

# 2022 Cruise Ship Report Card

## Is Clean Cruising Possible?

The 2022 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 18 major cruise lines on 4 environmental factors:

 <p><b>Sewage Treatment:</b></p> <p>Whether a cruise line has installed and published data on the most advanced sewage treatment systems available instead of dumping minimally treated sewage directly into the water.</p>	 <p><b>Air Pollution Reduction:</b></p> <p>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.</p>	 <p><b>Water Quality Compliance:</b></p> <p>To what degree cruise ships violated 2010-2021 water pollution standards designed to better protect the Alaskan coast. Ships were also failed for scrubber use since they generate toxic water pollution.</p>	 <p><b>Transparency:</b></p> <p>Did the cruise lines respond to our requests for information with specifics regarding their environmental practices. Companies that responded received As, those that didn't failed.</p>
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Cruise Line	Sewage treatment	Air pollution reduction	Water quality compliance	Transparency	2022 Final Grade
Regent Seven Seas	C	D-	B-	A	C+
Disney	C	C+	A	A	<del>C</del>
Norwegian	C	D-	D-	A	C-
Oceania Cruises	C	F	D	A	C-
MSC Cruises	D	D-	F	A	D+
Virgin Voyages	C	F	F	A	D
Princess	D+	B-	D-	F	D
Holland America	C	D-	F	F	D-
AIDA Cruises	C-	C+	F	F	D-
Seabourn Cruises	C	D-	F	F	D-
Cunard	C	F	F	F	D-
P&O Cruises	D+	D-	F	F	F
Silversea	D	F	C-	F	F
Viking Cruises	C	F	F	F	F
Celebrity	C	F	F	F	F
Royal Caribbean	C	F	F	F	F
Carnival Cruise Line	F	D	F	F	F
Costa	F	F	F	F	F

- Royal Caribbean Group
- Carnival Corporation
- Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings

**Harmful Cruise Development:** Disney was downgraded for its destructive cruise development at Lighthouse Point in the Bahamas

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

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Americans took cruise vacations every year. Yet, most travelers didn'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 2022 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 state strong environmental standards for wastewater were followed. Sadly, Alaska's governor defunded Ocean Rangers in 2019.

### Federal Court-Ordered Monitoring

Carnival Corp. was on US criminal probation from 2017-2022 for illegally dumping oily waste into the ocean. During Carnival's probation, their cruise companies violated federal environmental law by dumping wastewater, oil and plastic into the ocean and polluting our air. Without court oversight, most of these violations would have never been reported.

### 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

### Sewage 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 sewage-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. Hundreds of manatees off the Florida coast die every year as a result of algal blooms.

### How much sewage comes from one ship?

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.

### 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 engines to provide electrical power to passengers and crew. Emissions from cruise ship engines include NOx, SOx, CO2, 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. According to the EPA, each day an average cruise ship is at sea it emits more SOx than 13 million cars and more soot than 1 million cars.

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

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 waste water--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.