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PRESS OFFICE

# The Tall Ships' Races 2007 in Szczecin



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## The Parade



Szczecin has never witnessed such a parade before. A few thousand of sailors marched along the city streets. They set out from Waly Chrobrego, passed by Grunwaldzki Square and Jasne Blonia, to Letni Theatre, where the prize giving ceremony took place. A colourful procession, accompanied by 10 wind instruments orchestras, was being observed by crowds of spectators, who waved to the crews and gave them incredibly hearty ovation.

The procession was led by the Mexican crew. Armed officers, dressed up in their uniforms, followed by sailors in gala outfits awoke respect. Some Mexicans, who marched at the end of the group, made the onlookers and other sailors dance and sing. The refined crews of the tallest ships, the biggest ones and in their gala uniforms, marched at the rhythm of drums. The crews of the shortest vessels sang songs, danced and poured water over other people. That's how one could tell their class.

The Mexican sailors were not the only ones bursting with energy. Sailors of other nationalities were as joyous as Mexicans: Polish sailors with their Griffons, Canadians with their huge flag, and the sailors of Lord Nelson who ran under the Canadian colour. Many guys bathed in fountains. No matter dry or soak wet, everyone thanked the people of Szczecin for their hospitality.

## Disabled-friendly Nelson

British bark Lord Nelson is a special vessel. It's one of only two ships built by Jubilee Sailing Trust fully adjusted to the needs of disabled people. 'Lord Nelson' doesn't take passengers the disabled crew members have the same duties as everybody else on board. 'Everybody is engaged with tasks and works hard', say Matt and John, the sailors showing us to the inside of the boat. Most elements of the ship are foldable, its bar is modelled on a typical English pub, and wheelchairs are fastened to the floor for safety.

During short cruises, the disabled make 50% of the crew. Without any problems they get to any place of the boat, including yards equipped with special lifts.

Lord Nelson has a 'talking compass', a vibration alarm and special signs that help the blind sail. 'We differ from healthy people in terms of physical abilities, however, every new crewman is always scared', says captain Clare Cupples.



# Sails Are Sexy

Melanie C, the star of tonight's concert, says:

I have happily agreed to sing at The Tall Ship's Races. The decision was not difficult, as I've already been to Poland and I have always been satisfied with my concerts here. I haven't seen much here yet, though I like Szczecin very much. The atmosphere at the harbour is incredible. I haven't done any sailing in my life. Many of the show-biz stars have their own boats, but I can't afford one ;) The view of the ships is really impressive, they look great and very sexy. I like the sailors of course, anyway, are there any women who don't like men in uniforms? I may change some lyrics of one of the songs I have planned to sing tonight, so that I can fit into the nautical atmosphere. My biggest audience I have ever sung for was in Budapest, there were 250000 people, so, with the audience of 700000 (so I heard), I have a chance to break my record. I'm impressed and want everybody to be at my concert.

Unfortunately, I can't stay in Szczecin much longer. I'm promoting my new album, which means I'm awfully busy. As far as further plans are



concerned, I can confirm that Spice Girls is going to revive. In November, our album with greatest hits will be released, which means we will play some concerts, this will be kind of a good bye tour. If I'm invited to TTSR 2013 in Szczecin, I will definitely agree to come and sing here, solo of course. However, I hope to come back to Szczecin earlier than 2013.

## Fotodnia



## Read on



## the net

The internet forums are packed with opinions on The Tall Ships' Races 2007. We cite some them below, without any previous selection most of them are in favour of the rally and its organisation.

I've been there, that IS fantastic!  
j/w

Bravo for the people of Szczecin, you are great!!!  
~koszalinianka

I've been there, seen the whole thing. Bravo Szczecin. Perfect organisation, beautiful ships, wonderful weather. Bravo for Szczecin, the people of Szczecin, and all the organisers. They show that one is able to do such a great thing if one really wants to. Unusual atmosphere on top of this... wiktortpiotrowski@op.pl

Finally, the world heard about our city, so I hope no one will call Szczecin a German city anymore. From now on everyone will have known where Szczecin is. It's been the greatest event for years. We thank all the tourists for having come here have fun!  
mortal3@onet.eu

I was sceptical about the whole thing... I knew what was going on a few weeks before the finale. I went to see the rally today. It's superb. The place should look like this every day. Lots of great ships, crowds of people, attractions, food, drinks, fantastic scenery and women.... I do recommend, go there, no regrets.  
~Borys