

ENGLISH

HANDBOOK FOR VOLUNTEERS

22.-25. July. 2026, Stavanger

The Tall Ships Races Stavanger 2026

AHOY STAVANGER!

This year marks the fifth time Stavanger has hosted **The Tall Ships Races**

The first race, then known as the **Cutty Sark Tall Ships Races**, took place in August 1997 and marked the beginning of a new chapter for Stavanger as a vibrant summer destination.

Since then, the city has grown into a lively festival and tourism hub, with a bustling city centre and vibrant activity along the harbour.

The Tall Ships have visited Stavanger in **1997, 2004, 2011, and 2018**, and this year we are once again proud to welcome the fleet. Forty-five ships and approximately 1,350 crew members will arrive in our city, bringing life, energy, and international friendship to the waterfront.

As a volunteer, you are an essential part of this event. You are a proud ambassador for the Stavanger region, representing our community in your interactions with visitors and crew. Together, we will ensure that everyone who takes part experiences the warm hospitality Stavanger is known for.

By welcoming our guests in a friendly, professional, and inclusive way, we help create positive and lasting memories. The visitors will leave with experiences they will never forget—and **you** play an important role in making that happen.

Along the way, we will face both small and large challenges. But with a positive attitude, a smile, and a commitment to great service, we can overcome them together and ensure a successful event for everyone involved.



**Thank you for volunteering.
Good luck – and most
importantly, have fun!**

Knud Helge Robberstad
Project Manager
Elizabeth Parra Ganteaume
Volunteer coordinator

About Tall Ships Races

The Tall Ships Races is an international regatta organized by Sail Training International, with the goal of developing and giving young people between 15 and 25 experience through sailing training, while creating friendships and community across national borders.

The event gathers: :

- 🌐 Ships from all over the world
- 🌐 Thousands of crew members
- 🌐 A large audience

Just as important as the voyage itself is the stay in the host port.

- THIS IS WHERE YOU PLAY A KEY ROLE.





Sail Training International

Sail Training International (STI), a non-profit organisation based in Gosport, England, is the organiser of The Tall Ships Races. STI selects the host ports and coordinates the races and voyages between each port.

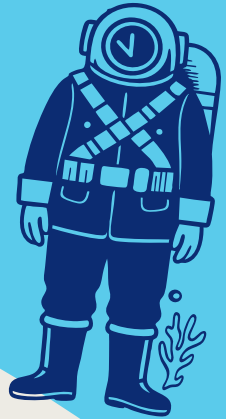
The event begins on **24 June** and runs until **2 August**, featuring three exciting and challenging races, as well as a shorter friendship voyage.

This year's host ports have valuable experience from previous Tall Ships events. In other words, everything is in place to give the ships, crew, and visitors a warm welcome as they arrive in each of the five host cities taking part in **The Tall Ships Races 2026**.

IN 2026, THERE ARE FIVE OFFICIAL HOST PORTS: :

🌐 Aarhus	24 June – 27 June
🌐 Harlingen	03 July – 06 July
🌐 Antwerp	11 July– 14 July
🌐 Stavanger	22 July – 25 July
🌐 Aalborg	30 July – 02 August

YOUR ROLE AS A VOLUNTEER



The Tall Ships Races is a major event that relies on the dedication of volunteers before, during, and after the festival. Every volunteer plays an important role in helping make the event a success.

As a volunteer, we ask that you:

-  Be visible, approachable, helpful, and welcoming.
-  Represent the event in a professional manner.
-  Follow the instructions provided by your team leader.
-  Contribute to a good atmosphere
 - even when things get busy or challenging.
-  Attend your scheduled shifts and notify your team leader if you are unable to attend due to illness.

**Most challenges can be solved with a smile,
a positive attitude, and good communication.**

LIAISON OFFICER

-  Acts as the main point of contact between the event organisers and the ships.
-  Coordinates the practical needs of the ships during their stay.
-  Ensures good communication and information flow between the organisers and the ship's crew.

CREW FRIEND

-  Provides social and local support to sailors and crew members.
-  Helps create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.
-  Assists with practical questions, activities, and local information

STAFF

Staff is the largest volunteer group and includes a number of different teams, each led by a group leader. Staff volunteers may be involved in the following tasks:

-  Information: Answer questions from visitors and participants.
-  Public service: Help keep the festival safe, welcoming, and tidy.
-  Riggers: Assist with setting up and dismantling festival facilities.
-  Chaos Pilots: Help out wherever needed
-  Activities Support: Support activities such as the football tournament and the Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock) trip.
-  Transport: Assist with transport
-  Photo & Media: Help capture and promote the event through photos and media content

ORGANISING

The volunteer event administration is located at Nedre Strandgate 89, Stavanger.

You report directly to your group leader (crew leader).

Important information will be communicated by email, SMS, or posted in your volunteer profile under "Open My Page".

If you're unsure about something, don't hesitate to ask. It's always better to ask one question too many than one too few.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

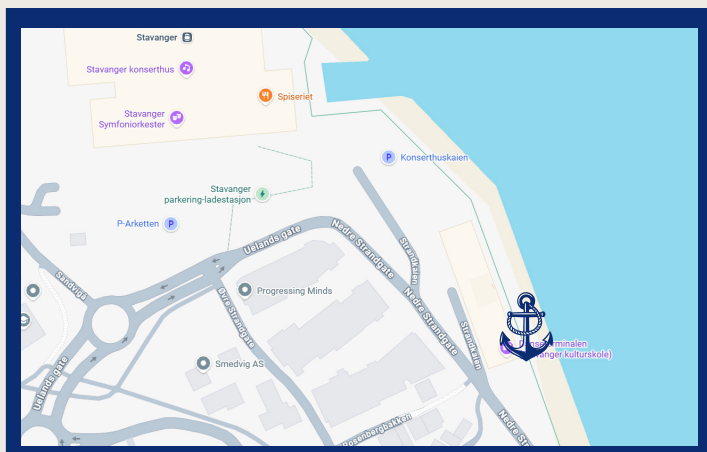
VOLUNTEER CENTRE

The volunteer centre is the very heart for the volunteers during the Tall Ships Races. Here you will find:

- ☙ Meals and refreshments
- ☙ Information meetings for Liaison Officers
- ☙ A place to relax and connect with fellow volunteers
- ☙ Support from the volunteer team

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Volunteer Centre. Contact details can be found on your accreditation.

Address: Nedre Strandgate 89, Stavanger





CLOTHING AND ID

Volunteer clothing and ID must be worn at all times while on duty.

When your shift ends, please remove your volunteer clothing. This helps signal that you are off duty and no longer available to assist visitors or take on tasks.

FOOD AND BREAKS

Meals are available at the volunteer centre at fixed times:

- Lunch 11.00 to 14.00
- Dinner 17.00 to 19.00

The group leader makes sure that everyone gets breaks throughout the day.

WORKING HOURS AND ATTENDANCE

Follow your assigned schedule and working hours.

Arrive on time and prepared for your shift.

On your first day, please report to the **Volunteer Centre**, where you will receive further information and instructions.

If you are unable to attend a shift, please inform your group leader as soon as possible.

ACCREDITATION

Collect your volunteer package in advance of your first shift in the volunteer centre.

Arrive well in advance of your shift starting. We are open on Wednesday 22 July from 7.30. If you start before the festival, you can pick up your volunteer package on the day you come for your first shift.

MAIN EVENTS

TALL SHIPS ARRIVAL • OPENING CEREMONY
• CREW PARADE • CREW PARTY •
CONCERTS AND AUDIENCE ACTIVITIES
• TALL SHIPS DEPARTURE

- * Liaison Officers and Crew Friends are responsible for accompanying crew members during activities and making sure they attend as scheduled.

THE OPENING

All ships are scheduled to arrive and moor in Vågen on **Wednesday, 22 July at 12:00**. Please note that weather and wind conditions may affect the exact arrival time. The official opening of **The Tall Ships Races** will take place at **15:00 on Wednesday** on the main stage by Stavanger Concert Hall. During the ceremony, Mayor **Tormod W. Losnedal** and STI Regatta Director **Magda Makowska**, among others, will officially welcome the ships and their crew to Stavanger.

CAPTAINS' DINNER

The **Captains' Dinner** is Stavanger's official dinner for captains, ship representatives, and invited guests. The dinner takes place at **Stavanger Concert Hall on Wednesday, 22 July at 18:00**, and each ship is invited to send two representatives. Liaison Officers are responsible for ensuring that the captains from their assigned ships arrive on time.

CREW PARADE AND PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

The Crew Parade is the official parade where crew from all participating ships bring colour and excitement to the city with costumes, music, and plenty of energy. Participants will gather at the **Norwegian Petroleum Museum on Thursday, 23 July at 15:30**. Liaison Officers and Crew Friends are responsible for guiding crew members from their ships to the meeting point.

Line-up will take place according to instructions from **Parade Director Arnfinn Bjerkestrand**, with departure at **16:00**. The parade route runs from the **Norwegian Petroleum Museum** along the harbour, ending at the main stage of the **Stavanger Concert Hall**, where the **Prize Giving Ceremony** will take place.

The **Prize Giving Ceremony** begins at 17:00, once all participants in the parade have gathered at Stavanger Concert Hall. Various race categories, as well as crew activities and contributions to the parade, will be awarded.

CREW PARTY

The **Crew Party** takes place on **Thursday, 23 July from 19:00 to 23:00** in **Bjergstedparken**. Access to the park is through the main entrance on **Borgermester Middelthons gate**. This is Stavanger's celebration for all the crew who have sailed to the city. Food and drinks will be available, along with music and entertainment.

Entry is restricted to ship crew wearing both a **Tall Ships 2026 wristband** and a **Crew Party wristband**. Crew Party wristbands come in two colours:

White – participants under 18 years of age

Blue – participants aged 18 and over

The wristbands include vouchers for **one meal** and **two non-alcoholic drinks**.

Alcohol: Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the bar in the old **Concert Hall**. To purchase alcohol, you must present valid identification proving that you are **18 years or older**. Participants under the age of 18 are not permitted to buy or consume alcohol at the Crew Party. Anyone found purchasing alcohol for a person under 18 will be immediately removed from the event. Bringing your own alcoholic drinks to the party is not allowed.

CREW ACTIVITIES

The crew have a wide range of activities to choose from during their stay in Stavanger. **Thursday** is the main day for organised activities that require registration.

All organised crew activities are free of charge. There are also a variety of activities that do not require registration. Some of these, such as visits to the **cinema** and the **Viking House**, offer discounted admission for holders of a **Tall Ships 2026 wristband**.

THE TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL

A wide range of activities will be available to the public throughout the festival. In the city square, **Byparken**, and outside the **Norwegian Maritime Museum**, there will be activities and entertainment for the whole family.

The two festival stages, located at **Stavanger Concert Hall** and **Tollboden**, will host concerts and cultural performances throughout the event. Along the harbour, visitors can explore a variety of exhibitors, food trucks, and market stalls.

Byparken will also feature a dedicated **Small Ships Area**, offering activities and attractions especially for younger children.

THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

The full cultural programme for the Tall Ships Festival can be found on our website: tallships.no/program

All concerts, performances, and activities included in the cultural programme are **free of charge** and **do not require tickets**.



COMMUNICATION

Internal Communication

-  Keep messages short and clear.
-  Use the appropriate communication channels.
-  Stay calm, even in busy or stressful situations.
-  Remember to smile and maintain a positive attitude while carrying out your tasks.

External

-  Any media enquiries related to the festival should be referred to the **Media Manager** or the **Volunteer Coordinator**.
-  Please do not make statements on behalf of the event outside your area of responsibility.

Your role as a host

As a volunteer, you are one of the event's most important ambassadors and the face of The Tall Ships Races to visitors, crew, and guests. Remember to:

-  Smile and create a welcoming atmosphere.
-  Be solution-oriented and proactive.
-  Actively assist visitors and crew members whenever possible.
-  Help create positive experiences for yourself and others.
-  Be friendly, approachable, and professional.
-  A positive experience for one person can shape their impression of the entire event. Your attitude and actions make a difference.

HSE and Safety

Be aware of your surroundings and help create a safe environment for visitors, crew, and fellow volunteers. If you see something unsafe, report it to your group leader immediately.

In Case of an Emergency

Call the appropriate emergency number:

110 – Fire

112 – Police

113 – Ambulance

(or use the 113 mobile app)

When calling:

Clearly state your location and zone.

Secure the area and keep bystanders at a safe distance.

Provide first aid if you are able to do so.

Safety always comes first.

Important Rules

Keep all emergency access routes clear at all times.

Report any dangerous situations to the nearest group leader.

Do not take unnecessary risks.

Address issues early to prevent minor incidents from developing into larger problems.

First aid at the scene of the accident

If you have first aid training, please be prepared to assist if needed. The following guidelines may be helpful:

- Check the person's level of consciousness and breathing.
- If the person is unconscious but breathing, place them in the recovery position.
- Call 113 if the person has breathing difficulties or has sustained an injury.
- Start CPR if necessary.
- Control any bleeding.
- Help keep the person warm, calm, and reassured until help arrives.

If you are unable to manage the situation on your own, call **113** immediately or seek assistance from Norsk **Folkehjelp** or the **Ambulance Team**, located outside **Stavanger Kate-dralskole Kongsgård**.

Konserthuset

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