Danaos Corp Form 6-K August 12, 2009

QuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of August 2009. Commission File Number 001-33060

DANAOS CORPORATION

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Danaos Corporation c/o Danaos Shipping Co. Ltd. 14 Akti Kondyli 185 45 Piraeus Greece Attention: Secretary 011 030 210 419 6480

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F ý Form 40-F o

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in the Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes o No ý

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

EXHIBIT INDEX

- 99.1 Proxy Statement for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders
- 99.2 Proxy for the 2009 Annual Meeting of Stockholders
- 99.3 2008 Annual Report and Accounts

2

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: August 12, 2009

DANAOS CORPORATION

By: /s/ DIMITRI J. ANDRITSOYIANNIS

Name: Dimitri J. Andritsoyiannis

Title: Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

3

QuickLinks

EXHIBIT INDEX SIGNATURES