

### Mayflower 400 Voyage

In 1620, the Mayflower set sail with 120 passengers and 30 crew from Plymouth to Massachusetts. 400 events on both sides of the Atlantic are taking place in 2020 to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original voyage.

This voyage is the flagship event for the Mayflower 400 celebrations.

44 enterprising students aged between 16-18 are going to make up the “Mayflower Challengers” from schools across the UK to charter a modern-day tall ship across the Atlantic following the path of the original sailors.



This fresh and challenging experience will nourish resilience, confidence, self-esteem and ultimately build the determination to pursue more successes, to behave better, to work harder and win the affirmation and respect of peers. This shift in character and mindset enables them to embrace a whole set of life skills.

Students who are interested, who are currently in year 10, 11 and 12 now so will all have completed their GCSEs at time of voyage, will be asked to complete an application form. They will go through selection and training before embarking on the 6-week voyage on Blue Clipper.

Once in America they will visit the schools of the American students and take part in a programme of events.

During the voyage schools who have students acting as ambassadors on board will be tracking Blue Clipper’s voyage, involving around 25,000 students in the project. Once challengers return to school they will share their experiences and stories which will impact their peers and friends.

**Dates:**

**6 x 5 day training voyages during the Easter holidays – using two vessels based in the UK – each participant is expected to attend one.**

|   | TS Leila   | TS Maybe    |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> April   | 6 trainees | 14 trainees |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> April  | 6 trainees | 14 trainees |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April | 6 trainees | 14 trainees |

**RYA Sea Survival Training, weekend dates in May and June. Date TBC**

1-day Sea survival training for 48 selected trainees and 4 mentors

**Transatlantic Voyage on board Blue Clipper**

Leg 1. Leave Plymouth, UK on or around 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Arrive in Plymouth, USA by 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 22 trainees, 2 mentors.

Leg 2. Leave Plymouth, USA on or around 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Arrive in Plymouth, UK by September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 24 trainees, 2 mentors.

**The Easter training** and selection voyage will include RYA qualification to Competent Crew or Start Yachting level.

The aim of the course is to introduce the complete beginner to cruising and to teach personal safety, seamanship and helmsmanship to the level required to be a useful crew member. This training allows us to identify anyone with any real concerns or who may need additional support to be able to complete the expedition.

Areas covered include:

- Knowledge of sea terms, parts of a boat, rigging and sails
- Sail handling
- Ropework
- Fire precautions and fire fighting
- Man-overboard procedure
- Emergency equipment
- Manners and customs
- Rules of the road
- Dinghies
- Meteorology
- Sea sickness
- Helmsmanship and sailing
- General duties

After completing the Easter training voyage students will then be invited to a one-day sea survival course prior to the expedition across the Atlantic.

**The expedition** will include crossing the Atlantic Ocean between Plymouth, UK and Plymouth, Boston.

The permanent crew and skippers will be made up of both male and female members who are fully qualified and are all DBS checked and have current child protection training.

A full passport will be required which is valid for 6 months after the end of the voyage to take part.

A visa will be needed to enter America, more information on visas will be provided once enrolled on the programme.

A European health insurance card will also be required, these are free of charge and can be applied for online.

Travel Insurance will be included in the price of the trip, there may be a small additional cost if medical screening is required.

Medical conditions and medications will need to be discussed before the voyage along with any dietary requirements.

You will be required to climb unaided a step ladder of over 2m to access the accommodation areas.



**Blue Clipper** is made up of twin ensuite cabins, 4 berth and 6 berth cabins with portholes to watch the stars.

Each cabin has an electricity point, bedding is provided but you need to bring your own towel.

There is a large communal area with an area to make tea and coffee. There is a saloon on deck level with windows on both sides, so you can enjoy the view without going outside – unless you're on watch.





On board you will be a fully-fledged member of the crew taking part in watches, cooking in the galley, hoisting the sails, helping the ship and navigating. Climbing the mast to stow the top sails or head out onto the bow sprit to stow the jib is all in a days work at sea.

Safety is paramount onboard. Blue clipper is maintained in accordance

with the maritime coastguard agency's code of practice for small commercial vessels. The skipper and crew are responsible for the safety of everyone onboard, a safety briefing occurs at the start of every voyage. All crew members wear lifejackets / harnesses while onboard.



**Funding** is being provided by livery companies in London and other sources to match fund each student. This means the cost of the trip is reduced for each student.

The cost of the trip is approximately £4000 per student.

This includes all travel, training, voyage, insurance, food and Visas.

Each student will be asked to raise around £2000 each and will be supported with enterprise workshops to help facilitate this.

The only additional costs would be spending money once in America for gifts and souvenirs (optional).

**FAQ:**

1. How fast does the boat go? – About 6 knots an hour (7 miles) depending on wind
2. What about toilets and showers? – There are toilets and showers on board Blue Clipper
3. Will I be seasick? – some people experience this; however, it usually doesn't last longer than the first few days
4. Can I smoke onboard? – There is no smoking onboard the vessels

**Student Applications:**

These can be done in several ways:

- The school can select two students they think would be interested and benefit for the trip
- Letters can be sent home (written by contour) which welcomes applications from all students
- Assemblies can be done to relevant year groups who can apply
- Parents evenings can also be run

All students will need to complete an application form, we will be suggesting that they try and raise £500 over the summer holidays and acceptance onto the programme will be finalised in September.

Any further questions please contact [emma@contourschools.co.uk](mailto:emma@contourschools.co.uk) / 07747237099

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### **I've never been sailing before, and I'm worried about not knowing what to do.**

The majority of people who sail with us have never sailed before. Don't worry! The crew will explain things and guide you through everything you need to know to be able to sail the boat. You will get the opportunity to learn lots of new skills and have fun at the same time.

### **Where will we go?**

This totally depends on wind and weather, and the itinerary for the voyage. It's no good planning to go somewhere if the wind is in exactly the wrong direction – or if the forecast says the wind would be wrong for coming back!

### **How fast does the boat go?**

Our average sailing speed is about 6 knots (nautical miles per hour) – that's almost 7 land miles per hour. The maximum speed under sail can be over 10 knots. Under engine the maximum is actually less: only 5 or 6 knots. But sailing is more fun than motoring, so even in light winds we often sail – albeit rather slowly!

### **Can we go ashore?**

There are normally opportunities to go ashore in some of the ports we visit, for shopping, beach BBQs or visits to interesting local sights.

### **What about toilets and showers?**

There are toilets and showers on board Tall Ship Maybe and Tall Ship Blue Clipper. On Maybe there are two shared bathrooms and on Blue Clipper there are ensuite cabins and a shared bathroom in the forepeak. When you arrive at the boat you will be given a housekeeping brief and using the toilets and showers will be explained.

### **Will I be seasick?**

Some people may be seasick but it hardly ever lasts beyond the first day or two. If you are worried, bring your own seasick tablets (ask your chemist which is the best brand for you, especially if you are taking other medication). Some varieties can make you drowsy. Read the instructions: when to take the pills, how many and how often. And tell the staff on board what you are taking.

### **What if I get ill?**

At least one of the staff will be trained in dealing with illness or injury at sea; and we'll get you to a doctor ashore as quickly as possible if necessary. You do need to tell us in advance about any condition you already have. We've had people on the boat with anything from mild asthma to serious medical conditions. Bring any medication, inhalers (and spares) you need – and tell the staff what you are taking. We need to know of any serious medical conditions before you book to ensure we can provide you with the best experience possible.

### **Can I Smoke On Board?**

We do not allow smoking below deck on TS Maybe or TS Blue Clipper. Smoking on deck may be permitted on longer passages at the discretion of the skipper and is designated areas. Smoking is not allowed when you are on watch. Anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed to smoke on board.

### **How can I build up sailing qualifications?**

Bring your RYA logbook if you have one (if not you can buy one on board for £7.50). It allows you to keep track of all your sailing and your qualifications.

### **I have a special interest in navigation / engines / weather etc.**

Tell your watchleader at the start of the trip, and we'll make every effort to help you learn more about anything on board that particularly appeals to you.

### **Can I work towards my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award on board?**

The voyage can count as your residential. Make sure you bring your record book along, and tell the skipper or your watchleader at the start of the trip – then we can help you set goals and watch your progress.

## **PREPARE TO SAIL**

### **Passport and Visa Information**

If your voyage is sailing to foreign shores, you will require a full passport that is valid for six months after the end of the voyage or an identity card. You will be responsible for obtaining any necessary visas.

European citizens can obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC is a replacement for the old E111 and is free. Application forms are available from the post office or via the internet.

### **Personal Travel Insurance**

**Travel Insurance** Is required on all Maybe Sailing vessels.

**Now you have booked and paid for your voyage please ensure that you have appropriate travel insurance.**

Our Vessels are covered by third party liability insurance for serious injury or loss of life, but we strongly advise you to take out travel insurance as soon as you book your holiday. Make sure you find travel insurance that gives you financial protection if you must cancel or curtail your holiday, cover loss or damage to baggage, or incur any additional medical or transport costs. If you have your own annual travel insurance or a cover with your credit or debit card, please check your own policy carefully to make sure it covers sailing/ cruising/ yachting for sailing more than 12 miles from shore.

### **Tall Ship Travel Insurance from Topsail Insurance**

Topsail's policies are tailor-made for **tall ship holidays, whether pilot cutter, ketch, lugger or tall ship**, and have no restrictions as to how far offshore you can sail including Antarctica.

Topsail also provide cover for: <http://www.topsailinsurance.com/maybe-sailing>

- Your journey to and from the voyage.
- Changes in itinerary or the start and end port.
- Climbing aloft – if you wish to do so.
- Airlift from the vessel



## **Medical Conditions**

Please inform us in advance of any medical conditions and medication that you might need to bring on board with you. For both Tall Ship Maybe and Tall Ship Blue Clipper you will be required to climb, unaided, a steep ladder of over 2m to access the accommodation areas.

## **Dietary Requirements**

If you have any special dietary requirements it is we need to know this prior to the voyage in order that we can try to accommodate your requirements in the planned menus.

## **Clothing**

Warm and waterproof clothing is very important as it can get pretty cold during sailing, especially at night even in the summer. A waterproof and windproof jacket and over-trousers are recommended to help keep warm and dry. For the same reason bring rubber boots or waterproof shoes, preferably two pairs in case one gets wet, with some profile on the soles which is necessary to avoid slipping on a wet deck. Sun cream is also essential to protect against sunburn during long periods of being outdoors.

## **Personal Travel Insurance**

We do insist that all trainee and voyage crew take out relevant travel insurance to cover their voyage. We do like to check that you have travel insurance when you arrive on board. A reputable adventure sail training insurer is [TopSail](#)

## **LIFE ON BOARD**

### **Life on board Tall Ship Maybe**

Please remember that space on board is limited and that you will generally not require smart clothing. Pack comfortable and practical clothing for all weather circumstances. It is recommended to pack in a sports bag that can easily be stored away as there is no room on board for suitcases. Maybe has 4 different cabin sizes, two berth cabins, 3 berth cabin, 4 berth cabin and a 6 berth cabin. Each cabin has it's own wash hand basin, and each bunk has a storage area. The cabins all have a radiator for those chilly nights and electricity sockets (3 pin UK sockets). You will need to bring a sleeping bag and towels. There are two bathrooms on board, a comfortable saloon area and galley.

Life on board really is about getting stuck in and involved in all aspects of sailing the ship.

Don't worry if you have not sailed before – most trainee crew have no previous sailing experience, so you will not be alone. The permanent crew are always on hand to support you through all the tasks involved and you will always have an experienced permanent crew member with you on watch to show you what to do and answer any questions.

You will be put into one of three teams, called "Watches", which take it in turn to be responsible for various tasks on board including keeping watch, even at night. Every trainee steers the boat, keeps look-out, and takes down log entries. When we trim the sheets or do a manoeuvre such as tacking or gibing, hoisting or dropping a sail, everyone helps. The permanent crew will allocate jobs to everyone so that no-one is left out.

Each watch takes it in turn to prepare and cook the meals. It can be fun and relaxing to cook a big meal for everyone – or it can be a real challenge when the weather isn't so nice and the boat is moving around a lot! It's not all hard work on board. We want trainees to enjoy the experience and have fun. When each watch is not on duty, the permanent crew

members will provide activities for the trainees and there is also time to just sit and relax with a good book.

### **Life on board Tall Ship Blue Clipper**

If you are interested in a sail training experience on board a bigger vessel, they why not join Blue Clipper. There are twin ensuite cabins, a 6 berth shared forepeak with shared bathroom and a larger 4 berth cabin with shared bathroom. Each cabin has a porthole so if you are on the top bunk you can watch the starlite horizon from the comfort of your bed. Each cabin also has an electricity point (2 pin European socket). Bedding is provided but you will need to bring your own towels.

There is a large comfortable saloon area with a bar and area to make tea and coffee. The saloon is on deck level with windows to both sides so you can enjoy the view without going outside on those wet days. Unless you are on watch of course!

You will be fully immersed into life on board a tall ship, taking part in watches and helping the cook in the galley. This is the best way to fully experience life on the sea! Help hoist the sails; take the helm and steer the ship; climb the mast to stow the top sails or head out onto the bow sprit to stow the jibs. There will be lectures and you can learn about navigation and sailing in general. When you are not on watch you can also sit back, relax and enjoy the sea breeze with a good book in one of the many seating areas on deck.

## **SAFETY**

### **What About Safety**

The safety of everyone on board is of paramount importance and our obligations in this respect are taken very seriously. *Maybe* and *Blue Clipper* are maintained in accordance with the Maritime Coastguard Agency's Code of Practice for Small Commercial Vessels and the Large Yacht Code for Transport Malta. Annual surveys by an independent assessor and regular maintenance ensure that all the safety equipment meets or exceeds the legal requirements to operate as a sail training vessel.

The Skipper and crew are responsible for the safety of the vessel and everyone on board. Every voyage starts with a safety briefing. There are specific points that must be covered during these briefing sessions and the crew need to satisfy themselves that all members of trainee crew understand these points. These include fire alarms/drills, man overboard and most importantly the wearing and use of life saving equipment. All crew members wear integrated lifejacket/harnesses while on deck at sea.

The permanent crew on board *Maybe* and *Blue Clipper* are trained and qualified to meet or exceed the regulations laid down by the Department for Transport, Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Trasport Malta.

The Skipper and First Mate are qualified to Royal Yachting Association Yachtmaster Level with Commercial Endorsement. The permanent crew are required to gain certificates in radio communications, first aid and sea survival.

All the permanent crew on *Maybe* and *Blue Clipper* with responsibility for young people have Enhanced DBS Checks.

We have a comprehensive Child Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy and Risk Assessments are in place for all activities on board Tall Ship *Maybe* and Tall Ship *Blue Clipper*.

### **Insurance**

*Maybe* Sailing assumes responsibility for members of trainee crew only when sailing on board *Maybe* or tender and holds Third Party Liability insurance to cover *Maybe* Sailing's legal liability in the event of injury or mishaps only during these periods. In this respect we advise that trainee crew members take out personal travel insurance cover to meet any medical needs, for loss or damage to personal property and when off the vessel.