



# Ship Fact Sheet



## ARCADIA (1954)

Base data at 31 January 1954. Last amended November 2009

\* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1954-1979
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers* and operators*	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	John Brown & Co (Clydebank) Ltd
Yard	Clydebank
Country	UK
Yard number	675
Registry	London, UK
Official number	185996
Call sign	GRFP
IMO/LR number	5022065
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	29,734 grt
Net tonnage	16,241 nrt
Deadweight	10,816 tonnes (10,646 tons)
Length	219.69m (721ft 4in) loa, 203.53m (668.0ft) b/p
Breadth	27.63m (90ft 8in)
Depth	12.19m (40.0ft)
Draught	9.445m (31.0ft)
Engines	6 steam turbines
Engine builders	John Brown & Co (Clydebank) Ltd
Works	Clydebank
Country	UK
Power	42,500 ihp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	22 knots
Passenger capacity*	670 first class, 735 tourist class
Cargo capacity	7,864 cubic metres (277,760 cubic feet) including 3,136 cubic metres (110,781 cubic feet) refrigerated
Crew	716
Employment	UK/Australia service, and cruising

**Career**

- 1952: Ordered.
- 14.05.1953: Launched by Mrs D F Anderson, wife of the Deputy Chairman of P&O (later Sir Donald Anderson).
- 20.01.1954: Completed and sailed for the Mersey for dry-docking.
- 26.01.1954: Ran trials on the Clyde.
- 30.01.1954: Delivered as *Arcadia* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £6,664,000. She was the second P&O ship named *Arcadia*, taking her name from the mythological region of rural happiness in southern Greece.
- 22.02.1954: Maiden voyage Tilbury/Australia via Suez Canal.
- 04.06.1954: First cruises from Southampton.
- 25.10.1954: The tug *Cervia* capsized while *Arcadia* was moving from Tilbury Docks to the landing stage, with the loss of the tug's master and four of her crew.
- 30.12.1957: Several passengers and crew injured in gales in the Bay of Biscay.
- 01.04.1959: Arrived at Harland & Wolff, Belfast, for £500,000 refit including full air-conditioning.
- 07.04.1959: Suffered a brief fire in one of the aft holds during the refit.
- 11.06.1959: Refit completed.
- 11.1959: First Pacific cruises. She was the first cruise ship to call at Picton on South Island, New Zealand.
- 05.1960: Management and operation transferred to P&O-Orient Lines.
- 01.1961: Ran aground for two hours off Okahu Island, Hawaii.
- 02.1963: Suffered engine trouble which lead to a two-day delay in Bombay.
- 1966: Managers and operators restyled P&O Lines.
- 12.1968: Clearance obtained from US authorities to make scheduled cruises from the USA to the Caribbean.
- 04.1970: Refitted by Thornycroft, Southampton. Mainmast removed and foremast shortened by 5.5m (18 feet) to clear low cables in Alaskan harbours. This made her the first large ship to cruise on the Alaskan coast.
- 01.10.1971: Management and operation transferred to P&O Passenger Division.
- 06.1973: Converted to 1,350-berth open-class configuration.
- 17.05.1975: Sailed to Australia to replace *Himalaya* on the Australian service.
- 1977: Management and operation transferred to P&O Cruises Ltd.
- 29.01.1979: Sailed from Sydney on her last cruise via Brisbane, Rabaul and Hong Kong to Singapore. Passengers transferred to *Sea Princess* at Singapore on 17<sup>th</sup> February.
- 27.02.1979: Sold for breaking up through Nissho-Iwai Company, Tokyo, to Lee Chang Steel & Iron Works, Taiwan.
- 28.02.1979: Arrived at Kaohsiung.
- 30.04.1979: Demolition commenced.

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