



**PORTCORPUSCHRISTI**



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**INTERNATIONAL TALL SHIPS FROM CHILE, MEXICO AND URUGUAY  
VISIT SOUTH TEXAS TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

*Famed vessels from around the world join the USCG Eagle on display at  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend Sail South Texas 2010*

**CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS** – Three international tall ships from Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, along with the *USCG Eagle*, will visit South Texas to be part of Sail South Texas 2010, for Fourth of July weekend. Sail South Texas 2010 is a Tall Ship event hosted by Port Corpus Christi and presented by H.E.B. The event will be held at Port Corpus Christi's Ingleside Facility, former U.S. Naval Station Ingleside, 1455 Ticonderoga Rd, Ingleside, Texas, from July 1 to July 5, 2010.

Sail South Texas 2010 highlights many special celebrations in the region and the Americas. It commemorates the official transfer of the United States Naval Station Ingleside to Port Corpus Christi, the Bicentennial celebration of independence of many Latin American countries and the United States 234<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.

*"We are very proud to bring the Tall Ship experience to Corpus Christi and South Texas in a larger scale than before. Our community will have the opportunity to celebrate and learn about Tall Ships and the countries they represent,"* said Mike Carrell, Chairman, Port Corpus Christi Commission.

International tall ships participating in the event include the Chilean *Esmeralda*, the second longest and tallest sailing ship in the world standing at 371 ft long and 159 ft high. Launched on May 12, 1953, the *Esmeralda* is currently operated by the Chilean Navy to train cadets. The tall ship was constructed in Cadiz, Spain and was originally planned to be Spain's national training ship until the yard suffered from explosions and bankruptcy. As a result, Spain transferred the *Esmeralda* to the Chilean government in order to repay the debts incurred to Chile during the Spanish Civil War.

Joining the *Esmeralda* is Mexico's famed *Cuauhtémoc*, named after the last Aztec Emperor. The 1,800 ton tall ship is currently used as a training vessel for the Mexican Navy. Built and assembled by the Naval Shipyards of Bilbao, Spain, the *Cuauhtémoc* was officially received July 29, 1982 in Spain. The *Cuauhtémoc*, which translates to the "one that has descended like an eagle," has been in active service since 1982 with Acapulco, Mexico acting as its homeport.

Named after legendary captain and researcher, Captain Francisco P. Miranda, *Capitan Miranda*, another international tall ship participating in Sail South Texas 2010, is a training vessel for the Uruguayan Navy. Originally a Spanish sailing cargo carrier, *Capitan Miranda* was built in Cadiz, Spain in 1930. After World War II she served as a hydrographic survey vessel for the Uruguayan Navy. It wasn't until 1978 that the *Capitan Miranda* was once again converted into a training vessel for the Uruguayan Navy. The homeport is currently located in Montevideo, Uruguay and the *Capitan Miranda* boasts a length of 205 feet.

In addition to the international tall ships, Sail South Texas 2010 will feature the *USCGC Eagle*, a sailing vessel used to train United States Coast Guard cadets. She is currently the seventh to bear the name *Eagle* for a U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship. The ship can spread some 20,000 square feet of sail and control more than 20 miles of rigging lines while under way. Each year the *Eagle* takes a long cruise to the Caribbean or Europe and several short trips around the U.S. East Coast. The homeport for the *USCGC Eagle* is the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

*"We are honored to have the official participation of all four of these unique and historical vessels for our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. Together these four tall ships will be the highlight of one of the most exciting 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekends ever held in the region,"* said John LaRue, Executive Director.

The "Velas de Sudamerica 2010" began last February, 2010 in Brazil with ports of call in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Ecuador before sailing through the Panama Canal. After crossing the Panama Canal, they visited Cartagena, Colombia, Venezuela, Santo Domingo and will end the regatta in Veracruz, Mexico. For more information on this tour see [www.velasudamerica.com](http://www.velasudamerica.com). Port Corpus Christi will be the only United States Port where the invited Tall Ships will get together to celebrate and share their independence, culture and friendship.

*"H-E-B is excited to be able to help bring this incredible opportunity to South Texas! The culture, history, and beauty of these ships and their crews will reward all who see them with an educational opportunity that will stay with them and inspire them to learn more about the South*

*American Countries these ships call home."* said Shelley J. Parks, H-E-B Public Affairs, South Texas Region.

Sail South Texas 2010 is an international event created by the Port of Corpus Christi and presented by H.E.B. at **NO COST TO THE PUBLIC** to open the doors of the Port's newest facility at Ingleside. It celebrates independence while learning about culture, music, food and folklore of the represented countries. For more information, you can visit [www.sailsouthtexas2010.com](http://www.sailsouthtexas2010.com)

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