

*Let your spirit set sail*



## *Atlantic Crossing under Sails*

### **Stage 2: From the Azores to Normandy**

Thu 02 April 2020 ⇨ Fri 17 April 2020

Evergreen islands of pristine beauty lie between America and Europe: the Azores. For the Eye of the Wind, they are the starting point for the second stage of an Atlantic crossing between Bermuda and the European coast. A tributary of the Gulf Stream guarantees a balanced and mild climate with spring temperatures of around 20 degrees. The all-embracing ocean provides fresh sailing winds and healthy sea air. On this two-week cruise, you will experience an unforgettable active holiday under sail. At the same time, you will get to know the ship as a place of tranquility and relaxation. Our destination is the port city Cherbourg on the French coast of the Channel.



#### **This is where you will embark: Ilha do Faial, the 'Blue Island'**

The 16-day trip starts in the harbour of Horta on Ilha do Faial, which is also called Ilha Azul, the 'Blue Island', because of the blue hydrangea hedges that stretch for many kilometers across the island. This destination can be reached from many international airports with a stopover via Lisbon.

Embarkation takes place at 19:00 hours. Afterwards, there will be dinner together in the comfortable lounge, where you will quickly feel at home on the Eye of the Wind's deck and soon get to know your fellow sailors. Make the most of your stay with a day of exploration of the fifth-largest of the 'Hawk Islands', the literal translation of the Azores. Thanks to the fact that there is little traffic and few tourists, you can go hiking in absolute peace and quiet. Breathtaking routes lead across the densely vegetated island, along the cliffs, around the crater lake and to the lighthouse in the west.

The picturesque port of Horta is a wonderful place for every circumnavigator to stop. The legendary Peter Café Sport is a popular meeting place where skippers, divers, whale watchers and locals can chat and enjoy a glass of the 'best Gin and Tonic in the world', surrounded by souvenir photos, ship models and tail flags.



Our tip: Don't forget to sign one of the 70 or more guest books. On the upper floor, the founder, one of the last whalers in the Azores, has set up a small scrimshaw museum with artistically crafted whale bones and whale teeth.

By the way, it is a custom among sailors to perpetuate their names on the pier of Horta with a picture. The Eye of the Wind's crew has already been artistically active here (photo left).

### A romantic windjammer feeling and a sense of freedom

From Horta, our course leads past Pico, the larger neighbouring island. At a height of 2351 meters, the towering mountain of the same name is Portugal's highest peak and the last visible landmark before we sail on to the Atlantic.

Encounters with whales and dolphins are always possible and not unlikely. More than 30 species of whales and dolphins, including the majestic sperm whales, have been spotted in the waters around the Azores.



After the command to "Cast off!" has been given, a pleasant wind will push us through the deep blue water of the seemingly boundless ocean. Any sense of confinement will give way to a feeling of boundless freedom that can only be experienced on the high seas. The smooth and steady swaying of the ship on the waves, the vast ocean, and the soft creaking of the rigging are all you need for a tranquil holiday experience. Now you can relax and feel boundlessly happy.

### Busy maritime traffic at the entrance to the English Channel

Now, the springlike North Atlantic starts to unfold its rough charm, and a fresh wind blows through the rigging. You will get to know the Eye of the Wind as a seaworthy ship that has proven itself in all weather conditions. The heave of the sea and fresh ocean air are known to make sailors hungry – our excellent onboard cuisine will surprise you every day with new creations from the galley cookbook. In the meantime, you can make yourself comfortable below deck in the lounge, read a good book from the onboard library, or browse through our DVD collection. After a few days at sea, we will reach the Celtic Sea and the entrance to the English Channel. Every day, up to 500 vessels are on the move in these sailing waters. This means that there is a lot to see for avid 'ship spotters', as new vessels can be discovered from the deck throughout the day.

Depending on the progress of our journey, we might make an additional stop before reaching our port of destination. Whether and where we go ashore depends only on the wind and weather conditions. Possible places for a shore leave are ...



▷ **Brest in Brittany:** For more than 350 years, the French port city has been an important maritime and naval base. The cityscape is characterised by fortifications, maritime buildings and bridges (photo left). Make the most of your day at the port by visiting the Océanopolis theme park with its 42 seawater aquariums, or catch up on the history of the port at the Musée de la Marine.



▷ **St. Helier / Channel Island Jersey:** This pearl in the bay of Saint-Malo is not only the Eye of the Wind's home port, but also the sunniest of the 'Norman islands'. In a remarkable coastal formation, green banks, rugged cliffs and long sandy beaches alternate and invite for long walks. Enjoy the island flair during a visit to the bustling market hall or a coffee break at Liberation Square.

### This is where you will disembark: Cherbourg in Normandy

Days filled with breathtaking impressions of the nature and seascape of the North Atlantic now lie behind us. At the end of our journey we will reach the port of Cherbourg at the English Channel. Take advantage of your stay for a visit to the Cité de la Mer with its remarkable Titanic exhibition, a huge aquarium and other underwater experiences.

## Seven good reasons to go

- Bluewater sailing in a pleasant sea climate
- Active sailing and manoeuvring on a 100-year-old windjammer ... feel free to participate!
- Attractive ports of departure and arrival: Azores and Cherbourg/Normandy
- Encounters with whales and dolphins are not unlikely
- Two weeks of absolute relaxation in the natural vastness of the North Atlantic
- Excellent onboard cuisine, delicious meals from morning to evening
- "Employee-friendly travel planning": voyage period includes Easter holidays



**Journey time** Thursday 02 April 2020 ⇌ Friday 17 April 2020

## Services included

- 15 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.

## Basic travel information (non-binding information, subject to change)

### Azores (Portugal)

Official website: ▶ [www.visitazores.com](http://www.visitazores.com)

Language: Portuguese

Currency: Euro

Climate / Avg. Temp.: Air 14-21 °C / Water 18 °C

Traffic: right-hand driving

### Cherbourg (France)

Official website: ▶ [www.encotentin.fr/](http://www.encotentin.fr/)

Language: French

Currency: Euro

Climate / Avg. Temp.: Air 7-14 °C / Water 8 °C

Traffic: right-hand driving

**Photo credits** courtesy of Priska Fuhrmann; Jan P. Lauer; visitazoren.de; Regional Tourist Committee of Brittany / Jean-Patrick Gratien; Danny Evans, Jersey Tourism Image Library; FTS Archives.

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