

The Queen Mary

Whereas almost all of the other great vessels of the Atlantic eventually ended their careers at the scrap yards, the Queen Mary was destined to start yet anew as the *Hotel Queen Mary* in Long Beach, CA.

After 33 years of service, it was announced in 1967 that the Queen Mary would be retired, and on December 11th she was removed from the British Registry and officially turned over to the City of Long Beach, with all of her ship facilities now being dependent on shore-side utilities.

Since then, the Queen Mary has had a succession of operators. Diners Club Inc. took the first shot at making it all work in March, 1968. The Queen Mary was then dry docked for a while at Long Beach Naval Shipyard. Diners Club left in 1970, to be replaced by Speciality Restaurants Corp. as master lessee in 1971. On February 20, 1972, the old girl had her largest single day attendance - 19,600. In November of the same year, she opened anew with 150 rooms. In September, 1980, the Wrather Corp. signed a 66-year lease to manage the Queen Mary, but in March, 1988, Walt Disney Co. bought Wrather Corp. In September, 1992, Disney gave up its lease on the Queen Mary, and the Port of Long Beach temporarily took over, but the Queen Mary closed on December 31, 1992. But that's not the end of our story! In February, 1993, the RMS Foundation (no relationship to our RMS) signed a 5 year lease, and she reopened to the public!

After several years of financial problems, Evolution Hospitality, LLC, assumed operational control of the Queen Mary on 23 September 2011, with Garrison Investments leasing Queen Mary. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Queen_Mary]

