

# WORLD-WIDE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

(INCLUDING LARGE DECK AMPHIBS/SEA CONTROL)



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## ex-VARYAG CLASS

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### SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: CV  
Length: 992 ft  
Width: 237 ft  
Beam: 116 ft  
Displacement: 65,000 tons  
Propulsion: 8 boilers, 4 shafts  
Speed: 32 knots  
Crew: 2,500  
Airwing: 50 fixed, rotary  
Armament:  
- Unknown  
Elevators: 2  
Ships in class: 1

#### [Unknown PLAN Name](#)

The Chinese purchased the former Soviet carrier, Varyag, from the Ukraine in 1998 for about \$20 million dollars (US). The Varyag was the newer, sister ship to the [Russian Kuznetsov](#). But the Ukraine government had never finished the carrier after the fall of the Soviet Union and had tried to sell it to various concerns. As a result, the carrier fell into a state of disrepair. The Chinese bought the carrier and indicated that the holding company that had purchased it planned to tow it to China and make it a floating casino.

The Chinese could not get permission from the government of Turkey to pass through the Straits of Istanbul until 2001, at which time the Varyag was towed to China, a cruise that the big ship, now without rudders or engines, made in surprisingly good condition passing through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal, by the Cape of Good Hope headland, across the Indian Ocean, through the Straits of Malacca, into the China Sea and finally to Dalian, China in mid 2002. It was ultimately docked at the Naval Shipyards in Dalian where it has been under tight security ever since. The holding company, which had ties to the PLAN, has now gone out of business.

The Varyag has been undergoing significant work, although the Chinese government is not indicating to what end. Recently, the carrier, after well over two years at the shipyards, has been painted in the official PLAN combatant colors, causing a stir of speculation as to what work may have been

### PHOTOGRAPHS (Click on the pictures for an enlarged photo)



accomplished internal to the ship over the last two years and what her future holds. Many believe she will be made operational, if for no other reason, as a training ship for the PLAN, to gain experience while the Chinese build their own carriers.

The Chinese have been engaged over the last five to seven years in one of the most astounding and [ambitious modern naval shipbuilding programs](#) since World War II. Although they are retiring many older vessels, the sheer rapidity with which they are replacing them with very efficient modern combatants is amazing. Those combatants include all of the necessary ingredients to create and field a major carrier battle group of their own...if they had the carrier to go with it.

If made operational, with a wing of modified SU-27 (like the SU-33), and/or carrier modified J-10 aircraft, the Varyag could represent a significant shift in the balance of naval power in the area.





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