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THE WORLD'S LARGEST VIKING SHIP TO SAIL INTO SALEM ON AUGUST 6

Draken HH Charts Course to Visit 14 Coastal Harbors during Expedition America: U.S. East Coast Tour 2018

[Salem, MA] Norwegian Viking ship, [Draken Harald Hårfagre](#) (Draken), today announced Salem, Massachusetts as the sixth official stop on its **Expedition America: East Coast Tour 2018 presented by Highland Park Single Malt Scotch Whisky**. The tour which began in Mystic, Connecticut in July, will bring the world's largest operating Viking ship to Salem for a 2-day stopover from **August 6-8, 2018**. Beginning with an arrival ceremony on August 6 at 6:30 PM and continuing with 2 days of ship tours and activations in the Draken Village, the Draken visit promises visitors an engaging look at the modern-day Viking spirit.

"Salem is pleased to host the Draken during her East Coast expedition," said Mayor Kim Driscoll, "Visiting vessels are the perfect way to celebrate Salem's revitalized waterfront and its rich history of global trade." Paul DePrey, Superintendent of Salem Maritime NHS, continued, "The National Park Service rangers and volunteers look forward to welcoming Draken to the North Shore. Like Salem sea captains, the Vikings were accomplished navigators and traders and their stories will be a welcome addition to the historic wharves of Salem."

Hosted in partnerships with Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Destination Salem, and the City of Salem, the Draken will dock at Central Wharf at Salem Maritime National Historic Site, 160 Derby Street and will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for visitors to relive history in a way never experienced before. Draken will allow guests to not only marvel at this stunning Viking ship – but also to interact with the crew as they share their personal experiences of thrill, fear, and exhilaration while enduring the ship's 2016 transatlantic crossing – reliving the Viking discovery of the New World more than 1,000 years ago.

The Draken Experience in Salem

Monday, August 6, 6:30 PM

Draken Arrival Ceremony

Guests are invited to greet the Draken ship as she sails into port with a display of Viking valor and excitement. Captain Björn Ahlander and his crew will step ashore to welcome the crowd and introduce the Draken. This event is free and open to the public. A small, private welcome reception will follow.

Tuesday, August 7 and Wednesday, August 8

Draken Village & Deck Tours

Beginning daily at 10:00 a.m., Draken will be open for timed and ticketed deck tours. **Tour tickets**, which run **\$6 for kids** (ages 5 to 15, free admission for ages 4 and under); **\$12 for adults** (ages 16 and over); and **\$30 for a family pack** (includes two adults, and up to three children) can be purchased online at drakenhh.com, or on-site at the Draken

Village. During each 30-minute tour, guests are guided through the ship and offered a look at a day-in-the-life of the crew and the historic craftsmanship used to build the ship with oak, tar, hemp, iron, and silk.

Within the **Draken Village**, which is free and open to the public, guests can experience a photo and video exhibition illustrating Viking history, modern explorers, and the adventures of the Draken; land-side views of the ship; the Highland Park Whisky hospitality tent; local food and beverage vendors; official Draken merchandise, and more.

Additional ticketed Draken events include a lecture with Captain Björn Ahlander outlining the adventurous expeditions of the Draken (**Tuesday, August 7, 7:00 PM, \$20**) at the Salem Regional Visitors Center, 2 New Liberty Street, Salem, MA 01970.

“The Vikings were accomplished navigators, artisans, traders and storytellers, but their greatest triumph was the ships they built,” said Captain Björn Ahlander. “Each Draken stopover offers guests a tangible tie to history. We hope our visitors are inspired by the vigor of the Viking spirit and our modern-day adventures.”

Following the overwhelming response from the 2016 tour, the next leg of the Draken Harald Hårfagre North American tour will consist of stopovers across the U.S. East Coast states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia, and more. The final tour schedule and all stopover ports are set to be announced in the coming weeks.

The crew on board Draken is a team of 35 men and women from all over the world, representing a diverse mix of age, gender, nationality, and background. The Draken is now accepting applications for public volunteer crew positions. To take part in this rare opportunity visit: www.drakenhh.com/join-the-crew.

To learn more about the Draken ship, team, and 2018 tour, visit DrakenHH.com or @DrakenHH on social media.

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About Draken Harald Hårfagre:

In 2016, the Draken successfully crossed the North Atlantic Ocean, recreating one of the most epic, mythical explorations of all time in the wake of the Viking Explorer, Leif Ericsson. Visiting numerous ports and encountering thousands of people along her Trans-Atlantic journey, the Draken Harald Hårfagre emerged as a pillar of culture, education, and enrichment, bringing the illustrious Viking age of exploration to life in today's modern age. Curated by Sigurd Aase, construction of the Draken began in 2010 – creating what would be the largest Viking ship ever built in modern times. Named after Harald Hårfagre, the king who unified Norway into one kingdom, the great dragon ship came together in the town of Haugesund in Western Norway. Draken measures 115 feet from stem to stern, 26 feet wide, with 260 square meters of silk sail, and a 79 foot tall mast made from Douglas fir. She is a seaworthy ship, able to sail the Oceans of the World. www.drakenhh.com.

About Highland Park:

Highland Park is a renowned single-malt Scotch whisky from Orkney, a remote set of islands off the far north coast of Scotland. Established in 1798, the distillery combines the highest standards of craftsmanship with the pride and fierce independence of the early Viking settlers who made Orkney their home over 1,000 years ago to create a perfectly balanced single-malt Scotch whisky that stands apart. Highland Park's range of single-malt whiskies is consistently acclaimed by whisky lovers around the globe, with the brand receiving the accolade of "Best Spirit in the World" from industry expert Paul Pacult on three separate occasions. www.highlandparkwhisky.com

About Salem Maritime National Historic Site:

The National Park Service and its partners protect New England's maritime and industrial legacy for appreciation by current and future visitors. Salem Maritime National Historic Site preserves and interprets New England's maritime history from the colonial period through to the 20th century. Learn more at nps.gov/sama

About Salem, Massachusetts:

Salem, Massachusetts, is a destination recognized around the world for its rich history, which includes the tragic Salem Witch Trials of 1692, the glorious maritime era that left its indelible mark on Salem through architecture, museums, and artifacts, and for its month-long celebration of Halloween. Today more than one million people visit Salem annually. Learn more at Salem.org.