

# Baltic Ships

contemporary challenge

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## The Baltic Sea Heritage Cooperation

was set up following the Lübeck Declaration in 1997. Its mandate was to develop an action plan to safeguard and develop the common heritage of the Baltic States through four working groups. One of these, the *Working Group on Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage*, is responsible for 'Baltic Ships' – an exhibition of twelve posters to raise awareness and promote the preservation of historic ships under threat in the Baltic area.



Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States

## The following themes are examined in the posters:

- Historic Ships – what are they?
- The historic role of ships in society connecting people
- Diversity
- Ships and harbours
- Preservation and maintenance
- Sources of history
- People behind historic ships
- Experience, education and training
- Cultural tourism
- Significant cultural monuments afloat
- Contemporary challenge





## Historic Ships of the Baltic Sea Region The 100 List

Each membership country has chosen a maximum of 15 historical vessels for the list, which are found either at the quayside or preserved on land. The listed vessels are more than 50 years old, built or used commercially in either Baltic or North Sea trade, and of importance for the history of seafaring in the Baltic or North Sea region. The aim of this work was not to find and debate over which ship constitutes the most original, important or valuable preserved historic vessel in the Baltic Sea region. The objective was to compile a representative selection of preserved vessels used in our territorial waters.

The objectives of the list are

- to collect and present information on preserved historic vessels in order to highlight the richness of the preserved ships in The Baltic Sea States.
- to promote the value and importance of historic ships to a wider audience and to decision-makers
- to raise awareness and understanding of restoring and maintaining historic vessels

Website address: <http://mg.kpd.lt>



A historic ship is a ship which has survived its purpose.

Nearly all ships ever built have been destroyed, either by nature or by man. Only a few have survived. Some of them might be wrecks; others are preserved more or less in their original condition.

Historic ships are unique monuments of cultural heritage. You find them in the open sea, in harbours, on lakes or in rivers. But as they have always been moveable, these monuments have often been regarded as less valuable than buildings ashore. There is no reason for that.

Ships have connected people; they have brought us our food, carried our goods and given incomes to most societies. Seafarers shipped cultural influences across the seas. The maritime cultures and traditions united people living far away from each other. The historic ship is a book for reading and understanding cultural exchange and development.

If you are interested in a copy of the poster exhibition please contact Robert Domżał at the Polish Maritime Museum in Gdańsk.

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