



THREEMASTEDTOPSAILSCHOONER

OOSTERSCHELDE

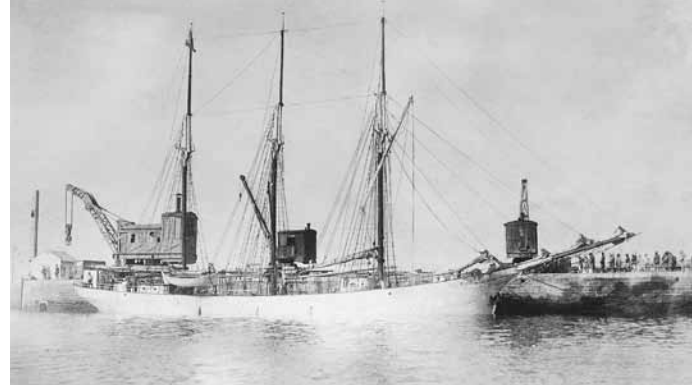
GENERAL INFORMATION

ROTTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

HISTORY OF THE 'OOSTERSCHELDE'

The three-masted topsail schooner 'Oosterschelde' was built in 1918 as sail-powered freighter. The vessel plied the European waters and was regularly seen off the coast of Morocco and on the Mediterranean Sea. In 1930 heavier and modern diesel engines were placed and the rigging was reduced. From 1939 the vessel sailed under foreign flags and underwent a drastic conversion in 1950 into a modern coaster. In 1988, the 'Oosterschelde' was brought back to the Netherlands. The Rotterdam Sailing Ship Foundation took charge of the fundraising necessary for the financing of the restoration of the vessel to its authentic condition. The 'Oosterschelde' is now the only remaining representative of a large fleet of topsail schooners that used to sail under the Dutch flag at the beginning of the previous century. She is registered as a monument by the Dutch ministry of Culture.

The 'Oosterschelde' is self-maintaining and is deployed in domestic and foreign ports for presentation and promotion activities for businesses and other organisations. The vessel also sails along interesting coasts and these trips can be booked individually. In addition to many European countries, a visit was also paid to Spitsbergen. In 1998 the 'Oosterschelde' completed a journey of one and a half years around the world. The ship sailed to the tropics, but also made expeditions to Antarctica, the Falklands and South Georgia.



SAILING AT SEA

Sailing with a large and genuine sailing ship is a very special experience. Account has to be taken of the vagaries of weather at all times. Conditions at sea are never constant. This can mean change of plans underway. For longer crossings the vessel sails on through the nights, with crewmembers standing watch. You will be assigned together with the crew to sail, steer and navigate the ship. Sailing experience is not required for this. The crew will be happy to explain the function of all the ropes, halyards and sheets to you. Our experience has been that most persons on board want to participate actively in sailing the vessel.

TRIPS ASHORE

While the 'Oosterschelde' is anchored, a sloop and a dinghy are available for making trips ashore. One of the crewmembers will take you to shore and pick you up again safely.



LIFE ON BOARD

The 'Oosterschelde' has become a favourite of sea and nature fans. People do not sail with her for a luxury cruise. The main feature is always active and direct exposure to the sea and sailing, the region being travelled and its fauna. The ship is nevertheless furnished comfortably and supplied with all modern conveniences. All cabins are fitted with a washbasin with hot and cold running water. Showers are communal. In the spacious and stylishly appointed salon there are reading tables, seating areas and a piano. The floor heating and wood-burning stove ensure an agreeable temperature inside. In the salon the captain or first mate will inform you on the progress of the voyage and the weather on a daily basis. The library offers books on the area being travelled, the flora and fauna and other ships. General literature is also available, as are a number of DVD's and magazines. Life on board is enhanced by the good meals prepared by our professional chef.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

The 'Oosterschelde' is equipped to sail worldwide. For this purpose the vessel holds all the safety certificates required by Dutch law. The qualified and experienced crew of at least 7 persons also contributes to ensuring safe passage. Each sailing area requires special preparations because there are no facilities along the way to repair something or to procure parts. We usually have to manage with whatever is onboard.

We are able to produce drinking water from seawater using a filter system. Food is stored aboard immediately prior to departure.

Some 15,000 litre of diesel oil will also be bunkered for the heating, for the generators for electrical power supply and for the main engine. There are two rubber dinghies onboard with outboard motor and a wooden sloop for transport to the shore. In the interests of safety there are safety vests and life rafts, fire detection and fire extinction installations, a very extensive medicine cabinet, Epirb, radar transponder, etc. For navigation and communications purposes the 'Oosterschelde' is equipped with a radar set, two com- passes, satellite navigation system, an echo sounder, a sextant, an SSB radio, an Inmarsat-C-fax terminal, 4 marine telephones, etc.

THE CREW

The crewmembers are highly experienced ocean going sailors, which often sail with the 'Oosterschelde'. The crew holds all the required certificates and diplomas and is qualified to sail worldwide. On thematic voyages in special areas, the crew is supplemented by (nature) guides. These guides are especially selected based on their broad knowledge of plants, birds, sea life and/or history of the area. The atmosphere onboard is informal.

WHAT SHOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU

Every berth is supplied with a duvet and sheets. Sleeping bags are therefore not required. A small rucksack or bag is convenient during walks. Suitcases take up a great deal of space in the cabin; it's better to carry your luggage in bags. On deck we recommend shoes with somewhat rough and by preference soft soles. On land we advise firm, waterproof walking boots. Other practical items are your health insurance papers and of course a valid passport.

Other items to be considered are:

- Binoculars, not only for watching birds, dolphins and whales, but also for looking at the coast.
- Sunglasses and suntan oil.
- Warm and waterproof and windproof clothing. A number of thin layers of clothing provide better protection against the cold than one thick layer. Ashore less heavy clothing than a sailing suit is recommended.
- Boots. When stepping out of the dinghy to reach the shore you will regularly step in water up to your ankles. Simple rubber boots with warm socks will give the necessary protection.
- Photographic equipment or video camera.

SEA SICKNESS

The wind pressure in the sails results in a sailing ship lying much steadier in the water than a motorized ship. Almost everybody becomes used to the movement of the ship within one day. Should you however be apprehensive of difficulties during the crossings you can stick special plasters behind your ears, or take seasickness pills.

The shipping company provides optimal safety for all guests, but that does not relieve you of your own responsibilities. On a moving ship accidents can happen easily and when you are dependant on medicines, it can have serious effects when you are seasick. Furthermore, medical care is not directly available out at sea, so if your mental or physical health is not optimal you will be at extra risk during a sea voyage. For instance (but not limited to), if you are a bad walker, have diabetes, a heart- or vascular decease or epilepsy, if you use blood thinners or medicines that make you less alert and in any doubt, we urgently ask you to gather information from your doctor. On the booking form you have to fill in any medical information that might be of importance onboard.

CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Family and friends at home can follow the ships news and progress via our website (News Page). In case of an emergency the ship can be reached directly by Iridium satellite telephone. The number is: +881631850669. However this services is rather costly. It is best to contact the shipping office. We can contact the vessel via the Satcom.

INSURANCES

The vessel is insured for possible legal liability caused during your stay onboard. However, the 'Oosterschelde' does not cover any damage sustained on your transfer to and from the ship or during trips ashore. Of course you have health insurance. Most of the time your insurance will not cover the costs to repatriate you in case of illness or accidents abroad. For both reasons you at least need a travel insurance, possibly in combination with a cancellation insurance. For inhabitants of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg and Germany we are able to arrange these insurances.

MONEY DURING A VOYAGE

Before your departure the shipping company will send you an invoice for your stay and the meals during your stay onboard. The consumptions will have to be paid onboard in cash at the end of the voyage.

MEALS ON BOARD

Our experienced cook will prepare three well-balanced meals a day. In between meals snacks will be served. Coffee, tea and milk are included in the price. Other drinks will be charged at normal bar prices at the end of the journey.

HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION

You can make a reservation by completing and returning the booking request form. Required on this form are your passport details, date of birth etc. We need these details in order to prepare the mandatory passenger list for customs and excise. For this reason we ask you to complete the form in full. Of course this information will be treated with care. After receiving the form we shall send a confirmation and invoice with the terms of payment. 14 to 7 days prior to departure you will receive the final information.

TRANSFERS

Our shipping company can assist you with arranging your transfer to the ship. We try to gather information for a favourable schedule. In most cases we will bring you into contact with a specially selected travel agency that is well acquainted with our program. Naturally, you are free to arrange your own ticket but in that case ensure that you are onboard at the agreed time.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Type	Three-masted topsail schooner
Construction year	1917
Restauration	1988-1992
Homeport	Veerhaven, Rotterdam
Length overall	50 metres
Length over the transom	40,12 metres
Beam	7,50 metres
Draught	3,00 metres
Mast height	36 metres
Sail surface	891 m ²
Engine	Deutz 6 cilinder, 360 pk
2-person cabins	6
4-person cabins	3
Toilets	5
Showers	5
Capacity voyages	24 persons
Capacity daytrips	120 persons
Call Sign	PGNP
IMO-number	5347221
MMSI-number	246011000
Iridium	+881631850669



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