



Royal Sailing Yacht Bloodhound Begins Sea Trials as Restoration Plans Progress

The Royal Yacht Bloodhound, one of Britain's most historically significant ocean sailing yachts, has returned to the water and is now undergoing sea trials captained by Mark Stapley and under the stewardship of The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust.

Built in 1936 by the prestigious Camper & Nicholsons yard in Gosport, Bloodhound quickly established herself as one of the most successful ocean racing yachts of her time.

From 1962 to 1969, Bloodhound was proudly owned by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. Renowned for his passion for sailing, Prince Philip acquired the yacht to enjoy racing and family sailing during holidays in Scotland's Western Isles. It was aboard Bloodhound that Prince Charles and Princess Anne learned to sail, and when not in Royal use, she was made available to yacht clubs across the country, helping thousands of young people experience sailing for the first time.

Gifted in 2010 to The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust from the Royal Collection, Bloodhound is regularly berthed alongside The Royal Yacht Britannia in Leith, Edinburgh.

As part of the restoration, 2025 will see Bloodhound take part in a series of sea trials, which began with an initial voyage south from Leith on Friday 4 April. The journey was interrupted on Sunday 6 April by Bloodhound taking on water, and as a precautionary measure to prevent damage and prioritise preservation, the crew who operate a 'no risk' policy, called upon the highly professional team at Caister Lifeboat for assistance.

Franck Bruyère, Chief Executive of The Royal Yacht Britannia, said: "We are delighted with the professional and swift support received from the local lifeboat team. Thanks to their efforts and the dedication of our crew, we are pleased to confirm that Bloodhound is sound once again. The safety and wellbeing of our crew remain our top priority, and we are proceeding with caution and care."

Mr Bruyère continued: "The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust is committed to restoring and preserving Bloodhound so that she can continue to inspire future generations and honour her remarkable heritage by continuing to inclusively educate the next generation."

The Trust will continue to oversee restoration works while preparing Bloodhound for a new chapter in her storied history, ensuring the legacy of this exceptional Royal yacht endures.

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Images:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/53xxwl6556zh43k0tar14/AFTSkE--fr5ZyngAzZgHEmE?rlkey=iigxr295fkr8geo5ecrxynp7w&st=7bv15j2x&dl=0>

Notes for editors:

- The Royal Yacht Britannia was home to Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over a million nautical miles around the world, calling at more than 600 ports in 128 countries. Situated in Edinburgh's historic Port of Leith, Britannia is now a five-star visitor attraction, as well as an exclusive-use evening events venue. Visitors enjoy a fascinating insight into Queen Elizabeth II's former floating palace, and the lives of those who lived and worked on board.
- Britannia attracts around 350,000 people from across the world every year and is proud to have one of the world's most translated audio tours with over 30 languages, English Braille script, and British and American Sign Language tour tablets.
- One of the UK's most accessible tourism destinations, allowing each and every visitor access to explore all five decks of the ship, plus the Royal Deck Tearoom with stunning waterfront views, and Gift Shop within Ocean Terminal.
- Britannia is owned by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust (Registered Charity No. SC028070). The Trust's responsibility is to maintain and preserve Britannia in keeping with her former role and to display her to the public as a key part of British maritime history. The Trust is a wholly self-funding, not-for-profit, charitable organisation. Britannia is the official headquarters of the Association of Royal Yachtsmen.
- Over successive years, The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust has been gifted several yachts to add to the 'fleet', kindly on loan from the Royal Collection. In 2010, the Trust took delivery of Prince Philip's former Royal Racing Yacht Bloodhound, which is now berthed alongside Britannia. Visitors can also view Prince Philip's Flying Fifteen keelboat, Coweslip, designed by the legendary Uffa Fox, presented to the Royal couple as a wedding present in 1949. Following an eighteen-month restoration by David Heritage Racing Yachts, International Dragon class yacht Bluebottle has joined Bloodhound and Coweslip at Britannia. Built in 1947, Bluebottle was gifted by the Island Sailing Club of Cowes, Isle of Wight, as a wedding present for Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.