PRESS RELEASE

**Götheborg of Sweden will open the city of Gothenburg’s 400-year jubilee with gun salute**

*Gothenburg, 2 March 2023 – The ship Götheborg of Sweden, the world’s largest ocean-going wooden sailing ship, will officially open the city of Gothenburg’s great 400-year jubilee on the 2nd of June 2023 by greeting the city with a gun salute. As previously announced, the ship will sail to Gothenburg for the jubilee. Today it was announced that the ship will open the festivities with gun salute and join Gothenburg’s Anniversary Festival in Frihamnen in Gothenburg.*

*Götheborg of Sweden is a unique replica of an 18th century Swedish East India Company merchant ship that sank outside of Gothenburg in 1745. The replica took ten years to build and was launched 20 years ago, in 2003. In 2023, the ship is sailing in Europe and invites people to sail along as deckhands on board or visit the ship while in port.*

The ship will play a central role in the festivities during Gothenburg’s Anniversary Festival in Frihamnen in Gothenburg, 2–5 June 2023. During the festival, the ship will be open to the public and there will be activities both on and around the ship.

*” We’re delighted to play a central role in the city of Gothenburg’s 400-year jubilee. The ship is a fantastic symbol for the city of Gothenburg’s history. We are looking forward to welcoming both the citizens of Gothenburg and other visitors on board, to tell them about the ship and the Swedish East India Company’s strong connection to Swedish history”, said Stefan Björk, owner of Greencarrier and Götheborg of Sweden.*

The Swedish East India Company, that operated 1731–1813, was one of Sweden’s most successful companies of all times. It played an important historical role in the building of Gothenburg, as well as for the whole Swedish economy in the 18th century. Chalmers University of Technology and Sahlgrenska University Hospital are two examples of institutions that were founded as a result of the wealth created by the company.

*“ Gothenburg’s 400-year jubilee is an opportunity to look back at the city’s history and also look ahead at the future. The ship Götheborg of Sweden offers a unique opportunity to share and physically show an important part of Gothenburg’s history, and we would like to share that knowledge with more people, said Stefan Björk.*

The ship, which is now moored in Barcelona, will arrive in Gothenburg 2 June 2023 after 2,5 months of sailing in Europe. The ship will be moored in Frihamnen in Gothenburg 2–5 June and will be open to the public as part of Gothenburg’s Anniversary Festival. After the festival the ship will leave Frihamnen, but will stay open to the public during summer 2023, in Eriksberg in Gothenburg.

**Port stops European Tour 2023**

Departure Barcelona: 20 March

Sète, France: 23 March –27 March

Gibraltar: 6 April –10 April

Jersey, British Isles: 27 April – 2 May

Rotterdam, Netherlands: 11 May –14 May

Hamburg, Germany: 19 May –23 May

Gothenburg, Sweden: 2–5 June, and open in Eriksberg until end of August

**European Tour 2023**

Götheborg will depart from Barcelona 20 March 2023, and head for its home port Gothenburg in Sweden where it will play a central part in the city’s 400-year jubilee at the beginning of June. The ship will make six stopovers during the 2023 expedition, and will invite visitors on board in ports, as well as offer the opportunity for people to sail along and experience sailing an 18th century ship.

**Short facts: The ship Götheborg – history**

Götheborg is a full-sized replica of an 18th century ship, that was owned by the Swedish East India Company, and that ran aground and sank outside of Gothenburg in 1745. In 1984 marine excavation of the original ship Götheborg was initiated and in 1995 the building of a new Götheborg was started. Eight years later, in 2003, the ship was launched, and between 2005-2007 the ship sailed the historical route to Asia and back. After that several expeditions around Europe were carried out, the latest one in 2015. In 2021 the ship sailed from Gothenburg to Stockholm and back, and in 2022 the ship sailed in Europe.

**Greencarrier**

In 2019 the Swedish logistics company Greencarrier acquired Rederi Götheborg AB (at that time called SOIC Ship Management), that operates the ship Götheborg. In February 2021 Greencarrier also acquired SOIC AB and the ship Götheborg of Sweden. Behind the decision lies a long-term interest in and commitment to the ship Götheborg.

**Images for editorial purposes**

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