

# **Water Taxi Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented By Type (Yachts, Cruise, Ferries, and Sail Boats), By Fuel Type (Electric, Diesel, and Hybrid), By Region & Competition, 2021-2031F**

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## **Abstracts**

The Global Water Taxi Market is projected to expand from USD 330.29 Billion in 2025 to USD 462.72 Billion by 2031, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of 5.78%. This sector encompasses the operation of small to medium-sized vessels providing scheduled or on-demand passenger transportation across coastal areas, lakes, and urban rivers. Key growth drivers include the urgent necessity to alleviate traffic congestion in densely populated metropolitan areas and the strategic incorporation of waterways into public transit networks to improve overall mobility. Additionally, the market benefits from sustained structural growth within the tourism sector, as water transport offers vital connectivity to waterfront destinations, operating distinctly from transient travel patterns.

According to Interferry, in 2024, the global ferry industry?which includes water taxis?facilitated the transport of roughly 4.27 billion passengers, highlighting the massive scope of waterborne mass transit. Despite this substantial demand, market expansion is significantly hindered by the extensive capital investment needed for fleet modernization and specialized docking infrastructure. These considerable development and operational costs can place a heavy burden on municipal budgets, thereby restricting the financial feasibility of establishing new routes and limiting the widespread adoption of these services.

## **Market Driver**

Rising urban road congestion and the resulting need for alternative transportation methods are the main forces driving the Global Water Taxi Market. As traffic density in metropolitan areas reaches saturation points, both city planners and commuters are prioritizing waterborne options to avoid gridlock and shorten commute times. This shift is transforming urban river networks, establishing water taxis as vital elements of daily mass transit rather than mere tourist attractions. The magnitude of this uptake is clear in major coastal cities; for example, the New York City Economic Development Corporation reported in September 2025 that the NYC Ferry system achieved a record ridership of 1,014,317 boardings in August 2025, marking a significant 17% year-over-year increase, confirming the strategic importance of water transit in relieving land-based infrastructure pressure.

Concurrently, the sector is being reshaped by the adoption of electric propulsion and eco-friendly technologies, motivated by strict decarbonization requirements and the economic advantages of lower fuel expenses. Operators and manufacturers are actively introducing electric hydrofoiling vessels that eliminate exhaust emissions and minimize wake, making them suitable for sensitive urban environments. For instance, Artemis Technologies reported in February 2025 that their new EF-24 electric passenger ferry is expected to lower CO2 equivalent emissions by as much as 3,700 tonnes per year compared to conventional high-speed diesel boats. This transition is backed by substantial investment; Uber Boat by Thames Clippers announced in May 2025 that it had secured \$59 million to increase capacity and hasten the inclusion of cleaner, lower-emission vessels in its fleet.

## **Market Challenge**

The substantial capital outlay necessary for specialized docking infrastructure and fleet modernization constitutes a significant obstacle to the growth of the Global Water Taxi Market. These financial requirements limit the scalability of operations, as the costs tied to building compatible terminals and purchasing advanced, eco-friendly vessels are often prohibitive for municipal entities and potential operators. As a result, available budgets are frequently consumed by the maintenance of existing assets rather than being allocated to increasing service frequency or developing new routes, effectively halting network expansion in high-demand urban zones.

This need for heavy investment is further exacerbated by the rapid depreciation of existing maritime assets. According to Interferry, the average age of the global ferry fleet surpassed 20 years in 2024. This aging inventory forces the industry to focus capital expenditure on replacing obsolete vessels to adhere to environmental and safety

standards, thereby diverting essential funds away from market expansion initiatives. As operators struggle with these modernization costs, the financial feasibility of introducing new water taxi services remains restricted, curbing the sector's capacity to meet the rising demand for alternative urban transit.

## **Market Trends**

The incorporation of water taxi services into Multi-Modal Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS) ecosystems is reshaping the industry by evolving operations from standalone transit segments into fully integrated urban networks. Municipal authorities and operators are increasingly linking maritime transport with rail, metro, and bus systems via centralized digital platforms, enabling passengers to plan and pay for seamless door-to-door trips. This shift toward digitization improves user convenience and accessibility, driving adoption among commuters who value efficiency. The extent of this transition is significant; the Dubai Roads and Transport Authority reported in May 2025 that it processed 13.4 million transactions via its smart applications in 2024, reflecting a 16% year-over-year rise in digital revenue, which highlights the strong public acceptance of integrated transit booking solutions that include marine transport.

At the same time, the growth of experiential and luxury tourism services is establishing a profitable niche for high-end water taxi operations, especially in island and coastal destinations. Distinct from improved commuter transit, this trend prioritizes the passenger experience through the use of stable, premium, and noise-free vessels that act as exclusive links to leisure hotspots and resorts. This development is driving significant fleet modernization, replacing traditional gasoline boats with advanced zero-emission models that offer superior comfort while preserving the natural environment. For example, Future Transport News reported in October 2025 that Candela secured an order for 10 P-12 electric hydrofoil ferries to transport tourists between the mainland and Koh Kood in Thailand, replacing conventional speedboats to improve both sustainability and travel quality.

## **Key Market Players**

Bavaria Yachtbau GmbH

MacGregor Yachts Inc.

Sunseeker International Limited

Catalina Yachts, Inc.

Ferretti S.p.A.

Beneteau SA

Azimut Benetti S.p.A.

Princess Cruise Lines, Ltd.

American Sail, Inc.

Brunswick Corporation

## Report Scope

In this report, the Global Water Taxi Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

### Water Taxi Market, By Type

Yachts

Cruise

Ferries

Sail Boats

### Water Taxi Market, By Fuel Type

Electric

Diesel

Hybrid

### Water Taxi Market, By Region

## North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

## Europe

France

United Kingdom

Italy

Germany

Spain

## Asia Pacific

China

India

Japan

Australia

South Korea

## South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Middle East & Africa

South Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

### **Competitive Landscape**

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the Global Water Taxi Market.

### **Available Customizations:**

Global Water Taxi Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to a company's specific needs. The following customization options are available for the report:

### **Company Information**

Detailed analysis and profiling of additional market players (up to five).

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