**Africa Mercy**

**Mercy Ships Fact Sheet**

**Specifications**
- **Length**: 152m
- **Breadth**: 23.7m
- **Gross Tonnage**: 16,572
- **Built**: 1980, Elsinore, Denmark
- **Registered**: Malta
- **Crew Capacity**: 474
- **Cargo Capacity**: 1,724 m$^3$
- **Main Engines**: 4 B&W (3120 kW each)
- **Draft**: 6.0m
- **Surveyed By**: Bureau Veritas

**History**
Acquired in 1999 through a donation from the BalCraig Foundation, the former Danish rail ferry *Droning Ingrid* was re-named the *Africa Mercy* by Dame Norma Major in April 2000. The £30 million refit was funded by donations from the Oak Foundation and continuing support from the BalCraig Foundation and other Trusts, corporate gifts-in-kind and individual contributors. The conversion was completed at A & P Shipyard, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in March 2007 and was the largest conversion project of its kind in the UK. A comparable new vessel, with five operating theatres and a 82-bed ward, would cost more than double this price.

**Facilities and Features**

**Hospital**
The hospital covers most of the original rail deck – approximately 1,200 square metres. It is divided into quadrants containing supply/services, six operating theatres, recovery/intensive care and low-dependency wards with a total of 78 patient beds. Annual medical capacity is approximately 7,000 surgical procedures onboard including cataract removal/lens implants, tumour removal, cleft lip and palate reconstruction, orthopaedics and obstetric fistula repair. The hospital contains a CT Scanner as well as X-ray, laboratory services and a Nikon Coolscope, which allow remote diagnosis almost instantaneously. Whenever required, diagnoses are transmitted via an onboard satellite communication system to doctors in developed countries.

**Programs Ashore**
In addition to the operations performed onboard, ship-based teams work with partners in local villages providing a wide array of services to increase health and well-being which include dental clinics, medical clinics, community health education, HIV/AIDS intervention, water and sanitation projects including well drilling, construction, agriculture and micro-enterprise projects. Together with local leaders, governments and the national ministries of health, development teams assess health care needs and provide assistance in project planning, project oversight, skills transfer and assistance in funding building projects. Current projects focus on developing support for medical infrastructure like hospitals and clinics.

**Crew and Accommodation**
The *Africa Mercy* has meeting and work spaces as well as berths for an average crew of 450, and has had over 3400 crew from 72 countries serve on board since its inception in 2007. The 474 berths are split between 26 family cabins, 25 two-berth cabins for couples and shared and single cabins for individual occupants.

**Safety & Security**
The vessel is fitted with an automatic sprinkler system throughout the accommodation and hospital areas. An addressable smoke detector system pinpoints the exact location of the source of any potential fire. Machinery spaces are covered by CO2 gas flooding system as well as a “Hi Fog” system which can be very effective in controlling localised fires in the machinery space. Gurkha security guards man the gangway 24 hours a day with metal detectors and other screening devices. They are backed up by CCTV around the vessel, while critical spaces such as the bridge and engine room remain locked at all times.

Images, case studies and additional information about Mercy Ships can be found online at [www.mercyships.org](http://www.mercyships.org)