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Mini-Cruise - 2014 - Color Line's **Color Magic**

Kiel - Oslo - Kiel

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 **Color Line's **Color Magic** is the biggest ferry in the world !**

The biggest ferry in the world 'Color Magic' arrives in Kiel :



 JAN MARTIN

- IMO 9349863
- MMSI 259222000
- Call Sign LNWC
- Registered in Oslo/Norway
- First Journey 17 September 2007
- Passenger Beds 2975
- Staterooms 1016
- Crew 250
- Crew/Stateroom 0.246
- Cars 550
- Lane Meters 1270
- GT 75156
- GT/Stateroom 74.0
- Length 734ft / 223.75m
- Beam 114.8ft / 35.00m
- Beam Superstructures ~136ft / ~41.35m
- Draft 22.3ft / 6.8m
- Height ~175ft / ~53.50m (a.s.l.)
- Engine Power 31.2MW
- Speed 22.1kts
- Decks 15

Data Sources: [Color Line](#) / [DNV](#) / [MT](#) / [Wikipedia](#)

'Color Line's 'Color Magic' is marketed by the ferry company as the world's largest cruise ship with a car deck. She was built at Aker Yards (today Meyer Werft) in Turku in 2007 and floated out on 15th December 2006 at 03:33pm. She has a sister ship with a very little bit less tonnage and staterooms. Together with her sister ship, 'Color Magic' serves the route Oslo - Kiel - Oslo on a daily basis.

The Mini-Cruise Day 1 - Wednesday 03rd September 2014 - Kiel ... - 02:00pm

Early in the morning, I had already left Hamburg for Kiel, after I had booked the ticket for the Mini-Cruise to Oslo late in the evening before, a very short-term booking for something that I had not done for years, going to sea.

On the beach of Laboe in the morning just before 09:00am, crystal clear water, ducks, seagulls and a wonderful peace, there was only the sound of the waves and a smell of sea. The weather was not perfect, some clouds passed by, and then she came, 'Color Magic', she moved into cloud gaps for my photoshooting again and again. I took the '[Förde Fähre](#)' back to Kiel and the '[Norwegen Kai](#)' for check-in.

The ferry company '[Color Line](#)' asked passengers to show up not later than 2 hours before departure, who stuck to it, saved themselves long waiting at the check-in. I arrived there at 11:45am, and after only 10 minutes of waiting, the check-in process was done within 1 minute. No passport control, and neither was I asked to present the bank or credit card I used to pay for the Mini-Cruise. The boarding was postponed to 01:30pm, so, there was still time to walk over the folding bridge to the city center of Kiel, whilst the modern 'Color Line' terminal became populated with passengers, and the queues lengthened.

When returning to the terminal, there were already long lines of trucks in front of the open aft ramp of 'Color Magic', and a giant crowd of passengers was waiting in front of the barriers in the terminal. The 2 luggage scanners were used for larger pieces of baggage only, and there were no people or customs controls, only the boarding card was checked. At 01:45pm, I was on board, crossed the shopping mall and climbed the stairs 3 decks up to my inside stateroom 10429, on the starboard side. The cardboard boarding card with magnetic stripe did not want to open the door, but after several attempts, it had worked out by inserting and pulling it out again very slowly. The light was switched off, and instead of the window, there was a mirror. The equipment otherwise corresponded to the catalog description, which had concealed the small and empty refrigerator, however. The pressure toilet system made some noise. There were German TV programs, but I could not find out whether it was possible to change the English menu to other languages.

Departure was on time at 02:00pm. On the aft sundeck, passengers arranged sun loungers on the heliport, and it soon was crowded. 'Color Magic' drew an exhaust gas flag behind herself, and smoked the city center of Kiel, on the ship itself, the exhaust fumes were also noticeably in the stiff wind. It was very quiet inside the ship, she vibrated slightly. Soft carpets, the luxury of a large, space-consuming atrium with fast, glazed elevators, everything flashing and gleaming. Board announcements were made in Norwegian language, followed by German and English, limited to the most necessary information.

Last chance to go online for checking the latest weather forecast for Oslo; cloudy until midday, then clearing up. Some obviously drunk people did not manage to behave decently, the laughter drowned the sonorous engine sound that came from the funnel in 10-second intervals, even though I was some meters away. An hour later, the ship had already reached the open sea, a magnificent blue sky, cumulus clouds over land. I was sitting on the aft deck and enjoyed the sun, lots of blue all around. And while I was looking at the fairway, I remembered the wisdom; 'If you want to move forward, you have to leave something behind!'

At about 04:00pm, Laboe slowly disappeared in the glaring sunlight, and landmass appeared in the west; Langeland, Denmark. The deck staff cleared orphaned sun loungers because they were moved by the wind and began to slide over the noticeably intense vibrating aft deck. Despite the sun, it was quite fresh and windy. Suddenly, 'düdeldidüd-düd', my mobile service provider welcomed me in Denmark. The fees promised to me by text message were quite high, before the abolition of roaming charges within the European Economic Area. I switched my smartphone to offline mode.

At 05:45pm, the colossal **Storebæltsbroen** appeared on the horizon, and 55 minutes later, 'Color Magic' sailed under, with the crescent moon in the evening sky above. The wind had calmed down, the white caps on the waves had disappeared, and the evening sun brought some more warmth to the deck. An unusual luxury for me, to have time and just do nothing. The big ferry sailed at a snail's pace, just a little to the side of the ship, hardly anything seemed to move, the horizon even stood still.

'Color Magic' passes Laboe after leaving Kieler Förde :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Laboe · 03sep2014 1446CEST (N54°23'-E010°12')

'Color Magic' is sailing along Langeland :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Langeland · 03sep2014 1636CEST (N54°43-E010°46)

The giant 'Storebæltsbroen' :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Storebæltsbroen · 03sep2014 1816CEST (N55°13-E011°06)

Fairway view from 'Color Magic' on island of Omø with moon above :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Omø · 03sep2014 1822CEST (N55°15'-E011°05')

'Color Magic' passes the 'Storebæltsbroen' :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Storebæltsbroen · 03sep2014 1840CEST (N55°20-E011°01)

View on 'Storebæltsbroen' in its full length :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Storebæltsbroen · 03sep2014 1850CEST (N55°23-E011°00)

Sunset after passing 'Storebæltsbroen' :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Dalby · 03sep2014 1913CEST (N55°29'-E010°54')

A cargo vessel in the spectacular sunset :



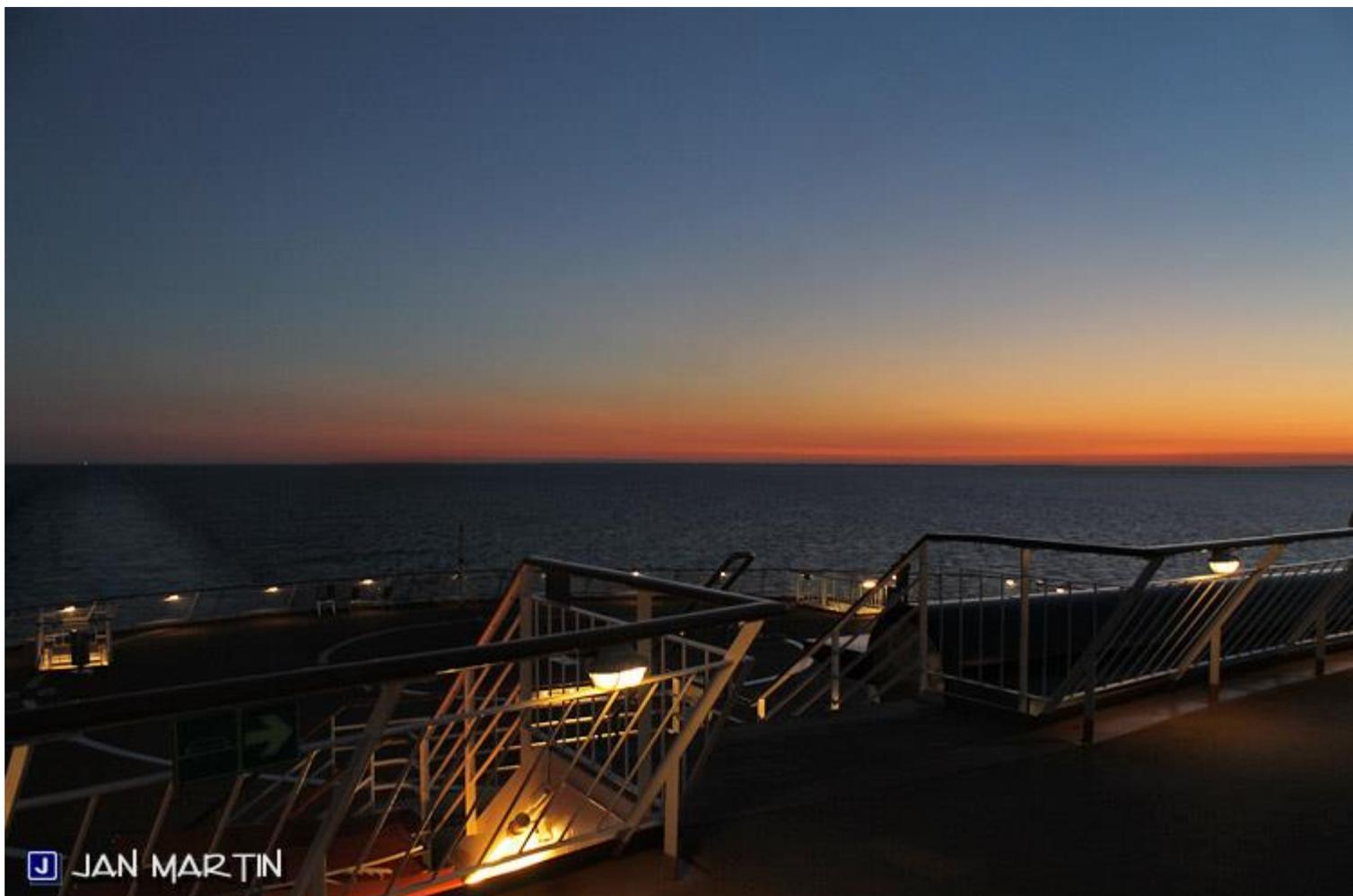
Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Sunset · 03sep2014 1950CEST (N55°37'-E010°46')

Another vessel in the spectacular sunset with wind farm in the background :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Sunset · 03sep2014 1956CEST (N55°39'-E010°47')

View over the aft deck of 'Color Magic' after sunset :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Dusk · 03sep2014 2042CEST (N55°53'-E010°55')

The next morning at 06:00am, there were few people on deck. The horizon was colorful, a layer of clouds over land, and 'Color Magic' pulled its exhaust stream behind in the faint wind, coloring the horizon green-yellow in the southeast. With high-pressure water sprayers, the upper sundeck was cleaned by staff, and the spray poured down onto the sunrise spectators and their cameras a deck lower. Unfortunately, it was not possible to look over the bow open air on 'Color Magic', and besides, some interesting outer deck areas were closed as well.

At 07:00am, 'Color Magic' was already sailing in the Oslofjorden, which narrowed dramatically 1½ hours later. The deck was crowded with people and appetizing smells from the galley, probably more of a big commercial one, and the weather was wonderful, clouds only far away in the fjord. Suddenly, 'Color Magic' was wrapped in thick fog at 08:45am, there was hardly any visibility ahead, and the foghorn sounded several times, echoing in the fjord. The fog had turned into thick clouds when downtown **Oslo** appeared, and again: 'düdeldidüd-düd', my mobile service provider, apparently following me to every corner of the world, greeted me again, even knowing that I was in Norway now. I had left the EU, but not the European Economic Area, for which some providers later also abolished the roaming charges. The sun began to look through the clouds.

I left the ship at 10:25am through the barriers in the '**Color Line Terminalen**' in Oslo, where the boarding card was scanned. The sky was already clearing, much earlier than predicted, and it remained clear for the rest of the day, clouds were hovering far away, if at all. Not far from the 'Color Line' terminal, there is the quarter of 'Tjuvholmen', which reminded me easily of the 'HafenCity' in Hamburg, opposite, the royal yacht 'Norge' was moored. After all, Oslo had evolved considerably since my last visit some 20 years ago, with new buildings and modern architecture everywhere. Oslo became a melting pot as well, but not as intense as Hamburg. After marveling the old ships in the harbor in front of the town hall square, I walked up to the fortress 'Akershus', with a view of the city and after that to the futuristic new opera house, where I began to wonder which city has copied which one, Hamburg Oslo or vice versa.

Children's hordes with almost always light hair populated the monumental building which was surrounded by construction sites. In the shopping district, the same fashion branches as in Hamburg and street café's, which were really built on the street, still leaving one lane for the car traffic. I was wondering if I should change money, Norway not just refused to be member of the EU, but also to take the Euro as currency. I did not change money, and that was a good decision, because an hour before departure, I was still in the middle of my sightseeing tour, not leaving time for something to buy or to eat somewhere. I was very pleasantly surprised by the city and the many great impressions. Although Oslo is 1 hour by plane north of Hamburg, the deciduous color was just as advanced there in early September, it just started to dye.

At 01:45pm, I was back at the terminal, passing the gates where my boarding card was scanned, and I was back on board as one of the last. 'Color Line' asks passengers of Mini-Cruises to come back on board not later than 15 minutes before departure. The sundeck was already crowded when 'Color Magic' moved away from the pier punctually at 02:00pm, turned just behind the terminal and

headed off to the fjord. A grandiose panorama offered itself from the aft deck, while a seagull flew always beside the ship, got fed by a passenger from the hands. Many houses on the fjord, wonderful location.

The Norwegian tall sail ship 'Christian Radich' had already left the city at midday, 'Color Magic' caught up with and passed her in the Indre Oslofjord. Speedboats escorted 'Color Magic' when she left the narrow part of the fjord around 03:30pm. The wind came hard from the south, blowing everything over board that was not fixed. At about 05:00pm, 'Color Magic' sailed out of the fjord, it was still very windy and it felt quite cold therefore. About 1 hour later, only a few clouds above Norway could still be seen in the distance, while Swedish landmass extended in the east. Another hour later, Sweden also thinned to a line as the sun descended lower and lower to the horizon in the west. Ships were rarely seen. After the late summer sunny afternoon at 25°C in Oslo, it was already very cold in the Skagerrak, and after 2 hours in the weak evening sun on deck, I was well frozen.

Although the board language is Norwegian, I have mostly heard German and saw many people again on the way back, I had already met somehow on the way to Oslo. I felt the communication with the crew in English less bumpy, but some of them did not speak English very well. In the evening, I took a look at the changing-color illuminated shopping mall with shops, bars and restaurants on deck 7. There was also the reception and the starboard gangway in the 3-deck atrium. As everywhere else in Scandinavia, prices were significantly higher than in Germany. In the duty-free shop, I was amazed and bought only 2 products that were not available in Germany. The elk sausage, however, was too exotic for me. Although EU citizens received an additional 20% discount in the duty-free shop, the products were still about 25% more expensive than in Germany.

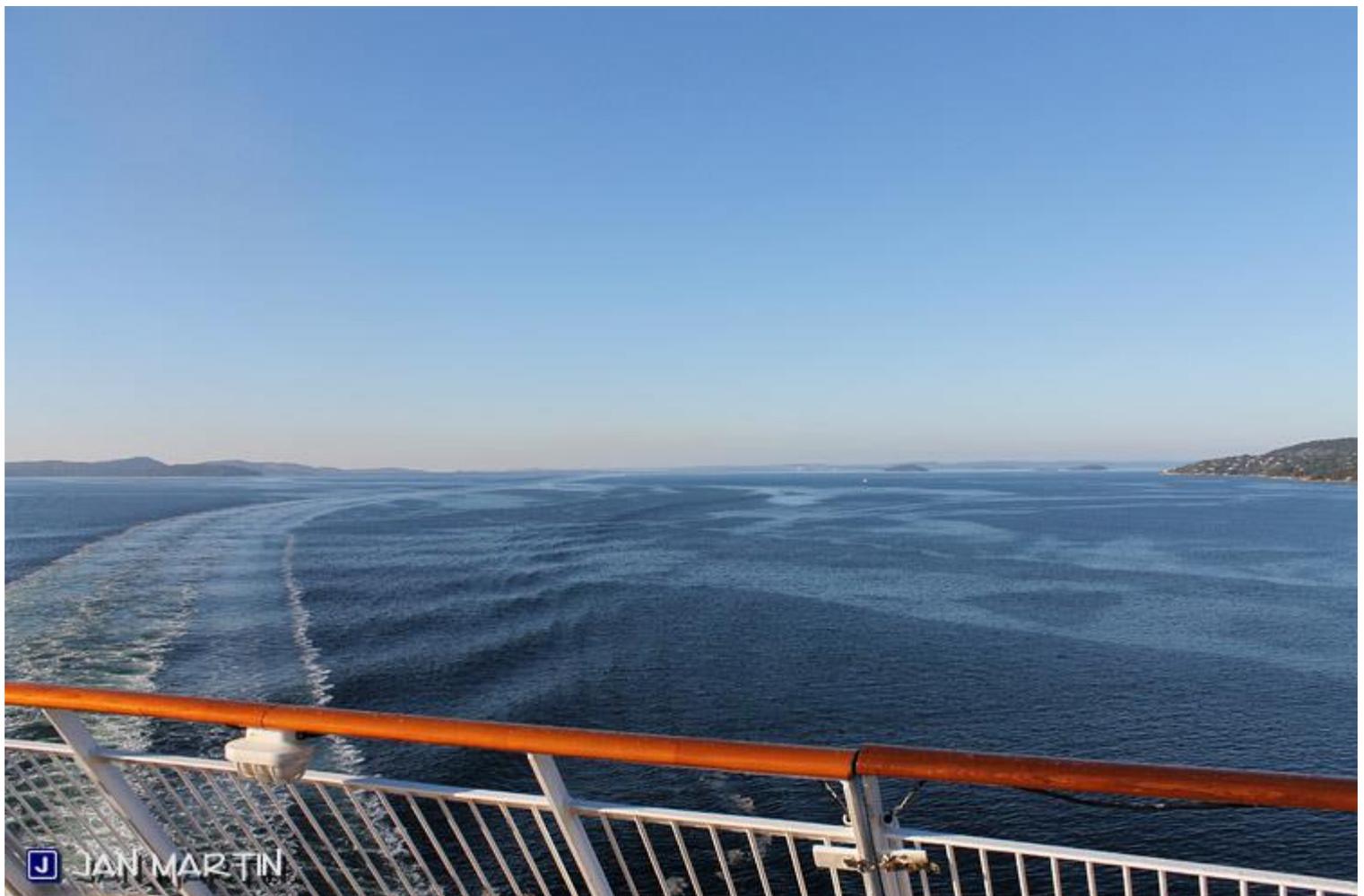
Noticeable waves did not occur on both sailings because of the throughout calm sea, but in the stateroom, I always had the feeling that I was sleeping on a vibration bed. During usual times, changing water temperatures in the bathroom, equipped with a washbasin, shower, toilet, towels and liquid soap dispensers. Of course, everything was a bit cramped, but I could not complain about the design of the interior in the stateroom, everything expedient, taking out most of the small space, and in pleasant colors. I felt the orientation aids on board as getting used to, the signs were kept small, information about the location scarce, passengers without knowledge of maritime basic concepts may had even more difficulties. Smokers had less to laugh on board, and therefore ignored the rules occasionally, non-smokers in return had to live with smoldering disturbances of the holiday fun at different corners on the outer decks. I did not notice anything of a dress code on board, for staying on deck, a laced hood is recommended however, caps were occasionally blown away.

View on small island of 'Ytre Hvaler National Park' after sunrise :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Ytre Hvaler National Park · 04sep2014 0639CEST (N58°58'-E010°43')

'Color Magic' in the Ytre Oslofjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Arrival Ytre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 0826CEST (N59°31'-E010°35')

'Color Magic' enters Indre Oslofjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Arrival Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 0839CEST (N59°36-E010°38)

View on the fairway of 'Color Magic' :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Arrival Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 0844CEST (N59°38-E010°37)

'Color Magic' passes islands of Nakholmen and Lindøya in Indre Oslofjord :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Nakholmen Lindøya · 04sep2014 1415CEST (N59°53-E010°41)

'Color Magic' leaves Oslo :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Oslo Downtown · 04sep2014 1415CEST (N59°53-E010°41)

Last view on downtown Oslo :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Oslo Downtown · 04sep2014 1417CEST (N59°53-E010°41)

Oslo Panorama :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Oslo Panorama · 04sep2014 1422CEST (N59°53-E010°39)

'Color Magic' in the Indre Oslofjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1434CEST (N59°49-E010°35)

Last view on Oslo :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Oslo Panorama · 04sep2014 1439CEST (N59°48-E010°34)

'Color Magic' passes small islands in the Indre Oslofjord :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1444CEST (N59°46-E010°34)

The sun reflects on the fjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1449CEST (N59°45-E010°33)

'Color Magic' again passes small islands in the Indre Oslofjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1456CEST (N59°42-E010°34)

Picturesque view in Indre Oslofjord :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Indre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1459CEST (N59°41-E010°35)

'Color Magic' after passing the most narrow part of the Oslofjorden Drøbaksundet :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Drøbak · 04sep2014 1513CEST (N59°39-E010°37)

'Color Magic' in the Ytre Oslofjord with the afternoon sun above :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Ytre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1530CEST (N59°33'-E010°38')

'Color Magic' leaves the Ytre Oslofjord :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Departure Ytre Oslofjord · 04sep2014 1603CEST (N59°23'-E010°33')

'Color Magic' in the light of the sunset with moon above :



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Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Sunset · 04sep2014 1945CEST (N58°11-E010°53)

The sun sets into Skagerak :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Sunset · 04sep2014 2007CEST (N58°03-E010°58)

'Color Magic' after sunset sailing from Skagerak to Kattegatt :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Dusk · 04sep2014 2029CEST (N57°57-E011°03)

Very early in the morning, I watched 'Color Magic' approaching the 'Storebæltsbroen' on the webcam from the bow, which was transferred to the TV monitor into the stateroom, she passed the bridge at 05:20am. It was already dawning, and later at sunrise, the deck crew started again with their wet spraying work. Above Langeland, a long white cloud was floating, which immediately reminded me of New Zealand, the land of the long white cloud, where there are also fjords. At 06:30am, the sun rose over the horizon, there were many more clouds now on the way, and high fog in the distance partially covered the spectacle. It was not as windy but noticeably warmer than in the Skagerrak.

My camera battery started to empty after well over 2000 shots, the memory card was full as well. I had calculated with half of it, never gone so far to the limit with the resources, the battery warning indicator overturned almost. Since the southern tip of Langeland, there was no good weather to take photos anymore, and Kiel hung under a closed cloud cover.

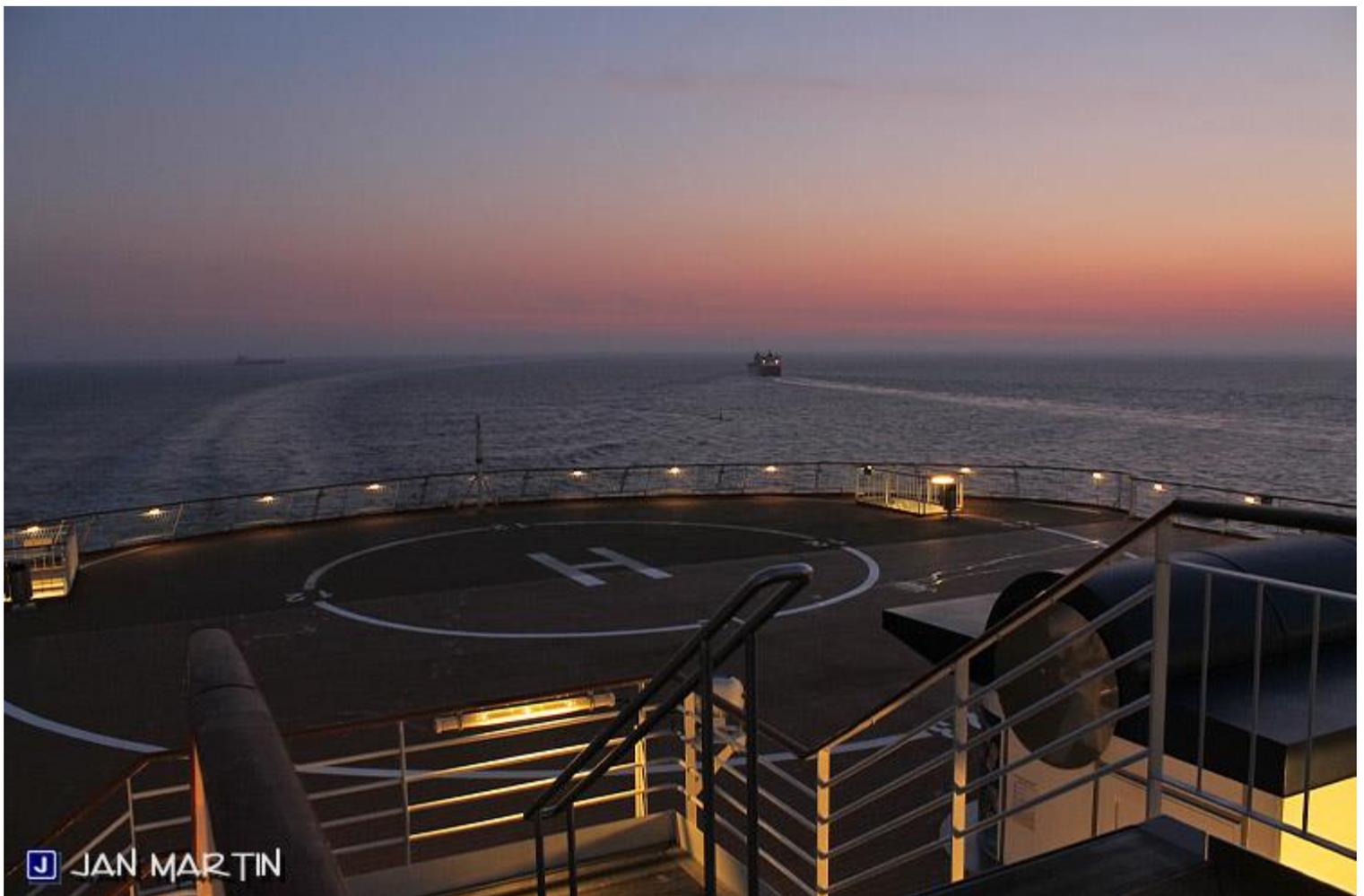
At 09:40am, when 'Color Magic' was turning in the Kieler Innenförde, I left my stateroom a bit wistfully. After docking at the **Norwegen Kai**, the cleaning crew was coming on board first, and a few minutes after 10:00am, the passengers could get on land. A customs officer stood with his arms crossed in front of the barriers, where once again the boarding cards were scanned. According to the Schengen Agreement, which includes some non-EU states such as Norway, there were no identity checks. A wonderful trip with mostly great weather came to an end, and I had already wanderlust again ...

View on 'Storebæltsbroen' in the dawn :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Storebæltsbroen · 05sep2014 0532CEST (N55°18-E011°02)

View over the aft deck in the dawn :



Mini Cruise · Color Magic · Dawn · 05sep2014 0559CEST (N55°09-E011°03)

The biggest ferry in the world 'Color Magic' passes Laboe :



Color Magic · IMO9349863 · 03sep2014 0854CEST (Laboe)

The biggest ferry in the world 'Color Magic' enters Kieler Außenförde :



Color Magic · IMO9349863 · 03sep2014 0902CEST (Laboe)

Giant funnel of 'Color Magic' in the dusk with moon above :



Color Magic · IMO9349863 · 04sep2014 2034CEST (Exterieur)

🇺🇸 [Color Line](#) ⋮

🇺🇸 [Color Line - Color Magic](#) ⋮

🇺🇸 [HHV Ferry - Color Magic Profile Deckplan & Cutaway Diagram](#) ⋮

🇺🇸 [CruiseMapper - Color Magic Ferry Deck Plans](#) ⋮

🇩🇪 [Schiffs Kanal - Kiel Oslo Cruise Mit Color Magic](#) Video 00:11:11 ⋮
