

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, which shares information about what happens to cruise ships when they reach the end of their working time.



Source: N Hossain

Pictured above: Bhatiary ship-breaking yard, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Cruise ships are sold to ship breakers once they have reached the end of their working time.

Before a ship is sent to be broken up, it has some of its salvageable goods removed. This may include any crockery, merchandise from the gift shop, theatre equipment etc. Anything that may be used for other ships in the fleet.

Once the ship arrives at the ship breaking yard, it remains anchored until the next high tide, when it is sailed at full speed onto the beach ready for dismantling.

The dismantling begins. Any items remaining in the ship such as artworks or furnishings are stripped and either destroyed or sold. The ships are then chopped up, bit by bit, with burning gear and sledgehammers for their scrap metal. 98% of the ship can be reused or recycled. It takes approximately 6 months to take apart a passenger ship.

When a ship is sold to the breakers, it is sold for much less than its resale value as a working ship but as finances have been affected by the pandemic, the resale market has dropped.

Aligar ship-breaking yard in western Turkey handled cargo and container ships before the pandemic but now cruise ships from Britain, America and Italy are being dismantled at the yard.

How does this make you feel?
Do you think these ships should be reused and recycled or would you prefer to see them remain as working ships?