



Embassy of the  
**Argentine Republic**  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

# THE FRIGATE “LIBERTAD” ARRIVED IN THE UK FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING

*Press Release • July 27, 2017*

\* Photos [here](#)

The Argentine Sail Training Ship Frigate ARA Libertad arrived yesterday afternoon at Southampton Queen Elizabeth II Cruise Terminal, where the Argentine Ambassador to the United Kingdom R. Carlos Sersale di Cerisano along with the Argentine Defence Attaché, Group Captain Fernando Mengo and Warrant Officer Mario Ortiz welcomed its crew. Also in attendance were UK MoD Wing Commander Ash Bennett, Commander Sam Law from the Royal Navy, and Benjamin Wood, a Royal Navy cadet who joined the Argentine trainees for the first 3-month training leg on board the Frigate.

Southampton marks the half-way point of LIBERTAD’S 46<sup>th</sup> midshipman sail training voyage under the Commanding Officer Captain Fernando Maglione. Her journey spans over 6 months and includes 13 calling ports in 10 foreign countries, 4 in the American Continent and 9 in Europe.

“LIBERTAD represents the Argentine Republic as a genuine ambassador in every port she reaches and is admired by millions of people as it carries a message of peace, friendship and a will to build bridges with the world. Today, and for the second year running, she is calling on a UK port after a 14-year absence in the country. The visit marks another step towards reconnecting Argentina with the rest of the world. At every port she calls into, the Frigate draws thousands of visitors, among them, members of the Argentine community living abroad and local public figures. LIBERTAD also provides a platform to celebrate the artistic, cultural, commercial, sporting, scientific and gastronomic treasures that our country has to offer”, said Ambassador Sersale.

Libertad, a full-rigged ship, was built in 1956 as a sail training ship for the Argentine Navy on which thousands of midshipmen and petty officers have learnt the sea and navigating arts on her decks and in her classrooms. Every training trip is a genuine academic term, a nurturing source of experience and knowledge for those who will man the Argentine Navy ships.

Traditionally, the Argentine Armada invites cadets from foreign navies to join their trainees on board and develop their professional skills, while contributing to continuing our peace keeping efforts and comradeship around the globe. This year, Benjamin Wood, a cadet from the Royal Navy, set sail in Argentina on 25th of March and disembarked in Wilhelmshaven (Germany) late in June, an experience shared by cadets from Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil, Italy, Greece, France, South Africa and China.

In total, the Frigate ARA Libertad will navigate 23 thousand miles in 2017 to cover the seas of the world, from Fortaleza (Brazil); Veracruz (Mexico); Charleston (USA); Miami (USA); Den Helder (Netherlands); Wilhelmshaven (Germany); Malmo (Sweden); Boulogne Sur Mer (France); Southampton (United Kingdom); Barcelona (Spain); Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Spain); Río de Janeiro (Brazil) and Montevideo (Uruguay), to the port of Buenos Aires on 7th October 2017.

The historic ship will be open to the public (free entrance/no bookings) on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th, from 11am to 4pm. On Sunday 30th July, the frigate will set sail for Barcelona. Among the activities on board, at every port the Frigate showcases the exhibition “Arte Libertad 2017”.

#### **SCHEDULE IN SOUTHAMPTON**

**Queen Elizabeth II Cruise Terminal, Eastern Docks, Berth 38. SO14 3GG**

- 26/7 | 6pm: Arrival of Frigate ARA Libertad (open to the general public).
- 28/7 | 11am to 4pm: Open to the general public for free visits.
- 29/7 | 11am to 4pm: Open to the general public for free visits
- 30/7 | 11am: Departure to Barcelona.

#### **INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA**

- **LIVE-STREAMING:** you can watch the arrival again on the Argentine Embassy's [Facebook](#) @ARGinUK
- All media are invited on board. Press visits can be arranged upon request.
- For further enquiries, please contact our Press Office:
- Email: [pressoffice@argentine-embassy-uk.org](mailto:pressoffice@argentine-embassy-uk.org)  
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