

Heritage Crafts Weekend

Join us for drop-in activities celebrating the heritage craft skills used to build and maintain *Cutty Sark*

Essential information

Type: Experiences

Location: Cutty Sark

Date and times: Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May 2026 | 11am-4pm



Prices:

Free with entry to Cutty Sark – Adults £22 | Students £16.50 |
Children £11

Free for Members. Not a Member? [Join now](#)

[Book Cutty Sark tickets](#)

Here at *Cutty Sark* we're shining a spotlight on the heritage craft skills used to build and maintain this historic tea clipper.

Join us for drop-in activities, where you'll learn about crafts such as rope-making, fender-making and traditional caulking.

You'll also have the opportunity to take a closer look at and handle a range of historical objects and contemporary craft objects.

See all the activities below.

Recommended for ages 5+.





Rope walk

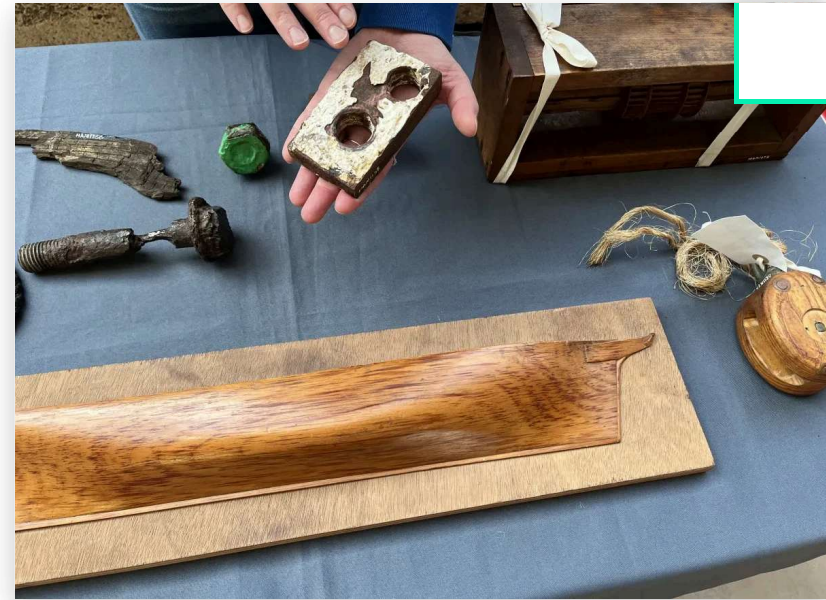
Making rope is a vital skill for sailors on a ship like *Cutty Sark*, which has 11 miles of rope in its rigging. Have a go at using our model rope walk, and see for yourself how traditional ropes are made.



Object handling

Cutty Sark was built using a variety of materials that craftspeople still work with today.

Get hands-on with artefacts from *Cutty Sark*'s collection, and see how they relate to contemporary craft objects from the Crafts Council's handling collection.





Fender making

Fenders are protective buffers on the sides of boats or ships, which protect vessels from knocks.

Traditionally, fenders were woven out of rope, which we'll be demonstrating on the 'Tween Deck.

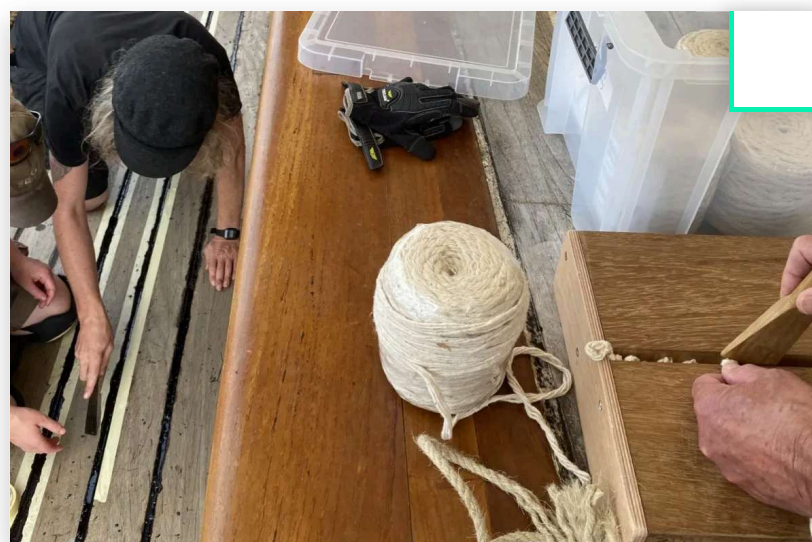
Fender making is now an endangered craft, so come and be a part of preserving this skill.

Caulking

How do you stop a ship from leaking? Caulking!

Caulking involved stuffing a ship seam with oakum (rope fibres) and then sealing it with hot tar.

Try your hand at this traditional shipbuilding skill that was crucial for keeping *Cutty Sark* afloat.





Navigational instrument making

Using instruments like a sextant and compass helped *Cutty Sark's* crew to navigate the world safely and efficiently. In this activity, you can find out how navigational instruments work and the skills that go into making them.

Can you work out where in the world you are?

Oar making

Traditional wooden oar making is a dying art in the UK, with fewer than 20 professionals estimated to still be working in this field. Luckily, one of our shipwrights has the skills, and will be demonstrating how he makes oars on board *Cutty Sark*.



Get excited for the event

Learn more about heritage crafts on board Cutty Sark.



Shipkeeping Wednesdays

Join us on the second Wednesday of the month as we bring the art and heritage of ship care to life with shipkeeping talks and activities



Cutty Sark's new binnacle: charting a course for heritage crafts

A navigational case shines a light on traditional skills – and prompts intriguing questions into the tea clipper's history



Keeping Cutty Sark ship-shape: repairing the poop deck

Between 2023 and 2024, the poop deck of Cutty Sark was replaced as part of a major conservation project. Discover how a team of shipkeepers...

Our sites

Cutty Sark

National Maritime Museum

About us

What we do

Contact us

Commercial services

Brand licensing

Image licensing

Queen's House
Royal Observatory

Jobs & volunteering
Press office
Sustainability

Filming & photography
Publishing
Venue hire

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Cookie Policy](#)

[Sign up to our newsletter](#)

