

VOILES & LEGENDE

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 2025

FROM 10 TO 13 JULY 2025, DUNKIRK WILL HOST THE WORLD'S GREATEST SAILING SHIPS FOR FOUR DAYS OF FESTIVITIES BASED AROUND MARITIME HERITAGE.

From 10 to 13 July 2025, Dunkirk will host the second leg of the Tall Ships Races 2025 - the famous international race for tall training ships, organised by the Sail Training International association. To mark the occasion, no fewer than 40 outstanding sailboats and nearly 2000 sailors from around the world will stop in the corsair city, in its commercial port, for four days of festivities and free activities open to all, centred on maritime heritage and the spirit of the sea.

The event, dubbed «**Legendary Sailing Ships Dunkirk 2025**», offers an opportunity to discover, with family or friends, some of the world's most beautiful sailing ships, such as the Belem, Christian Radich, Pascual Flores, Morgenster and Dar Młodzieży - one of the largest sailing ships in existence.

Throughout their stopover, the public will also be invited to get involved and enjoy a rich cultural and festive programme. **Visitors will have free access to the boats and can take part in a wide range of activities**, including concerts, workshops and two major evening events. **They can also attend two major highlights:** the crew parade and the great departure of the ships.

With nearly **600 000 visitors expected to attend**, the event promises to be a highlight of the summer. More than 650 volunteers will be on hand to welcome the public and bring this incredible maritime event to life.



FREE SHIP TOURS,
WITH CULTURAL AND
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
THROUGHOUT
THE EVENT

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 10 JULY

from 10.00am to 9.00pm

The village opens and festivities get underway, docking of the last sailboats.

FRIDAY, 11 JULY

from 10.00am to 11.00pm

Crew parade in the Citadel, awards ceremony and maritime creative evening "Le Palais Des Eaux" (Water Palace) on the quays of the Citadel and Quai des Hollandais in Dunkirk.

SATURDAY, 12 JULY

from 10.00am to 11.00pm

Crew change day (the 150 apprentice sailors arriving from Le Havre will disembark the ships while the 50 apprentice sailors leaving for Scotland come on board) and closing evening with its "drone show".

SUNDAY, 13 JULY

from 10.00am to 6.00pm

The great departure of the ships. The sailing ships leave Dunkirk for Aberdeen, Scotland.



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NEARLY 200 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DUNKIRK EMBARK ON THE TALL SHIPS RACES ODYSSEY!

Designed to encourage international friendship and training for young people in the art of navigation, the **“Tall Ships Races”** have the defining characteristic of featuring competitions between sailboats, more than half of whose crews are made up of young people aged 15 to 25. So, to support the hosting of the event in the region, nearly 200 young people from Dunkirk are being invited to take part in the 2025 race as trainee sailors. Their involvement is fully funded by the Urban Community of Dunkirk, committed to a supportive, inclusive approach to young people. This initiative allows young people from all walks of life to experience a unique adventure, acquire valuable skills and forge lasting memories.

Beyond its festive aspect, the **“Legendary Sailing Ships Dunkirk 2025”** provides a focal point for the maritime identity of the region and its commitment to young people.



© Sail Training International

THOMAS RUYANT, SPECIAL SPONSOR OF THE LEGENDARY SAILING SHIPS DUNKIRK 2025

To support this amazing and highly symbolic event for the region, the **“Legendary Sailing Ships Dunkirk 2025”** will have sailor Thomas Ruyant as its sponsor. Known as “the king of transatlantic races”, this Dunkirk sailor, born in 1981 in Saint-Pol-sur-Mer, has made a name for himself by winning numerous transatlantic races: Mini-Transat 2009, Route du Rhum in Class 40 in 2010, IMOCA in 2022, Transat Jacques Vabre with Morgan Lagravière in 2021 and 2023, and Transat AG2R La Mondiale with Adrien Hardy in 2018. Having finished 6th in the 2020 Vendée Globe and 7th in the 2024-2025 Vendée Globe, Thomas also held the record in 2024 for the longest distance covered in 24 hours solo in a monohull. Throughout his career, Thomas has embodied local maritime excellence, providing a true source of inspiration for the youth of Dunkirk. He will support the young sailors during the four days of festivities across a range of highlights.

YOU CAN FIND ALL THE INFORMATION

for the **Legendary Sailing Ships Dunkirk 2025** event
on the website: voilesdelegende.fr

PRESS CONTACT

Agence Oxygen

voilesdelegende@oxygen-rp.com

Sophie Robert-Beys - +33 (0)6.34.99.94.10

Capucine Wacogne - +33 (0)6.59.67.65.92