

VOYAGE REPORT



AYDEN PHILLIPS

Hello my name is Ayden and I am a 19 year old student from Girvan, Scotland. I was a young person who went to Girvan Youth Trust on regular nights to hang out. I am now looking at becoming an adult volunteer with the GYT. I was offered to go on this voyage by Girvan Youth Trust back in October and when they asked I didn't think twice about it and agreed to the offer as I knew it would be a great life experience for anyone whether they had been at sea before or not.

This was my first ever sailing voyage on a Tall Ship; I have only ever done a 3-day weekend in a 6 man sailing yacht around the Isle of Cumbrae on the West Coast of Scotland - this was also with Girvan Youth Trust.

On the 27th December 2013 Lucy, Rachael and I left Girvan on the train to Glasgow Airport picking up Zack (the other young person on the voyage) at Maybole on the way. After a couple of hours walking about and then getting dinner in the airport we headed for our plane to Gatwick where we would spend the night in a Travelodge. The next morning we had a 7am flight to Barcelona so we were up at 5am and ready to go.

Day 1 – Arriving at Tenacious

We landed in Barcelona around 10:30am and the sun was blazing down - it was great. After we had reached the city centre by bus we decided to head towards the boat. After a good 30-45 minutes of walking we had arrived at Tenacious.

We still had a couple of hours before we could join on board, but we were allowed to store all of our bags on the boat so that we could spend a few hours sightseeing in the city where we saw different statues and street performers. After we spent a couple of hours in the city we headed back to the boat and went aboard.

Once we were aboard we met up with some of the other voyage crew and we also met the permanent crew and were informed of which watch we would each be in. I was in Forward Port (FP). Later on that night once everyone was aboard we all met up in the lower mess and we were given a talk from Captain Darren and First Mate Ali.

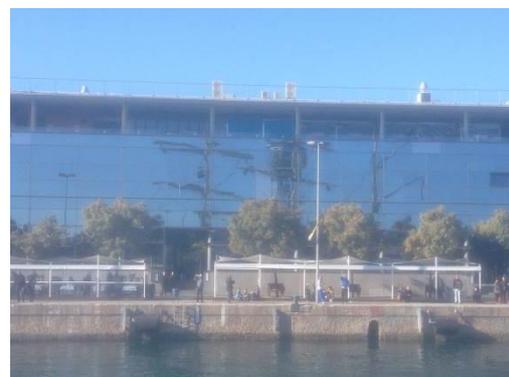
We then all sat down to dinner made by the on board cooks and then had a night to ourselves where we all got together as a big group and went a walk into the city.

The next morning I was on harbour watch with Lucy from 6am – 8am. This is where we just make sure no-one comes on-board the ship and make sure anyone hadn't fallen out of their bunk. On this watch we also have to check all the mooring lines that kept the boat tied to the harbour are secure and we also get to do the morning wake up calls at 7.30am.

Day 2 – Leaving Barcelona

After our first night on the boat everyone was woken up at 7:30am for breakfast at 8.00am. We were then given places to be when the boat was leaving (Harbour Stations) and we were told to lift all the fenders up and untie them once the boat was clear of the port (theses were huge balls and some tyres that stopped the boat from hitting the harbour wall). We had to wait for a pilot to come on board before we could leave. Once he was aboard we set off, once we were clear of the port we lifted the fenders and then carried them to the front of the boat where they were stored under the stairs and tied up.

As we were leaving the port there was a huge crowd to watch us leave and there was a great reflection of the ship off the side of one



of the buildings. Once we were clear of the port the pilot got off and we headed out to sea. For most of our first day at sea we were sailing under the power of the engines, the captain then turned off the engines later that day and we got ready to set the sails for the first time. We had to flake all the ropes that were connected to the sails that we were going to be using at that time. We had to flake the ropes out along the deck so that they didn't get tangled as they were pulled to let the sails out.

Once the all 5 sails were out and secure, we coiled the remaining ropes back up and then met at the main mast for smoko which was a tea break with different cakes and biscuits.

At 4pm I started on Mess Duty, this is where I was in a team of 4 who help out in the galley and the messes. This involves setting up the tables for dinner that night and breakfast and lunch the next day, we also had to serve the voyage crew their dinner and clean up afterwards by clearing the tables and washing the dishes which wasn't the best part of the trip but it had to be done.



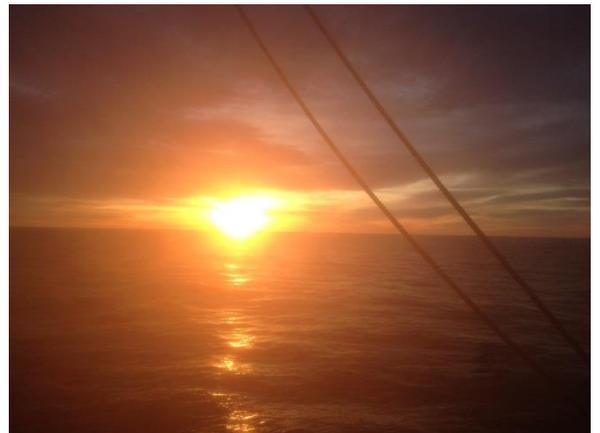
Day 3 – More Sailing

On day 3 there was not much to look at on the horizon except water and the sunrise.

I was on mess duty again for breakfast and lunch so I was not really involved in any of the on deck jobs this day until about 4pm when I was finished and swapped with the next group.

Once I was on deck everyone was getting ropes ready for turning the sails to face the opposite side of the boat to help us turn towards land. This is called 'tacking' the ship. After this we all sat down to dinner and then most people headed to bed as there was not much to do.

The next day was New Year's Eve. When we were all up an on deck we could see land. We were told that this was where we were going to be docking for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. The place we could see was Denia.



Days 4 & 5 - Denia

We docked in Denia on New Year's Eve; while we were arriving I was on the Fore Deck ready with a line that I had to throw to the linesmen so that they would be able to pull the ropes down to secure the ship to the harbour. Once the boat was secured to the harbour we had to bring down the gangway by lifting it off the deckhouse roof and placing it down at the side of the deck ready to be fastened to the ship and ready for people to use.

Once everything had been finished everyone was ready to step ashore, have a look around the town and go for lunch in a local café.



There were a lot of nice views from the harbour and there were a lot of nice sights in the town. We spent most of the afternoon in town but we then headed back to the ship for dinner.

New Year's Eve celebrations on the ship started with each watch being given 4 balloons in which we had to use to make some sort of model to show off later that night after dinner.

After a lot of planning and the slight use of Google and YouTube my watch decided to try and make an Angry Bird out of the balloons that were given to us. After everyone had a model of anything they could think of everyone (including the permanent crew) sat down to a dinner of traditional Spanish Tapas.

After everyone had a lovely dinner the balloon presentation began, one watch had made an attempt at a replica of Tenacious, and next there was a wine glass (I think?) after that we brought out our balloon which we had decided to put an Angry Bird hat on it as it looked nothing like a bird, it just looked like a load of balloons stuck together and the final watch had used each balloon to make replicas of 4 of the permanent crew, Darren, Ali, Ben and Oli. The balloon ship was finally named the winner.



New Year's Day was nearly here and everyone met up on the bridge with a glass of champagne and party poppers. We also had to eat a grape for each chime of the bell. Most of us then went ashore to see what there was happening and there was a big party in the square which had live music.

New Year's Day morning came, everyone had late breakfast and then we all went quayside to have our pictures taken beside the ship and we were then told that it was time for a Happy Hour.

After lunch it was time for assisted climbs aloft. This is when anyone who needed help to climb up the rigging was given the chance to. Anyone in a wheelchair can also go up as they just had to put a harness onto the wheelchair and then the rest of the voyage crew hauled him up to where two of the permanent crew were waiting to pull him into the 1st platform.



We then spent a second day in Denia and a group of us went along to the beach for a New Year's Day Dip in the Sea.

We also spent a second night alongside in Denia and a lot of the voyage crew took the chance to have a meal ashore at a nice restaurant in the town.



Day 6 – Leaving Denia

On the 2nd January we left Denia and started to set sail for our return to Barcelona.

The engines were on to start us off and we were heading towards strong winds so we had to tack ship (this is where we have to get a group on each side of the ship and we had to untie the ropes and one side pulled as one side eased the ropes through and this made the sails change to face a different direction).

After this was done, a short while later the wind decided to die down so we had to sail under the motor for a while. The wind then picked up and during the night we managed to sail at around a speed of 7 knots during the night.

Day 7 – The Final Stretch

Our last morning at sea had a treat in store for not only my watch, but the whole voyage crew. About an hour into our 8am – 12.30pm watch a group of pilot whales came alongside the ship. We all had an un-missable view of the pilot whales that were swimming in and around the ship. A lot of the time they just floated alongside us. I have never seen whales so close before.

When the whales eventually disappeared we climbed aloft to put the sails away. In the afternoon the pilot boarded at 16.30 ready to take us into Barcelona.

We all ate on board before heading ashore later that night.



Day 8 – Final Goodbyes

Time to say farewell to most of the Voyage Crew, after one last Happy Hour and a final debrief from Captain Darren a large group of us got together and headed into the city for a few last hours sightseeing and souvenir buying opportunities.

We then headed back to the ship and said our final goodbyes to the remaining Voyage Crew and the Permanent Crew. We then hailed taxis and headed off to the airport.

Thank You's

I would like to thank Girvan Youth Trust and the Jubilee Sailing Trust for the opportunity it was a very enjoyable voyage and great experience. I would love to go again sometime soon. I would also like to thank the Royal Thames Yacht Club for providing the bursary funding.

I feel the voyage gave me a lot more confidence to talk to new people and to work in large groups with people I only just met. It has given me a feel for what it is like to be at sea. This is a great part of experience as I have also applied for the Royal Navy and this has given me a feel for what it is like to be on a ship at sea. It has made me keener to try and get into the Navy as I would love to spend more time at sea and being able to help different people in different situations and would love it as a full time job.

I believe this would benefit a lot of other young people as it's a great experience and gives them a chance to see what it's like at sea and what different things can happen. It also gives them more experience and could give them a lot more confidence than they have ever felt as this happened to me.

