

**The schooner *Tara* will drop anchor in Amsterdam from 29 April to 2 May as part of its new scientific expedition to discover the biodiversity of European coasts**

The Tara Ocean Foundation, first French foundation recognized of public utility for the Ocean, is carrying out its 13th scientific expedition: Tara Europa. As part of EMBL's TRaversing European Coastlines (TREC) program, the Tara EUROPA expedition will sail the European coastlines for two consecutive years over a distance of 13,780 nautical miles (25 520 km). For the first time, thanks to this expedition between land and sea, scientists will try to understand the interactions between these two ecosystems and will study the impact of human activities on this fragile ecosystem.

During its stopover in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, the Tara Ocean Foundation will organize numerous awareness-raising activities about the preservation of the Ocean in partnership with the National Maritime Museum. All the activities will be available with a Museum's ticket except for the Saturday's evening public conference. The general public will be able to meet scientists, artists and sailors participating in the Tara Ocean Foundation expedition to better understand their work. The opportunity to take a new look at the Ocean and the mysteries it holds, but also its fragility.

#### **A stopover to raise awareness and make the link between art and science**

Program :

##### **Saturday 29 in the afternoon & Sunday 30**

#### **Public visits of the schooner *Tara* on the dock of the National Maritime Museum Het Scheepvaart**

On Saturday from 2pm to 5pm, on Sunday from 10:30am to 4pm

Registration required : [Link to register](#)

#### **Workshops in the museum**

On Saturday from 2pm to 5pm, on Sunday from 10am to 5pm

Discovery of the invisible life of the Ocean during activities inside the museum : microscope workshops, microplastic observations, games, video projections, artistic exhibition and podcast listening.

#### **Meet artists and scientists**

On Saturday and Sunday at 2pm and 4pm

At 2pm short talk with an artist who embarked on the schooner *Tara* for a residency during one of the previous expedition

At 4pm short talk with a scientist embarking on *Tara* for the current expedition

#### **Public conference and music**

On Saturday, Public conference from 6pm to 8pm & DJ set from 8pm to 10pm

This port call will also be the opportunity to bring different local actors around the same table for panel discussions on the **Netherlands and Amsterdam approach to environmental issues and its actions on political, economical and cultural aspects**. The Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management, the city of Amsterdam and local NGOs will be represented along with citizen actors. The evening will be punctuated by musical interludes : Aktaro, Maarten Stok, DJ: Joris/Dek (JDM 61 soundsystem).

[Link to register](#)

### **Concert**

On Sunday at 4pm

To end this weekend of animations, a festive moment is organized in front of the schooner with a concert of Troko Moto.

### **Traversing European Coastlines**

Conceived by EMBL, the Tara Ocean Foundation, the Tara OceanS consortium and more than 70 partner institutions, the TREC program will combine the expertise of 150 researchers. One of the most innovative aspects of this scientific adventure is the combination of a land and sea study of the ecosystems along the entire European coast. At each location where the EMBL team, with the mobile laboratory, will sample soil, sediment and shallow water, the schooner Tara will sample the associated marine ecosystems - on the same day, in close proximity.

The mobile labs and the schooner Tara will sample in key areas: urban areas, agricultural regions, river estuaries, pristine areas. Scientists will collect data on environmental parameters in a systematic and standardised way. They will examine a wide range of anthropogenic and natural factors, such as the presence of pollutants, antibiotics, pesticides or hormones, but also temperature, pH, salinity, oxygen levels and certain geophysical parameters.

### **An expedition to the heart of the invisible people of the Ocean and pollution**

"Thanks to TREC, the interaction between Tara and the new advanced mobile service laboratory set up by EMBL on the coast will open up new dimensions in the way we explore and question oceanic life as a whole. "Colomban de Vargas, scientific director of Tara EUROPA, research director at CNRS and Sorbonne University

In 2009 and then in 2020, the Foundation is launching two major expeditions to reveal the invisible life that thrives in the ocean. To complete this global observation of life in the world ocean, Tara EUROPA will focus on coastal waters and ecosystems, which are among the richest, most dynamic and most complex environments in our biosphere.

In addition to completing this picture of life, Tara EUROPA will conduct an unprecedented study of pollutants. Pollutants enter the environment through industry, agriculture, homes and pharmaceuticals. The expedition's researchers will focus on three categories of pollutants to understand the gradients of pollutants at the land-sea interface: pharmaceuticals, pesticides and plastic additives.

Accumulating pharmaceuticals, pesticides and plastics in the environment creates a growing threat to ecosystem and human health. Beyond plastic pollution, which has been the focus of attention for more than a decade, man-made chemical pollution of rivers and coasts must be a central concern, as it is likely to affect global and human health at a faster rate than climate change.

**The boat will be open to the media on Saturday morning/mid day.**

**Please confirm your presence before Wednesday 26 April.**

For any inquiry :

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