



El Galeón visit to Yorktown a huge success

First Class A ship to visit Yorktown welcomed an estimated 7,800 visitors

November 10, 2016

El Galeón, the authentic replica of the 17th century Spanish Galleon, docked at Riverwalk Landing on a seven day stop that lasted from Wednesday, November 2, through Tuesday, November 8. While docked, the ship offered free tours on weekdays and ticketed tours on Saturday and Sunday. The ship hosted students from York High School and York River Academy for group tours. During those seven days in port, an estimated 7,800 visitors toured the ship, the first Class A ship to make visit Yorktown since the docks opened in 2005. Among the visitors were students from York High School and York River Academy. A Class A ship is defined as a “square-rigged vessel (barque, barquentine, brig, brigantine or ship rigged) and all other vessels more than 40 meters Length Overall (LOA).”

While in port, the captain and crew were treated to a “Welcome” reception in the Freight Shed sponsored by the Yorktown Tall Ships Committee. Members of the crew visited Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg during their free time.

Of the visit, Maria Buffa, owner of Riverwalk Restaurant and Water Street Grille, said “El Galeón’s visit to Yorktown was a treat for citizens as well as the merchants of Riverwalk Landing. An event such as this is huge during the fall season. My restaurants at Riverwalk Landing saw a 20% increase in business compared to the same time last year.”

Before departing, El Galeón project manager Fernando Viota stated, “We had an amazing visit here in Yorktown and it was one of our greatest stops with all the history we have on the ship and the connection with York County as a historic port town. We would like to thank York County and the Tall Ships committee for having us and we hope to come back to Yorktown again.”

The ship’s visit, led by York County and sponsored by the Yorktown Tall Ships Committee, is the result of the effort given to attracting tall ship visits to the Riverwalk Landing piers in Yorktown.

For more information about the ship, visit www.fundacionnaovictoria.org. For a listing of events in Yorktown, visit www.visitryorktown.org or call (757) 890-3500.

Photos attached: The Schooner Alliance sails out to greet El Galeón; the ship approaches Riverwalk Landing; sailors on board El Galeón view Yorktown.

Additional images are available at <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/tourism/ElGaleon.aspx>



