

The Alps

1995 - 2020

Electric passenger boats



The Königssee, a natural lake in the extreme southeast Berchtesgadener Land district of the German state of Bavaria, near the Austrian border, is noted for its clear water and is advertised as the cleanest lake in Germany.

For this reason, only electric-powered passenger boats, rowing, and pedal boats have been permitted on the lake since 1909 – over a century ago. Today's 18-strong fleet is maintained and run by the Bayerische Seenschiffahrt company. Recently two of these boats were re-batteried with Hoppecke units.

1995 In Switzerland, in 1995, at Yverdon-les-Bains beside Lake Lemane, two 8m50 12 PAX solar-powered passenger boats, Solifleur and Chlorophylle, built by MW-Line were in regular service. When not cruising, their surplus electrical energy was supplied to the town's grid.

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Solar Ferries • Electric Ferries • Electric Water Limos



The Riva classic vaporatte gone electric

1997 In 1997 MW-Line's Aquarel went into service on the same lake with three boats added to the fleet by 1999.

The 20m 65ft Becassine, also running on Lake Geneva had a range of 90 m 65 mi at 10 knots. In 2019, the fleet received its 5th vessel in the 25 PAX Aquabus Greta, taking visitors to the foot of the city's famous Jet d'Eau fountain using 100% solar power and electric motors.

More recently electric boats have arrived on the Italian Alpine Lakes. Lake Como has been named "The Electric Lake" Along points of interest, 17 charging stations are being fitted around 170 kilometres of the Lake Como.

Taking advantage of these e-vehicle chargers, the Ernesto Riva shipyard of Laglio has produced the 12 PAX 100 kW Vaporina Elettra passenger yacht, The ecovolta lithium-ion batteries used in the Elettra provide a total capacity of 180kWh and enable five hours of autonomous operation at a speed of 13 knots.

Thanks to their high energy density of 480Wh per litre, the batteries offer a high capacity without taking up too much space.

Further along the lake, Nautico Matteri Shipyard and the Econoleggio Como Lake are planning a fleet of zero-emission boats. On neighbouring Lake Maggiore in Cittiglio, Vita Yachts have not only developed a 40 knot electric runabout but also a fast-recharging system.