

Soya

Japan's First Antarctic Research Vessel



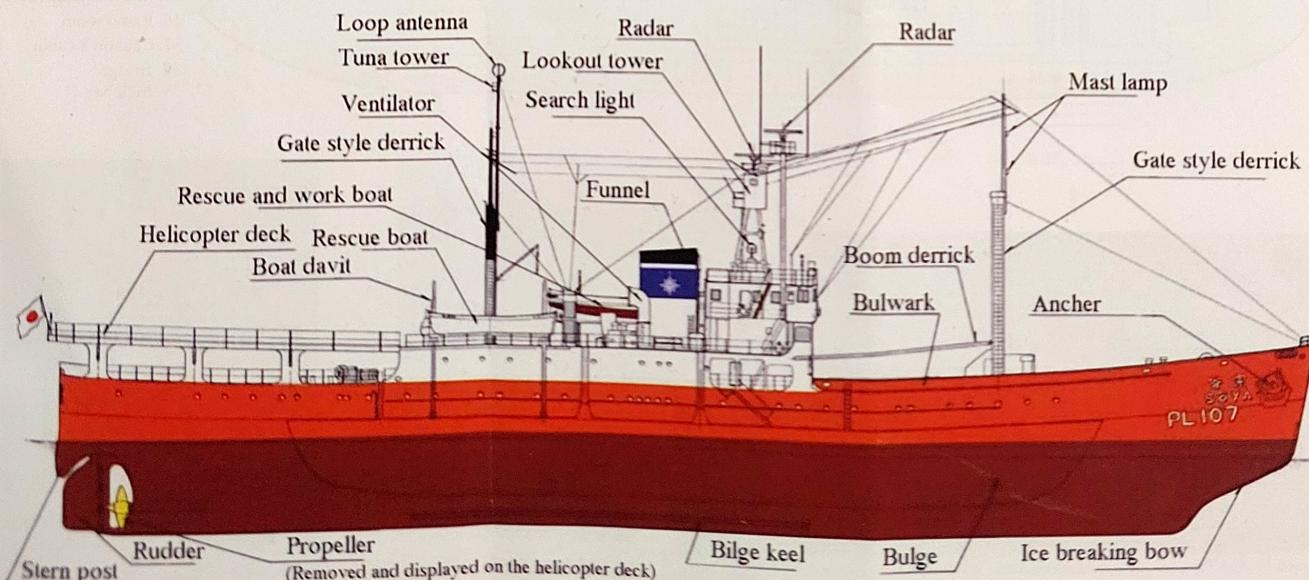
Have you ever heard of a ship called Soya? The ship was built approximately 80 years ago in 1938 and served as a service ship of Japanese Imperial Navy in World War II and as a repatriation ship and a lighthouse replenishment ship after the war. Soya became Japan's first Antarctic research vessel in 1956, making six round trips to the South Pole and back. Soya retired in 1978 and opened to the public at the Museum of Maritime Science the following year. Welcome to Soya! Let's go on a tour of the vessel.

Making the impossible possible—

Soya, a ship of great lucks and miracles

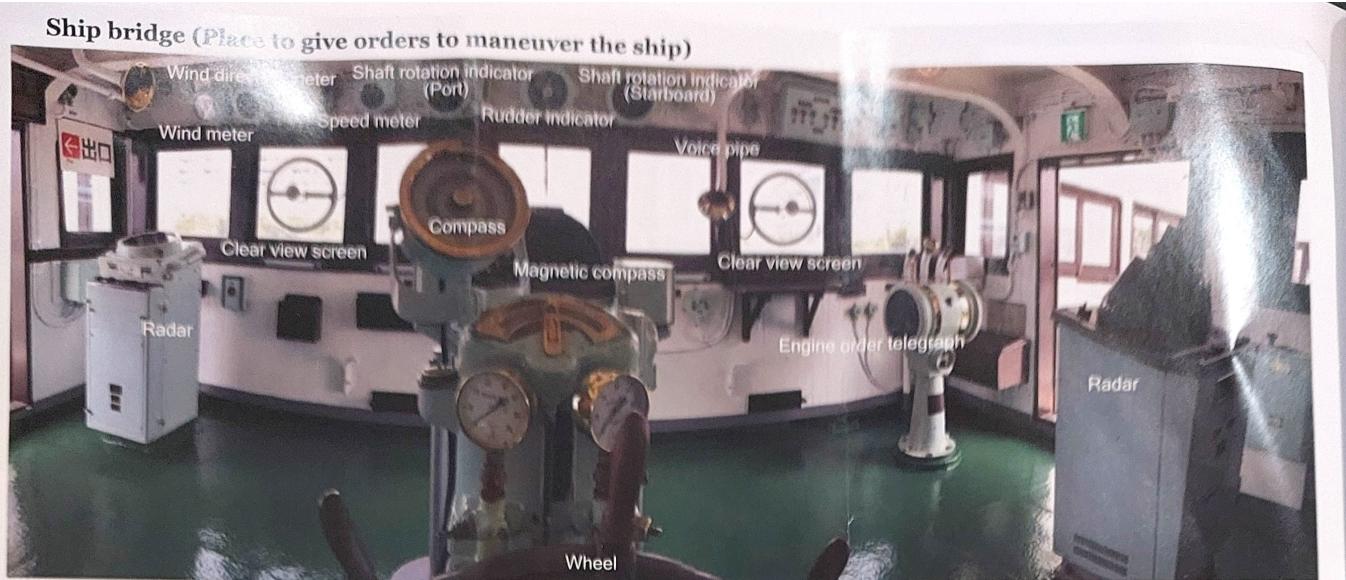
- 1938 Launched as a cargo ship by the Soviet Union under the name of Volochevets. After that, the ship was commissioned in Japan as Chiryomaru.
- 1940 After a refit, the ship was renamed Soya to become a service ship of Japanese Imperial Navy.
- 1943 US submarine torpedo hits Soya in the South Pacific but failed to explode. Soya was safe.
- 1944 In the air raids on Truk Island, only Soya miraculously survived.
- 1945 After the war ended, Soya became a repatriation ship for Japanese remaining in foreign countries (approx. 19,000 people).
- 1950 Soya became a lighthouse replenishment ship of the Japan Coast Guard and visited various lighthouses nationwide.
- 1956 After a comprehensive refit, Soya became Japan's first Antarctic research vessel (first to sixth expeditions).
- 1959 Sled dogs Taro and Jiro (Sakhalin Huskies) left behind at the Showa Station of Antarctic base were discovered alive.
- 1963 Soya became a patrol vessel of the Japan Coast Guard and known as the "Guardian of the North Sea".
- 1979 After decommissioning, Soya is alongside the Museum of Maritime Science and opened to the public.

Soya's interior at the time of the third Antarctic expedition

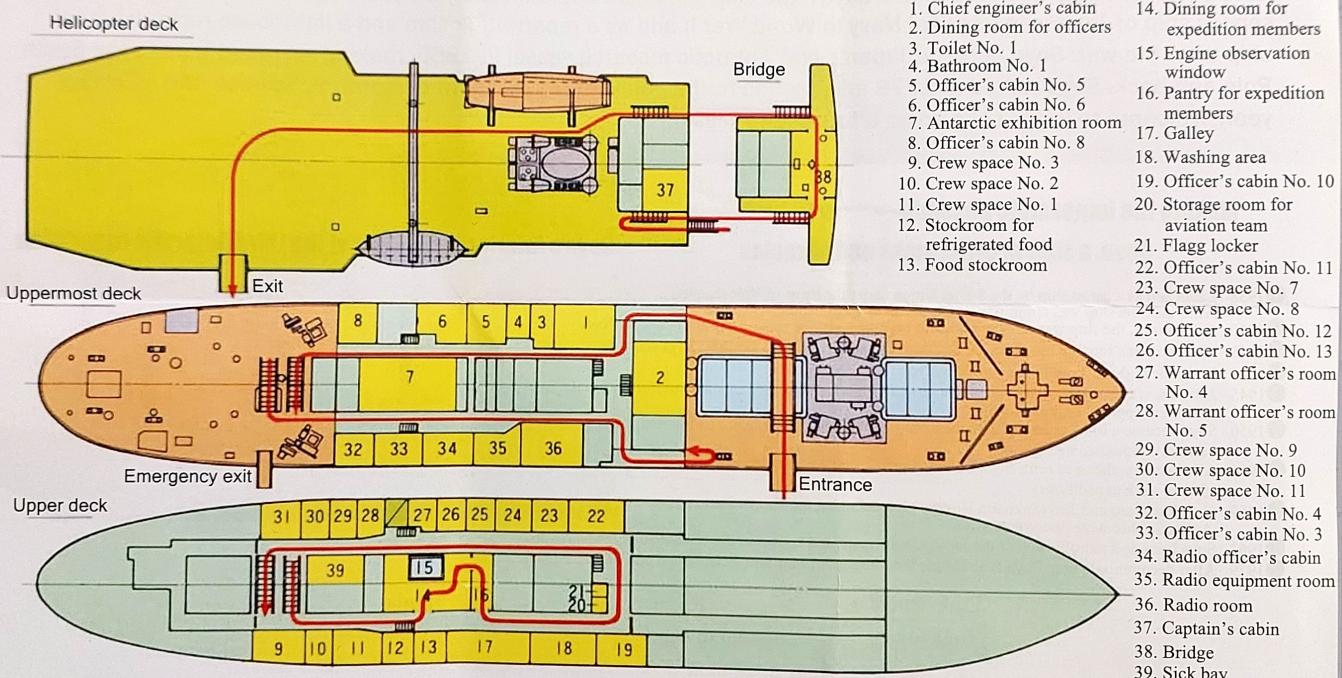


The preservation and maintenance of Soya is made possible by your Operation and Maintenance Cooperation Fund.
Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Ship bridge (Place to give orders to maneuver the ship)



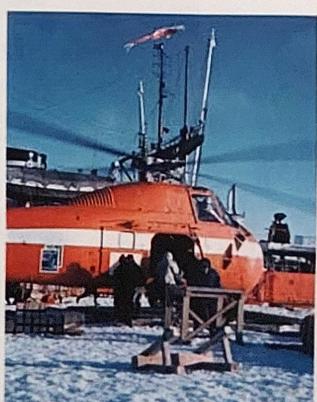
The viewing route inside Soya



Sakhalin Huskies Taro and Jiro, which miraculously survived in the Antarctica



Takeshi, a male calico cat which was taken to the Antarctica



Helicopter used to transport goods