

Expedition cruise industry dictionary

<i>With reservation for errors</i>	
English term	Definition
AECO	Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Operators
ACC	Arctic Cruise Conference
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Alongside	A term used to describe the position of a ship or boat when it is moored or docked next to a pier, quay, or another vessel.
Anchor windlass	A mechanical device used on ships and boats to raise and lower the anchor.
Assistant expedition leader (AEL)	An individual who assists the expedition leader in managing and organizing expedition (cruise) activities.
Bergy bit	A small fragment of a larger iceberg. Bergy bits are larger than growlers but smaller than full-size icebergs.
Berth - in relation to harbor	A designated location at a port or harbor where a ship can moor or dock to load or unload cargo, embark or disembark passengers, or undergo maintenance and repairs.
Berth(s) - in relation to cabin	A sleeping accommodation for one person within a cabin onboard a ship or boat. Berths are often arranged as bunk beds or single/double beds.
Bridge	The navigational control centre of a ship where the captain and bridge officers control and steer the vessel.
Bridge officers	Officers responsible for navigating and operating the ship
CCG	Canadian Coast Guard
CMAC	Canadian Marine Advisory Council - a biannual meeting for the Canadian Arctic shipping industry and all relevant authorities and stakeholders.
Captain	The person in command of a ship or boat. May also be referred to as Master.
CDB	Abbreviation for the AECO Cruise Database
Changeover day	A port call where passengers disembark and embark for the start or end of a cruise. Sometimes referred to as turnaround call.
Chief engineer	The senior engineer responsible for managing the engineering department on a vessel.

Circumnavigation	The act of sailing or traveling all the way around something, typically an island or an archipelago.
Clearance - ship clearance	The formal authorization granted by port authorities or customs officials allowing a ship to enter, dock, or depart from a port. Can also refer to "under ship clearance" (depth of water below keel) or "overhead clearance" (height above highest point of vessel, i.e. when passing a bridge)
Clean Seas	An AECO project aiming at reducing the use of single used plastics onboard vessels, enhance guest participation in beach cleanups, educate guests, collaborate with scientists and share best practices related to combat marine plastic pollution.
CLIA	Cruise Liners International Association
Community Engagement	Activities and initiatives aimed at involving and benefiting local communities.
Community Specific Guidelines	Guidelines tailored to specific communities.
Conventional cruise operation	Standard operations and procedures followed in traditional cruise settings.
Crew	The group of people who work on a ship. Also - The persons who are on the crew list of the vessel, as opposed to the passenger list or supernumeraries.
Crew change	The process of replacing crew members on a ship.
Cruise call	A scheduled stop at a port during a cruise.
Cruise director	A person responsible for organizing onboard entertainment and activities on a cruise ship.
Cruise management company	Company responsible for managing and operating cruise ships.
Cruise operators	A company that operates and offers cruise vacations.
Cruise ship operator	A company that owns and/or operates cruise ships. This may or may not be limited to technical operation but can also include organising cruise vacations.
Cruise line	A company that operates cruise ships and offers cruises to various destinations.
Current	The continuous, directional movement of water in oceans, seas, rivers, or other bodies of water.
Custom clearance	The process of clearing goods through customs to enter or leave a country.
Deckhand	Rank on board. Also referred to as AB (able bodied), OS (ordinary seaman) or Rating deck (the formal rank and Certificate of competence this person may have to perform bridge navigational watch (lookout).
Depth soundings	The act of measuring the depth of water beneath a vessel using a depth sounder or echo sounder.

Destination management company (DMC)	A company that provides destination-specific services and experiences to travellers.
Destination management and marketing organization (DMO)	An organization responsible for promoting a destination and attracting tourists.
Draft	The vertical distance between the waterline and the deepest part of a ship's hull (keel).
Expedition cruising	A specialized form of cruising that emphasizes adventure, exploration, and educational experiences often in remote and unique destinations. Expedition cruises typically feature smaller ships designed for navigating narrow waterways and accessing secluded locations. They often include expert-led excursions, such as wildlife watching, hiking, kayaking, and cultural interactions, to provide passengers with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the destinations visited.
Expedition cruise operation	Operations of expedition cruise.
Expedition cruise operator	Company operating expedition cruise operations.
Expedition department	Department within cruise operation company responsible for organizing and managing expedition activities on a cruise.
Expedition leader (EL)	The person on board the ship in charge of organizing and leading expedition activities on an expedition cruise.
Expedition staff	Staff members, including guides, lecturers and others assisting the expedition leader in expedition activities.
Field Staff	Refers to the team of expedition leaders, guides and others who accompany passengers on excursions and expeditions ashore during the cruise. Field staff may include naturalists, biologists, geologists, historians, ornithologists, and other specialists with expertise in the wildlife, ecology, geology, history, and culture of the destinations visited.
First port of call	The first destination or port visited on a cruise itinerary.
Flag state	The country under whose flag a ship is registered. The flag state is responsible for regulating and overseeing the vessel's compliance with international maritime laws and regulations, as well as its own national laws governing maritime affairs.
Floatation suit	A specialized type of protective clothing designed to provide thermal insulation and buoyancy to individuals in emergency situations at sea or in cold water environments.
FSOA	Field Staff Online Assessment - an online competence test related to regulatory framework and AECO guidelines, tools and measures, for expedition leaders, guides and other field staff.

GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress Safety System, international standards for nautical telecommunication including emergencies
GN	Government of Nunavut
Growler	A small piece of floating ice that is barely visible above the surface of the water. Growlers are typically smaller than icebergs, with most of their mass submerged underwater.
Guide	A person who leads and provides information to guests during the voyage/activities/on a site.
Harbor master	A maritime professional responsible for managing and overseeing the operations, safety, and security of a port or harbor.
Hotel department	Department responsible for onboard accommodations and services.
Hotel manager	Officer responsible for managing the hotel department on a cruise ship.
IAATO	International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators
Iceberg	A large piece of ice that has broken off from a glacier or ice shelf and is floating in the ocean. Icebergs can vary in size, shape, and density, with only a small portion of their mass visible above the waterline.
Ice floe	A flat, floating piece of sea ice that can range in size from a few meters to several kilometres in diameter. Ice floes can be relatively thin or thick and may break apart or merge with other floes over time.
ICG	Icelandic Coast Guard
Immersion suit	Also referred to as "survival suit". A specialized type of protective clothing designed to provide thermal insulation and flotation to individuals in emergency situations at sea or in cold water environments.
IMO	International Maritime Organization, the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships. IMO's work supports the UN sustainable development goals.
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
Iridium	Provider of satellite telephone communication
ISPS	The International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) is a comprehensive set of measures designed to enhance the security of ships and port facilities worldwide. Includes entrance to the port, entrance on board, on-board protocols and more.
JRCC	Joint Rescue Coordination Centre
Immigration	The process of entering or leaving a country, including passport checks and visa procedures.
IMO	International Maritime Organisation (UN)
Lecturer	An individual onboard a cruise ship who provides educational presentations, talks, or workshops to passengers on various topics.

Local community	The residents of a particular area or region.
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. It is a UN maritime environmental treaty. Includes (disposal of) waste of vessel operations (food, oil, plastics, etc), including shore facilities for these.
Master	The highest-ranking officer aboard a merchant vessel, responsible for the overall command and safe operation of the ship.
Master mariner	A professional mariner who holds the highest level of certification and qualification in the maritime industry.
Medical staff	Personnel responsible for providing medical care onboard a ship.
MOA	Mariners Online Assessment - an online competence test related to regulatory framework and AECO guidelines, tools and measures, for expedition leaders, guides and other field staff.
MRCC	Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
Mud room	A transitional area or compartment on a ship or offshore platform where individuals can remove dirty or wet clothing and equipment before entering interior spaces.
Naturalist	An expert onboard a cruise ship who provides insights and information about the natural environment, wildlife, and ecosystems visited during the voyage.
NMA	Norwegian Maritime Authority
NMCA	National Marine Conservation Area
OLEX	Product that enables survey- and mapping of depth data in a crowd-sourcing system
Operator head office	The main office or headquarters of a cruise operator.
Operations manager	Person responsible for overseeing and managing cruise operations.
O-VRAT	AECO's Off-vessel Risk Assessment Tool
PAX	An abbreviation for "passenger," used to refer to individuals who are traveling on a specific mode of transportation, such as an airplane, cruise ship, or train.
Pack ice	Large masses of floating sea ice that form because of the freezing of seawater. Pack ice can vary in thickness and concentration, and it can drift with ocean currents and winds.
Passenger	Individuals who are traveling on a specific mode of transportation, such as an airplane, cruise ship, or train.
Passenger list	A document containing the names, identifying information, and sometimes other details of individuals who are traveling aboard a particular mode of transportation, such as a ship, airplane, or train.

Pilot	A mariner with local knowledge who assists in navigating ships in and out of ports and in areas where use of pilot is a legal requirement
Pilot service	Service provided by pilots.
Polar plunge	An activity where participants voluntarily jump into cold and/or icy waters, such as the cold ocean.
Port agent	A representative who assists ships and their crews at ports of call with services such as clearance, logistics, informing authorities, booking berths, etc.
Port booking	The reservation or arrangement of a berth or dock space for a ship at a port.
Port State	The country in which a ship is currently located or has entered. Also, the state to which the port belongs.
Port State Control	A regulatory system implemented by port authorities to inspect foreign-flagged ships visiting their ports to ensure compliance with international maritime regulations and standards.
PTGA	Polar Tour Guides Association for Training Standards
Purser	Officer responsible for handling money and accounts on a ship.
RCC	Rescue Coordination Centre
Reef	A ridge or rock formation near the surface of the water in oceans, seas, or some freshwater bodies.
SAR	Search and rescue
Scrubber	Technical term: exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS), removes particulate matter and harmful substances, such as sulphur oxide (SOx) and nitrogen oxide (NOx), from exhaust gas streams emitted by ships
Service providers	Companies or individuals that provide services to cruise ships.
Shoal	A shallow area of water in a sea, lake, or river, typically characterized by a sandbank, mudbank, or coral reef.
Shipchandler	A supplier of goods and services to ships.
Shop manager	Person responsible for managing onboard shops and retail spaces.
Shorex	Short for "shore excursion," organized trips or tours for cruise passengers at ports of call.
Shorex provider	Company or entity that provides shore excursions to cruise passengers.
Single screw vessel	A type of ship or boat that is equipped with a single propeller, known as a screw propeller, for propulsion. The propeller is usually located at the stern (rear) of the vessel
Site landing	Landing passenger ashore.
Site specific guidelines	Guidelines tailored to specific sites.
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea. It is a UN maritime safety treaty.

Staff captain	The second-in-command on a cruise ship, assisting the captain in overseeing the ship's operations, safety procedures, and crew management. They often handle administrative tasks and act as a liaison between the captain and the crew. Mainly on vessels of some size.
STCW	International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. It is a UN maritime treaty
Suppliers	Companies or individuals that provide supplies to cruise ships.
TC	Transport Canada
Tender (boat)	Small boat used to transport passengers, supplies and equipment between a ship and shore.
Tender boat operations	Operations related to using tender boats to transport passengers.
Thrusters	Auxiliary propulsion devices installed in the bow or stern of a ship or boat to provide lateral thrust, enhancing manoeuvrability in confined spaces.
Tides	The periodic rise and fall of sea levels caused by the gravitational forces exerted by the Moon and, to a lesser extent, the Sun on Earth's oceans.
Tour operator	Company or individual that organizes and sells tours and excursions.
Transit call	A brief stop at a port without disembarking passengers.
Turnaround call	A port call where passengers disembark and embark for the start or end of a cruise.
Twin screw vessel	A type of ship or boat equipped with two propellers, known as screw propellers, for propulsion. The propellers are usually located at the stern (rear) of the vessel, with one on each side.
URN	Underwater radiated noise
Vessel owner	Person or entity that owns a cruise ship.
Wake	The track or trail of disturbed water left behind a vessel as it moves through the water.
Virkon	Multipurpose disinfectant, used for cleaning of hazardous material, A diluted solution of Virkon is used onboard at foot ware washing stations to minimize contamination of the Arctic environment with alien invasive species
Zodiac	Name of small, inflatable boat typically made of rubber or PVC material. Originally manufacturer of inflatable boats, life rafts, and other marine and aerospace equipment
Zodiac/Small vessel operation/cruising	Operations related to using small vessels like Zodiacs for transportation and exploration.