

## Paul Valéry High School at the « Escale à Sète » event

On Tuesday, March 31, the opening day of « Escale à Sète », students from the 11<sup>th</sup> grade general studies class 1 and the STL (Laboratory Science and Technology) class visited the ships « ***El Galeón*** » and « ***Pascual Flores*** » as part of an English class unit titled « ***Golden Age of Piracy*** ». The students also got to see the Indian ship « ***INS Sudarshini*** ». They were accompanied by **Ms. Alcántara Gutierrez**, an English teacher at Paul-Valéry High School, **Ms. Bougard**, a Spanish teacher, **Ms. Danjou**, a biology teacher, and the school's principal, **Ms. Chamorin**, the assistant principal at Paul-Valéry High School.

« Escale à Sète » is the largest festival of maritime traditions in the south of France. The event features tall ships and historic vessels such as the « ***El Galeón*** » and the « ***Pascual Flores*** ». This year, from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, various countries including Spain, Slovenia, Romania, Mauritania, Japan, Corsica, and Tunisia as well as the French Navy will welcome tens of thousands of visitors.



Credit : All rights reserved



Credit : All rights reserved

The students were able to truly grasp the curriculum they are learning: how pirates of the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries lived, and what navigational equipment they used, taking a leap back several centuries into the past.

They thus got a firsthand look at the sometimes dreary, sometimes eventful daily life of a pirate ship's crew (captain, sailors, or gunners), brought to life by the words of the captain of the « **Pascual Flores** » a merchant schooner built in Spain in 1917. At the time, it was primarily used to transport salt, fruit, and other Mediterranean goods to North Africa.



Credit : All rights reserved

They also got a glimpse into the living conditions of sailors in the 17<sup>th</sup> century including their bunks, which were sometimes shared by several people and their daily activities, such as hoisting the sails, during a visit to « **El Galeón** » or « **Galeón Andalucía** ». It is a 1:1 scale replica of a real 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish galleon, built in 2010.

Finally, the Indian ship « **INS Sudarshini** », a training sailing vessel built in 2011, provided an opportunity to illustrate the course theme titled « **Britain and India** ». This ship serves as one of India's showcases on the international stage during its port calls in foreign countries or through its participation in maritime events. Its primary mission is to train officers and thereby preserve maritime traditions within the Indian Navy.



Credit : All rights reserved

Ana Alcántara Gutierrez and Enzo Feraud

**Practical information:**

<https://www.sete.fr/>. 20bis Rue Paul Valéry, 34200 Sète. 04 99 04 70 00

<https://paul-valery-sete.mon-ent-occitanie.fr/>. 55 Rue Paul Valéry, 34200 Sète. 04 67 51 62 90

<https://escaleasete.com/>. 20 Rue Martin, 34200 Sète. 04 30 17 42 09. March 31–April 6, 2026

<https://www.fundacionnaovictoria.org/fr/>. Paseo Alcalde Marqués del Contadero, edif. 1

41001 · Seville. +34 954 090 956

<https://www.pascualflores.org/>.