

these ships, they were always subject to the vagaries of the wind. With a favorable wind, it truly was “smooth sailing.” But when the wind died and the sails went slack, there was little for passengers and crew to do other than sit and wait for the wind to return.

With the introduction of steam power, regularly scheduled passenger service on primary water routes became a reality. Like most of the early technological innovations in transportation, steam-powered ships originated in Europe. In 1838, two passenger ships (the *Sirus* and the *Great Western*) crossed the Atlantic from Ireland and Great Britain to the United States. By today’s standards, and even compared with the speed of clipper ships, their 19- and 15-day crossings were slow. But they ushered in a new age of dependable scheduled service whereby travelers had some assurance that they would arrive at their destinations on time.²

Transatlantic passenger traffic grew rapidly until 1957 when another technological innovation—the jet engine—heralded the demise of **point-to-point** ocean crossings. Although Cunard Line still runs scheduled routes between Southampton, England, and New York City, and some cruise ships at times carry passengers on point-to-point crossings, ocean-going transportation is now limited. Long-distance cruise ship crossings are typically restricted to **repositioning cruises**, in which cruise ships are being moved from one location to another. For example, a cruise line will move ships from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean to take advantage of seasonal changes and passenger demands. Cruise ships are such a significant sector of the tourism industry that we will take an in-depth look at cruising in Chapter 10.

Mention water transportation, and most people think about cruise ships or a brief hop on a ferry when they cross a river, lake, or other short distance on a waterway. Water transportation, especially ferry services, is still an important link in the total transportation system. Passenger ferries have evolved over time and have become more sophisticated, offering a wide range of services. They are now designed to do more than just carry passengers and vehicles. Some ferries also offer sleeping cabins, restaurants, lounges, casinos, movie theaters, shops, and child-care services.

Passenger ferry routes have been designed to tie in with rail and road systems to facilitate intermodal transportation. These routes create important links in the transportation system for many residents and visitors in North American locations such as Alaska, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Washington State. British Columbia, for example, has an extensive system of ferries calling on 42 coastal ports.³ For the millions of people who travel throughout Asia and the European community, water transportation is not a luxury but a necessity and a key driver of tourism.

Technological advances in ferry design and construction have increased both speeds and operating efficiencies. These high-speed ferries are particularly noticeable in high-traffic tourist areas such as the Bahamas, Catalina Island, Hong Kong, Tasmania, and along the Massachusetts coastline. These locations are all served by high-speed catamarans that can transport passengers at speeds of up to 42 miles per hour.

Riding the Rails

Passenger rail service had its origins in Europe. The first railway service for passengers was inaugurated in Europe on September 17, 1825, when the Stockton and Darlington Railway began offering regularly scheduled service in England. Passenger rail service arrived in North America in 1829, when the South Carolina and Canal Railroad began carrying passengers between Charleston, South Carolina, and Hamburg, Georgia, with steam-powered locomotives. Transcontinental service in the United States began in 1869 and in Canada in 1885.

Long-distance rail travel was given a boost in the United States when George Pullman developed the Pullman coach, with sleeping facilities for overnight travel. The addition of dining cars and legitimate food and lodging facilities pioneered by Fred Harvey heralded