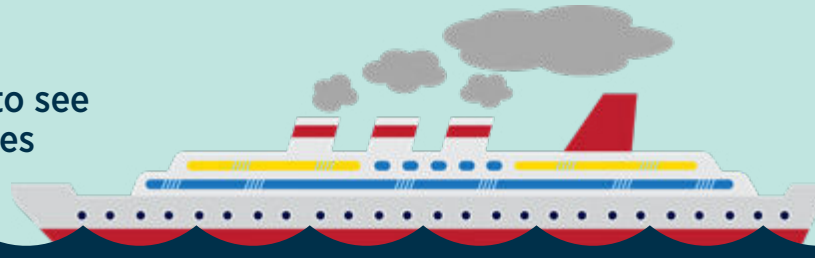


## Is Clean Cruising Possible?

The 2024 Cruise Ship Report Card takes a continued hard look at the cruise industry to see if clean cruising is possible and in most cases the answer is still a resounding NO!



## We evaluated 21 major cruise lines on 4 environmental factors:

**Sewage Treatment:** Whether a cruise line has installed the most advanced sewage and graywater treatment systems available instead of dumping minimally treated sewage directly into the water.

**Air Pollution Reduction:** Whether a cruise line has retrofitted its ships to “plug in” to available shoreside electrical grids instead of running polluting engines when docked. Or uses the lowest sulfur fuel worldwide or both.

**Water Quality/Scrubber Use:** We fail ships for their use of scrubbers since scrubbers convert air pollution emissions into toxic wastewater pollution.

**Transparency:** Did the cruise lines respond to our requests for information with specifics regarding their environmental practices. Companies that responded fully received As, those that didn't failed.

Cruise Line	Sewage treatment	Air pollution reduction	Water quality/scrubber use	Transparency	2024 Final Grade
Hurtigruten	C	A	N/A	A	B+
HX Hurtigruten Expeditions	C	A	N/A	A	B+
Disney Cruises Line	C	C+	N/A	A	B
Regent Seven Seas	C	D+	N/A	A	C+
Viking Cruises	C	C+	F	A	C
P&O Australia	C	C-	F	A	C-
Oceania Cruises	C	C-	F	A	C-
Virgin Voyages	C	D+	F	A	C-
Norwegian	C	D	F	A	D+
MSC Cruises	D	D+	F	A	D+
Celebrity Cruises	C	D+	F	D	D
Holland America	C	C+	F	F	D-
Princess Cruises	C	C+	F	F	D-
AIDA Cruises	C	C	F	F	D-
Royal Caribbean	C	D-	F	D	D-
Silversea	C-	F	F	D	D-
Seabourn Cruises	C	F	F	F	F
Cunard	C	F	F	F	F
Carnival Cruise Line	D-	D	F	F	F
P&O Cruises	D	F	F	F	F
Costa Cruises	F	D	F	F	F

Hurtigruten Group  
 Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings  
 Carnival Corporation  
 Royal Caribbean Group

## Cruise Ship Pollution: What Goes In Must Come Out

Post COVID-19 pandemic, millions of people have returned to taking cruise vacations every year. Yet, most travelers don't realize that taking a cruise is more harmful to the environment and human health than many other forms of travel. For decades, the cruise industry's business practices have put the environment, climate, and public health of coastal communities, passengers, crew, and coastal and marine ecosystems at risk. In addition, most governments have refused to enact strong regulations for the cruise industry, ignored the ongoing damage the industry does to communities and the environment, or have caved to industry pressure to develop their pristine resources for industry profit. The 2024 Cruise Ship Report Card takes a continued hard look at the cruise industry to see if clean cruising is possible and in most cases the answer is still a resounding NO!

## The Cruise Industry Needs Independent Oversight

The cruise industry has committed 1000s of environmental violations over the past 20+ years. They claim to be transparent and to follow industry-created 'guidelines,' but without independent oversight the industry will continue to violate environmental laws.

### Alaska's Ocean Rangers

The Ocean Rangers were highly trained individuals placed on cruise ships in Alaska to ensure strong state environmental standards for wastewater were followed. Alaska was the only place in the US with independent oversight for the industry. Sadly, Alaska's governor defunded Ocean Rangers in 2019.

### Independent Observers Needed on all Cruise Ships!

Without independent observers cruise ship pollution will continue, threatening our communities and the many endangered species such as salmon, beluga whales, orcas, manatees, and sea turtles that share waters with these polluting giants.

## Cruise Ships Pollute our Air and Water

### Cruise Wastewater Endangers & Kills

Seafood consumers, beachgoers, surfers, and water sport enthusiasts can contract illnesses, gastrointestinal diseases, diarrhea, ear nose and throat problems, vomiting, hepatitis, and respiratory diseases, when exposed to wastewater-contaminated waters or seafood. Fish, shellfish, coral reefs, and other aquatic

life can suffocate due to surplus nitrogen and phosphorous from ship sewage that can promote excessive algal growth which reduces available oxygen levels in the water. Exhaust gas scrubber wastewater discharges are highly acidic and can contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), particulate matter, nitrates, nitrites and heavy metals.

### How much wastewater do cruise ships dump?

The U.S. EPA estimates that a 3,000-person cruise ship generates 150,000 gallons of sewage per week — enough to fill 10 backyard swimming pools. This adds up to more than 1 billion gallons of sewage a year for the industry. Scientists estimate that the cruise industry discharges approximately 1.5 gigatons of exhaust gas scrubber wastewater annually.

### Cruise ship air pollution is toxic

Cruise ships are also responsible for significant air pollution from the dirty fuel they burn, which can lead to serious human health problems. Even while at dock, cruise ships often run dirty diesel or LNG engines to provide electrical power to passengers and crew. Emissions from cruise ship engines include NOx, SOx, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and diesel PM, the microscopic soot that is so damaging to human health. Among other health and environmental impacts, these emissions contribute significantly to serious cardiovascular problems, premature death, acid rain, habitat destruction, and climate change. Friends of the Earth estimates that the carbon footprint of a week-long cruise is 8 times higher than that of a land-based vacation.

### How can a cruise ship reduce air pollution?

In U.S. waters ships are required to use cleaner fuel and a few cruise lines have adopted technologies that reduce dirty air emissions from cruise ships. Cold ironing technology allows cruise ships at dock to plug in to shoreside power and receive electricity to operate their refrigeration, cooling, heating, and lighting systems without having to burn dirty fuel in ship engines. Cruise ships have installed scrubbers to reduce smoke stack emissions but while they reduce air pollution most discharge contaminated wastewater--trading one pollution source for another. Currently, using the cleanest fuel available and adopting shorepower are the best options.

For more information, visit  
**Friends of the Earth:**  
[www.foe.org/cruise-report-card](http://www.foe.org/cruise-report-card)

Visit our website for an explanation of our grading system, to learn more about the environmental efforts of individual cruise ships, and to find out what actions you can take to make cruise lines clean up their act.