



HONORING HISTORY : Hurtigruten's new expedition cruise ships will get new names with historic roots. MS Maud will be named after Roald Amundsen's custom built polar vessel "Maud".

19-08-2019 10:32 CEST

Behind the names: Hurtigrutens new expedition cruise ships

As they are transformed into full-fledged premium expedition cruise ships, the current MS Finnmarken and MS Midnatsol, will be renamed MS Otto Sverdrup and MS Maud. This are the stories behind the names.

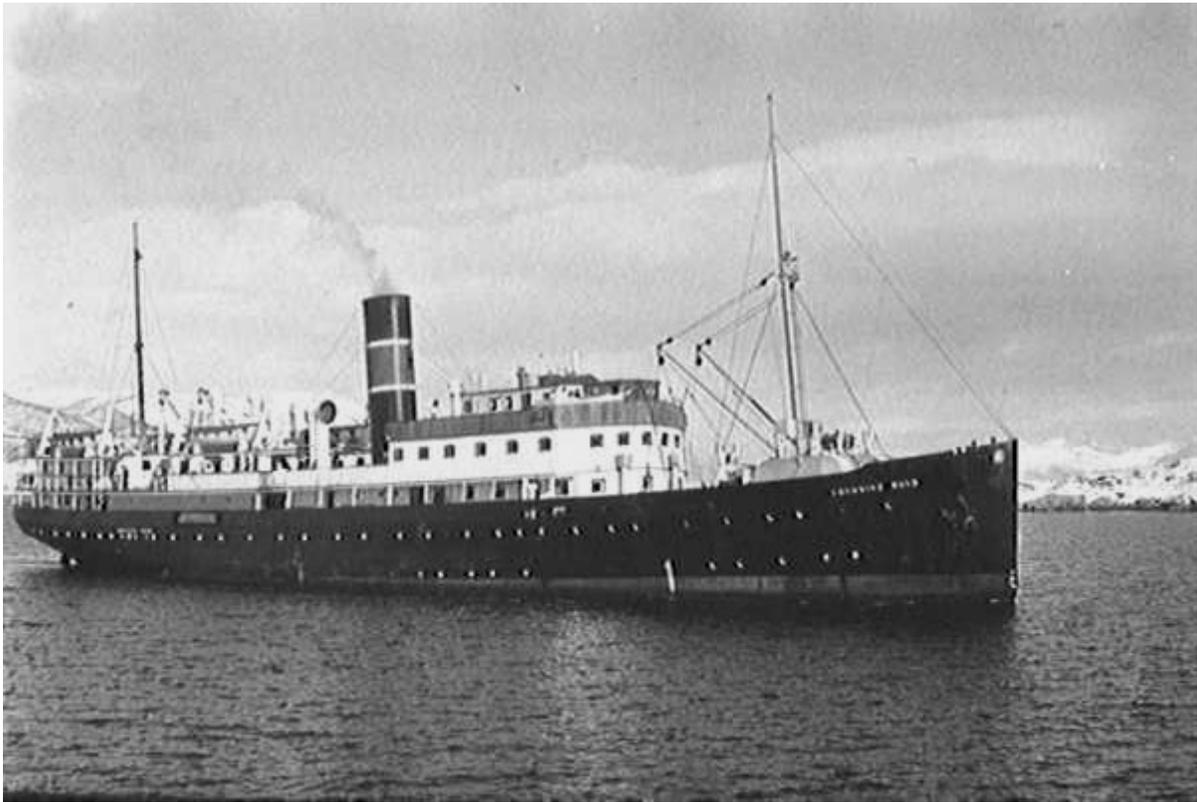
MS Maud, the current MS Midnatsol, is named after one of the most famous polar vessels of all time, Roald Amundsen's "Maud" from 1917. The original "Maud" got her name from the first Queen of modern-day Norway, who also had her namesake in Hurtigruten's 1925 flagship DS Dronning Maud (DS Queen Maud).

When she was launched in 1917 Roald Amundsen's "Maud" was a revolutionary ship. Custom-built for Amundsen's expedition through the North-East Passage, with an aim to drift over the Arctic Ocean and get as close to the North Pole as possible, she is one of the most famous polar ships in history. She spent years in the ice, and was fitted with scientific tools to document meteorological factors, geophysics and to monitor the sea water.



ROYAL: Queen Maud was Norway's became Norway's Queen in 1905.

Amundsen's ship was named after Norway's first queen in modern history, Queen Maud, who also gave name to Queen Maud's Land in Antarctica. Maud has also previously been used at a ship name by Hurtigruten, DS Dronning Maud was a company flagship when launched in 1925.



HURTIGRUTEN: DS "Dronning Maud" was the company flagship when she launched in 1925.

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MS Otto Sverdrup, the current MS Finnmarken, is named after one of Norway's most notable polar heroes. Alongside Fridtjof Nansen, he was the first to ski across Greenland, a key contributor to several expeditions and captain on the legendary polar ship "Fram". Sverdrup also has a close connection to Hurtigruten: Between the expeditions he was a captain on board Hurtigruten ships.

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EXPLORER: Otto Sverdrup was a Norwegian explorer and polar hero. Photo: Fridtjof Nansen.

Sverdrup was a man with enormous strength; he was strong, stout and trustworthy. These characteristics made him one of legendary polar explorer and Nobel peace prize winner Fridtjof Nansen's most valued men. Sverdrup took part in the world's first expedition crossing Greenland on ski. He was later an important figure in several expeditions that defined Norway as a leading polar power. He was the captain onboard Fram during the attempt to reach the North Pole by drift ice, he led an expedition to the islands west of Greenland now known as the Nunavut-region in Canada. Later he also led several rescue operations in the Arctic in the search for other explorers.

Hurtigruten - World Leader in Exploration Travel

Building on 125 years of Norwegian pioneering heritage, Hurtigruten is today the world's largest expedition cruise company.

Hurtigruten's rapidly growing fleet of custom-build expedition ships takes modern-day adventure travellers to the world's most spectacular destinations on our Planet - from the High North to Antarctica in the south.

Being the world leader in exploration travel comes with a great responsibility. Hurtigruten is enhancing destinations and runs an responsible, sustainable global operation. [Read more about Hurtigruten's sustainability efforts here.](#)

Hurtigruten is introducing the world's first hybrid battery powered cruise ships, the MS Roald Amundsen and the MS Fridtjof Nansen.

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