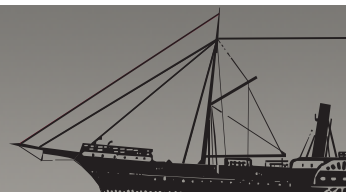




Ship Fact Sheet



VALETTA (1884)

Base data at 11 January 1884. Last amended November 2008

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service.

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1884-1903
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	Caird & Co Ltd
Yard	Greenock
Country	UK
Yard number	235
Registry	Greenock, UK
Official number	87395
Signal letters	JDKG
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	4,904 grt
Net tonnage	2,781 nrt
Deadweight	4,391 tons
Length	128.09m (420.4ft)
Breadth	13.74m (45.1ft)
Depth	8.01m (26.3ft)
Draught	7.617m (25ft 0in)
Engines	Compound inverted direct-acting steam engines
Engine builders	Caird & Co
Works	Greenock
Country	UK
Power	4,999 ihp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	14 knots (service); 16 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	154 first class, 75 second class
Cargo capacity*	4,444 cubic metres (156,958 cubic feet)
Crew	
Employment	UK/Australia and UK/Far East services

Career

- 19.11.1883: Launched.
- 03.01.1884: Registered.
- 10.01.1884: Ran trials.
- 11.01.1884: Handed over as *Valetta* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. She was the first P&O ship to be fitted with electric lights (in the First Class Marble Saloons only). She and her younger sister *Massilia* were slightly enlarged versions of *Ballaarat* and *Parramatta* of 1882.
- 13.02.1884: Maiden sailing from London. She had a reputation for seaworthiness and speed.
- 02.1890: Cargo capacity 4,455 cubic metres (157,335 cubic feet).
- 01.1892: Rudyard Kipling and General Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, were both passengers between Sydney and Colombo, their differing personalities leading to several animated discussions.
- 06.1892: Cargo capacity 3,793 cubic metres (133,953).
- 07.1894: Engine trouble necessitating an inward call at Plymouth accompanied by *Khedive* which took on board the London-bound passengers and cargo.
- 1897: Distinguished herself by the particularly gallant rescue of the crew of the steamer *Sultan* which was foundering near Socotra in 11°37'N-57°42'E. The Indian ship was bound Jeddah/Calcutta with a cargo of salt, the Captain and his wife, 73 crew and 60 pilgrims; *Valetta* rescued all but 4 crew and 6 passengers.
- 1898: Transferred to the London/Calcutta run. Later she ran on the Far Eastern station.
- 28.02.1898: Cargo capacity 4,234 cubic metres (149,546 cubic feet).
- 1900: Employed as a munitions transport during the Boxer Rebellion in China.
- 03.05.1903: While leaving Singapore *Valetta* collided with and badly damaged the steamers *Tanglin* and *Zanninia* at Tanjong Pagar Wharf, but herself escaped more or less undamaged.
- 10.1903: Sold for £12,200 to Essajee Tajbhoy, Bombay, and renamed *Alavia*.
- 07.1906: Broken up at Mazagon Powder Works, Bombay.

- ends -