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The floating resort packed with thousands of tourists and staff are obliged to run into some trouble. The cruise ire industry has drawn many public health and environmental critics, not to mention law enforcement and lawmakers. Let's start with environmental criticism first. As you might expect, cruise ships produce numerous forms of pollution as they stick through the seas. Black water: Sewage contains human waste. Gray water: Sewage that comes from showers, dishwashers, sinks and other cleaning activities aboard a ship. Bayledge Water: Water from the ship's Biej reservoir which contains engine oil and sludge. Solid waste: Waste consisting of plastic and metal containers, usually ends as cremated ash. Hazardous waste: Cleaning chemicals, paints, solvents and dry cleaning chemicals that find their way into the gray water source or bielige tank. [Source: Herz, The IICRC] creates an average cruise ship of about 90,0 gallons to 255,0 gallons (340,687 liters to 965,280 liters) of gray water, 30,0 gallons (113,562 liters) of black water and 37,0 gallons (140,060 liters) of daily beer. Loose environmental requirements allow cruise ships to shed everything overboard except untreed and solid waste. Biej water, gray water, as well as treated sewage and solid waste can be burned, and regularly, poured directly into the sea, as long as it is not within 3 miles (4.8 km) of the coast. Ballast water taken to stabilize the ship can also disrupt ecosystems. Ships inevitably fill their ballast tanks in one place and clean them up in a different area, thus introducing new species of marine organisms to different environments. Much like Kudzu when introduced to the United States, foreign microorganisms can infect or kill native plankton, marine plants, corals, and fish. From a public health perspective, the prevalence of disease on ships is also a concern. Many major cruise lines - Carnival Cruise Lines, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises and Princess Cruises among others - have reported outbreaks, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The organism responsible for the sickening of travelers is usually norovirus, a common virus associated with gastritis (stomach flu). Norovirus infections spread rapidly on a cruise ship due to nearby neighborhoods. To see cruise ship inspections for a specific ship, visit the CDC Ship Health Program website, which reports the inspection. Probably one of the most frustrating aspects of traveling on a cruise ship is lawless. Several critics point out that cruise companies are more concerned about protecting themselves from liability. Cruise companies are hesing to legitimate security forces onboard the ship for fear of lawsuits from the public. Overcrowding has also become a deterrent for people taking cruises, especially as Like Royal Caribbean, Connard and Carnival push occupancy restrictions. Lines to participate in onboard attractions keep growing as ships like Genesis hit the water. Slated to arrive sometime in 2009, the Genesis, with a price tag of \$1.4 billion, will be 1,180 feet (360 meters) long and will accommodate 5,400 passengers at double occupancy [source: AP]. This mob of passengers can also eclipse a port call destination. But cruise ship companies show no signs of stopping their efforts to build the largest ship. Related HowStuffWorks Articles Cunard ShipsCDC Ship Health Program AP. Royal Caribbean Ferries orders \$1.24B cruise ship. CBS News. February 6, 2006 (April 29 2008) . QE2 moves on the final world trip. 6 January 2008 (April 22, 2008) Frank. An integrated power system: the next step. (April 8, 2008) . Queen Elizabeth 2 Wrestling Facts. (April 23, 2008) RD.COM Travel VacationsA cruise vacation is extra fun around the winter holidays when both river and ocean cruises include a full sleigh of decorations, Events and activities using festivities, seasonal treats, gourmet meals, and even special ports of call—all of which will make you feel like not home for the holidays may sound pretty good this year. Courtesy Disney Cruise LineUnwrap Adventure Holidays for the whole family with a cruise ride on Disney Magic, Disney Wonder, Disney Dream, or Disney Fantasy, all with holiday cheer starting in early November and continuing to be decked out through New Year's celebrations. Merrytime's very cruises include Turkey Day celebrations, Christmas banquets, snow flurries, and special treatments. Some seasonal highlights include glowing tree lighting with Disney characters reading Carol, winter wonder season balls with Santa and Ms. Klaus, and seasonal crafts including gingerbread decorating. Even Disney's private island, Castaway Kay, is decked out for the holidays. Disney cruises make incredible gifts for Disney fans. Msc CruisesHere courtesy is something you can't say every day: Martha Stewart cooked my holiday dinner! But thanks to a new partnership with Diva Domestic, MSC ships sailing in the Caribbean-MSA Armonia, MSC Divina, MSC Seaside, and brand new MSC Meraviglia (launched in the U.S. in October)—Martha Stewart's culinary talent restaurant menus onboard for Thanksgiving Taste, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year' Eve. Other holiday cruise highlights include menorah night lighting for Hanukkah (plus plenty of potato latkes); sparkling lights and decorations, holiday games, and meets and With Santa himself, including gifts for little guests for Christmas; and a special New Year's Eve celebration and dance, complete with champagne toast. Courtesy Uniworld Boutique River Cruise CollectionUniworld offers a number of holiday cruises to soak up the spirit of European holidays, including the Rhine holiday markets, trips to Switzerland, France, and Germany where you can explore attractive villages to experience the best winter holidays in Europe. Discover Christmas traditions at the Basel Christmas market along your Christmas street lined with more than 100 decorated and bright trees. Enjoy Uniworld's Taste christmas walking tour in Strasbourg to see panoramic views of the Old Town. Visit more Christmas markets in Heidelberg, Maynes, Rudesheim, Koblenz and Cologne to find the best Christmas decorations and traditions and sample all festive food and wine, too. Here are some of the reasons more River Cruises has kept Europe's best travel secrets. Courtesy of Kenneth Phillips, photographers rolled them out in the river with a festive holiday cruise along the Danube scenics through Germany, Austria, and Hungary with Disney Adventures. Stops include iconic signs such as rolling hills made famous in the sound of music, not to mention Europe's renowned holiday markets filled with local crafts and festive seasonal treats. Back on board, there are activities with themed holidays, including decorating gingerbread cookies and exchanging adventurer Jr.'s gifts, to immerse the entire holiday spirit. It's Disney's ultimate VIP holiday. Courtesy Royal Caribbean International instead of waiting for snow, head of this holiday to the warm and wonderful Caribbean islands with holiday decks in Royal Caribbean. Throughout December, on any RC Caribbean cruise, guests can enjoy a celebration that includes a special appearance by Alf Santa, crafts and cookie decorating, family story time, Holly Jolly parade, and even special holiday movie screenings at AquaTheater. Holiday cruises range during from three to seven nights and are restricted for destinations including the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Mexico, and more. Goodwill offers CunardFor luxury holidays at sea, it's hard to beat a trio of Royal Cunard itineraries including trips to Australia on Queen Elizabeth, sunny sailing from New York City to the Caribbean in Queen Mary 2, and a holiday trip from the UK to the Channel Islands (a great opportunity to try out spain's local Christmas subtly and view traditional birthday scenes) in Queen Victoria. All three break tinnitus and all trimming for a wonderful winter holiday experience including a stunning Christmas tree, gingerbread village, Santa, carolers, and delicating gourmet dining. Courtesy Uniworld Boutique River Cruise CollectionParis is always a good idea, as it goes, especially on vacation. Uniworld Boutique River Cruise Collection Parisian royal holiday itinerary begins and ends in Paris and travels through northern France where you can experience the city of light by peering in animated window views on Haussmann Boulevard or bright trees covering the Champs-Élysées. Then take a Christmas taste walking tour along the left bank of Paris. In Rouen, discover on a discovery tour a walk from the Christmas market and indulge in a tasty holiday treat in La Couronne, made by Julia Child. C'est Ben! Cruise carnival courtesy LineThese are a cheerful getaway of some of Carnival's most popular cruises. Each ship decks bow to strand with wreaths, lights, Christmas trees, and, mistletoe. There is even a special mailbox for letters to Santa. Highlights of Cruz's activity include caroling, ugly jacket competitions, special shows, and even appearances by Dr. Seuss's Grinch. Courtesy VIKINGCharming villages covered with twinkling lights, Christmas markets full of unique gifts and crafts, special winter treats from hot spicy wines to gingerbread to chestnuts. There are few experiences as festive as a holiday cruise down Europe's rivers. Plus, if you want to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Year's on board a river cruise, you'll be greeted with special holiday celebrations and beautifully decorated ships. Viking Christmas Market Cruises, which sails from late November to late December, help spread encouragement with onboard festivities: you can bake gingerbread cookies with executive chef, decorate the Christmas tree ship, and enjoy live, regional holiday music from a local band. Courtesy tauckIn addition to visiting and shopping at some of Europe's most attractive Christmas markets along the Danube river and the Rhine, Tauck's Christmas Market River Cruises is highlighted by a touch of special holidays on board. Among them are seasonal festive décor and music, caroling, gingerbread house decoration, and seasonal treatments such as Glluhvin, the region's traditional dismal wine. Tauck also hosts a tree trimming party riding on any river boat where guests are given euros to hunt ribbons in various markets to find decorating trees on board. Courtesy Holland America LineCruiseline Holland America rolls out the festive atmosphere in its sailing ranging from the handmade wonders of the Panama Canal, the stunning Great Barrier Reef, from the sunny Caribbean coast, and the Antarctic ice spiral. No matter where you are in the world, you can expect to sing Carol by piano, attend your choice of religious service, and be entertained with Yol log parades, holiday movies, and international choirs. Santa also makes a special appearance at the kids' club while parents enjoy a festive meal grown in style. Courtesy Ama WaterwaysAmaWaterways River cruises make extra festive holidays with Christmas cookies delivered to our stateroom, mulled wine on deck, and flashing holiday lights overhead. Visk holiday excursions take guests away to experience colorful market stalls offering whimsical handware, traditional treats, and splendid decorations from European Christmas markets along the Danube in Austria, Germany, and Hungary and in Germany, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland travelling on the Rhine River. AmaWaterways' nightly plans include iconic Christmas markets, Christmas markets in the Rhine, Christmas markets on the Danube, magical Christmas markets, and New Year's departures from Danube melodies, romantic Danubes, and the charming Rhine. Before you book a December cruise, maintain this wisdom-saving holiday travel tips. Originally published: August 12, 2019 2019

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