

Report about Jubilee Sailing Trust trip LN769 (12th March- 3rd April) - Lawrence Archer



Before I came on this trip I was extremely excited and optimistic, perhaps so much so that I may have found that the trip would not live up to my expectations so I will start by saying the it not only met my high expectations, it exceeded them. Before I came on board I did some additional research on the JST (other than what I learned about the organisation through Rank) so that I would know more about the ship and what work we would be doing (and what it would look like once I got to Las Palmas!).

The trip to the port was great, nice and simple and arriving in Las Palmas was, for me, fantastic having never been there before and always enjoying exploring new places. I managed to find the ship quite easily, with the aid of another voyage member that I met by accident on the way and took my bags on-board and met the watch leaders and permanent crew. On the first day we had a short safety brief and spent some time getting to know the rest of the crew, a lovely bunch, and some more time to explore the local area.

On the second day, because the wind was in the wrong direction for sailing we decided to stay in the harbour and spend the day doing safety drills and got our first opportunity to climb the rigging and learn how to step onto the yard without falling off. We then helped the disabled crew perform an assisted climb by helping them aloft by hoisting them. This was a truly great experience as it made all of the crew work as a team and let these people who would otherwise never be able to climb up get to experience what it is like standing on the first platform.



My first experience of sailing on a tall ship was quite 'interesting' to say the least as pretty much the moment we had left the harbour on the third day I became seasick, something that I had never experienced before but altogether it was 'nice' to know how others felt when they were ill on board. This did clear up within a couple of days however and I was left to enjoy the trip as much as I had when we were closer to land.

Throughout the 2 weeks that we spend sailing from Las Palmas to Falmouth I found it great getting to know how life was on board the ship and it was great to get to know the crew and see (and be part of, of course) the teamwork that developed throughout the time on-board along with getting to know everyone on board.

One of the great things about the trip was how it made me change to get used to having to be up at 4 o'clock in the morning sometimes and having messman duties, happy hour etc., this really has been hard work getting out of the habit of now that I'm back on dry land!

Getting the opportunity to learn so much about the ship has been a big highlight of the trip and I have really enjoyed learning about the work that is needed to be done to maintain the ship (other than happy hour) and have generally spent most of my time helping out the Bosun with work needed to be done on deck which I believe was why I got invited to return and sail again as Bosun's Mate, something that I have been immensely happy about and fully intend to return and sail as often as I can when I'm at University and have got back from my travelling.

Overall, I have found this opportunity to be a fantastic experience that I am very much looking forward to repeating in the capacity of Bosun's Mate. It has been great for me to get to do some sailing again, being an activity that I have always enjoyed but haven't really had enough time to do as much as I would like in recent years.



Lawrence Archer,
aged 19 years. 2011