



Ship Fact Sheet



HINDOSTAN (1842)

Base data at 8 September 1842. Last amended November 2008

* indicates entries changed during P&O Group service

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1842-1864
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Former name(s)	
Registered owners, managers and operators	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	Thomas Wilson & Co
Yard	Liverpool
Country	UK
Yard number	
Registry	London, UK
Official number	30719
Signal letters	QLWT
Classification society	
Gross tonnage *	1,800 grt
Net tonnage	971 nrt
Deadweight	
Length	66.30m (217.6ft)
Breadth	10.91m (35.8ft)
Depth	9.17m (30.1ft)
Draught (1849)	5.129m (16ft 10in)
Construction (if not steel)	Wood
Engines	Direct-acting steam engines
Engine builders	Fawcett, Preston & Co
Works	Liverpool
Country	UK
Power	520 ihp
Propulsion	Paddles
Speed	10 knots (service); 10.21 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	102 first class, 50 second class
Cargo capacity	300 tons
Crew	53
Employment	India/Suez services and seasonal troopng

Career

- 01.1841: Ordered.
- 26.04.1842: Launched.
- 03.09.1842: Ran trials Liverpool/Holyhead/Liverpool.
- 08.09.1842: Registered as *Hindostan* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £88,000. She was the first P&O ship built for service in Indian waters, with transverse iron bulkheads to the design of Charles Wye Williams, a director of P&O. Her interior departed from the tradition of having cabins amidships, with gangways insulating passengers from the heat and sea noises along the ship's sides; conventional design would have had a central saloon flanked by cabins, but *Hindostan's* dining room was across her stern. Her 60 cabins included twenty with single berths. She entered the service from Calcutta to Madras, Galle, Aden and Suez that linked with the overland route through Egypt. *Hindostan* is the Mohammedan name for the Mogul empire of northern India, which was later generally adopted for the whole sub-continent.
- 24.09.1842: Left Southampton on her positioning voyage to Calcutta. To defray some of the £5,000 cost of the sailing, 150 passengers travelled out via Gibraltar, Cape Verde, Ascension, Cape Town, Mauritius and Point de Galle en route for Calcutta; 63 days under steam and 91 days in all incurred a net cost of £1,800.
- 17.01.1843: Left Calcutta for Galle, Aden and Suez with the first passengers travelling all the way to the UK by P&O (arrived Southampton in *Great Liverpool* on 16th March 1843).
- 09.04.1847: Returned home for reconditioning.
- 20.09.1847: Southampton/Alexandria service.
- 16.07.1849: Visited by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in Cowes Roads off Osborne
- 24.11.1849: Went out to India with 800 tonnes of cargo to rejoin the Suez/ Calcutta route.
- 08.11.1851: Briefly aground in the Hughli.
- 1857: Gross tonnage restated as 2,017 grt.
- 04.11.1858: Carried troops between Suez and India.
- 04.02.1860: Chartered to the Madras Government for trooping on the Anglo-French expedition to China.
- 19.06.1860: French expedition to China.
- 26.06.1860: Last arrival at Calcutta. Reduced to a hulk and employed as a store and receiving ship
- 06.10.1864: Destroyed by the great Calcutta Cyclone, during which nearly 200 vessels were driven ashore.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO *HINDOSTAN**P&O Board Minutes 10 July 1849*

The Managing Directors having reported that His Royal Highness Prince Albert had expressed an interest to visit the *Hindostan* and a letter from Captain Engledue having been read stating that Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence had been on board and had expressed a wish that the ship should be ready for the inspection of His Royal Highness on Thursday the 12th inst at 9 o'clock, it was Resolved that the Deputy Chairman, Captain Thornton and Mr Anderson be appointed a Deputation to receive His Royal Highness Prince Albert on this occasion.

P&O Board Minutes 13 July 1849

Mr Anderson reported that in conformity with the resolution of the last Board day the Deputation of the Directors had proceeded to Southampton to receive His Royal Highness Prince Albert on board the *Hindostan* on the 12th inst but as the Prince did not visit Southampton on his way to Winchester as at first proposed they had instructed Captain Engledue to proceed this day to Osborne to see Colonel Phipps the Private Secretary to the Prince and to request that he would intimate to Her Majesty and to Prince Albert that if it would afford them any gratification to inspect the *Hindostan* the Directors would feel much honoured by the Royal command to send her to Osborne for that purpose.

P&O Board Minutes 17 July 1849

The Deputation of the Directors appointed by the Board minute of the 10th inst reported that in consequence of the intimation conveyed to Her Majesty and Prince Albert through Colonel Phipps on the 13th inst the following letter has been received from that officer –

Osborne, July 17th 1849

Sir

I have received the command of the Queen and Prince Albert to inform you that Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will go on board the *Hindostan* at the yacht's moorings off Osborne pier on Monday at three o'clock, weather permitting.

I have the honour to be et etc

Signed C R Phipps

J A Engledue Esq
Southampton

That the *Hindostan* was accordingly sent down to the Isle of Wight on Monday the 16th inst and made fast to the Royal Moorings off Osborne House.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert attended by their suite came off in the Royal Barge at 3 o'clock and were received with every demonstration of respect and loyalty the yards being manned the Royal Standard hoisted at the main, and the band of HMS *Blenheim* (kindly lent for the occasion by Captain Blackwood) playing the National Anthem. The Royal party were received at the gangway by the deputation of the Directors viz Alderman Sir John Pirie Bart, Deputy Chairman, Arthur Anderson Esq MP and P D

Hadow Esq. Her Majesty graciously taking the arm of Sir John Pirie was by him conducted over the vessel and after remaining on board for rather more than an hour the Royal Party left the vessel, the Queen and Prince Albert expressing themselves highly gratified with their visit.

P&O Nautical Reports for Hindostan, 16 July 1849

At 5am proceeded out of dock to the West India Company's buoy in Southampton Water.

1030 the *Madrid* came alongside with the Directors Sir John Pirie, Mr Anderson [and] Mr Hadow, Mr Andrews and Captain Engledue.

1040 slipped from the buoy and proceeded to Cowes.

2pm mustered the crew and stationed them.

3pm manned yards.

3.5 the Royal Barge arrived alongside with HM Queen Victoria [and] HRH Prince Albert attended by the Countess of Desart and the Hon Miss Stanley, Colonel Wemyss, Colonel Seymour, Colonel Phipps and Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence.

Her Majesty and suite were received by Sir John Pirie and the Captain and Officers. The Band played the National Anthem.

HRH Prince Albert inspected every part of the vessel. At 4 the Royal Party left the ship. Manned yards and saluted them with three cheers.

5.35 slipped from the buoy and proceeded towards Southampton. 6.35 arrived there.

Court Circular, Osborne, Tuesday 17 July 1849

The Queen and Prince walked this morning at an early hour in Osborne, and the younger branches of the Royal family walked and rode as usual.

Her Majesty and his Royal Highness the prince Albert, attended by the Countess of Desart, the Hon Eleanor Stanley, and Major-General Wemyss and Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour, Equeries in Waiting, honoured the Peninsular and Oriental Company's ship *Hindostan* with a visit and were shown over that magnificent vessel by the chairman [sic] of the above company, Sir John Pirie.

The Queen and Prince expressed themselves highly please with this noble ship.

The Royal Dinner party yesterday included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, Lady Georgina Bathurst, Colonel and Lady Catherine Harcourt, and Colonel the Hon A Liddell.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, attended by Lady Georgina Bathurst and Colonel the Hon A Liddell, left Osborne this forenoon, at half past 11 o'clock, for London.

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