

## Abstract

Quite recently, a new type of cruise has appeared on the market, the “exploration cruise”, also called “expedition cruise”. This market, with its rather high-end clientele, promises to take its passengers off the beaten tracks by taking them on board either former scientific research vessels or floating palaces offering all the comfort of top-of-the-range hotels on dry land. These vessels, whose environmental characteristics are, via the various shipowners present on the market, often sold as among the cleanest in the sector, stand out for their small size and the presence of a large number of zodiacs and other boats to make the most of the trip. This work, after determining meaning of the terms exploration and expedition, focuses on the definition of an expedition cruise and addresses a series of other aspects specific to these cruises. The impact of Covid-19 on this sector is also discussed.