Antwerp will host Tall Ships Races again in 2026 and 2030

Sail Training International names Antwerp as its first ever ‘Anchor Port’

**Antwerp will be a port of call again for The Tall Ships Races in 2026 and 2030. This was announced this evening at the Captain's Dinner of the current edition. Organiser Sail Training International appointed Antwerp as the very first 'Anchor Port' because of their long-standing connection.** **As an ‘Anchor Port’, Antwerp and Sail Training International share a commitment to returning to the river Scheldt with this showcase event, with agreements already in place for the next two events. This agreements gives both parties the certainty required to develop the event in a way that benefits all stakeholders.**

At the moment, the international sailing regatta is visiting Antwerp for the seventh time already. Following the 1993, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2010 and 2016 editions, also this year hundreds of thousands of visitors will come to marvel at the “cathedrals of the sea”.

**Anchor Port**

Antwerp has the ambition to host The Tall Ships Races every four years. Because of the long and intense historical connection between The Tall Ships Races and Antwerp, organiser Sail Training International (STI), the city of Antwerp and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges jointly worked out the concept of an 'Anchor Port', creating a win-win situation for all parties. In the case of Antwerp, this applies to the next two editions, in 2026 and 2030. The concept of “Anchor Ports” will be further rolled out by STI to other successful host cities from past editions.

Mayor Bart De Wever: *“Antwerp holds the ‘cathedrals of the sea’ in its soul. Thanks to The Tall Ships Races, our rich maritime history effortlessly merges into the story of the second largest port in Europe, of which our city can be truly proud. That is why I am particularly honoured that Antwerp will be an Anchor Port for this magnificent event, which will delight hundreds of thousands of spectators again in the coming editions in 2026 and 2030."*

Vice-Mayor Annick De Ridder: “*This is such wonderful news for all lovers of The Tall Ships Races, but also for Antwerp. It allows us to further restore the link between the river Scheldt and Antwerp, and also to highlight our maritime history and our position as a world port. I am therefore delighted that the ‘cathedrals of the sea’ and their crews will be visiting Antwerp again in 2026 and 2030.”*

Tall Ships Races International Ltd CEO, Alan James: *“We are delighted to partner with Antwerp for the launch of our Anchor Port scheme. We have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the city and port over a number of events and eagerly look forward to continuing this in 2026 and 2030. Our shared principles of international friendship and understanding, and the development of young people through the sail training experience, will help us to continue to build better lives for the young people of today, tomorrow and beyond. With rich maritime heritage and ongoing living connection to the seas, Antwerp is perfectly positioned to help us continue to develop The Tall Ships Races as a world renowned and landmark event.”*

**Rich maritime history**

Every arrival of The Tall Ships Races highlights the rich maritime history and the intense link between the city and the port. It also offers the city of Antwerp and Port of Antwerp-Bruges an excellent platform to showcase important innovations and sustainable initiatives. Most importantly though, it provides a crucial positive social impact by fostering understanding across cultures and nations for young people, and providing them life changing development and experiences through sail training.

This is the case for around a hundred young people from Belgium who, after an inclusive selection process, take part as members of the Antwerp Crew.

**Ongoing commitment**

By means of an ongoing sail training programme in collaboration with maritime partners, the City of Antwerp and the Port of Antwerp-Bruges commit to making and keeping the event visibile, even in years when the Races don’t call at Antwerp. The aim is to increase public support for Antwerp as a port city and for its port.