M/S NORDSTJERNEN
M/S Nordstjernen (The North Star) was built in 1956 by the Blohm & Voss Shipyards in Hamburg.

The vessel entered the Hurtigruten service on March 1st, 1956 and soon became a popular and successful member of the fleet. In 1968, “Nordstjernen” started a new Svalbard Express service to Spitzbergen. This route became very attractive for tourism and was repeated every summer until 1982.

During the winter 1982-83 at the Bergen shipyard of Mjellem & Karlsen, the vessel received a major upgrade to make her fit for further service. The modifications were considered very successful, and the new, more powerful engine increased her maximum speed to almost 19 knots.

It has been decided that “Nordstjernen” should be used back for Spitzbergen trips, with a one-week Svalbard cruises, which proved extremely successful and were, with some variations, repeated every season until 2009.

But all good things come to an end, and by 2012, “Nordstjernen” became surplus to requirements. She finished her final Hurtigruten voyage in March 2012, and a last Spitsbergen cruise season was advertised for the summer months. The final voyage was the repositioning cruise back from Spitsbergen to Bergen in August, and she arrived in her former homeport on September 1st, 2012.

In November 2012 the vessel was delivered to new owners and covered by a full protection by the Highest Norwegian Authority for the Protection of Historical Monuments.

The ship is an extraordinary example of ship architecture and design in the 50s, referring in many aspects to the 30s of the XXth Century and to certain solutions of the age of steam ships. This is a vessel that thanks to her charm, cosiness and weather qualities, successfully encountering contemporary challenges, becomes embedded deeply and forever in the hearts of her fans.

Technical data:
- Built: 1956
- Length: 80.7m
- Gross Tonnage: 2191
- Speed: 15 knots
- Beam: 12.6m
- Passenger capacity: 150