



**BUQUE ESCUELA  
'JUAN SEBASTIÁN DE ELCANO'**

**XCVIII TRAINING CRUISE**

**PRESS DOSSIER**



## HISTORY OF THE SHIP:

The training ship bears the name of the Spanish sailor who first circumnavigated the world in 1522, completing the voyage that had begun under the command of the Portuguese navigator Fernando de Magallanes, who was sailing in the service of the Spanish Crown and died halfway through the journey. Carlos I of Spain granted Elcano a coat of arms bearing the motto "Primus circumdedisti me"—Latin for "The first to circumnavigate me."

**Comentado [JMPM1]:** ¿Es Fernando? o Hernando

Built at the "Echevarrieta y Larrinaga" shipyards in Cádiz, the training ship "Juan Sebastián de Elcano" was launched on 5 March 1927 and delivered to the Navy on 17 August 1928. It has therefore spent nearly one hundred years at sea, having sailed almost 1.9 million nautical miles across all the world's oceans and calling at ports in more than 70 different countries.

As a training ship, "Juan Sebastián de Elcano" has a primary mission: the at-sea training of future Navy officers, known as "GUARDIAMARINAS" (midshipmen). To this end, it usually carries out an annual training cruise, almost always outside Spain, approximately three-quarters of which takes place at sea. During the cruise, midshipmen receive classes and take part in all on-board operations and manoeuvres.

Of the 97 training cruises completed to date, eleven have been round-the-world voyages. Over the years, the ship has endured all types of seas and winds and has consistently demonstrated excellent seaworthiness, even under the most adverse weather conditions.

In addition, the ship also serves as a floating embassy. Its presence in foreign countries and ports makes a significant contribution to supporting Spain's foreign policy. By flying the Spanish flag and projecting a positive image, it also allows many Spaniards living abroad to step aboard this "small piece of Spain that sails the seas."

Among the milestones achieved by this brigantine-schooner is the fact that it has crossed the Atlantic Ocean under sail alone on nine occasions, the most recent being during the XCV Training Cruise, on the passage between Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The maximum speed recorded was 17 knots, achieved in 1991 under sustained winds of 75 knots, with the staysails set on the second reef. The maximum heel recorded was 48° on 15 January 1955 during the XVII Training Cruise. The ship did not sail in the years 1937, 1938, and 1939 due to the Spanish Civil War, nor in 1956 and 1978 due to major refits.

The ship is currently undergoing a multi-year maintenance plan through which the Navy ensures that it will reach its 100th anniversary fully operational.

## DEFENDING SPAIN IN AND FROM THE SEA



## **PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING CRUISE:**

The purpose of a Training Cruise aboard the training ship Juan Sebastián de Elcano is to contribute to the comprehensive education (seamanship, military, social, and human) of the embarked students through instruction and training at sea and in port. At the same time, the cruise supports the State's foreign policy through naval presence in various ports.

During the XCVIII Training Cruise, the Navy sailing ship will carry 73 midshipmen from the 428th class of the General Corps and the 158th class of the Marine Corps. The cruise is scheduled to include 152 days at sea and 50 days in port, with port calls lasting between three and five days.

The ship will participate in the SAIL250 regatta, calling at the ports of Norfolk, Baltimore, and New York City. In New York, it will take part in events commemorating the 250th anniversary of United States independence. Among other events, it will participate in a major naval parade on 4 July 2026 (International Naval Review 250 – INR 250).

After New York City, although the regatta continues toward Boston, the ship will begin its return to Spain, docking in Cádiz on 31 July and commencing its maintenance period prior to the start of the 2027 cruise. Therefore, this year the ship will not be present at the traditional Oath of Allegiance and Royal Decrees Ceremony in Marín on 16 July.

Midshipmen of the General Corps and the Marine Corps complete part of their third-year academic curriculum onboard, studying subjects such as Navigation, Astronomy, Meteorology, Amphibious Operations, Combat Support and Services, and Manoeuvring. In addition to professional training, the cruise fosters significant personal development due to the close-knit living conditions onboard throughout the voyage.

Under the command of Captain José María de la Puente Mora-Figueroa, the ship's crew consists of 20 officers, 20 non-commissioned officers, 130 enlisted sailors and troops, and 2 civilian instructors.

## **DEFENDING SPAIN IN AND FROM THE SEA**



### **LIFE ON BOARD:**

A daily log of life onboard the training cruise, as well as a photo gallery, is published on the Spanish Navy's official website. The ship's activities can also be followed on the Navy's social media channels:

- Facebook: @armadaesp
- X: @Armada\_esp
- Instagram: @armadaesp
- YouTube: @ArmadaEspañola

Or by following the hashtags:

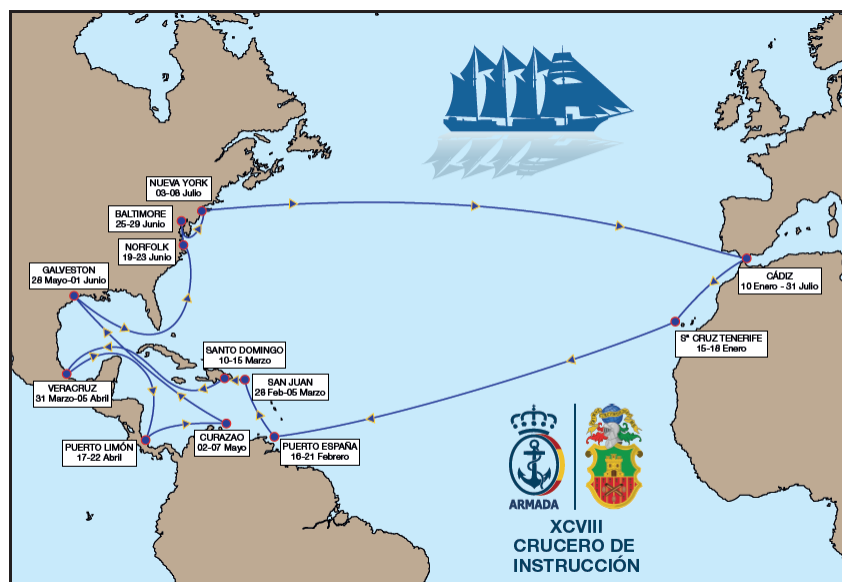
- #SomosLaArmada
- #DefendemosEspañaEnYDesdeLaMar

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### XCVIII TRAINING CRUISE SCHEDULE:

| Port                                | Arrival          | Departure        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Cádiz                               |                  | 10 January 2026  |
| Santa Cruz de Tenerife              | 15 January 2025  | 18 January 2026  |
| Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago) | 16 February 2025 | 21 February 2026 |
| San Juan (Puerto Rico)              | 28 February 2025 | 05 March 2026    |
| Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)  | 10 March 2025    | 15 March 2026    |
| Veracruz (Mexico)                   | 31 March 2026    | 05 April 2026    |
| Puerto Limón (Costa Rica)           | 17 April 2026    | 22 April 2026    |
| Curaçao                             | 02 May 2026      | 07 May 2026      |
| Galveston (USA)                     | 28 May 2026      | 01 June 2026     |
| Norfolk (USA)                       | 19 June 2026     | 23 June 2026     |
| Baltimore (USA)                     | 25 June 2026     | 29 June 2026     |
| New York City (USA)                 | 03 July 2026     | 08 July 2026     |
| Cádiz                               | 31 July 2026     |                  |



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## CHARACTERISTICS:

LENGTH 113,1 meters

BEAM 13,154 meters

### DEPTH (FROM WATERLINE):

- Main deck 6,3 meters
- Boat deck 9 meters

### MAST HEIGHT (FROM WATERLINE):

- Topgallant height: 48,7 meters
- Heist 51,4 meters,

Comentado [JMPM2]: Existe?... queréis decir Height?

### DRAFT:

- Bow 6,5 meters
- Stern 7,1 meters

### DISPLACEMENT:

- Fully loaded 3.700 tons

### ENDURANCE:

- At 6 knots 10.500 miles / 73 days

### DECKS:

- HOLD
- LOWER DECK.
- UPPER DECK.
- MAIN DECK.
- WAIST
- QUARTER DECK.
- FORECASTLE-BOAT DECK (SPARDEK)-BACK DECK.

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## **MASTS:**

Four vertical masts and a bowsprit.

Each mast consists of a lower mast and topmast and is named after former Navy training ships:

- **"Blanca"** (Foremast)
- **"Almansa"** (Forward Mainmast)
- **"Asturias"** (Aft Mainmast)
- **"Nautilus"** (Mizzenmast)

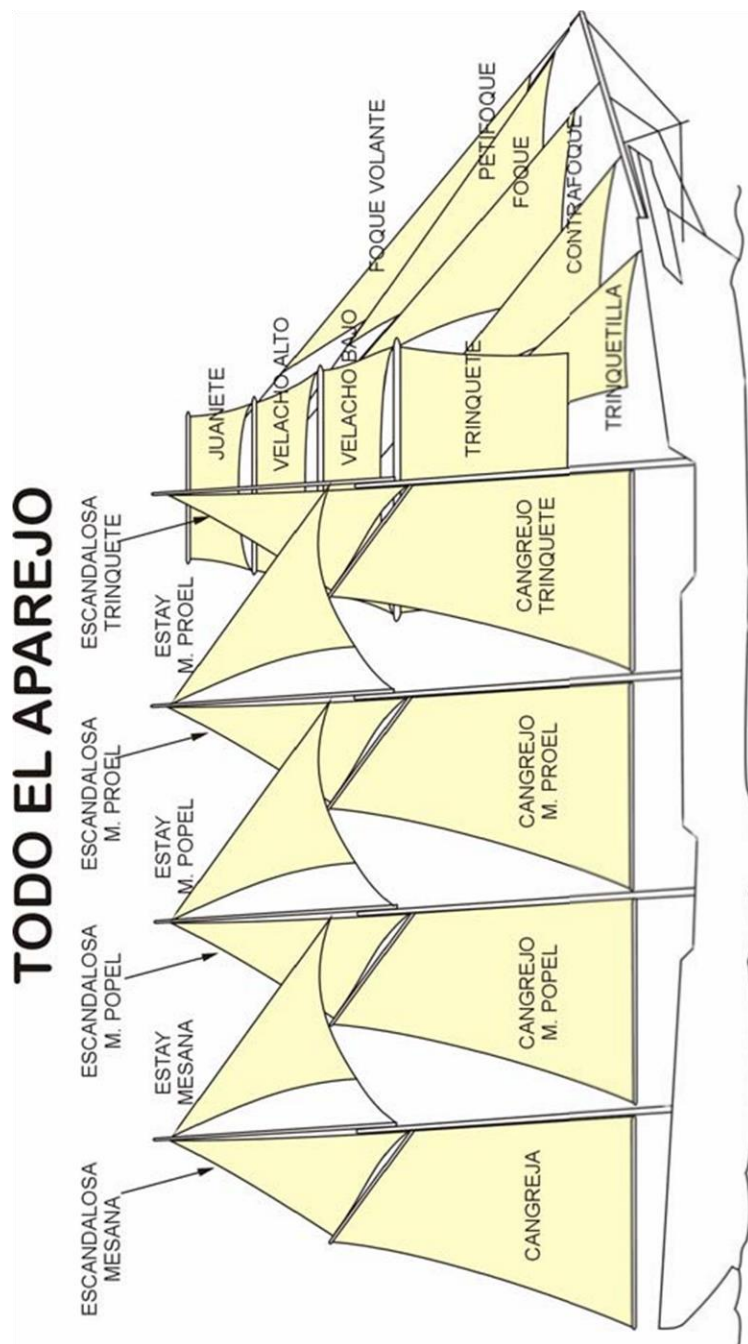
## **SAILS AND RIGGING:**

TOTAL SAIL AREA: 3,151 m<sup>2</sup>

TOTAL SAILS: 20, divided into three groups:

- **SQUARE RIG:** Fore course, lower topsail, upper topsail, and topgallant.
- **FORE-AND-AFT RIG:**
  - Gaff sails: Fore, forward main, aft main, and mizzen.
  - Jibs: Inner jib, staysail, jib, and flying jib.
- **UPPER SAILS:**
  - Stays: 3 stays plus the flying jib.
  - Studding sails: Fore, forward main, aft main, and mizzen.

## TODO EL APAREJO



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#### COMMANDING OFFICER:



Captain Jose María de la Puente was born in Madrid in April 1973. He entered the Naval Academy in 1993 and was commissioned as an Ensign in 1998.

He has served aboard the frigate *Asturias*, the amphibious assault ship *Castilla*, the dock landing ship *Pizarro*, the frigate *Extremadura*, and at the Headquarters of the Fleet Projection Group.

His shore assignments include service at Fleet Headquarters, the Human Resources Planning Section of General Headquarter, and the Headquarters of the Marine Infantry Force.

He has commanded the patrol vessel *Medas*, the auxiliary ship *Mar Caribe*, and the frigate *Victoria*.

He has participated in NATO operations such as *Allied Force* (Kosovo conflict), *Active Endeavour*, operations in the former Yugoslavia, *Noble Sentinel* (immigration control in the Canary Islands), *Atalanta* (counter-piracy operations off Somalia), and two NATO Standing Naval Group deployments (SNMG1 and SNMG2).

He is a graduate of the Staff College, a specialist in Naval Gunnery, a Tactical Action Officer, and holds qualifications in Amphibious and Expeditionary Operations (COAE).

#### CONTACT:

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