

VOYAGE DETAILS

1. Choose a voyage from the Destinations and Prices supplement or from our website, www.strandtravel.co.uk
2. Decide on approximately when you wish to travel.
3. Contact Strand Voyages and we will check the cabin availability and estimated departure date. We will hold an option on a cabin for you, without obligation and normally for a week.
4. Within this option period you will need to complete the Strand Voyages Registration Form (overleaf) and sign the Declaration (below) and send it with the Shipowner's own booking form (if supplied) and the appropriate deposit to Strand Voyages. If you do not notify us within this period that the accommodation is required it will be released back to the Shipowner.
5. You will then be sent a Confirmation Receipt, insurance details, medical certificate and possibly other paperwork from the Shipowner to sign and return. At this time we will also advise you of any visa and vaccination requirements.
6. The balance of fare is due 10 weeks prior to departure and you will be sent a Request for Payment at least 3 weeks before the due date.
7. Tickets will not be sent out until we have:
 - Balance of payment;
 - Signed Strand Voyages Registration Form and any other paperwork required by the Shipowner;
 - Medical certificate signed by your doctor;
 - Insurance details, including the name of the company, policy number and emergency medical assistance phone number;
 - Copies of any necessary visas and vaccination certificates and the information page of your passport.

DECLARATION

ARE THOSE NAMED OVERLEAF IN GOOD HEALTH? YES NO

In connection with my voyage on board the cargo vessel detailed on the overleaf, I the undersigned passenger, hereby declare that I am aware the advertised vessels are freighters with limited passenger accommodation and facilities and that such vessels may accept and carry cargo, subject to laws and regulations, including animals and merchandise not usually permitted on a passenger vessel.

I acknowledge and accept that:-

I shall have no claim against Strand Travel Limited trading as Strand Voyages nor the Shipowner in respect of any cancellation of my booking or any inconvenience or loss suffered or additional costs incurred by me (including travel and temporary accommodation).

I declare I have read and understood the **General Information for Travel**, a copy of which is printed with this leaflet. In particular I understand that Strand Travel Limited act merely as agent for the Shipowner.

Signature..... Date.....

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998, we are required to inform you that this information is held on computer for administration purposes. If you do not wish to receive any other travel related information, please tick this box



for your reservation 020 7921 4340



**Please retain this page
for your records**

GENERAL INFORMATION

for Travel on a Passenger Carrying Cargo Vessel

READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING A BOOKING

Strand Travel Limited ("Strand Voyages") arrange voyages on board cargo vessels as agent for the owners of the cargo vessels ("the Shipowner") featured in our brochure and website. Your contract is with the Shipowner.

1. CARGO VOYAGES

1.1 Unlike cruise ships or mainline passenger services, the primary purpose of the cargo vessel is to carry freight. The requirements of passengers take second place. Voyages follow the pattern of international freight requirements which may vary from month to month. Consequently schedules, itineraries and prices are for guidance only and will be confirmed at the time you make a booking.

2. MAKING A BOOKING

2.1 Before making a booking, you must contact us and we will check the cabin availability and estimated departure date for the itinerary that you have chosen. We will confirm the price at that time and will hold an option on a cabin for you without obligation. We will confirm how long the option will remain open, but it is usually a week.

2.2 Within this option period you must complete and return the Strand Voyages Registration Form with payment of the deposit. We will advise the amount to be paid by way of deposit when you enquire about an itinerary.

2.3 You will receive the Shipowner's conditions of carriage, confirmation receipt of accommodation, details of insurance that is required, a blank medical certificate for you to complete, and usually a letter of acceptance of the terms and conditions of carriage to sign and return to us. Please note that some Shipowners also require you to sign an additional booking form which we will send to you.

2.4 A binding contract between the lead named person who has signed the booking form on behalf of the party and the Shipowner will be made when we issue a confirmation receipt as agent for the Shipowner.

2.5 Some Shipowners have minimum and maximum age limits which we will inform you about when you enquire about a specific voyage. We reserve the right to refuse a booking on behalf of the Shipowner without giving any reason.

2.6 If you wish to plan a voyage for which a schedule is not available at the time of enquiry we can usually accept an advance registration. You must return the Registration Form with payment of £100 per person and we will register you for the voyage. As soon as the schedules are available, we will send you an offer of accommodation and ask you to pay the deposit, less the registration fee. Should the schedule not materialise or is unsuitable for you, we can transfer the registration fee to another itinerary or repay it to you in full.

3. PAYMENT

3.1 The balance of the fare must be paid not later than 10 weeks before departure. Failure to pay the balance on time will constitute cancellation and cancellation charges will become payable in accordance with paragraph 7.

3.2 If you book a voyage less than 10 weeks before departure, the full fare is payable at the time of booking.

4. TICKETS

4.1 Tickets will not be issued until we have received (1) the balance of payment; (2) our signed booking form and, where applicable, the Shipowner's own booking form; (3) medical certificate signed by your doctor; (4) confirmation from your insurers that you are fully covered for travel as a fare paying passenger on a cargo vessel; (5) copies of any necessary visa and vaccination certificates.

5. THE PRICE

5.1 The prices in our brochure and on our website are in sterling and are the approximate cost per person in a standard outside double or twin bedded cabin, with private shower and WC unless otherwise stated. Superior and owners cabins are often available and the fares for sole occupancy or single cabins can be obtained on request.

5.2 The price is inclusive of all meals, port taxes and booking fee. Where the price has changed since the brochure went to press, we will notify you of the change when we check availability of an itinerary.

5.3 The price of your travel arrangements is calculated using exchange rates supplied by Travelex from time to time. For prices quoted to us in euros, we apply an exchange rate of €1 = £1, though this rate, as with fares quoted to us in other currencies such as US and Australian dollars, is subject to fluctuations.

6. ALTERATIONS OR CANCELLATION BY US

6.1 You must accept that the itinerary is subject to change because it is devised around the needs of carrying freight. Loading and discharging at ports of call can cause delays as can bad weather, and many services, sailing dates, ports of call and durations of voyages are liable to be changed, cancelled, curtailed or lengthened without notice. Consequently, you must be flexible and allow up to 4 weeks leeway before departure and after return. We are not liable to you for any changes to the itinerary and we suggest that this type of voyage is unsuitable unless you are very flexible with your time.

6.2 Entertainment and other services normally available on cruise and mainline passenger vessels are not provided by Shipowners.

6.3 If a substitute vessel is imposed it is not guaranteed that it will be similar to that advertised, in particular with regard to available facilities, passenger accommodation, size, standard or nature.

6.4 Deposits or registration fees (less any administration charges to a maximum of £100 per booking) will only be refunded in the event of the above booking not being accepted and your not accepting an alternative voyage.

6.5 We strongly recommend you check the travel advice of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to help you make informed decisions about travelling abroad - www.fco.gov.uk/travel



7. CANCELLATION BY YOU

7.1 Any cancellations by you (for whatever reason) must be in writing addressed to us at Strand Voyages, The Oasis Centre, 75 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HS, fax: 020 7921 4476, email voyages@strandtravelltd.co.uk. The effective date of cancellation is the date on which written notification is received by us.

7.2 The cancellation charges of the Shipowner will be provided to you with your confirmation receipt. The following is a generic guide to the likely charge:

Up to 56 days before departure	Loss of deposit
56 days to 29 days	30% of total fare
28 days to 15 days	50% of total fare
14 days to 8 days	70% of total fare
7 days or less	100% of total fare

In addition, we will charge an administration fee of £100 per booking for any cancellation.

8. AMENDMENTS BY YOU

8.1 If after your booking has been accepted you require us to amend it in any way we reserve the right to charge an amendment fee of £50 per booking form. We reserve the right to treat a request by you of a change of vessel and/or itinerary as a cancellation which will incur the cancellation charges set out in Clause 7 above.

9. INFORMATION

9.1 Our brochure and website is prepared in reliance on information supplied to us by the Shipowners. We do not accept responsibility in the event that information is incomplete, inaccurate or misleading.

10. HEALTH

10.1 Unless otherwise stated the vessel does not carry a doctor on board. You must notify us of any illness or disability and details of all your required medication. Please note that some Shipowners will not accept anyone as a passenger who takes certain medications, such as Warfarin, and diabetics who rely on injections. You must produce a medical certificate stating that you are fit and able to travel. We will issue a blank medical certificate on behalf of the Shipowner for you to arrange to be completed by your doctor, as an ordinary letter from your doctor will not suffice.

11. INSURANCE

11.1 Comprehensive travel insurance is compulsory for all passengers travelling on freighters. When arranging insurance cover, please satisfy yourself that the insurance company is aware that you are travelling as a fare-paying passenger on a freighter that does not carry a doctor. The policy should also include adequate cancellation cover and medical cover of at least £2,000,000 or the equivalent. We will require a copy of the cover note and the insurance company's medical assistance telephone number. Neither we nor the Shipowner can accept liability should your own cover prove to be inadequate.

12. TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE BERTH

12.1 You are responsible for getting yourself to and from the ports where your vessel berths in good time for sailing. Please remember that the vessel is likely to leave port when ready. Whilst we are able to provide advice and information concerning transportation to the port of departure, we cannot be held responsible for arranging such transport.

13. OUR LIABILITY TO YOU

13.1 We are agent for the Shipowner and are not responsible for any aspect of your voyage save for our proven negligence in accepting a booking from you on behalf of the Shipowner.

13.2 Your contract is with the Shipowner and you should read the conditions of the contract supplied to you very carefully. They will be subject to the provisions of the Athens Convention which limits or excludes liability for death, personal injury and damage to luggage. The Athens Convention is expressly incorporated into your contract with the Shipowner. A copy is available on request.

14. DATA PROTECTION

14.1 Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the principal and to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed on to security or credit checking companies.

14.2 If you travel outside the European Economic Area, controls on data protection may not be as strong as the legal requirements in this country. We will only pass your information on to persons responsible for your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. (If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, whether in the EEA or not, we will be unable to provide your booking. In making this booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons). Full details of our data protection policy are available upon request.

15. LAW

15.1 All contractual obligations arising out of these booking conditions shall be deemed to come into existence in London, and be subject to English law and the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE
for all Passengers accepting Offers
of Accommodation**

The following information is presented about cargo ship travel in order to avoid misunderstandings.

1. The primary function of cargo ships, as you will be aware, is to carry cargo. For this reason passengers' plans **must** be flexible, since schedules may be changed due to cargo commitments. Time in port may be extended or curtailed, and in some instances ports of call may be added or deleted prior to sailing or during the voyage. **Ports of departure and return are subject to change.**
2. Passengers must be willing to accept possible complications of freighter travel, such as, but not limited to:
 - changes in departure date;
 - the complete cancellation of a sailing;
 - change of vessel;
 - changes in fares and itineraries without notice;
 - possibilities that voyages may be lengthened or shortened;
 - or any other factor which can impact upon the passengers as a result of decisions made by the shipping line.
3. On occasion a vessel may have to go into dry dock during a voyage. If so, passengers may be required to remain ashore at their own expense. In such cases, when dry-docking is known prior to departure, passengers will be so advised.
4. Cargo passengers should anticipate the foregoing possibilities and realise that while we will do everything possible to inform and assist our clients, **Strand Voyages do not accept responsibility for such difficulties and will not be accountable for any expenses incurred because of delays or schedule changes.**
5. **REFUSAL OF PASSAGE:** Any passenger who, in the judgement of the ship's Captain or company representative, is unfit to travel by reason of illness, infirmity, disease or mental disorder, or is otherwise unfit to travel, may be properly refused transportation. Additionally, the ship's Captain, or any other ship's officer, may refuse transportation to any passenger who is dangerous or obnoxious to other passengers or ship's personnel and may leave such passenger at any port or place where the ship docks without any liability to the shipping company and/or Strand Voyages. The shipping line and/or Strand Voyages shall not be required to repay any portion of the fare paid by any passenger refused passage under this provision.
6. **PASSENGERS MUST COMPLY WITH ANY AND ALL GOVERNMENT TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS AND SHALL POSSESS AND SHALL PRESENT EXIT, ENTRY AND OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. ANY FINES OR PENALTY FEES INCURRED FOR THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY GOVERNMENT REGULATION WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PASSENGER.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Age Limits

Most shipping companies will not accept persons of 80 years or over. Due to the hazards inherent in travelling on a freighter, very young children cannot be accepted as passengers. Please check before you make a reservation as the age limits vary with each shipping company. It should be pointed out to parents contemplating taking children on a freighter voyage that there will be no facilities for children on board and they will have to be kept under their supervision at all times.

Baggage

It is natural to assume that a freighter will have plenty of room for baggage. However nowadays all available space is dedicated to containers and therefore passengers' baggage must be limited to whatever can be carried up the gangway and stored in their cabins. We cannot assist with arrangements for the transport of any type of cargo - you should contact a freight forwarding company for this purpose. Some shipping companies also impose a weight limit.

Communications

Most vessels are equipped with satellite telephone and fax equipment - please note, however, that this is an expensive form of communication. Prior to departure a list of port agents is normally supplied in order that family and friends can send letters to await you at ports en route. The ship's officers will assist you with information about sending mail from ports of call. Internet access is not normally available to passengers and email is usually reserved for shipping company use. However on some vessels the Captain may agree to send the occasional email on your behalf.

Container Terminals

The terminals where the vessels berth are very different from the ports used by cruise ships and ferries. They are always busy with heavy vehicles coming and going and large moving cranes which are used to load and unload the containers. Container terminals can be very dangerous places to be if you do not have your wits about you. Most container terminals are situated a long way from the centre of a town or city, thus making it too far to walk. A taxi is usually essential to transport passengers from ship to shore, which can usually be arranged either by the local ship's agent who will be on board when the vessel arrives, or by one of the Officers. This should be borne in mind when deciding how much currency to take with you on your voyage.

Currency

It is usually necessary to pay for on board purchases with cash, not personal or travellers cheques or credit cards. You will be advised which currency is acceptable. For use ashore, take a supply of local currencies with you, preferably in small denominations. Most vessels do not have exchange facilities.

Diets

It cannot be guaranteed that passengers with special diets (e.g., vegetarian, gluten-free, etc) will be catered for, though with this proviso the ship can be advised in advance about any special requests. However, if you are allergic to any types of food, there can be no guarantee that your needs will be met.

Disabled Persons

Freighters are not designed to cater for disabled persons - there are usually a lot of stairs to climb and the gangways can be steep and awkward. Some vessels do have lifts, but they are switched off in bad weather. Therefore we regret that anyone with a physical disability or mobility problems will not be permitted to travel.

Dress

There is no "dressing up" on freighters, casual clothing is all that you will require throughout your voyage. There is no necessity to take any formal clothes with you.

Embarkation

Whilst we may be able to give you an approximate sailing date at the time of booking, it is likely that this will change. The exact date of departure for your voyage may not be confirmed until approximately two or three days beforehand. Embarkation instructions are usually enclosed with the Passage Tickets; however it is likely that contact will need to be made with the Port Agent in order to obtain confirmation of the vessel's exact time of departure. Once the time of sailing has been established, the embarkation time can then be confirmed. On the day of embarkation, you will either make your own way directly to the vessel at a given time, or will be asked to go to the port agent's office from where you will be escorted to the vessel. If you have to travel a long distance, it may be advisable to spend at least one night in a hotel near to the embarkation port. If you are joining a vessel outside the UK, you will be asked to contact the ship's agent at the embarkation port in order to find out exactly where and at what time to join the vessel (see Port Agents).

Fares

Unless otherwise stated, fares include accommodation, all meals, port taxes, booking fee and where applicable deviation insurance (see Insurance below).

Insurance

Insurance cover is compulsory for all passengers travelling on freighters. Your insurance company must be made aware that you are travelling as a fare-paying passenger on a cargo ship which does not carry a doctor. The policy must include medical cover of at least £2,000,000 or its equivalent and, of course, adequate cancellation cover is strongly recommended. Before releasing the voyage tickets we will require notification of the name of the insurance company, the policy number and the emergency medical assistance telephone number. "Deviation insurance" is an insurance premium which German shipping companies pay and pass on to passengers by inclusion in the fares. It covers any losses sustained by the shipping company in the event of an emergency concerning a passenger, resulting in the vessel having to deviate from its intended route to, for example, the nearest port. The shipping company is the sole beneficiary of deviation insurance and this does NOT preclude passengers their own personal cover.

Laundry

As a rule, ships have a self-service launderette, usually with a washing machine, washing powder, dryer and ironing board.

Lifts

Some ships have lifts - many do not. In bad weather lifts are switched off, so passengers may have to negotiate several flights of stairs between, for instance, accommodation and the restaurant.

Medical

Vessels which take up to 12 passengers do not carry a doctor though some may have a dispensary and at least one of the officers will have first aid training. Therefore shipping companies will not accept as a passenger anyone who has a severe or chronic health condition, including, in some cases diabetics who rely on injections and those who take Warfarin. If you require medication you must take a sufficient supply to last the voyage. All passengers must have a medical certificate (on a Strand Voyages or shipping company's form) signed by their doctor.

Onward Travel

Passengers taking one-way voyages often wish to book hotels, tours, car hire and flights. We can make any travel arrangements for you, but remember - you need to be flexible to co-ordinate them with freighters' changeable schedules.

Passenger Protection and Bonding

Strand Travel Ltd, of which Strand Voyages is a division, is a fully bonded member of the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA – www.abta.com), as well as being a member of the Association of Cruise Experts (ACE – www.cruiseexperts.org)

Pets

Regrettably freighter shipping companies do not accept animals on board their ships.

Port Agents

The Port Agent is a very busy person, whose responsibilities lie with the berthing arrangements of the vessels and overseeing the loading and unloading of the containers or any other cargoes carried. He also has first-hand information about when a vessel is expected to berth. It is therefore necessary to contact the Port Agent to confirm embarkation and sailing times. For voyages departing from the UK, we will make contact with the Port Agent on your behalf and having established the embarkation and sailing times, we will then telephone you with the information. However, for overseas departures it will be necessary for you to contact the Port Agent to obtain this information. This being the case, we will provide you with the telephone number of the Port Agent's office and you should then make contact a few days before the expected date of departure. Please do not discuss any other matter with the Port Agent other than to confirm the vessel's date of departure and the time you may embark.

Security

Security in ports is usually extremely tight and it is not possible for any unauthorised person to walk on to the terminal without first obtaining permission, or in some cases without an official escort. You may be subject to baggage and personal searches, similar to those experienced at airports, either before embarking or on board the vessel.

Smoking

Smoking restrictions are determined by the Captain. Normally smoking is allowed in cabins (subject to sensible precautions such as not smoking in bed) and on deck (though not when refuelling). Naturally smokers are asked to respect the comfort of their fellow passengers.

Time in Port

It is important to remember that since most of the vessels are containerised and loading and unloading is highly mechanised, the amount of time spent in ports is usually quite short. For example, a vessel may arrive at a port early in the morning, discharge its containers and be ready to depart by early afternoon. However, there is usually sufficient time to disembark, do a little sightseeing and return to the vessel before she sails.

Tipping

The steward who cleans your cabin or serves you in the Officer's Dining Room will always be grateful for a tip at the end of the voyage. However the level of tipping is a personal matter and should be based on your satisfaction with the way he has performed his duties. There really are no set rules with regard to tipping on board freighters.

Vaccinations and Inoculations

Some ports and countries require passengers to have vaccinations or inoculations. We will inform you about those which are compulsory, though you should consult your GP about the advisability of taking other precautions.

Vehicles

Apart from Roll-On Roll-Off vessels, generally all other vessels only carry vehicles which are containerised. We regret that we cannot make any arrangements for the carriage of vehicles on any freighters except for Ro-Ros.

Visas and Entry Requirements

We will advise you in advance if you require visas for any ports of call. Please note that for vessels visiting US ports, a full nonimmigrant visa is required by everyone except US and Canadian citizens. In some cases it is necessary for your passport to be valid at least 6 months after the date of your visit to the country concerned. Many immigration authorities require that on arrival you are in possession of an onward ticket out of the country.

Visitors

Unfortunately due to increased port security we regret that it is not possible to visit ships in port, nor for relatives and friends to board the ship to see you off on your voyage.