

Explora Journeys - Sustainability

We recognise more than ever the vital importance of our environment, and a healthy and viable planet.

We are a family-owned company with a rich maritime heritage that goes back hundreds of years and we have always inherently been committed to protect the oceans, the destinations we visit and the port communities we touch.

We know that holidaymakers and societies at large are more interested than ever in climate change and what industrial sectors do to mitigate their impact and what positive differences they make both today and plan to introduce in the future.

The Cruise Division of MSC Group – MSC Cruises and Explora Journeys - is committed to environmental stewardship with a long-term goal to achieve net zero emissions for its operations by 2050.

The transition to zero emissions operations is the biggest challenge that the maritime industry will ever face and this will only be achieved by everyone playing their part – by investing in research and development and through significant investment not just by companies such as ourselves, but also governments.

The Cruise Division is well advanced on this vitally important journey and determined to push our efforts further and while there is still a long way to go to meet our objective of net-zero emissions by 2050, we are making significant progress.

It is an absolute imperative to ensure that Explora Journeys' fleet of ships are environmentally conscious and fitted with the latest and most innovative technologies to ensure that the seas in which we sail are protected for future generations.

At Explora Journeys we are building ships for tomorrow, utilising today's latest technologies and being ready to adapt to alternative energy solutions as they become available.

EXPLORA III will join Explora Journeys' fleet in 2026, both EXPLORA IV and EXPLORA V in 2027 and EXPLORA VI in 2028.

The four vessels will be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG) and EXPLORA V and EXPLORA VI will also utilise hydrogen fuel.

LNG is the cleanest marine fuel currently available at scale and reduces CO2 emissions by up to 25 per cent and, virtually eliminates sulphur oxide and significantly reduces nitrogen oxide emissions.

EXPLORA V and VI will feature a new generation of LNG engines that will tackle the issue of methane slip and will also be equipped with a containment system for liquid hydrogen that will enable them to use this promising low-carbon fuel.

Hydrogen fuel will power a six-megawatt fuel cell, producing emissions-free power for the hotel operation to allow the vessel to run on 'zero emissions' in port, with the engines turned off.

EXPLORA I and EXPLORA II Environmental Supporting Technologies

Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) System – Reduces nitrogen oxide emissions by 90 per cent.

Advanced wastewater treatment system – Complies with the most stringent standards on the International Maritime Organization's (IMO's) MEPC 227(64) Resolution - the so-called 'Baltic Standard'

Ballast water treatment system – US Coast Guard Approved with UV treatment to prevent the introduction of invasive species in the marine environment through ballast water discharges, in compliance with IMO's Ballast Water Management Convention

Shore-to-ship power connectivity - Allows the ship to minimise engine use at ports where shore-to-ship power infrastructure is available

State-of-the-art recycling and solid waste management - comprehensive systems to reduce, recycle and reuse all waste aspects on board

RINA Dolphin certified underwater noise reduction - with hull and engine room designs that minimises acoustic sound impact, reducing their potential effects on marine fauna, most particularly on marine mammals in the surrounding waters.

Plus, a wide range of energy efficient equipment and systems to optimise engine use

Innovative hull design and optimised hydrodynamics - minimises resistance through the water

Trim optimisation - a software application to monitor and optimise trim, the ship's stability, in real-time. This technology supports ship officers to keep the vessel's trim optimised to reduce fuel consumption and optimise performance

Anti-fouling paint - hulls are coated with special environmentally friendly paints which impede the growth of barnacles, algae and marine organisms in order to reduce drag significantly.

Smart heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC) - Automated energy recovery loops that redistribute heat and cold to reduce demand

LED lighting - high-efficiency appliances controlled by smart management systems to enhance further energy saving