

Thousands demonstrate against cruise ships in Venice

June 8 2019



Thousands took to the streets in Venice calling for a ban on huge cruise ships in the city

Thousands of people took to the streets in Venice on Saturday calling for a ban on large cruise ships in the city following last week's collision

between a massive vessel and a tourist boat.

According to Italian media, around 5,000 demonstrators marched through the [city](#) carrying banners with slogans such as "Keep large boats out of the lagoon".

"These giants must leave the lagoon. They're incompatible with the delicate balance of the ecosystem and dangerous for the city," the president of the local municipality of Marghera, Gianfranco Bettin, was quoted as saying.

The demonstration was organised by a group called "No Big Ships" following an incident last Sunday in which the 13-deck MSC Opera suffered an [engine failure](#), scraped along the dockside and knocked into a luxury tourist boat.

Four tourists were slightly injured in the accident at San Basilio-Zattere in Venice's Giudecca Canal.

Amateur footage of the incident was posted on [social media](#), sparking a fresh controversy over the damage the mammoth vessels cause to one of the world's most famous cities, which along with its lagoon, canals, bell towers and bridges is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Critics say the waves the ships create are eroding the foundations of the lagoon city, which regularly floods, leaving iconic sites such as Saint Mark's Square underwater.



Critics say the waves the ships create are eroding the foundations of the lagoon city

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