

Sustainable cruise tourism

Being sustainable while in port

Switching To Electricity While At Port

When a ship is at port, its hotel operations onboard are still operating as normal. This includes lights, air conditioning, restaurants, and the many other facilities available. This means that there is a need for power even when the ship is not moving.

Just like an electric car, cruise ships can plug into the land-based electricity supply. This means that the ship can use electricity to power its services, instead of its normal engines. As a result, the ship's engines can be switched off while the ship is in port. Switching off the engines has a clear benefit of reducing emissions while the ship is at port because it is using electricity rather than the fuel that normally generates power onboard.

Before you even step onboard, you may notice that the ship is plugged in by a series of cables to what may look like a large metal box situated on the pier, which effectively connects the ship to 'shoreside electricity'.

This means electricity that is generated on land and distributed through the National Grid.

The good news is that more and more cruise ships are being equipped to be able to plug into shoreside electricity in this way. This is a big step forward in the industry's efforts to reduce emissions. For cruise ships to be able to use shore power, there needs to be the right connections to electricity, via the National Grid, from the port. This process can take many years, and is a big investment, but we are seeing ports now installing shore power across Europe.

Did you know?



120 cruise ships can connect to shoreside electricity



32 ports provide shore power



Southampton was the first port to introduce shoreside electricity for cruise ships

In summary:

- Plugging into shoreside electricity is a way to reduce emissions.
- More cruise ships are being equipped to use shoreside electricity where it is available at a port.
- The cruise industry is pursuing net zero carbon cruising by 2050

For more information on how the cruise industry is improving its sustainability, you can visit CLIA's sustainability toolkit at: www.cruiseinfohub.com