



# ***Cutty Sark* Facts Pack**

*Cutty Sark* was built in Scotland for John Willis, a businessman. Although built to be a tea clipper, *Cutty Sark* carried many other cargoes as well, and found great success as a wool clipper in the 1880s and 1890s. The word 'clipper' means to move quickly.

*Cutty Sark* is a 3 deck ship:

- The Main Deck
- The Tween Deck
- The Lower Hold

The crew used to live and work on the Main Deck. The rest of the ship (the hold) was used to store cargo.

## **Cutty Sark Timeline**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>1869</b> | <i>Cutty Sark</i> was built in Scotland  |
| <b>1895</b> | She was bought by a Portuguese company and re-named Ferreira. The ship continued to work as a cargo vessel until 1922.   |
| <b>1922</b> | <i>Cutty Sark</i> was bought by Captain Wilfred Dowman who restored her to her tea clipper appearance. She was anchored in Falmouth and used for cadet training.   |
| <b>1938</b> | The Incorporated Thames Nautical Training College purchased <i>Cutty Sark</i> from Captain Dowman and the ship continued in her role as a training vessel anchored in Kent.  |
| <b>1954</b> | HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was involved in the creation of the <i>Cutty Sark</i> Preservation Society (before the <i>Cutty Sark</i> Trust) and in bringing <i>Cutty Sark</i> to Greenwich as a memorial to the Merchant Navy. |
| <b>1957</b> | <i>Cutty Sark</i> was opened to the public by HM The Queen.  |
| <b>2006</b> | In 2006 the ship closed for the <i>Cutty Sark</i> Conservation Project, which was delayed by a fire in 2007. Thankfully very little was lost in the fire.  |
| <b>2012</b> | The ship was reopened to the public.   |

## **Cutty Sark details**

<b>Name of ship</b>	<i>Cutty Sark*</i>
<b>Date of launch</b>	22nd November 1869
<b>Built by</b>	Scott & Linton of Dumbarton, Scotland
<b>Type of hull construction</b>	Composite clipper ship
<b>Built for</b>	John Willis, Willis & Sons
<b>Port of registry</b>	London
<b>Registration number</b>	63557
<b>Cost</b>	£16,150
<b>Gross tonnage</b>	963 tons
<b>Net tonnage</b>	921 tons
<b>Sail area</b>	32,000 sq. ft. (2,976 sq. m)
<b>Number of sails</b>	32 sails
<b>Rigging</b>	11 miles
<b>Hull length</b>	212.5 feet (64.8m)
<b>Extreme length</b>	280 feet (85.4m)
<b>Beam (width)</b>	36 feet (11m)
<b>Registered depth</b>	21 feet (6.4m)
<b>Moulded depth</b>	22.5 feet (6.9m)
<b>Height of main mast</b>	152 feet (47m)
<b>Maximum recorded speed</b>	17 ½ knots (20 mph, 32.5 kph)
<b>Ship's flags</b>	Cutty Sark flew signal flags representing the letters J K W S (depicting the name of the owner, Jock Willis) and the Willis House flag - blue background with white diamond and red cross in the centre

\**Cutty Sark's* name is taken from a poem, Tam O'Shanter, by Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns. In the poem, Tam O' Shanter, a farmer, is chased by a witch called Nannie who is wearing a 'cutty sark' (a lowland scots term for short undergarment or shift). Nannie the witch is *Cutty Sark's* figurehead. She is on the bow of the ship.

## **Cutty Sark Crew**

The number of crew changed for each voyage but it was usually between 18-28 men.

### **Master**

The ship's captain, a qualified officer responsible for the ship and all its operations, including navigation, managing the crew, loading and unloading cargo (and often finding the cargo) and complying with local laws. He had the largest cabin, in the stern.

### **First Mate**

A qualified officer, second in command and in command of the ship when the Master was not on deck. He had a cabin in the stern accommodation.

### **Second Mate**

A qualified officer, third in command and often the ship's navigator. He had a cabin in the stern accommodation.

### **Third Mate**

Fourth in command and often taking the role of the bosun (boatswain) with responsibility for the condition of the ship and organisation of the crew on deck, particularly when raising or lowering the anchors. He might share the cabin of the Second Mate or have a berth in the aft deckhouse. Not all voyages carried a Third Mate or a bosun.

### **Steward**

Looked after the officers, serving their meals and maintaining their quarters in the Liverpool House. Some stewards also helped on deck, handling the sheets (controlling ropes) of the sails. He had a cabin in the stern accommodation.

### **Cook**

A petty officer who produced meals for the officers and men, cooked in the galley in the forward deckhouse. His berth was in the aft deckhouse.

### **Sailmaker**

A petty officer responsible for mending torn sails or pennants and any other canvas work. He usually reported to the ship's carpenter. His berth was in the aft deckhouse.

### **Carpenter**

A petty officer responsible for the maintenance of the ship's hull, rudder, masts and yards and for keeping the decks watertight. He had a narrow workshop in the forward deckhouse, and a berth in the aft deckhouse.

### **Apprentices**

Apprentices were boys or young adults between 14 and 21 training for a career in the Merchant Navy. They were taught skills such as navigation by the officers but had to perform all the other tasks undertaken by the crew, including taking the helm and furling sails. They lived in the aft deckhouse.

### **Able Seamen**

Men who had served on a ship for several years and held a certificate as proof of their competence in steering the ship and working aloft in the rigging and handling sails.

### **Ordinary Seamen**

Men with little or no experience at sea. They carried out the more menial and unskilled tasks, such as cleaning and painting.

## **Cutty Sark Glossary**

### **Aft (After)**

Back end of the ship.

### **Aft deckhouse**

Deckhouse at the back of the ship. Accommodation for the Carpenter, Sailmaker, Bos'un and Cook, and for apprentices.

### **Binnacle**

Housing for the large compass located on the roof of the Liverpool House, facing the ship's wheel.

### **Bow**

Front of the ship.

### **Capstan**

Used for general moving, maybe to help load or unload cargo or bring the anchor on board after leaving port.

### **Capstan bar**

Black and white bars near the heads to help turn the capstan.

### **Cargo**

Everything that the ship carried, such as tea, wool, a piano, shark bones, coal, etc.

### **Cargo Hatch**

Used for loading cargo down into the hold.

### **Figurehead**

Carved wooden figure at the front of the ship. Nannie is Cutty Sark's figurehead.

### **Fore (Forward)**

Front end of the ship.

### **Fore Deckhouse**

Deckhouse at the front of the ship. Accommodation for the crew and contains twelve bunks. Also included the galley and Carpenter's workshop.

### **Galley**

Name for the kitchen on the ship.

### **Heads**

Name for toilets on a ship.

### **Hull**

The main body of the ship which includes the sides and the bottom of the ship. You can walk underneath the Hull of the *Cutty Sark*.

### **Liverpool House**

Accommodation in the Poop deck for officers and the Master.

### **Masts**

Three tall poles which carry the sails.

### **Poop deck**

Raised deck on the stern end of the Main deck, where you can find the ship's wheel and the Liverpool House.

### **Port**

Facing Forward, this is the left side of the ship.

### **Rigging**

The ropes used to support and control the masts, sails, and yards of the ship.

### **Rudder**

Part of the wooden hull structure, used for turning the ship.

### **Starboard**

Facing forward, this is the right side of the ship.

### **Stern**

Back of the ship.

### **Winch**

Winches are used to raise and lower cargo through the hatch.

### **Windlass**

Used to pull the anchor from the sea bed.

### **Yards**

Yards go across the masts like branches on a tree and hold the sails.

## **Find your own *Cutty Sark* facts**

Find 5 cargoes going from London

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Find 5 cargoes coming into London

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Find 5 countries the ship sailed to

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.