

What to Expect on Board Excelsior

A trip aboard Excelsior is a unique experience; no two trips are the same.

ARRIVAL - Before boarding the ship the group are given a quick welcome and safety brief on how to board. They are then asked to leave their bags on the quay and come aboard to look round. Once they have satisfied their curiosity they then load their bags as a team.

INTRODUCTIONS -The crew introduce themselves and their roles on board and the group are asked to introduce themselves and talk about what they would like from their time on board, expectations, worries what they hope to learn etc..

SAFETY - briefings, including what to do in the event of a fire, flood and falling off. Equipment such as life jackets are explained, issued and fitted. A domestic briefing is also done at this time such as using the heads (toilet) use of the stove etc.

CHART - briefing, quick explanation of weather and tide along with a discussion of possibilities for the trip are discussed. Once the group has decided on the intended destinations, watches are issued.

ON DECK - As we set off the group handle lines, sort out fenders and stow mooring gear. We then start hoisting sail, names and functions of the equipment they are using are explained in tool box talks - things are about to become apparent that there has to be a lot of team work to get the sails up.



AT SEA - Once underway the watch system starts, this includes work at the helm, by compass, wind, sea and a point of reference. sail handling , the off watch will be, preparing food, cleaning as well as sleeping,. Watches are normally 3 hours long then rotate, normally there are 3 watches with a crew member as watch leader.

MOORING - All hands on deck for dropping sail and preparing warps or anchor. Once secured there is a group debrief and decisions are made such as how much time ashore.

There is also time made for a review of the plan for the next passage which often becomes a talk on experiences so far.

ACTIVITIES - such as Mast climbing, Beach BBQ's, Trips into villages, towns and cities, Team Games and taking part in National campaigns such as beach cleans and habitat surveys can all be incorporated in to a trip. As of 2017 we have also begun working with Coriolis Trading and become part of a sail cargo network.

REVIEW - Informal reviews are held often to encourage the correct use of equipment, communication and for passage planning. As the trip progresses and the skills and understanding from the group develops we encourage more responsibility.

These final reviews are our most rewarding moments where the trainees are able to reflect on their voyage and their personal journey before leaving the ship and returning home.

Find out more www.theexcelsiortrust.co.uk

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