lifetime memories. Open for trainees age 15-25 years, age 25-28 at request.



**IDA (19), FINLAND**

*"THE BEST MOMENT WAS WHEN WE CROSSED THE FINISH LINE AND EVERYBODY CELEBRATED TOGETHER. THE TONE WAS SIMPLY UNFORGETTABLE!"*





## **PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

The Tall Ships Races is the biggest annual sailing race of the year. The 2017 edition will be the 61st event and is scheduled to take place on the Baltic Sea, in 5 ports in 4 different countries. Join Race 1 from Sweden to Finland. Take part in opening celebrations, meet your fellow trainees, then wave goodbye to spectators on land and set course across the Baltic Sea. Expect a warm welcome in Kotka, with Crew Parties, parades and many other activities.

As a Windseeker Trainee on board Vega Gamleby you will be a part of the crew, meaning you will take an active part in sailing the Ship. You'll be hoisting sails, steering, climbing the masts (voluntarily), practicing seamanship skills and learning the art of navigation, guided by the professional crew. And you will sail to win the race!

By entering the International Exchange program not only will you sail the high seas with your peers but you will also learn about other cultures and customs. With many nationalities on board you will enjoy cultural dinner parties, debates and games to bridge the cultural differences. Aside from the professional sailing Crew, during International Exchanges there are mentors on board to help you adjust to the life on a Ship and organize the additional activities.

The Ship doesn't stop when the night comes, that means that you will be working day and night to reach your destination! You will be divided into watches and work in shifts of 4 hours on, 8 hours off. That means two watches per day: one in daytime and one in the night. Don't worry, your sleep pattern will soon adjust. You will stand lookout, navigate, man the helm, cook and clean – and you do it all as a team. By the time you reach the destination port you will be like a family.

## PORTS

Halmstad is situated on the Swedish west coast, along the Nissan River. The city is famous for its fortress, built by the Danish King Christian IV at the end of the 16th century. A walk around town will reveal much of the city's rich history and culture, and the cobbled streets in the city centre are dotted with cafes and pubs. Outdoors there's plenty to do as well, with the nearby Mollegard Nature Reserve well worth a visit. Halmstad offers plenty to soothe your adventure jitters.

Kotka is located in the gulf of Finland and is a major Finnish port on the Baltic Sea. You can experience its long maritime traditions by visiting the Maritime Centre Vellamo with the world's oldest ice-breaker, and if you have more time, stop by the aquarium with a big exhibition of local, baltic sealife – maybe you will even get to see the feeding done by a diver! Climb the Haukkavuori tower for a view of the town and seaside and take a refreshing stroll through the Sapokka Water Park.



## SPONSORSHIP AND COSTS

The youngster price (age 15-25) will be € 1330,-

If you have not sailed Tall Ships Races before, please contact us for fundraising possibilities and bursaries.



## LIFE ON BOARD

Wake up and smell the coffee. Step out on deck and breathe in the chilly morning breeze. Look out over the horizon, can you see the land yet? Or maybe a pod of dolphins have decided to pay a visit?

No day, no hour on board is the same. You relax, talk, joke and sing shanties one minute, only to be climbing the masts and pulling the lines in the next one.

Then everything calms down again. You go down to the galley to help with lunch. The Ship's heeling turns carrying a pot of soup into a true adventure. You all laugh while navigating this obstacle course.

Wind seems to be shifting. Time to trim the sails. Together, as a team. Apple in mouth, zipping up your jacket, you move forward. Pull the sheet just a bit tighter. The sails are perfect now and the Ship takes up some speed. What an exhilarating feeling!

Time for a hot shower and a well-deserved nap. You fall asleep lulled by the sound of waves hitting the hull. Your next watch starts at midnight. You can't wait to watch the starry sky with a cup of hot tea in your hands.

And tomorrow will be a completely new day. A new day, with new horizons. Jump on one of our Tall Ships for a unique sailing adventure!

## KEY POINTS

- Dates: 2 July 2017 - 15 July 2017
- Embarkation: 17:00 / Disembarkation: 9:00
- For Windseekers 15-25 years, age 26-28 at request
- Participating countries: open for all nationalities all around the world
- Windseekers joining: maximum of 36
- No sailing experience required!
- Official language on board: English
- Price includes: accommodation and meals, excludes drinks at the bar
- Price excludes transportation costs to-and from the ports. Our travel counsellor can advise you and book your transfers
- One-off registration fee €25
- Windseekers need to have a health insurance and a travel insurance
- Need to take with you on board: sleeping bag, pillowcase, sheets and towels
- French Windseekers need to become member of Les Amis des Grands Voiliers
- Contact your fellow-Windseekers via Windseeker facebook

**SET COURSE FOR NEW HORIZONS**  
**BOOK YOUR JOURNEY AT [WWW.WINDSEEKER.ORG](http://WWW.WINDSEEKER.ORG)**

## WINDSEEKER

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