

The first stop in Spain of the emblematic sailing ship of the Royal Navy took place in Ibiza, a Mediterranean island known throughout the world for hosting many world-class athletes and artists during the summer holidays. Orlando Bloom, Katy Perry, Melanie Griffith, Oprah Winfrey, Paris Hilton, Leo Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo enjoy themselves on the decks of the yachts that sail its waters.

Also famous as a global destination for electronic music lovers, Ibiza is part of the Balearic archipelago, one of the most touristic regions in Europe, visited all year round by thousands of British and Germans thanks to its mild climate.

The three-masted ship with 29 sails docked in Ibiza a month after leaving Oman to begin the 'Oman, the Land of Peace' voyage, which has taken it around Europe to countries as far north as Denmark.

The training ship opened its doors to the public for three days and the captain, Issa Seleem Al Jahwari, explained some of its characteristics to the media. "When it comes to getting the sails ready for sailing, it takes three and a half hours of work by about 70 people. It is very hard work. At the end of the day, the students do not feel like social networking. They go straight to bed," he told the newspaper 'El Periódico de Ibiza y Formentera'.

After Ibiza, the Shabab Oman II, which combines the traditional techniques that brought so much glory to the ancient Omani sailors with the latest nautical technology, continued its sixth international voyage, crossing the strait that separates Europe from Africa (Gibraltar), headed north and arrived in the fog at the port of A Coruña, in the region of Galicia. The Atlantic Ocean bathes this area bordering Portugal, full of green meadows where cows graze and coastal cliffs abounding with world-renowned seafood.

"I was strolling around the port and suddenly I came across this marvel," a tourist from Madrid told the newspaper 'La Voz de Galicia', adding: "I thought it was beautiful, and it is very well prepared for the visit, with graphic documentation of the places where the ship has stopped and of the different personalities who have come to see it. And what's more, admission is free".

A Major general of the Spanish Army, an Admiral of the Spanish Navy and the Mayoress of this city of 245,000 inhabitants were among the attendees at the 21st stop of the ship and were guided on the visit by the captain, who will lead the sailboat's return to Muscat, *inshallah*, on 23 October. On that day, the 90 sailors will be able to celebrate, after a six months voyage, the return home and have made Omani history and culture better known in Europe, strengthening the bonds of friendship with the countries visited.