

Types of Boats



A 2-person canoe

A **canoe** is a small [boat](#), that is propelled by the use of [paddles](#), with the number of paddlers depending on the size of the canoe (most commonly 2). Paddlers face in the direction of travel, either seated or kneeling. [Paddles](#) may be single-bladed or double-bladed.



[Inuit](#) seal hunter in a kayak, armed with a harpoon.

A **kayak** is a small [boat](#) that is driven by human power. Kayaks typically are built for one, two or occasionally three paddlers who sit facing forward below the deck of the boat. The spray skirt attaches securely to the edges so that no water from waves or spray enter the boat. In most styles the kayak can roll upright again without it filling with water or ejecting the paddler.



A **motorboat** is a boat which is powered by an [engine](#) (also called a *motor*). Some motorboats are made with inboard engines; others have an outboard motor installed on the outside, containing the internal combustion engine, the gearbox, and the propeller in one portable unit.



A **sailboat** is a [boat](#) that has [sails](#). Wind blows against the sails, pushing the boat through the water. There are many kinds of boats, from small sail boards to large [sailing ships](#). Usually, a sailboat has two sails: a mainsail and a head sail or jib.



A **Tugboat** is used for towing or pushing other larger boats.



Queen Mary II, one of the last ocean liners

Ocean liner is the name given to (usually large) [ships](#) that are used to transport people or goods. These ships travel along given routes; they usually have a schedule. Usually, ocean liners travel long distances.



Cruise ship in Paradise Bay, Antarctica

A **cruise ship** (or **cruise liner**) is a large [ship](#) with sleeping cabins that takes people on holiday trips. Today's cruise ships are like floating hotels. They have a complete "[hospitality](#) staff" (to serve [food](#) and help [passengers](#) in other ways) as well as the usual ship's [crew](#). The largest cruise ships have [shops](#), many restaurants, several [pools](#), and even a [running track](#).



[Container ships](#) such as this one, are sometimes also called an *ocean liner*

A **Container ship** is a [cargo ship](#) that is used to carry standard containers. Most cargo ships that do not carry bulk goods are container ships. The containers come in different sizes and the Container Ship usually travels long distances across the ocean.



A commercial oil tanker

An **oil tanker**, also known as a **petroleum tanker**, is a [ship](#) made for the bulk transport of [oil](#).



The Belle of [Louisville](#), an old steamboat

A **steamboat** (also called a **steamship** or **steamer**) is a [ship](#) that uses a [steam engine](#) or steam [turbine](#) to move. At first, these were paddle **steamboats**. Some had a paddle wheel on the back. Others had two wheels on the sides. Most went down [rivers](#).



A **ferry** is a boat that transports passengers and sometimes also vehicles, usually across rivers or short stretches of sea.