

# Baltimore to host tall ships in June 2012 for bicentennial celebration



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Maryland's Star-Spangled 200 celebration will start in June 2012 with an international maritime festival that will see the return of tall ships and Navy ships to Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

The free festival will launch the state's three-year War of 1812 bicentennial efforts. The "Star-Spangled Sailabration" is scheduled for June 13-19 along the Inner Harbor and Chesapeake Bay.



Dozens of Navy ships and tall ships from the U.S. and international navies are expected to descend on Baltimore for the week, bringing thousands of sailors to the region.

Nine U.S. warships and five tall sailing ships are confirmed for the event. Vessels from Great Britain, Canada, Columbia, Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico are expected to participate. The Coast Guard's tall ship, the Eagle, will visit and lead the parade of sail.

In total, 120 countries have been invited to bring ships to the event.

Activities tied to the event will include tours of the ship, visits by international dignitaries and Navy leadership, fireworks, crew sporting competitions, community service projects, history displays, educational activities and a public art project.

Operation Sail is partnering with the Navy on the event's production.

City and state officials expect the "Sailabration" to bring thousands of visitors to Baltimore, pumping money into hotels, restaurants and shops.

OpSail, which last visited Baltimore in 2000, is hunting for small and large businesses to [help it raise \\$5 million to \\$6 million to sponsor the event.](#)

The Navy will also host similar events in New Orleans, Norfolk, Va., New York and Boston.