

SS Robin History and Factsheet

SS Robin Timeline

- 1890 SS Robin built and fitted
- 1900 Sold to Spanish owners and renamed Maria
- 1974 Returns to England
- 1979 Restoration finishes, moves to St Katherine's Docks
- 1991 New mooring at West India Quay
- 2002 Put into trust
- 2008 Restoration in Lowestoft starts
- 2011 Moves to Royal Docks on pontoon



The Robin carried cargo around the UK from 1890 until 1900. Cargoes included barrelled herring, coal, china clay and granite for the Caledonian Canal.

The SS Robin, and her sister ship Rook, were built in Orchard Yard, Blackwall in London in 1890. Their triple expansion engines were fitted in Dundee by Gourlay Brothers. Both the hull and engineering were top rated by Lloyds of London.

The Robin was sold to a Spanish company in 1900. She was renamed Maria. She worked in Spain until 1974, mostly carrying coal along the North West Atlantic coast.



The Robin was restored between 1974 and 1979 by Dousts shipyard in Rochester to how she looked in 1890. After restoration, she was moved to St Katherine's Docks near the Tower of London. She was part of the National Historic Fleet here as a visitor attraction.



In 1974, the Maritime Trust were looking for ships that were historically important.

They bought Maria, sailed her back to the UK and named her Robin again.



The Robin was moved to West India Quay in 1991. She remained there throughout the 1990s, by which time she was in need of additional restoration. In 2002 she was bought by David and Nishani Kampfner and put in trust, and was open as a photo gallery from 2004-2007.

The Robin was moved onto a floating pontoon permanently, so her hull stays original and can be seen. This is a new and innovative approach for conserving a ship.

You can get a glimpse of her at London's Royal Victoria Dock, where she's undergoing final restoration work only a mile from where she was originally built.

