



# Ship Fact Sheet



## CALEDONIA (1894)

Base data at 25 August 1894. Last amended November 2008

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

Type	Passenger liner
P&O Group service	1894-1925
P&O Group status	Owned by parent company
Registered owners, managers and operators	The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company
Builders	Caird & Co Ltd
Yard	Greenock
Country	UK
Yard number	273
Registry	Greenock, UK
Official number	102390
Signal letters	NSLB
Call sign	
Classification society	Lloyd's Register
Gross tonnage	7,558 grt
Net tonnage	3,529 nrt
Deadweight	4,234 tons
Length	148.08m (486.0ft)
Breadth	16.51m (54.2ft)
Depth	7.98m (26.2ft)
Draught	8.201m (26ft 11in)
Engines	Triple-expansion steam engines
Engine builders	Caird & Co Ltd
Works	Greenock
Country	UK
Power	11,000 ihp
Propulsion	Single screw
Speed	18 knots (service); 19.5 knots (trials)
Passenger capacity	315 first class, 175 second class
Cargo capacity	3,767 cubic metres (133,044 cubic feet)
Crew [1914]	294 (117 Europeans, 177 Asians). Deck 23 Europeans, 48 Asians; engineroom 12 Europeans, 88 Asians; purser's department 99 Europeans, 41 Asians
Employment	UK/India mail service

**Career**

- 19.05.1894: Launched by Miss Ethel Barnes, daughter of P&O Managing Director Mr F D Barnes.
- 21.08.1894: Registered.
- 25.08.1894: Ran trials and delivered as *Caledonia* for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at a cost of £233,729 and received an auxiliary cruiser subsidy. The largest yet P&O ship, and the 40<sup>th</sup> built for the Company by Caird's. She was a fine sea boat with considerable comfort but rather restricted cargo space. She originally had a white hull, yellow funnels and red waterline but reverted to conventional P&O black hull and funnels and khaki superstructure after about two years.
- 05.10.1894: Maiden voyage London/Bombay.
- 08.06.1895: Visited in the Royal Albert Docks by HH Nasrula Khan, Shahzada (Crown Prince) of Afghanistan.
- 1895: Broke the outward record to Bombay and homeward easily beat the Messageries Maritime's *Ernest Simon*, a notable French rival.
- 1897: Present at the Diamond Jubilee Review.
- 1901: Ran aground off Southend.
- 1903: Became the first P&O ship to use Tilbury Docks.
- 1906: Ran aground at Suez.
- 1907: Broke the London/Calcutta record. Brought the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughter Princess Patricia home from India.
- 1908: Set a new London/Marseilles/Colombo time.
- 1911: Ran aground at Plymouth.
- 1913: Made three Mediterranean cruises.
- 08.1914/12.1917: Bombay mail service with troops and passengers.
- 14.12.1916: Struck two mines 5km (3 miles) east of Planier Island Light, off Marseilles. Her 500 passengers were discharged into boats within fifteen minutes and a skeleton crew took her into Marseilles where she was repaired and returned to service.
- 29.12.1917: Commissioned as a troop transport (No C6021) in which capacity she carried over 104,000 troops without loss.
- 1920: Refitted by Alexander Stephen and Sons Ltd., Linthouse, Glasgow and returned to commercial service.
- 1925: A routine examination at Bombay showed her propeller shaft was cracked.
- 25.07.1925: Sold for demolition to Goolam Hossein Essaji, Bombay, for £10,000.

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