

Luxury for everyone?



Tourism corporations promise that the local population would profit off of cruises visiting them. In fact, no other type of tourism brings in as little profits to host communities. As cruise ships are registered in tax heavens, corporations avoid paying taxes almost completely.

Moreover, it is the environmental damage that host communities have to pay for: Be it toxic exhaust gases getting stuck in Norwegian fjords. Or be it coral reefs getting destroyed for the construction of cruise terminals.

There is no time for exploring a destination, getting in touch with locals or just enjoying nature. Instead, there is superficial entertainment and no contact with the off board world. Even, when people are drowning just outside, as is happening in the Mediterranean Sea, who are not granted freedom of movement.

What is to be done?

Please reconsider, under what circumstances you want to go on vacation and who should pay the price for it. Do not let cruise ships destroy our nature any further.

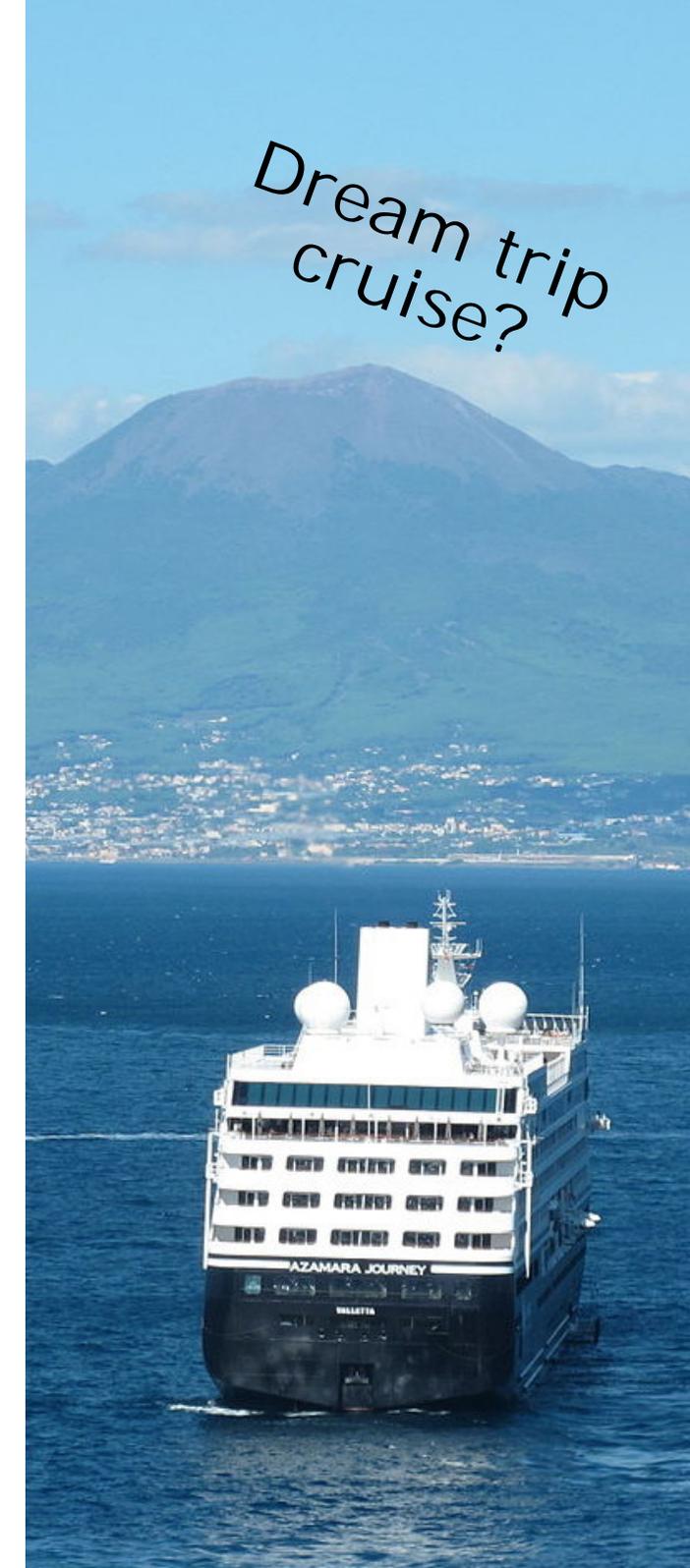
There are many ways to get active against the current problems: Contact the shipping companies, write mails and letters, dig deeper on topics regarding environmental protections and labour conditions and ask the people working on cruise ships about their salaries. Choose a different vacation and inform your friends about the negative aspects of cruise trips.

There is rising resistance in some regions affected by cruise tourism, in Venice there are even blockades on cruise ships. We are an initiative based in Kiel and offer workshops on these issues.

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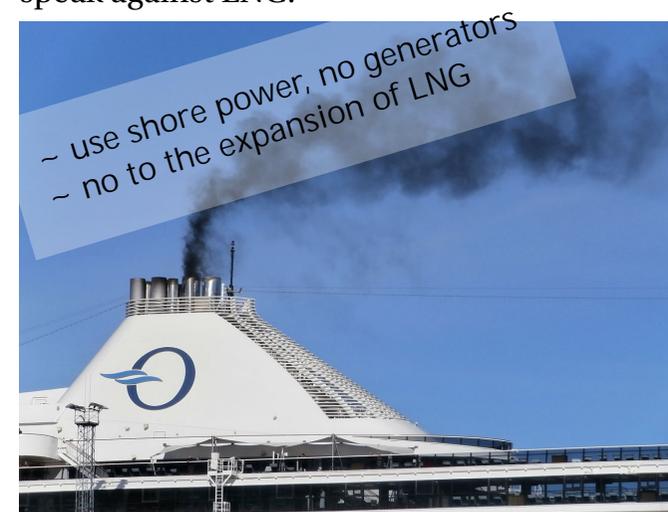
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As fresh as sea air?

Cruise trips are booming worldwide. Each year more and more people are using the ever-cheaper offers. Between 2005 and 2016, the turnover of cruise companies rose from 1.2 to 3.4 billion Euro in the German market alone. But this cheap vacation leads to environmental damage, exploitation of workforce and personal risks.

Each cruise trip emits tons of Co2, fine dust and nitrogen oxide. This is why lung specialists caution against cruise trips. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is often presented as a solution for greener cruise trips. But LNG is mostly extracted by fracking which requires energy-intensive cooling. Moreover, leaks of methane appear over and over. Methane is known to be 25 times as harmful for the climate as CO2. Thus the climate footprint of LNG is hardly better than heavy fuels. Even though LNG causes less emissions of fine dust and nitrogen oxide, the devastating environmental effects of fracking clearly speak against LNG!



Melting destinations



No matter what fuel is used, the CO2 emissions of cruise ships are massive. While staying in a port, a single ship consumes as much energy as a small city! This can be mitigated by connecting ships to shore power, but only as long as the electricity stem from renewable sources (and is not missing elsewhere). Overall, the energy consumption is way too high.

If we and our fellow humans want to keep the living conditions on our planet acceptable, we have to cut the emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases drastically - our remaining budget is severely limited. Otherwise poles and glaciers keep on melting, causing sea levels to rise further accordingly. Cruise trips contribute enormously to depleting our carbon budget too early. Each additional cruise ship has to be produced in a very energy-intensive way and is one too many. There are no green cruise trips!

Dream job on board?

On board tourists want to treat themselves to a memorable experience. Yet the least of them want to know the working conditions of those serving them: The hourly wage is oftentimes only two Euro, while they are working twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Whoever complains, gets sick or does not comply with the strict rules, gets fired. The fight for better working conditions is difficult, as the laws of the countries apply where the ships are registered (mostly Panama or Malta, as can be seen from the flags).

The workers are often from poor countries and rely on their salaries to support their families, meanwhile their children have to grow up without them. This way, too, people get exploited - who wants to make them pay for your vacation?

