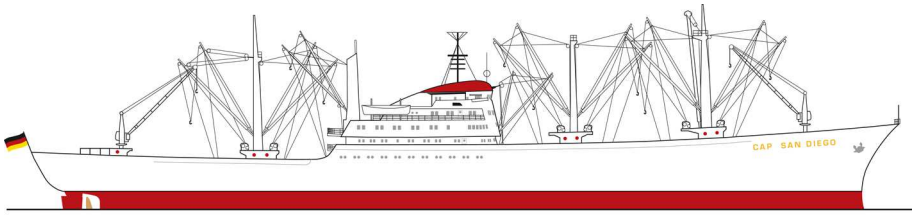

CAP SAN DIEGO

The maritime monument **MV "Cap San Diego"** is berthed in the port of Hamburg at the famous quay Überseebrücke. She is fully functional and able to be seagoing at any time, testimony of an almost lost era of seafaring. Walking through this ship will give you an idea what life onboard was like in the years 1960 - 1980.

History:
The **MV "Cap San Diego"** was constructed by the Deutsche Werft, Hamburg, contract No. 785. The vessel is from bow to stern a Hamburg ship and was designed by the well known Hamburg marine architect Cäsar Pinnau. She was delivered on March 27th, 1962 to the fleet of the "Hamburg-Südamerikanische Dampfschifffahrtsgesellschaft". She is the youngest of 6 sister ships, named "Cap San Antonio", "Cap San Augustin", "Cap San Lorenzo", "Cap San Marco" and "Cap San Nicolas".

With their sleek hulls and massive sterns, these ships resembled elegant yachts rather than freighters with a loading capacity of 10,300 tons.
Her measurements are: Length 159,40 m, Breadth 21,47 m, Volume 9998 GRT (Gross Register Tons)/5728 NRT (Net Register Tons) as a full scantling ship and 7626·GRT / 4116 NRT as a shelter-decker. Fully laden she displaces 17470 tons at a draft of 8.46 m. The ship's deadweight is 6,700 tons at a draft of 5.40 m.

The **"Cap San Diego"** is propelled by a two-stroke MAN diesel engine with 9 cylinders and 11600 horsepower. On her trial run she reached a maximum speed of 20,3 knots at 118 revolutions per minute.
Four auxiliary KHD-engines (500 hp) with generators supply the ship with electricity (440V/115 ac).

On March 29, 1962, the **"Cap San Diego"** sailed off to her maiden voyage. During the following 20 years, she completed more than 120 round trips between Hamburg and South America. In those days every single week a Cap-San ship was leaving from Hamburg, heading for the east coast of South America.
However, even on this route, the inexorable rise of the standardized shipping container left less and less room for conventional cargo freighters. The Hamburg-Süd shipping company, too, was using more and more container ships, so that in 1981, the Cap San Diego was sold to the Spanish shipping company "Ybarra".
She sailed for this company up to early 1986 when the ravages of time finally visibly caught up with the erstwhile "White Swan of the South Atlantic". She was now the last remaining vessel of the Cap-San class. Once more, the ship was sold. Under the name of "Sangria" she left for her very last voyage, to be dismantled and to end in a junk furnace.
In the nick of time the fate of the ship was turned. The Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg bought the **"Cap San Diego"**, to preserve her as a maritime monument. On October 31, 1986 she returned to her port of registry and was handed over to the foundation "Hamburger Admiralität" in 1987.

Today:
The **Cap San Diego now** anchors at the Überseebrücke quay in Hamburg and is a maritime monument open to visitors daily. All visitors are invited to discover the complete vessel: -among other things the engine room, the bridge, several sailor´s quarters as well as the hatches!
Since 2006 the former "White Swan of the South Atlantic", the only seaworthy museum freighter in the world, has once again commenced day trips with up to 500 passengers on board.
The passenger salons and the converted Hatches no. 3 and 4 are now open to the public for parties, conventions and events. Maritime specialities are provided by the on-board **Bistro**, which opens daily, and are also served at the **Pool bar** in summer days.

Eight Passenger cabins and the Captain's suite are also available for those wishing to spend the night in style on the Elbe rather than just at the Elbe. The captain's cabin consists of a sleeping-room and a living-room plus a separate bathroom with bath tub and toilette: it is from 115 euros up to 122 euros for single use per night, it is possible to book a separate bed additional. The former passenger cabins are from 99 euros up to 109 euros for the double cabin and 78 euros up to 89 for the single cabins per night (all figures from 2013 – for actual figures please contact us or watch the Home Page). In all cabins you will find a jug of coffee and some snacks as well as WLAN for free. Breakfast is available in the Bistro – after notice a day in advance.

Special exhibitions are presented in the loading hatches and a wide range of cultural events tops off the large number of attractions. The permanent exhibition "A Suitcase Packed with Hope" is one of the highlights on board and can be visited during the opening hours. The exhibtion shows the life and hopes of people from Europe who immigrated to America in the years of 1834 until 1920. The ship is owned by the foundation "Hamburger Admiralität", which is responsible for the preservation of the ship and her seaworthiness. The ship is owned by the foundation "Hamburger Admiralität", which is responsible for the preservation of the ship and her seaworthiness.

The **Cap San Diego** is operated by "Cap San Diego Betriebsgesellschaft mbH" (owned by Stiftung Hamburger Admiralität)

The catering company **Hamburger Gastmahl** cares for every culinaric need of the passengers on board and - last but not least:
in addition to the regular crew of the operating company, a highly dedicated and enthusiastic group of about 45 volunteers keep things running smoothly and make sure the **Cap San Diego** remains an unique maritime symbol of Hamburg. Every Saturday and Sunday the Wireless Station is opened to the public where experienced operators will show the visitors how to use all the equipment.

In brief:
The **Cap San Diego**, built in 1961, is a unique testimony to seafaring and is berthed in her old home harbour of Hamburg as a »museum you can touch« since 1986.
She is the last of the classic cargo ships, referred to as the "White Swan of the South Atlantic."
Open daily from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
There are rooms to let and cabins to rent.

Every year MV Cap San Diego undertakes daytrips with max. 500 passengers. She sails on the river Elbe, the Nord-Ostsee-Kanal etc. Tickets are bookable on the home-page.

A round tour (audio guide) onboard the Cap San Diego leads the visitor to: cargo holds, loading gear, mooring and anchoring equipment, palaver deck, lifeboats, swimming pool and arbour, bridge, chart room and communications room, captain's cabin, dining room and passenger cabins, galley, pantry and mess crew accommodations. An English spoken audio-guide is available.

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