

While at the South Street Seaport you may want to visit the four-masted barque *Peking*. She represents the final chapter in the evolution of merchant vessels powered only by wind. Launched in Hamburg, Germany in 1911, she was used to carry manufactured goods to South America and to return via Cape Horn with nitrate. In 1932, she was retired and moored in England's Medway River where she served for over 40 years as a boys' school under the name *Arethusa*. In 1975, *Peking* was acquired by the museum and towed to her current home at Pier 16. With a steel hull as long as a football field, and masts as tall as an 18-story building, *Peking* is one of the largest sailing vessels ever built and the largest preserved by a museum. Starting in the summer of 1996, visitors could see *Peking's* wire rope rigging fully restored to its original condition—the product of a twelve-year long restoration, the most ambitious project of its kind ever undertaken by a museum. In addition, visitors can go below decks to tour restored living quarters, to view an exhibition of vintage photos of the ship during her active career, and to see the film, *Peking at Sea*, hair-raising footage of one of *Peking's* voyages around storm-tossed Cape Horn, narrated by Capt. Irving Johnson who took part in that trip.



Rig: Four-masted barque
Material: Wood decks, rest steel
Length: 377 ft.
Breadth: 47 ft.
Gross Tonnage: 3100
Net Tonnage: 2883
Depth: 26 ft. 3 in.
Main Mast Height: 170 ft.
Sail Area: 44,132 sq. ft.
Max Speed: 16.5 knots (19 mph)

Capt. Irving Johnson, Around Cape Horn, *Peking at sea*, 1929.
Click Link below to see this classic movie the only one of its kind in existence. 36½ min.
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1184583933122407708&hl=en>

