

VOYAGE TIPS 2015

Purpose. The following tips have been provided by crew who have been on voyages on the *James Craig*. They will help new crew to have an enjoyable voyage.

The *James Craig* is a cargo vessel, restoration has kept faith with this purpose, therefore crew are accommodated in the cargo space, 'tween deck.

Note: We do ask that every passenger brings along a funny costume item for the SODS OPERA night which is held on the last night of each voyage. Be prepared for a fun night with the crew!

Safety

- _ Bring a **torch** with a **red** lens. Red cellophane works well (Bring spare batteries)
- _ As mentioned recently, purchase a safety strobe light or **small waterproof torch**. These can be 'sewn' into your wet weather gear with 'rotten cotton' so that they are always there.
- _ Wear a pea **whistle** ("The Thunderer" or similar) around your neck. If you do go overboard they are more easily heard than practically anything.
- _ Boating shops sell **small dye packs** which fit in your pocket. If you are washed overboard the dye can be released once you see the rescue craft. (Just in case they don't see you.)

Quality of life

- _ Bring a good **book** - it can get lonely, off-watch.
- _ For searching through packs, when reading or doing work that needs two hands, a **Headlamp torch** is great. Kmart sell an Eveready one for \$32 that has White and Red LED's. LEDs give you much longer battery life than normal bulbs. Red is useful both on Deck and below to retain night vision. **Cheap Alkaline batteries** from Tandy or Dick Smith are far better value than any other battery. **Be careful when using torches not to wave the beam about as this may disturb others.**
- _ It's important to bring **whatever you need to feel comfortable** (within reason), whether it be a pipe, some rollies, a walkman or iPod.
- _ Bring a **sense of humour** and leave your need for too much privacy at home.
- _ Bring your own **music** with headphones.
- _ Bring your favourite **munchies** (eg. chocolate). There are no shops at sea.
- _ I have found that I often crave savoury foods at sea and always pack a box of chicken noodle **soup sachets** and a box of **cracker biscuits** (as well as Mars bars)
- _ A **plastic lunch box** or small ice cream carton to put glasses, watch and torch in at night keeps everything safely together and is easy to find for those "all hands" calls in the middle of the night.
- _ **No plastic bags.** Obtain a supply of cloth draw string bags to keep items in your kit sorted. There is nothing more disturbing to others than a crew member searching through plastic bags for a misplaced item.

Medical/Health

- _ A **small water bottle for brushing your teeth** - lessens the queues for the basin.
- _ Give a sealed envelope, containing information on any special medical conditions, medicines or allergies you may have. This envelope can then be opened in an emergency by

a doctor if you are unconscious or incoherent. The envelope is returned to you after a voyage or destroyed.

_ Although stewards will do water circuits of the deck, bring your own **water bottle** that can be topped up. This avoids hundreds of polystyrene cups on deck.

_ Suggest you bring your own **pain killers**.

_ Bring a **spare pair of sunglasses**. If you lose your only pair, you won't get any others till you get back to port.

_ Bring your **seasickness tablets** and use them for the first couple of days whether you feel sick or not.

_ Bring **nail clippers** if you don't want the canvas to 'trim' them (ouch).

_ **Micro fibre towels** are great and do not take up much room and dry quickly.

_ **2 towels (Not beach towels)** – but be prepared for both of them to be wet.

_ Keep the basic toiletries - mouth care, deodorant and cake of soap - in a bag by themselves. Keep **serious toiletry products in separate bag** for pre-town freshen up on our arrival and return.

_ **Body wipes** are good for in between shower days.

_ You used to be able to buy **salt-water soap**. I have not seen it around for a while but I am sure it is available. Warm, damp and dirty is the very place that all bugs like - so have a salt-water wash.

_ Buy a bottle of **Isocol Rubbing Alcohol** (bright green bottle from Supermarkets) - it helps to freshen up and is a good bactericide that helps stop Tinea, etc. if you rub it on before putting socks on.

_ Get some **Bata gumboots** if you haven't already got sea boots. Recommend the **Jobmaster 400** (some models have a different colour sole that are no good on the ship). The 400s have a good gripe sole, pointy toe for the ratlines, lightweight, narrow enough in the leg to fit under the wets, easy to remove if you end up in the drink, a groove 100mm from the top so you can cut down the height (fits in bag and comfort) and they only cost \$20.00 Available at Bunnings.

Clothing

_ **Label everything**

_ Have your set of **wet weather gear clearly marked** with your name.

_ **Gloves**, we'll have no idea how cold the nights might be.

_ Suggest no suitcases, **soft bags only**.

_ 2 sets **cold weather clothing**.

_ Set of **thermals** (top and pants)

_ Plenty of **socks**.

_ **Space bags** for clothes (reduces space needed and keeps dry).

_ A **beanie** (to cover your constant bad hair day hair).

_ Bring a scarf or **neck warmer**.

_ A **dirty clothing bag (old pillowslip)**, clearly marked with your name (Plastic shopping bags can be very noisy in the early hours below deck).

Sleeping

_ Sleep is one thing you will become short of. It is recommended that this is your priority. That is come off watch and hit the sack asap. The call "all hands on deck" may come at any time and means what it says.

- _ Blue tack is handy to redirect those leaks that travel along beams etc. Place blue tack ahead of a leak to create a dam and cause it to drop off before it find you.
- _ Bring those funny airline **eye covers** if the exit lights annoy you (safer than covering the lights).
- _ Bring your favourite **pillow**.

Other stuff

As mentioned above, ENSURE ALL YOUR GEAR IS CLEARLY LABELED

WITH YOUR NAME, e.g. clothes, water bottles, mugs etc.

- _ Be prepared to **sleep** in your bed **in your clothes** - on top of your sleeping bag. No one is quicker on deck in an emergency than those who do so.
 - _ Bring a pair of **joggers to sleep in** for emergencies. Bring your usual foot ware to swap into on routine awakening.
 - _ Do not leave gear lying around on deck. Items such as water bottles and mugs can be placed in net bags rigged on the rails.
 - _ If galley equipment i.e. mugs, are taken on deck, return them after use.
 - _ Secure your gear to the ship so that it does not slide around.
 - _ There is no need for alarm clocks or mobile phones (set to 'alarm clock'). You will be woken up by the current on-watch because they can't stand down until you are ready to relieve them.
 - _ You will be woken at least 30 minutes before your watch is due to start. You are then expected to be on deck at least 10 minutes before the watch starts for roll call and duty allocation. Meet at the break of the quarterdeck, starboard side.
At the end of your watch, meet at the break of the quarterdeck, port side, for roll call and de-briefing.
- DO NOT be late, to do so inconveniences members of your watch and may upset the other watch who may be keen to get below to food and sleep.