



The Flying Dutchman



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The Flying Dutchman

The *Flying Dutchman* ([Dutch](#):) is a legendary [ghost ship](#) that can never make port and is doomed to sail the oceans forever. The myth is likely to have originated from the 17th-century golden age of the [Dutch East India Company](#) (VOC). The oldest extant version has been dated to the late 18th century. Sightings in the 19th and 20th centuries reported the ship to be glowing with ghostly light. If hailed by another ship, the crew of the *Flying Dutchman* will try to send messages to land, or to people long dead. In ocean lore, the sight of this phantom ship is a [portent](#) of doom.

Origins

The first print reference to the ship appears in *Travels in various part of Europe, Asia and Africa during a series of thirty years and upward* (1790) by John MacDonald :

The weather was so stormy that the sailors said they saw the *Flying Dutchman*. The common story is that this *Dutchman* came to the Cape in distress of weather and wanted to get into harbour but could not get a pilot to conduct her and was lost and that ever since in very bad weather her vision appears.

The next literary reference appears in Chapter VI of *A Voyage to Botany Bay* (1795) (also known as *A Voyage to New South Wales*), attributed to [George Barrington](#) (1755-1804):

I had often heard of the superstition of sailors respecting apparitions and doom, but had never given much credit to the report; it seems that some years since a Dutch man-of-war was lost off the Cape of Good Hope, and every soul on board perished; her consort weathered the gale, and arrived soon after at the Cape. Having refitted, and returning to Europe, they were assailed by a violent tempest nearly in the same latitude. In the night watch some of the people saw, or imagined they saw, a vessel standing for them under a press of sail, as though she would run them down: one in particular affirmed it was the ship that had foundered in the former gale, and that it must certainly be her, or the apparition of her; but on its clearing up, the object, a dark thick cloud, disappeared. Nothing could do away the idea of this phenomenon on the minds of the sailors; and, on their relating the circumstances when they arrived in port, the story spread like wild-fire, and the supposed phantom was called the *Flying Dutchman*. From the Dutch the English seamen got the infatuation, and there are very few Indiamen, but what has some one on board, who pretends to have seen the apparition.

The next literary reference introduces the motif of punishment for a crime, in *Scenes of Infancy* (Edinburgh, 1803) by [John Leyden](#) (1775-1811):

It is a common superstition of mariners, that, in the high southern latitudes on the coast of Africa, hurricanes are frequently ushered in by the appearance of a spectre-ship, denominated the *Flying Dutchman*... The crew of this vessel are supposed to have been guilty of some dreadful crime, in the infancy of navigation; and to have been stricken with pestilence ... and are ordained still to traverse the ocean on which they perished, till the period of their penance expire.

[Thomas Moore](#) (1779-1852) places the vessel in the north Atlantic in his poem *Written on passing Dead-man's Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Late in the evening, September, 1804*. "Fast gliding along, a gloomy bark / Her sails are full, though the wind is still, / And there blows not a breath her sails to fill." A footnote adds: "The above lines were suggested by a superstition very common among sailors, who call this ghost-ship, I think, 'the flying Dutch-man'."

[Sir Walter Scott](#) (1771-1832), a friend of John Leyden's, was the first to refer to the vessel as a pirate ship, writing in the notes to *Rokeby: a poem* (first published December 1812) that the ship was "originally a vessel loaded with great wealth, on board of which some horrid act of murder and piracy had been committed" and that the apparition of the ship "is considered by the mariners as the worst of all possible omens."

According to some sources, 17th-century Dutch [captain Bernard Fokke](#) is the model for the captain of the ghost ship. Fokke was renowned for the speed of his trips from the [Netherlands](#) to [Java](#) and was suspected of being [in league with the Devil](#). The first version of the legend as a story was printed in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* for May 1821, which puts the scene as the Cape of Good Hope. This story introduces the name Captain Hendrick Van der Decken for the captain and the motifs (elaborated by later writers) of letters addressed to people long dead being offered to other ships for delivery, but if accepted will bring misfortune; and the captain having sworn to round the Cape of Good Hope though it should take until the day of judgment.

She was an Amsterdam vessel and sailed from port seventy years ago. Her master's name was Van der Decken. He was a staunch seaman, and would have his own way in spite of the devil. For all that, never a sailor under him had reason to complain; though how it is on board with them nobody knows. The story is this: that in doubling the Cape they were a long day trying to weather the Table Bay. However, the wind headed them, and went against them more and more, and Van der Decken walked the deck, swearing at the wind. Just after sunset a vessel spoke him, asking him if he did not mean to go into the bay that night. Van der Decken replied: "May I be eternally damned if I do, though I should beat about here till the day of judgment." And to be sure, he never did go into that bay, for it is believed that he continues to beat about in these seas still, and will do so long enough. This vessel is never seen but with foul weather along with her.

Reported sightings

There have been many reported or alleged sightings in the 19th and 20th centuries. A well-known sighting was by Prince George of Wales, the future [King George V](#). He was on a three-year voyage during his late adolescence in 1880 with his elder brother [Prince Albert Victor of Wales](#), and their tutor John Neill Dalton. They temporarily shipped into [HMS Inconstant](#) after the damaged rudder was repaired in their original ship, the 4,000-tonne corvette [Bacchante](#). The princes' log (indeterminate as to which prince, due to later editing before publication) records the following for the pre-dawn hours of 11 July 1881, off the coast of [Australia](#) in the [Bass Strait](#) between [Melbourne](#) and [Sydney](#):

Flying Dutchman



The Flying Dutchman by [Albert Pinkham Ryder](#)
c. 1887 (Smithsonian American Art Museum)
[Captain](#) Hendrick van der Decken



View of [Table Bay](#) (overlooked by [Kaaopstad, Dutch Cape Colony](#)) with ships of the [Dutch East India Company](#), c. 1683. In the 1600s the size of the Dutch [merchant fleet](#) probably exceeded the combined fleets of England, France, Spain, Portugal, and Germany.



Replica of an [East Indiaman](#) of the [Dutch East India Company/United East Indies Company](#) (VOC). The legend of the *Flying Dutchman* is likely to have originated from the 17th-century golden age of the VOC.

July 11th. At 4 a.m. the *Flying Dutchman* crossed our bows. A strange red light as of a phantom ship all aglow, in the midst of which light the masts, spars and sails of a brig 200 yards distant stood out in strong relief as she came up on the port bow, where also the officer of the watch from the bridge clearly saw her, as did the quarterdeck midshipman, who was sent forward at once to the forecandle; but on arriving there was no vestige nor any sign whatever of any material ship was to be seen either near or right away to the horizon, the night being clear and the sea calm. Thirteen persons altogether saw her ... At 10.45 a.m. the ordinary seaman who had this morning reported the *Flying Dutchman* fell from the foretopmast crossrees on to the topgallant forecandle and was smashed to atoms.

Nicholas Monsarrat, the novelist who wrote *The Cruel Sea*, described the phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean in his unfinished final book "Master Mariner", which was partly inspired by this tale (he lived and worked in South Africa after the war) and the story of the [Wandering Jew](#).

Explanations as an optical illusion

Probably the most credible explanation is a superior [mirage](#) or [Fata Morgana](#) seen at sea.

The news soon spread through the vessel that a phantom-ship with a ghostly crew was sailing in the air over a phantom-ocean, and that it was a bad omen, and meant that not one of them should ever see land again. The captain was told the wonderful tale, and coming on deck, he explained to the sailors that this strange appearance was caused by the reflection of some ship that was sailing on the water below this image, but at such a distance they could not see it. There were certain conditions of the atmosphere, he said, when the sun's rays could form a perfect picture in the air of objects on the earth, like the images one sees in glass or water, but they were not generally upright, as in the case of this ship, but reversed–turned bottom upwards. This appearance in the air is called a mirage. He told a sailor to go up to the foretop and look beyond the phantom-ship. The man obeyed, and reported that he could see on the water, below the ship in the air, one precisely like it. Just then another ship was seen in the air, only this one was a steamship, and was bottom-upwards, as the captain had said these mirages generally appeared. Soon after, the steamship itself came in sight. The sailors were now convinced, and never afterwards believed in phantom-ships.



Book illustration showing superior mirages of two boats

Another optical effect known as [looming](#) occurs when rays of light are bent across different refractive indices. This could make a ship just off the horizon appear hoisted in the air.

Adaptations

There is a 20-foot [one-design](#) high-performance two-person [monohull](#) racing [dinghy](#) named the *Flying Dutchman* ([FD](#)). It made its Olympic debut at the [1960 Olympic Games](#) and is still one of the fastest racing dinghies in the world.

In artworks and design

The Flying Dutchman has been captured in paintings by [Albert Ryder](#), now in the [Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.](#), and by [Howard Pyle](#), whose painting of the *Flying Dutchman* is on exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum.

Dutch artist Joyce Overheul also adapted the name of *The Flying Dutchman* onto her crochet pattern designs (*The Flying Dutchman Crochet Design*), resembling the similarity of her designs 'roaming' the world just like the ghost ship once did.

Flying Dutchman Tobacco was a popular blend for pipes and smoking. Many of their tins are still readily collected by those who appreciate packaging art and design.

In television series and comics

- Scooby-Doo featured a Flying Dutchman ghost modeled after the illustrator Howard Pyle's 1900 depiction of the character
- "The Flying Dutchman" is both the name of a [pirate ghost](#) (a flying Dutchman) and his haunted pirate ship (*The Flying Dutchman*) in the [Nickelodeon](#) animated comedy series *SpongeBob SquarePants*. The former is voiced by [Brian Doyle-Murray](#), and the latter is based on [Queen Anne's Revenge](#).
- [Carl Barks](#) wrote and drew a 1959 comic book story where [Uncle Scrooge](#), [Donald Duck](#) and [Huey, Dewey, and Louie](#) meet the *Flying Dutchman*. Barks ultimately explains the "flying" ship as an optical illusion.
- In [Eiichiro Oda's manga One Piece](#) as well as the anime television series, Fishman Vander Decken IX (, Band? Dekken Ky?sei) a descendant of the original Captain Vander Decken is the *Flying Dutchmans* current captain who appears as a major villain in the "Fishman Island" arc. Like in the real world, the *Flying Dutchman* is feared by sailors in the world of One Piece as a legendary and infamous ghost ship, though in actually it is a pirate ship used by Fishman Vander Decken IX and his crew the Flying Pirates. The original Vander Decken is believed to have murdered his crew and defied the heavens and incurred the wrath of God, while others say it had sunk in a storm, but was cursed to sail his ship until doomsday, however though other than Vander Decken's madness, most of these stories are considered to be myths and in truth Vander Decken came to Fishman Island in search of the legendary Mermaid Princess Poseidon one of the so-called ancient weapons who possesses the power to communicate with Sea Kings, but failed. However Vander Decken IX later discovers the current mermaid princess Shirahoshi possesses this unique ability and becomes obsessed with making her his wife, stalking her using his devil fruit powers. He later enters into an alliance with Hody Jones Captain of the New Fishman Pirates who wishes to takeover Fishman Island to wage war against humanity. However the Straw Hat Pirates defeat the New Fishman Pirates and Vander Decken is arrested and imprisoned. While the ship can never make it to land, Decken is unable to get into contact with the sea.
- In *Soul Eater*, the Flying Dutchman is the soul of the ghost ship.
- In the 1967 *Spider-Man cartoon* episode "Return of the Flying Dutchman" the legend of the *Flying Dutchman* is used by Spider-Man's enemy [Mysterio](#) to frighten villagers and plunder their wealth.
- In 1967, the *Flying Dutchman* was featured in the *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* episode "Cave of the Dead".
- In a 1976 episode of *Land of the Lost*, the Marshalls discover the captain of a mysterious ship that appears in "the mist". Later in the episode, it is discovered that the ship is the *Flying Dutchman*.
- In the 1982 *Fantasy Island* episode "A Very Strange Affair; The Sailor", [Peter Graves](#) plays a portrayal of the Flying Dutchman in the hopes of breaking his curse by meeting someone who is willing to die for him.
- On the animated comedy series *The Simpsons*, Captain Horatio McCallister or just simply the Sea Captain is a sea captain and owner of the Flying Dutchman Restaurant.
- An episode called "The Arrival" (1961, written by Rod Serling) of the television series *The Twilight Zone* depicts an airplane that arrives at a busy airport. The airplane is discovered to have no crew, passengers, or luggage. At the tail end of the prior episode ("Two"), Rod Serling advertises "The Arrival" as a retelling of the *Flying Dutchman* tale. It also gets a mention in the closing narration of the episode "[Death Ship](#)".
- An episode titled "Lone Survivor" (1971) of the television series *Night Gallery*, hosted by [Rod Serling](#), features a shipwrecked survivor who claims he is a type of human Flying Dutchman. He appears to the crews of several famously doomed ships before they sink, including the *Titanic*, the *Lusitania* and the *Andrea Doria*.
- In the *Xena: Warrior Princess* second-season episode "Lost Mariner", the *Flying Dutchman* motif is merged into [Greek mythology](#), presenting the wanderer as a hero who offended the sea-god [Poseidon](#).
- In 2001, *Andromeda* aired a first-season episode "The Mathematics of Tears", in which the Flying Dutchman figured explicitly in the plot.
- In an episode of *Supernatural* a ghost ship heralds the death of the victims of a first mate's ghost. The ship is compared to the *Flying Dutchman* by one of the characters.
- The pilot of *White Collar* (2009) sees the protagonist figure out the [FBI](#) cannot track a suspect and have given him the nickname "The Dutchman", and a link to the ship is made.

In film

The story was dramatised in the 1951 film *Pandora and the Flying Dutchman*, starring [James Mason](#) (who plays the Dutch captain Hendrick van der Zee) and [Ava Gardner](#) (who plays Pandora). In this version, the Flying Dutchman is a man, not a ship. The two-hour long film, scripted by its director [Albert Lewin](#), sets the main action on the [Mediterranean](#) coast of [Spain](#) during the summer of 1930. Centuries earlier the Dutchman had killed his wife, wrongly believing her to be unfaithful. Providence condemned him to roam the seas until he found the true meaning of love. In the only plot device taken from earlier versions of the story, once every seven years the Dutchman is allowed ashore for six months to search for a woman who will love him enough to die for him, releasing him from his curse, and he finds her in Pandora.

In the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films, the **ship** made its first appearance in *Dead Man's Chest* (2006) under the command of the fictional captain, **Davy Jones**. The story and attributes of the ship were inspired by the actual *Flying Dutchman* of nautical lore.



Disney's Flying Dutchman prop used in *Pirates of the Caribbean* moored at Castaway Cay cruise ship terminal

In literature

The 1797-98 poem by **Samuel Taylor Coleridge**, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, contains a similar account of a ghost ship, which may have been influenced by the tale of the *Flying Dutchman*. One of the first *Flying Dutchman* short stories was titled "Vanderdecken's Message Home; or, the Tenacity of Natural Affection" and was published in *Blackwood's* during 1821.

Dutch poet **J. Slauerhoff** published a number of related poems, particularly in his 1928 volume *Eldorado*.

This story was adapted in the English **melodrama** *The Flying Dutchman; or the Phantom Ship: a Nautical Drama, in three acts* (1826) by **Edward Fitzball** (1792-1873), music by **George Rodwell**, and the novel *The Phantom Ship* (1839) by **Frederick Marryat**. This in turn was later adapted as *Het Vliegende Schip* (*The Flying Ship*) by the Dutch clergyman, A. H. C. Römer. In Marryat's version, **Terneuzen**, in the **Netherlands**, is described as the home of the captain, who is called "Van der Decken" ("of the decks").

Another adaptation was *The Flying Dutchman on Tappan Sea* by **Washington Irving** (1855), in which the captain is named Ramhout van Dam. Irving had already used the story (based on Moore's poem) in his *Bracebridge Hall* (1822). Hedvig Ekdal describes visions of the *Flying Dutchman* from the books she reads in the attic in **Henrik Ibsen's** *The Wild Duck* (1884).

John Boyle O'Reilly's *The Flying Dutchman* was first published in *The Wild Goose*, a handwritten newspaper produced by **Fenian** convicts being transported to **Western Australia** in 1867.

The Death Ship, by **W. Clark Russell**, was published in 1888. It is narrated by Geoffrey Fenton, descendent of **Edward Fenton**, second mate of the English ship *Saracen* on a voyage to the East Indies in 1796. Fenton's ship encounters the *Flying Dutchman*, and an accident leaves him stranded aboard the cursed ship with her ghostly crew. The captain, Cornelius Vanderdecken, tells Fenton that his ship, the *Braave*, sailed from **Batavia** in 1653.

I looked at him as closely as I durst. His eyes were extraordinarily piercing and passionate, with the cruel brilliance in them such as may be noticed in the insane; the lower part of his face was hidden in hair, but the skin of as much of it as was visible, for his cap was dragged low down upon his brows, was pale, of a haggard sallowness, expressed best in paintings of the dead where time has produced the original whiteness of the pigment. It was impossible that I should have observed this in him in the mani-coloured lamplight of the preceding night. Yet did not his graveyard complexion detract from the majesty and imperiousness of his mien and port. I could readily conceive that the defiance of his heart would be hell-like in obstinacy, and that here was a man whose pride and passions would qualify him for a foremost place among the most daring of those fallen spirits of whom our glorious poet has written.

British author **Brian Jacques** wrote a trilogy of fantasy/young adult novels concerning two reluctant members of the *Dutchmans* crew, a young boy and his dog, who were swept off the ship by a wave on the night the ship was cursed; however, the same angel who pronounced the curse on the ship and crew appeared to them and blessed them, charging them to help those in need. The first novel was titled *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman* and was first published by **Puffin Books** in 2001. The second was titled *The Angel's Command* and was released by Puffin in 2003. The third and final book of the trilogy (due to Jacques' death in 2011) was titled *Voyage of Slaves* and was released by Puffin in 2006.

In the novel *The Flying Dutchman* (2013) by the Russian novelist **Anatoly Kudryavitsky**, the ghost ship rebuilds itself from an old barge abandoned on the bank of a big Russian river, and offers itself as a refuge to a persecuted **musicologist**.

The comic fantasy *Flying Dutch* by **Tom Holt** is a version of the *Flying Dutchman* story. In this version, the Dutchman is not a ghost ship but crewed by immortals who can only visit land once every seven years when the unbearable smell that is a side-effect of the **elixir of life** wears off.

The Roger Zelazny short story "And Only I Am Escaped To Tell thee" tells of a sailor who escapes from the *Flying Dutchman* and is rescued by sailors who welcome him to the **Mary Celeste**.

Ward Moore in his 1951 story "Flying Dutchman" used the myth as a metaphor for an automated bomber plane which continues to fly over an Earth where humanity long since totally destroyed itself and all life in a **nuclear war**.

Amiri Baraka's 1964 play, *Dutchman*, uses the metaphor of ship-lost-at-sea to express the way White liberal America has alienated African Americans in their own country.

In opera and theatre

Richard Wagner's opera, *The Flying Dutchman* (1843) is adapted from an episode in **Heinrich Heine's** satirical novel *The Memoirs of Mister von Schnabelewopski* (*Aus den Memoiren des Herrn von Schnabelewopski*) (1833), in which a character attends a theatrical performance of *The Flying Dutchman* in **Amsterdam**. Heine had first briefly used the legend in his *Reisebilder: Die Nordsee (Pictures of Travel: the North Sea)* (1826), which simply repeats from *Blackwood's Magazine* the features of the vessel being seen in a storm and sending letters addressed to persons long since dead. In his 1833 elaboration, it was once thought that it may have been based on Fitzball's play, which was playing at the **Adelphi Theatre** in London, but the run had ended on 7 April 1827 and Heine did not arrive in London until the 14th. Heine was the first author to introduce the chance of salvation through a woman's devotion and the opportunity to set foot on land every seven years to seek a faithful wife. This imaginary play, unlike Fitzball's play, which has the **Cape of Good Hope** location, in Heine's account is transferred to the **North Sea** off **Scotland**. Wagner's opera was similarly planned to take place off the coast of Scotland, although during the final rehearsals he transferred the action to another part of the North Sea, off **Norway**.

Pierre-Louis Dietsch composed an opera *Le vaisseau fantôme, ou Le maudit des mers* ("The Phantom Ship, or The Accursed of the Sea"), which was first performed on 9 November 1842 at the **Paris Opera**. The libretto by **Paul Foucher** and H. Révoil was based on Walter Scott's *The Pirate* as well as Captain Marryat's *The Phantom Ship* and other sources, although Wagner thought it was based on the scenario of his own opera, which he had just sold to the Opera. The similarity of Dietsch's opera to Wagner's is slight, although Wagner's assertion is often repeated. Berlioz thought *Le vaisseau fantôme* too solemn, but other reviewers were more favourable.

Amiri Baraka (formerly LeRoi Jones) wrote the play *Dutchman* in 1964. The play's abstract nature makes it difficult to draw a direct correlation between it and the myth, but its emphasis on fate and doom recasts themes of the legend in terms of race relations in the contemporary United States.

In music

- In 1949 RCA Victor, inventors of the single **45 RPM format**, released as one of their first 45s a recording of the legend in song in bandleader **Hugo Winterhalter's** "The Flying Dutchman", sung as a **sea shanty**.
- Captain Video* (Early TV serial) introduction has the overture to Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" as background music.
- Jethro Tull** refer to the *Flying Dutchman* with a song of the same name from their 1979 album *Stormwatch*.
- Tori Amos** refers to the *Flying Dutchman* in her 1992 single B side "Flying Dutchman", the A side being "**China**". It was re-released in 2012 on her album *Gold Dust* and performed on The Gold Dust Orchestral Tour.
- Jimmy Buffett** refers to the *Flying Dutchman* in his 1995 song "Remittance Man" on the album *Barometer Soup*.
- Rufus Wainwright** refers to the *Flying Dutchman* in his song "Flying Dutchman" on the album *Poses*.
- Dutch **symphonic black metal** band **Carach Angren** wrote a **concept album** about the *Flying Dutchman* entitled *Death Came Through a Phantom Ship*.
- God Dethroned**, a Dutch death metal band, featured the song "Soul Capture 1562" about the *Flying Dutchman* on their album *Bloody Blasphemy*.
- In the 1969 classic self-titled album by The Band, the *Flying Dutchman* was referenced in the song "Rockin' Chair".
- Eighties Australian band The Hoodoo Gurus seem to tell the story of the *Flying Dutchman* in their song "Death Ship" from the 1984 **Stoneage Romeos** album, although the lyrics never specifically mention the *Flying Dutchman* by name.
- The second track on Rob Bruce's 2001 long play album 'All Fools Day' is a song entitled 'The Flying Dutchman' which retells the tale of the *Flying Dutchman* and its cursed crew.
- The second track of band The Jolly Roger's album XXV is called The Flying Dutchman and describes the crew receiving a barrel of letters for the dead before being pursued to harbour.
- Jole Richard Hughes, better known by his stage name S3RL, is an Australian UK hardcore DJ, record producer, and musician from Brisbane who has a song titled "Flying Dutchman" based on the tales and the legend itself.
- The Dutch Classic-Rock band **Vanderbuyst** made a conceptalbum called 'The Flying Dutchmen'. All tracks on the CD refer to the Flying Dutchman and his fictional VOC captain.

Depiction of **Richard Wagner's** Opera *Der fliegende Holländer*

In radio drama

The story was adapted by Judith French into a play, *The Dutch Mariner*, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on 13 April 2003.

In video games

The Flying Dutchman is a cheat unit in the video game *Age of Empires*. It is a ship that can travel on both land and sea.

In the 1993 multiplatform game *Alone in the Dark 2*, fictional detective Edward Carnby investigates a missing girl who he discovers has been kidnapped by the undead One-Eyed Jack who, in the game, is captain of the undead crew of *The Flying Dutchman*.

The Flying Dutchman is depicted in the sandbox platformer game *Terraria* as a flying wooden ship with four destructible, **roadside** cannons. It appears within the Pirate Invasion as a boss enemy.

The Flying Dutchman is also used as a warship in a game called Warship Battle:3D .

In leisure

The **Efteling** amusement park in the Netherlands has a **roller coaster** called **The Flying Dutchman** which features the captain named Willem van der Decken (nl).

Worlds of Fun amusement park in Kansas City, Missouri has a swinging boat ride called The Flying Dutchman.

Six Flags over Georgia, an amusement park located in Austell, Georgia also had a swinging boat ride called The Flying Dutchman which was added in 1980.

The Haunted Mansion attraction in Disneyland features a painting of the *Flying Dutchman* before it became a ghost ship that transforms into a ship with torn sails sailing during a storm.

In Disneyland Shanghai, the park's Pirates of the Caribbean Ride features a battle between ships under the sea; one of which is the *Flying Dutchman*.

In aviation

The Dutch **aviation** pioneer and an **aircraft manufacturer** **Anthony Fokker** was nicknamed *The Flying Dutchman*.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines references the endless traveling aspect of the story by having *The Flying Dutchman* painted on the rear sides of on all its aircraft with regular livery.

In education

"The Flying Dutchmen" is the public school mascot in **Manchester, Michigan**.

The nickname of **Lebanon Valley College** is "The Flying Dutchmen", and its mascot "The Flying Dutchman". The nickname references the college's location in the **Pennsylvania Dutch Country**.

Hofstra University on Long Island, New York was unofficially named "The Flying Dutchman" and has many references to Dutch culture around the university including residence halls.

Hope College in Holland, Michigan is also the home of "The Flying Dutchman" because it was founded by settlers from the Netherlands in 1866.

"The Flying Dutchman" is also the mascot of **Guilderland High School** in **Guilderland, New York**.

See also

- Caleuche**
- Peter Rugg**
- Wandering Jew**
- Wild Hunt**
- List of ghosts**
- Chasse-galerie**
- 90377 Sedna** - nicknamed the Flying Dutchman

Notes

- ↑ George Barrington (originally Waldron) was tried at the **Old Bailey** in **London** in September 1790 for picking pockets and sentenced to **transportation** for seven years. He embarked on the convict transport *Active* which sailed from **Portsmouth** on 27 March 1791 and arrived at **Port Jackson** (Sydney), just to the north of **Botany Bay**, on 26 September, having anchored briefly at **Table Bay** in very late June. The various accounts of his voyage and activities in **New South Wales** appear to be literary forgeries by publishers capitalizing both on his notoriety and in public interest for the new colony, combining turns of phrase from his trial speeches with plagiarized genuine accounts of other writers concerning Botany Bay. See *George Barrington's Voyage to Botany Bay* edited by Suzanne Rickard (Leicester University Press, 2001). *A Voyage to Botany Bay* and *A Voyage to New South Wales*, both issued in 1795, were revamped versions of *An Impartial and Circumstantial Narrative of the Present State of Botany Bay*, which had appeared in 1793-94, but which did not include the *Flying Dutchman* reference.
- ↑ Leyden says that Chaucer, echoing **Dante's Inferno** Second Circle of Hell, alludes to a punishment of a similar kind in his poem *The Parlement of Foules*: "And breakers of the laws, sooth to sain, / And lecherous folk, after that they been dead, / Shall whirl about the world alway in pain, / Till many a world be passed out of dread.
- ↑ The 48-page text published c. 1829 acknowledges Blackwood's 1821 story as the source, although the two have little in common.
- ↑ Originally published in instalments in the *New Monthly Magazine* (London) March-October 1837, January-February 1838 & February-August 1839 before appearing in book form in 1839. Marryat's gripping story added no new elements to the legend.

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- ↑ *Barrington 2004*, p. 30
- ↑ Published in *Epistles, Odes, and other poems* (London, 1806)
- ↑ Eyers, Jonathan (2011). *Don't Shoot the Albatross!: Nautical Myths and Superstitions*. A&C Black, London, UK. **ISBN 978-1-4081-3131-2**.
- ↑ The author has been identified as John Howison (fl. 1821-59) of the East India Company. See Alan Lang Strout: *A Bibliography of Articles in Blackwood's Magazine 1817-1825* (1959, p. 78).
- ↑ Music with Ease (2008). *"Source of the Legend of The Flying Dutchman"*. Music with Ease. Retrieved ‏
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External links

- Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, May 1821
- On the history and sightings of the *Flying Dutchman*
- Mainly about Wagner's possible sources
- Melodramatic Possessions: *The Flying Dutchman*, South Africa and the Imperial Stage ca. 1830
- The Phantom Ship* by Marryat at Project Gutenberg



Flying Dutchman rollercoaster at Efteling amusement park



- [The Death Ship](#) by W. Clark Russell at Project Gutenberg
- [USA premiere of 1841 critical edition of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* at Boston Lyric Opera, April & May 2013](#)
- ["The Flying Dutchman, Harbinger of Watery Doom"](#) article on Atlas Obscura

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The Flying Dutchman was an infamous supernatural ghost ship. Originally, the Dutchman held the sacred task of collecting all the poor souls who died at sea and ferrying them to the afterlife. During the Golden Age of Piracy, the Dutchman would become a ship feared by many across the seven seas. According to legends and lore, the Flying Dutchman was given to Davy Jones by his love, the sea goddess Calypso, who gave Jones the duty of ferrying the souls who died at sea into the next world. After ten The Flying Dutchman variant (sources differ on whether Flying Dutchman was the name of the ship or a nickname for her captain) first popped up in the seventeenth century, and was said to be an old sailing superstition. Wonderfully subverted in Tom Holt's Flying Dutch, where the Flying Dutchman and his crew had accidentally drunk some elixir which gave them immortality, but also the most outrageous body odor for all but one month in every 7 years.