

*Let your spirit set sail*



## *Sailing in the Baltic Sea*

### **and participation in the Rum Regatta**

Wed 20 May 2020 ⇨ Sun 24 May 2020



Since 1981, the Flensburg Rum Regatta has been taking place at the weekend of Ascension day and has developed into the largest North-European meeting for former commercial vessels. The traditional event is the highlight and conclusion of this journey through the Baltic Sea.

From the Kiel Fjord, we first set course for the small Danish port town of Sønderborg, from where the Flensburg Fjord Regatta starts as a feeder cruise to the Rum Regatta. What lies ahead are varied and exciting days on the Baltic Sea and participation in what is a competition of a special though not all too serious kind.

#### **Day 1: Kiel-Holtenau**

Our crew will welcome you on board in Holtenau, on the western shore of the Kiel Fjord. Embarkation takes place at 19:00 hours. After a welcome drink and dinner in the comfortable lounge, you will soon feel at home on the Eye of the Wind's deck and get to know your fellow sailors. During the day, you can watch vessels of all kinds and sizes – from sports yachts to ocean liners – passing by on the world's busiest artificial waterway. On an evening walk to the small Holtenau lighthouse (pictured right), you will get a taste of the nostalgic harbour atmosphere – quite often, numerous old cargo ships and schooners are anchored on the quay at dusk.



#### **Day 2: Setting sail for the Danish South Funen Archipelago and to Sønderborg**

After receiving safety instructions and an introduction to sailing from the ship's crew, you will soon be able to take part in the sailing yourself. Hands-on assistance on deck is always voluntary, so if you want, you can just relax and enjoy watching the sailing manoeuvres and the traditional seamanship in action every day. Soon after breakfast, it will be time to "Cast off!" On the eastern shore of the fjord, we will see Laboe's naval memorial; soon afterwards, we will reach the open Baltic Sea at the Kiel Lighthouse. After a day's sailing, we will cross the invisible German-Danish maritime border and find ourselves in the sheltering harbour of Sønderborg, on the island of Als, which will be our mooring for the night.



Here, numerous ships will be gathering that are taking part in the Rum Regatta. A major attraction is the castle with its park, which is within sight of our mooring spot. A walk along the harbour row with its historic merchant's houses and a stroll through the Old Town with its typical Danish tranquility should not be missed.

### Day 3: Flensburg-Fjord Regatta

A fleet of numerous historic sailing ships and boats joins the feeder cruise to the Rum Regatta, which will take place the following day. Along the green banks of the Flensburg Fjord we sail into the maritime city center of Flensburg.

The historic seafaring and port city is considered "the home of rum" and the starting point of journeys to the West Indies. Here, in the midst of the romantic old houses of captains and merchants, you can follow the traces of adventure and the smell of salt and tar.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Flensburg was one of the most important commercial ports for the ships of the West Indies fleet. From the Caribbean, they brought raw rum into the city – the numerous sailor shanties about the famous 'bottle of rum' still bear witness to this today. Over the centuries, the rum manufacturers of Flensburg have continuously blended and refined the strong and clear drink, which gets its brownish colour from being stored in wooden barrels. In the heyday of rum there were over 200 'rum houses' in Flensburg – in the evening, we will certainly have the opportunity to try a glass of the locally produced drink in a cosy harbour pub.

### Day 4: The Rum Regatta – Second-place wins the first prize

This is how the organizers describe the basic idea of their event: "The Rum Regatta bears the name 'Regatta' – after all, you have to give it a name that suits Flensburg as the city of rum and is short and catchy. But the Rum Regatta is a sailing fleet that isn't taken too seriously. And safety is placed above all else: 'Better safe and second than a wrecked and damaged winner!' It's the taking part that counts. Those who can't help it and want to come first will be mercilessly made fun of – we have the most shameful prizes under the northern sun – and the second place will be rewarded with a giant bottle of RUM. This is the custom in Flensburg and this is the way it will always be! The deeper meaning: Tradition is all about carrying the flame, not worshipping ashes.

'Traditional seamanship' and 'good seafaring customs' refer to knowledge, ability, responsibility, respect and consideration – not only towards one's own ship and crew but also towards the others. It is about the safety of all ships involved, fairness and a clean, professional seafaring behavior that lives up to the tradition that our ships document."

The starting gun for the Rum Regatta will be fired mid-morning. From the harbour, we will set course for the Danish Okseøer islands and let the seemingly endless stream of historic boats and ships pass us by. Do not miss the 'prize wasting' after the race has finished – this creatively-comical award ceremony of a different kind is the secret highlight of every Rum Regatta.

### Day 5: Disembarkation in Flensburg

You can enjoy your breakfast on Sunday morning in the midst of the rousing port life of Flensburg. Disembarkation is scheduled for 10 am. Here you will bid the crew and your fellow travelers farewell and leave the ship with a sailor's bag full of travel memories.



## Six good reasons to go

- Participation in the traditional Flensburg Rum Regatta
- Ideal for beginners: "Tall ship taster trip" in coastal waters
- Well-balanced ratio between time at sea and shore leave
- Active sailing and manoeuvring on a 100-year-old windjammer ... feel free to participate!
- Excellent onboard cuisine, delicious meals from morning to evening
- Fantastic regatta atmosphere with our friendly staff and other ships' crews



## Journey time

Wednesday 20 May 2020 ⇨ Sunday 24 May 2020

## Services included

- 4 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.

## Photo credits

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