

THALATTA Educational Cruises

(A Registered Charity - No: 1128353 (formerly 263100))

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR ACCOMPANYING TEACHERS/LEADERS

Dear

We are pleased to know that you are bringing a group to the THALATTA this season, and hope that you will have an enjoyable and interesting time on your 5-day cruise.

Nominal Roll Form: It is essential that this is completed together with two photocopies and sent with final payment 3 weeks before your sailing date. This allows the crew to cater for people with special dietary needs.

Victualling: Unless you say otherwise, we will order standard provisions to be delivered on board for you.

Contacting the Ship:

- i) On a Monday morning, should you have any difficulty or delay while travelling to join the ship, please telephone Joe Brannigan on (01621) 854181 or 07946 165212.
- ii) During the week, if it is essential for the ship to be contacted (NB in cases of life-and-death emergency only) the school should telephone either the Captain or Joe Brannigan.

Preparing the Group for Living and Working on the THALATTA: Please ensure that your group understands in advance these safety points:

- whilst on board the barge everybody must respect the authority of the Captain and the permanent crew.
- lifejackets are always to be worn on deck while the vessel is moving.
- no smoking (except for responsible adults) is allowed on board. (On deck only).
- swimming will only be as and when authorised by the crew.
- Shore leave is sometimes made impossible by tidal and weather conditions when the vessel is "anchored off", therefore parents should not worry if their child does not telephone home every day.
- Hammocks must not be used during the daytime.

The THALATTA's well-established safety rules may perhaps at first seem rigorous (compared with, say a carefree camping weekend) but these have kept everyone safe throughout our years of operating with youngsters.

Your Role on Board: Your own supervisory role on board is extremely valuable for a smooth-running, happy and successful week.

May we ask for the support of your constant vigilance in matters of **SAFETY**, particularly in:

- ensuring the proper fastening of lifejackets
- checking the scrupulous care of lifejackets when not in use
- being always alert to the danger of fire at sea
- appreciating the importance of hygiene in the toilet compartments and kitchen
- recognising that skylarking on deck or in hammocks could lead to unnecessary accidents which would present a much graver problem here than ashore.

Daily Routine on Board: Before arriving we would ask you to divide the group into two teams, to take turns with the cooking and cleaning duties and the deck duties. A wall sheet on board provides a framework of daily duties. Duties change at each mealtime.

NOTE: In the case of mixed sex groups, it is preferred that the teams are mixed too.

One of the ship's officers will explain the routine when you arrive.

Care of Equipment: We provide lifejackets, waterproof suits, hammocks, blankets, pillows and kitchen equipment for the use of all groups. Games and puzzles are available.

Group leaders are asked to give close and constant attention to the care of equipment, in order that the highest standards can be maintained throughout THALATTA's 26 week season.

Please report any breakage or losses.

Bedding: All the group should bring sleeping bags. We will have blankets available for extra warmth in cold weather. NB: If used please check that they are kept clean.

For children with a bed-wetting problem please bring extra sleeping bags and a large sheet of waterproof material to protect the hammock. Absorbent padding, available at chemists, will also be useful.

Conduct of the Group: The Trust asks party leaders to keep in mind that your group's behaviour in local waterside communities will reflect on their ship. This is very important to the future of THALATTA, since we necessarily rely on the goodwill of Port Authorities etc. together with a vital element of financial support from many local individuals and businesses.

Each child enjoys a generous subsidy from this charitable income of the Trust: in return may we ask you to take responsibility for the way the group represents the ship, while on board and on shore leave.

THALATTA encourages a sharing and responsible attitude. Young people must and do learn it is important that everyone works together to create a happy atmosphere. If an individual disrupts the whole group or seriously affects safety, he or she may have to be sent home.

NB: (This has only happened once in all our years of sailing!)

Quietness at Night: It is sometimes not appreciated that noise from the group during the night disturbs everybody on board. Group leaders are asked to ensure that the children are completely quiet until it is time to get up in the morning. Usually we are up at 7.00 a.m. and lights out time is 9.30 p.m.

Radios, CD Players & Mobile Phones: As leader you are of course most welcome to these for your own personal use in your cabin.

But you will see that our Kit List tells the youngsters to leave theirs at home. They can disrupt the safe and efficient operation of the ship.

Also, part of the proven benefit of our "Week in Another World" lies in youngsters experiencing their voyage without a background of continuous pop music and mobile phones. (We have observed how their instinct to take refuge in this, when available, inevitable deprives them of a thorough and alert involvement with their new surroundings: the fostering of social activities is also stunted.)

So instead let's throw them on their own resources and see if they can survive, like their ancestors before them, *without* canned music and mobiles! Maybe they'll even make their own music....

A Simpler Lifestyle: You'll probably agree that the strange new life on THALATTA is very different from anything your children have been used to. We find that they can appreciate it more, and consequently gain much greater benefit from the experience, if they understand just a little of both the ship's background and the social history context. Perhaps they can be encouraged to find out in advance something about the lifestyle of an average family at the time THALATTA was built, 1906; also about life at sea in the days of sail.

Electrical Supply: For those interested in recording their own video tape on board, we confirm that a 240 volt power source is available for several hours each evening, i.e. when generator is running. (It is advisable to bring a second battery pack if possible.)

Focus of your Week: A wide range of environmental studies can be undertaken during your week, if you wish.

Some leaders prepare their own projects. Others make use of the East Coast Sail Trust Worksheets: copies available on board THALATTA. Should you have a particular project

or any specific ideas on what you should like to achieve, please let us know. The Permanent Crew has wide local knowledge and is pleased to help.

Alternatively you may prefer us to focus instead simply on practical aspects of the week, with the assistance of the crew - e.g. understanding charts, buoyage, sea safety sense.

Log Books: Children are normally encouraged to keep their own "Log Books" or diaries, recording their experiences.

Before Leaving the Ship: The Captain would be glad if you would kindly remind your group of their responsibility for the thorough cleaning of their accommodation, ready for the next group.

The Captain and his Crew look forward to welcoming you on board THALATTA for the 2012 season.

We wish you a most successful week, and thank you now for your assistance on the points mentioned.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Brannigan
Chairman of Directors of the
East Coast Sail Trust Ltd