Shipwrecks of the Baltic

Explorers uncover a historic treasure trove on the seabed

The remains of almost 100,000 wrecks from various eras lie at the bottom of the Baltic. The unique qualities of this sea have preserved the sunken vessels. For centuries, the Baltic Sea has been a crossroads for trade, migration and warfare and wrecks bear witness to these dramatic events. Shipwrecks of the Baltic tell the story of some of the most interesting historical events that have taken place on that sea. From the Baltic’s own Flying Dutchman to one of the worst-ever maritime disasters: the sinking of three German refugee ships during World War II. The book also sheds light on the attacks on the iron ore traffic between Sweden and Germany during both World Wars, as well as on the discovery of the Swedish DC-3 airplane that vanished during the Cold War. The book is available in English, German and Russian. To order a free copy, please write to Nord Stream.

Nord Stream submits supplementary documentation to the government

Nord Stream submitted supplementary documentation to its application for laying the pipeline to Sweden’s Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications on June 5. The Swedish Maritime Administration and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency requested the examination of a pipeline route further eastward within the Swedish economic zone.

Heavy Construction

The Swedish mining company Malmco, has been contracted to provide 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore for the concrete weight coating of the pipeline. Every two weeks, more than 20,000 tonnes are shipped to Malmberget, Sweden, where the pipeline route will pass.

Using its seabed surveys to define the optimal pipeline route, Nord Stream has located about 60 wrecks. The company is aiding preservation of these finds by sharing the survey data with national authorities. In some cases, the company is financing salvage operations of historically relevant finds, such as the remains of a wreck located near the German coast in the Bay of Greifswald, or Greifswalder Bodden, where the pipeline route will pass.

This wreck is one of 20 ships that were sunk in Germany in 1715 by the Swedish navy to create a physical barrier across the Baltic. "The Swedish navy ballasted the ships with rocks to sink them. Over 300 years, large parts of the ship have been borne away by the current, and the wood that’s still there is heavily rotted,” explains Jens-Peter Schmidt, an archaeologist with the State Bureau for Culture and Care and Preservation of Ancient Monuments and Artifacts of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (LKD M-V), who is working on the project.

Pieces of a Puzzle

Though just beams and planks from one side of the ship remain, for Schmidt and his team every piece of the ship is significant as it might provide important clues about the development of historic shipbuilding methods in the region. Throughout June and July, a team of seven specialist research divers worked to carefully remove the rocks and sediment covering the remnants in order to measure the pieces and their exact position at the place of discovery. Photos and video images of the remains will also be used to chart the wreck’s position and its overall condition.

When this time-consuming documentation is completed sometime in August, the LKD M-V will evaluate the findings and decide how it wants proceed with the handle potential preservation of the remnants.

Research Divers Begin Salvage Operations of Wreck Artefacts in the Bay of Greifswald

Remnants of a historic shipwreck to be documented, lifted and potentially preserved

Sweden asks for additional info

Nord Stream sends more documentation to the government

Nord Stream also offers a range of other publications which provide background information on the project, including our “FACTS” and “e-FACTS” newsletters, the “Non-Technical Summary of the Espoo Report” and the “Ten Answers” pamphlet.

Contact:

Discover what lies under the sea.

Supporting Preservation

Nord Stream supports the research and preservation of the Baltic Sea’s underwater cultural heritage by sponsoring the research project, Heritage Underwater - Maritime Archaeology Gotland (HUMA). HUMA sheds new light on the unexplored wrecks and artefacts sunk around the island of Gotland, Sweden. Historic sources indicate that more than 2,500 have sunk along the coast of Gotland.

Please visit www.nord-stream.com to subscribe.

Please note: In addition to its print newsletter, Nord Stream also offers e-FACTS, its electronic newsletter. e-FACTS is available online and via email in English only. Please visit www.nord-stream.com to subscribe.
Baltic Youth Philharmonic Praised for Its Accomplished Summer Performances

The orchestra began its tour in July with concerts in four Baltic Sea countries.

Another Project Milestone Reached

International consultations shift to bilateral level

The international Espoo working group came together for a final meeting in Stralsund, Germany, on June 15 and 16. The working group is made up of representatives from various ministries and authorities of the nine Baltic Sea countries, including Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany (Parties of Origin) who took part to inform one another about the statements received about Nord Stream’s transboundary environmental report, or Espoo Report.

Consultations Begin

The statements they discussed were collected during the public participation period from March to June by the relevant authorities in all of the countries of the Baltic Sea region. In the meeting, the countries agreed that these statements will be handled in the national permitting processes and discussed on a bilateral basis. Finland and Estonia already held bilateral consultations to solve outstanding issues. Nord Stream is looking forward to cooperating further with the authorities.

Facts:

- The orchestra began its tour in July with concerts in four Baltic Sea countries in 2009. Internationally renowned instrumentalists were brought on board to coach these talented musicians in preparation for this series of concerts around the Baltic.
- The Young musicians performed four concerts from July 16 to July 21, beginning in Tartu, Estonia. The tour then moved onto Helsinki, Finland, Vilnius, Lithuania, and Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The orchestra, to the delight of the guests, played a repertoire ranging from Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Beethoven to Brahms and Tchaikovsky. The BYP’s 2009 tour culminated at the Baltic Development Forum Summit, in Stockholm, Sweden, where individuals from the Baltic Sea region representing politics, business and academia will converge to discuss measures to boost the region. With more than 10 nations coming together at one event, this is an ideal venue for the orchestra to promote its “Music Without Borders” message.

Facts:

- Expert coaches to the method of auditioning, who we commissioned from, to where we tour. This is both an entrepreneurial and creative challenge, and one of the most exciting projects I’ve been involved with. There is a great possibility that this orchestra can become a major force and a permanent structure on Europes cultural scene.
- Being “a cultural force” the mission of the project?

Facts:

- The mission and the spirit of this orchestra are to achieve an all-inclusive, music-without-borders mindset. The all-inclusive nature of the orchestra, combined with the distinct cultures of these 10 countries gives us an opportunity for communication not only between the participants but with their nations. The orchestra then acts as a vehicle, or a political bridge, to show how things can work in the ideal world through a different level of communication not dictated by trade, money, and power, which is the normal fare that we see on television.

Facts:

- What sets the Baltic Youth Philharmonic (BYP) apart from other youth orchestras?

Facts:

- Is being “a cultural force” the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?

Facts:

- Why did you decide to be a part of the BYP?

Facts:

- What forms does your involvement take?

Facts:

- What is the mission of the project?