

**WIND IN YOUR BACK, SUN IN YOUR FACE! TRIP 2**  
**ASTRID-INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE 2009**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> part Cruise in Company and Race 2**

- > 22 Trainees from several European countries
- > Sailing from Kotka (Finland) via Turku (Finland) to Klaipeda (Lithuania)
- > The second part of the Cruise in Company and Race 2
- > 18 July – 2 August 2009 (15 days)

**The Astrid is a family run brig, the smallest Ship in Class A. Downwind she is fast as any, and can easily compete with fastest. The atmosphere onboard is cosy, family like and warm. A great place to learn how to sail a square rigger!**



**ASTRID & CREW**

The Astrid was built in 1918 as a freight logger in a Dutch shipyard. The ship was sold due to the decease of the Swedish Captain Albert Edmund Frohm and the diminished demand for coasters of this size. Since 1970 it sailed under the Lebanese flag and that she was used for drug smuggling is among some of the wildest rumours about her. Below the English coast a fierce fire aboard the ship ended the alleged practices. The pensioned English Marine Officers Graham Neilson and John Amos saved the iron body from the breakers. The Astrid was completely renovated and equipped with the impressive brig rigging she has today. As a family owned and sailed ship, with the help from the permanent crew, she offers plenty of space and room to learn in a fun and fast way and after this trip, climbing a mast or trimming a square sail will be a piece of cake for you.

## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Your trip starts on Saturday the 18th of July in the port of the Finnish Kotka. The Port of Kotka has traditionally been the foremost export port in Finland. Today, it is much more. It has evolved into a full-service logistics hub, specialised in serving the global logistics needs of Finnish and Russian foreign trade.

Upon your arrival you will be introduced to the mentors, crew and other participants. After this introduction you will receive the safety instructions and the bunks will be assigned.

The first part of your trip is a Cruise in Company, which means you will not race to the finish first. After departure you will set sail for the Finnish city of Turku in a calm pace, together with some other vessels. You can moor in a port to explore the surroundings or anchor somewhere to have a swim or a barbecue; these are just some of the many possibilities. You can even swap for a day with the participants of other vessels. So put yourself at ease, start preparing for your upcoming race leg and enjoy!

Once in Turku, all sorts of activities will be organised to explore the country and get to know the other participants & ships. Turku is Finland's third largest city and has a great natural beauty. The Parade of Sail from Turku is the kick-off of the second race; it's time to put one's shoulder to the wheel. Aboard, you work close together in a small team and you will 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 twice a day. For instance; your watch can be from 08.00 to 12.00 am and then from 8 to 12 pm. During a watch you and your team are responsible for the ship together with the professional crew. This means, manoeuvring, keeping watch, climbing the yards, setting the sails, steering the vessel, but also supplying the next shift with snacks and drinks. You name it; it's all part of the day-to-day work.

During your watch things can get quite hectic. In case of a storm the standing sails needs to be taken away and when the storm dies down again, the sails have to be set again. when the wind or the ship changes directions, the yards needs to be braced (turned) and many lines has to be either slacked or pulled. It's a lot of hard work, but it's fun work too. It is also possible that there is hardly anything to do and then there is plenty of time to relax, and you can, for example, enjoy yourself on the quarter-deck with a guitar singing until sunset. Isn't life great?

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

You end the race in style in the Lithuanian city of Klaipeda, where you can hook up again with the people you met on other ships. Klaipeda is Lithuania's only seaport and is an absolutely beautiful historical town. Once ashore there is plenty to see and you can check out the various music stands, stages and food corners. Sail Training International organises all kinds of activities in collaboration with the port, 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 late in the afternoon and all of the crews will present themselves to the city. It is an exuberant party, especially when the crews of the Mexican Cuahtémoc 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 the presence of a dignitary, like a mayor, a prime minister or even a king! The number of awards is gigantic; 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 race ending together in style with a wild Crew Party, which comes to life 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 be part of it!

## STRUCTURE COST AND SPONSORSHIP

This special project organised by At Sea Sail Training is supported by the European organisation Tall Ships' Youth Trust. Partner organisations in several countries in Europe are involved in the project and subsidize the voyage. Therefore we can offer you this programme at a reduced price. Your stay on board the ship is based on full board and excludes drinks at the bar and transportation to and from the ports. Transfers are available by way of discount airlines and At Sea Sail Training is more than willing to provide you with the best advice.

## KEY POINTS

- > Astrid; Brig – 41.65 meters.
- > 18 July – 2 August 2009 (15 days).
- > 22 trainees between the ages of 15 - 25 years.
- > Different European nationalities.
- > Sailing from Kotka (Finland) via Turku (Finland) to Klaipeda (Lithuania)
- > Official language aboard: English.
- > No sailing experience required!
- > Sponsored price: €875 instead of €1260.
- > One-off registration costs of €25.
- > All prices are excluding transportation from and to the ports.
- > Transfers need to be booked separately by participants.
- > You can contact other participants using Facebook.



## HOW TO JOIN?

Please sign up via [www.atseasailtraining.com](http://www.atseasailtraining.com)

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