

BADGER FACTS

- Built in 1953 in Sturgeon Bay, WI for the Christy Corporation which is now Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding.
- The BADGER was built for the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Railroad company
- The BADGER was launched on September 6, 1952 and began daily service on March 21, 1953.
- The BADGER was christened by Mrs. Walter Koehler, the wife of the Wisconsin State Governor.
- The BADGER was named a National Historic Landmark and is additionally unique in that she is the second NHL that moves, the first being the San Francisco Railcars
- The SS BADGER is unique in that she is a Registered Historical Site in two states.
- The BADGER is 410' long, 59'6" wide, and 7 stories tall
- The BADGER was built to haul railroad cars all over Lake Michigan. Today she only sails between Ludington, MI and Manitowoc, WI but she used to also sail into Milwaukee, WI and Keewauke, WI.
- In the 1930's, Ludington was the largest Carferry Port in the world – being home to 9 different carferries that would frequent in and out of Ludington.
- Today, she can carry up to 160 cars, semis, over sized loads, campers, RV's, motorcycles, buses and more.
- The BADGER's namesake is from the University of Wisconsin Badger's, while her sister-ship, the SS SPARTAN, received her name from the Michigan State University, Spartans.
- Although the BADGER and SPARTAN were identically built, in 1964 the BADGER was laterally cut and 18 inches were added to her height to accommodate for taller railroad cars
- The SS BADGER was the last coal-fired, passenger steamship Carferry that was ever built and is the last one still in service in the United States.
- The SS BADGER is an official continuation of US Highway 10, a unique distinction.
- While docking on both sides of the lake, the BADGER will turn around in the harbor and reverses into port.
- The BADGER hosts multiple amenities on board such as dining and bar service, a museum, gift shop, movie theatre, games and entertainment and much more.
- The Engines are Two Skinner Unafrow four-cylinder steam engines rated 3,500 horsepower at 125 RPM (total 7,000 horsepower). The Badger's propulsion system is designated as a mechanical engineering landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.
- The propeller are two cast steel, four-blade propellers that are 13' 10" in diameter and weigh 13,800 pounds each.
- The anchors weigh 7,000 pounds each
- The average speed is 14 knots or 16 miles per hour
- It is about 60 miles from Ludington, Michigan to Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- If you circle the top deck 6 times, you've walked a mile.
- In her lifetime, the BADGER has had 5 different insignia's on her stack