

# *St. Louis*: Ship of Fate

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
courtesy of Estelle Bechoefer, #05459.

## *Travelling Exhibit Fact Sheet*

**In 1939, the German luxury liner *St. Louis* and her 936 Jewish refugees were denied entry to Cuba, the U.S.A. — and finally, Canada.**

*St. Louis* returned to Europe, to war and genocide. Almost a third of her passengers died in Nazi camps. This exhibit awakens Canadians to a little-known, dark chapter in their own nation's past, and brings to light the hatred and prejudices that give rise to such tragedy.



Still hopeful, unidentified Jewish refugees look wistfully from the portholes of *St. Louis* to friends, family, and freedom, only a few hundred metres away.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum,  
courtesy of Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, #76775.



# St. Louis: Ship of Fate



The primary goal of this traveling exhibit is to reach a broad audience with the important wartime story of the MS *St. Louis* and its fateful voyage in 1939. To achieve this goal, the traveling exhibit is supported by educational resources and a complete package of marketing materials available to potential hosts via the online resource site.

## Visitor Experience

The *St. Louis* exhibit introduces the audience to a little known story of over 900 Jewish refugees that were rejected by several countries including Canada. Forced to return to Europe, many perished in Nazi death camps. The exhibit includes two artifacts and numerous digital reproductions of photos and objects including the actual correspondence between their Canadian advocates and the Canadian government. Interactive touch screens present artifacts, photos, and correspondence in a very accessible format, offering interpretation in tandem with the hardwall exhibit panels. The story introduces important themes of immigration, racism and changing values in Canada.

## Content

- 11 bilingual hardwall interpretive panels
- 3 bilingual touch screen interactive display panels
- A ship model display case
- A commemorative sculpture display case built into one of the graphic panels

## Exhibit Area

Approximately 37 square metres (400 square feet) requiring a ceiling height of 2.5 metres (8 feet).  
(See next page for sample floor plans.)

## Availability

As of August 2012 (12 week bookings)

## Loan Fee

Starts at \$3500 (plus shipping unless otherwise negotiated)  
The borrower should plan to pay for full-coverage insurance for \$100,000.

## Accompanying Materials\*

An installation manual, educational support materials and condition report binder. A media kit including poster, ad and signage templates are available to the exhibit host via the on-line resource site.

\* Currently available in English only.

## Installation and Dismantle

Allow 2 days each for installation and dismantling of the exhibit.  
Requires a crew of three to four.

## Storage

Require an indoor storage for the following crates:

- 11 panel crates 0.3 m x 1.4 m x 2.5 m (1 ft x 4.5 ft x 8 ft)
  - 1 ship model case crate 0.6 m x 0.6 m x 0.9 m (2 ft x 2 ft x 3 ft)
  - 1 ship model crate 0.3 m x 0.3 m x 0.9 m (1 ft x 1 ft x 3 ft)
  - 1 sculpture case 0.3 m x 0.3 m x 0.3 m (1 ft x 1 ft x 1 ft)
- Totals: 11.7 cubic metres (412 cubic ft)

## Conservation Requirements

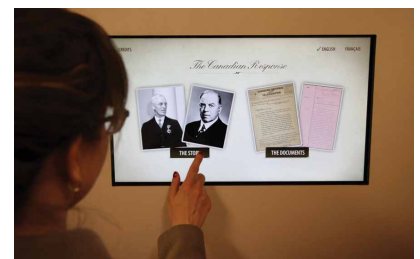
40-60% RH, 17 to 21 C.

## Security

- 24-hour electronic or human surveillance
- Human surveillance when the crates are being unloaded
- Human surveillance during the installation and dismantling of the exhibit

## Contact

Exhibit Coordinator: Richard MacMichael  
Maritime Museum of the Atlantic  
1675 Lower Water Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 1S3  
p) 902-424-6446  
e) MACMICRS@gov.ns.ca

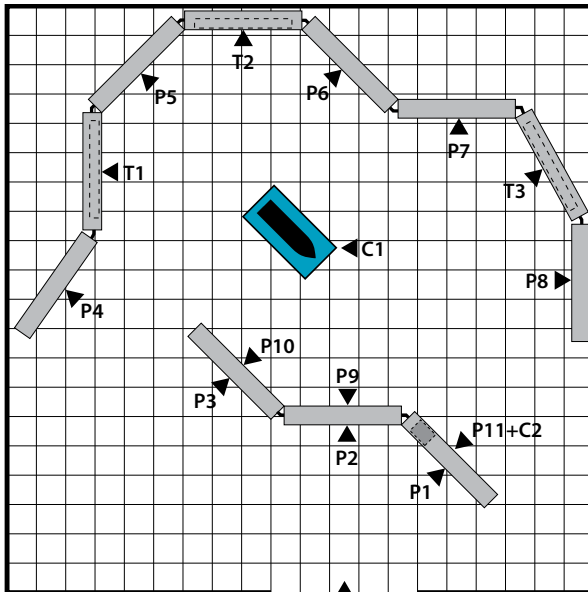


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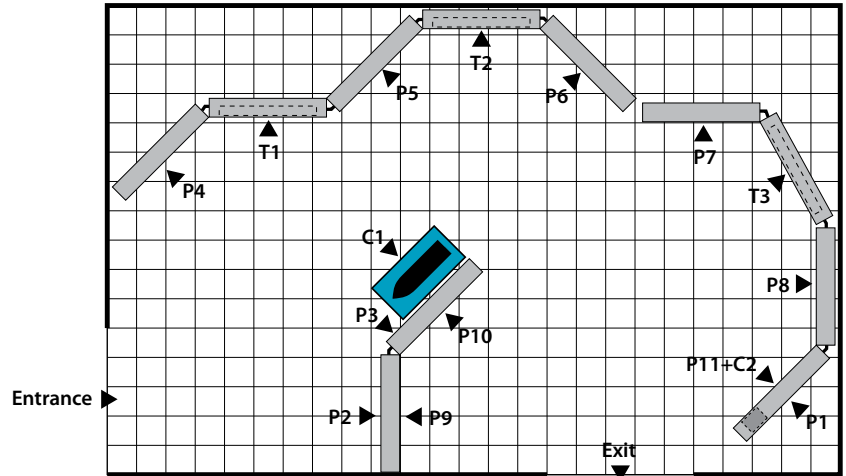


## Exhibit Concept Floor Plans

These floor plans show how the exhibit can be custom fit to different temporary exhibit spaces based on the minimum space requirements of approximately 37 square metres (400 square feet).



□ 0.09 square metres (1 square foot)



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### Hardwall interpretive panel key:

- P1 Directional panel with voyage map
- P2 Exhibit title/introduction panel
- P3 Acknowledgement panel
- P4 "The Ship" panel
- P5 "Nazi Persecution of Jews" panel
- P6 "Canadian Immigration in 1930s" panel
- P7 "The Fateful Voyage" panel
- P8 "Fate and Consequences" panel
- P9 "List of names and photos" graphic panel
- P10 "List of names and photos" graphic panel
- P11 "Immigration Today" panel

### Touch screen panel key:

- T1 Touch screen panel incorporating items related to the liner *St. Louis* and the people who sailed on it.
- T2 Touch screen exhibit incorporating print items and artifacts related to the immigration story including the documents related to the political decision not to allow the passengers to immigrate to Canada.
- T3 Touchscreen exhibit telling the story of the "Fateful Voyage".

### Display case key:

- C1 Ship model visible from all sides
- C2 Memorial glass sculpture case built into the "Immigration Today" panel

