

Alexandria Times

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Alexandria
COMMUNITY MEDIA

Sails on the Potomac: an America250 event

Alexandria's America250 celebrations culminate in a celebration of America's 250th birthday at the Alexandria waterfront. The event is an immersive and engaging weekend festival from Friday to Sunday, offering family activities, exhibits, music, educational programs, public art and more.

The highlight will be the tours of four historic tall ships from noon to 6 p.m. We highly recommend reserving a timed ticket to tour a tall ship. Tickets are valid 30 minutes from the ticketed time. A walk-up line will be available, but entrance is not guaranteed for walk-up visitors.

The four ships are named the Kalmar Nyckel, the Sultana, the Providence and the Gazela. The Kalmar Nyckel is a 93-foot-long Dutch Pinnacle based in Wilmington, Delaware. It is a full-scale, accurate reproduction of a ship that served both as a colonial vessel and a Swedish warship.

The Sultana is a 52-foot schooner based in Chestertown, Maryland. The ship is a full-scale reproduction of the smallest schooner in the British Royal Navy from

1768 to 1772.

The Providence, originally named the Katy, is a 61-foot sloop, based here in Alexandria. The current Providence is a reproduction of one of the first ships in the Continental Navy. The original ship sailed as a merchant ship, whaler, privateer and flagship of the Rhode Island Navy.

The Gazela is a 140-foot barkentine, the oldest and largest ship at Sails on the Potomac. Built in Portugal, she fished off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada, until 1969. Since the 1970s, she has served as an educational vessel in Philadelphia, alongside the tugboat Jupiter and the barge Poplar.

The Sails on the Potomac event also hosts the 250th History Village and Outpost, an outdoor exhibit filled with learning experiences for all ages. Visitors can participate in educational activities, engage in historic conversations with local organizations from across the region and view pop-up exhibits.

Visitors can also view the eighth annual installation in the Site See: New Views in Old



PHOTO/HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

The Gazela, the oldest and largest ship to be featured in Sails on the Potomac.

Town public art series commissioned by the City of Alexandria's Public Art Program. This year's installation is "Now or Never" by Alicia Eggert. The piece is located in Waterfront Park and features two monumental sculptures that echo the visual language of signs and billboards.

The 48th Annual ALX Jazz Fest anchors Alexandria's 250th Commemoration on all three days of Sails on the Potomac, with performances starting at 1 p.m. on Friday and

noon on Saturday and Sunday.

Join us at Sails on the Potomac from Friday to Sunday!

For more information on Sails on the Potomac and to reserve your tickets, follow this link: www.alexandriava.gov/Sails250. For a schedule of events, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/historic-alexandria/sails-on-the-potomac-event-schedule.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.