



# Ship Fact Sheet



## SALSETTE (1908)

Base data at 2 July 1908. Last amended November 2008

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

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1908-1917
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	314
Registry	Greenock, UK
Official number	127583
Signal letters	HMRJ
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	5,842 grt
Net tonnage	2,392 nrt
Deadweight	2,734 tons
Length	134.06m (440.0ft)
Breadth	16.21m (53.2ft)
Depth	5.91m (19.5ft)
Draught	7.249m (23ft 9½in)
Engines	Quadruple-expansion steam engines
Engine builders	Caird & Co Ltd
Works	Greenock
Country	UK
Power	10,000 ihp
Propulsion	Twin screw
Speed	20 knots
Passenger capacity	140 first class, 121 second class
Cargo capacity	1,710 cubic metres (60,411 cubic feet)
Crew [1914]	238 (65 European, 173 Asian). Deck 22 European, 42 Asian; engine room 12 European, 77 Asian; purser's department 35 European, 54 Asian
Employment	Express service Aden/Bombay

**Career**

- 06.1907: Ordered.
- 02.04.1908: Launched.
- 02.07.1908: Delivered as *Salsette* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £210,689. She was considered a remarkably fine looking vessel, with two funnels and two masts in perfect proportion and reputedly not a single parallel line on her hull, and a special white colour scheme with yellow funnels. She was the fastest ship in the P&O fleet and carried a large golden cock at her masthead to signify the fact. Her name was taken from an island off Bombay harbour.
- 23.07.1908: 4-day shakedown voyage Tilbury/Southampton/Plymouth/Tilbury.
- 08.08.1908: Maiden commercial voyage a cruise from Tilbury to Amsterdam/Christiania/Copenhagen/Kronstadt/Helsingfors/Kiel/Tilbury followed by another cruise Tilbury/Gibraltar/Algiers/Corfu/Cattaro/Venice/Sicily/Marseilles.
- 10.1908: Set new record time Marseilles/Bombay.
- 14.11.1908: Began operation on Bombay/Aden shuttle, almost uninterrupted until August 1914.
- 1910: Averaged 18.3 knots between Aden and Bombay, a new record.
- 17.07.1912: One Bombay/Aden voyage extended to Suez.
- 28.08.1914: One voyage Bombay/Colombo/Penang/Singapore/Hong Kong/Shanghai/Woosung and return.
- 06.11.1915: One voyage Bombay/Gibraltar and return via Marseilles.
- 21.11.1915: Ran aground at full speed off Ras Abu Dorez in the Gulf of Suez, getting off a day later under her own power with the help of HMS *Porcupine*, HMS *Fox* and the French cruiser *Montcalm*.
- 12.1916: First of two return voyages Aden/Colombo/Australia (the other was in March/May 1917).
- 20.07.1917: On a voyage from London to Bombay with general cargo when she was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UB40, in the English Channel, 25km (15 miles) south-west of Portland Bill. She sank in 50 minutes, but all of her passengers and all but 15 of her crew, who died in the explosion, were able to leave in the lifeboats and were landed at Weymouth.

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