

Let your spirit set sail



Thames Estuary and North Sea Coast

From Gravesend (England) to Emden (East Frisia)

Thu 24 May 2018 – Sat 02 June 2018



Skyscrapers in London's financial district and the Thames barrier – an unusual backdrop for the Eye of the Wind. The festive occasion for the trip to Gravesend near the British capital is not the royal wedding of the heir to the throne, Prince Harry, which will have taken place five days earlier, but the 40th anniversary of Operation Drake, an expedition trip and circumnavigation of the world with our ship.

After crossing the English Channel, we will sail along the Dutch coast and the West Frisian chain of islands before heading for the seaport of Emden with our 'tall ship'.

This is where you will go on board: Gravesend, England

Our crew will welcome you on board at the English port town of Gravesend on the southern bank of the Thames. Embarkation will take place at 19:00 hours. Afterwards, you will have dinner together in the comfortable lounge, where you will quickly feel at home on the Eye of the Wind's deck and get to know your fellow sailors.

The small town with its British working-class charm lies opposite of Tilbury, the third-largest seaport in England, and about halfway between the Thames estuary and London. Life in this small and tranquil maritime town takes place between the Royal Terrace Pier and the Clock-tower. In the pub just down the road you can get a pint of local beer to go with a hamburger and chips. A big advantage is the fact that the park, a museum, shops and the railway station are located directly at the harbour. The drive from King's Cross station in the heart of the metropolis of London to Gravesend only takes around 20 minutes!

It's time to 'cast off!' and set sail down the Thames

Next morning, after safety instructions and an introduction to sailing, it will soon be time to cast off and set sail down the Thames. After leaving the actual course of the river, we will reach the wide estuary of the Thames after about 30 nautical miles. Here we can see the estuary's maze of sandbanks and shallow water, which is traversed by half a dozen fairways. We will stay within sight of the shoreline and coast, making this trip ideal for sailing beginners. Even during the few days on board, you will enjoy the comfort and excellent on-board cuisine, experience genuine traditional seamanship, and get a taste of how it feels being back on shore after a day at sea.





All hands on deck or all laid back – the choice is yours!

As we are now in the tidal waters with their strong currents and extremely high traffic density, there will not only be a nautical chart on the navigation table, but also a tidal stream atlas and a tidal calendar. Where the North Sea and the Thames meet, you can see world trade rushing over the water through a traffic separation area, which is almost like a motorway. Whether you enjoy this spectacle or decide to participate actively on board – the choice is yours. Of course, you can just enjoy watching the sailing manoeuvres and the traditional seamanship in action.

Stopover and shore leave in Ramsgate (Kent County)

The following day we are going to moor in Ramsgate at the northeastern end of Kent County. The once famous seaside resort still radiates the glamorous charm of long-gone decades. Although the lively resort has seen better times as a getaway – the coffeehouse culture, the old houses around the harbour and the fine sandy beach make a visit to the city absolutely worth it.

Days at sea: Nature, relaxation and pleasure

The next section of the trip will take us along the island chain of the West Frisian Islands. In the spring weather, the North Sea unfolds its rough charm, and a fresh breeze blows through the rigging. You will get to know the Eye of the Wind as a seaworthy and reliable ship that has proven itself in all weather conditions. The fresh sea air is known to make you hungry – so look forward to our excellent on-board cuisine, which will surprise you every day with varied creations from the galley cookbook. If you like, you can just make yourself comfortable below deck in the comfortable lounge, browse through a good book from the large on-board library, or see which DVDs are available. In cloudy weather, you can always warm up with a cup of tea or coffee in the galley.



This is where you will disembark: Emden, East Frisia

When we arrive in Emden, everything will be revolving around small fish: the Matjestage (literally translated as Soused Herring Days) will be celebrated for the 29th time in the seaport town. The event goes back to a herring fishing tradition of more than 450 years in Emden, which ensured the daily income of many families. Since herring fishing in East Frisia was relocated to Bremerhaven, the Matjesfest commemorates the old tradition. During the festival, many traditional ships from Germany and abroad will moor at the inland harbour and Ratsdelft, bringing back a touch of long-gone maritime romanticism to the city. In the evening, various live bands provide the right entertainment for strolling over the festival grounds.



Six good reasons to go:

- Attractive ports of embarkation and disembarkation: Gravesend (near London) and Ramsgate
- Thames estuary, English Channel and Frisian Islands: safe sailing in coastal waters
- Active sailing and manoeuvring on a 100-year-old windjammer
- Excellent onboard cuisine, delicious meals from morning to evening
- A maritime experience for 'ship spotters' and photographers, too
- „Ender Matjestage“ event upon arrival at the port of disembarkation



Journey time:

Thu 24 May 2018 – Sat 02 June 2018

This trip can also be booked in two separate stages:

Trip No. 20 • from Gravesend to Ramsgate • 24 May – 27 May

Trip No. 21 • from Ramsgate to Emden • 27 May – 02 June

Services included:

- 9 nights' accommodation aboard the Tall Ship Eye of the Wind.
- Accommodation in a comfortable double cabin with hot and cold running water, shower, toilet, and air conditioning (single cabin surcharge).
- Full board (including all meals, soft drinks, coffee & tea).
- Lounge with TV/DVD and extensive on-board library.
- The tour price includes VAT.

Not included:

Arrival and departure, shore excursions and alcoholic beverages.

We gladly assist you in the individual planning of your arrival and departure. Please contact us if necessary in a timely manner.

Please consider the following notes on the itinerary:

The indicated ports are optional. The ship's management reserves the right to change the itinerary at short notice depending on wind and weather conditions.

Photos:

courtesy of Frank Anders; Emden Tourismus und Marketing GmbH.

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