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# SEA CLOUD NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL CREW NEWSLETTER FROM  
UNICREW MANAGEMENT LTD.

## Touch of Class



# Interview with Captain Gerald Schöber of Sea Cloud Spirit



## Foreword

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**Sea** Cloud II will begin the 2021 season with a 7-day voyage around the Canary Islands on 17th March. The itinerary will combine classical sailing with a journey through nature. Voyage options include exploring Lanzarote on electric vehicles, whale-watching off La Gomera and catamaran tours off Fuerteventura. Sea Cloud, which turns 90 next year will resume sailing in the Aegean Sea on 2nd April, with round trips from Piraeus on different routes through the Cyclades.

Explaining why the company opted for round-trips instead of the usual itinerary, Managing Director Daniel Schäfer said if COVID-19 restrictions continue longer into the coming year, the ships would still be able to meet all health and safety requirements. The cabins and public areas would be well ventilated with fresh air from outside. Reliability and safety are our top priority, Schäfer added.

Meanwhile, Unicrew Management is planning its own set of safety measures around crew health concerns. Crew planning has started in full swing and efforts are on to work out the logistics of safe crew transfers by arranging quarantine in hotels at the port prior to embarkation.



*Q: What do you think would be your main challenges as Master of the vessel when you go to sail for the first time, considering that you will have a fairly competent crew accompanying you in sailing the ship?*

A: The Spirit is technically very complex and, in many aspects, it is really a one-off custom-made ship. The challenge will be for everyone to become a real Spirit professional. I'm really looking forward to tackling this with together with the crew.

*Q: What kind of unique experiences can your guests expect when they sail on the Spirit for the first time?*

A: Being the first guest on a ship like this is always something special. You can only experience that once. The first cruises will certainly also be ground-breaking for the atmosphere on board. Later you will be able to say: I was there. As a Passenger as well as a part of the crew.

**We asked Captain Gerald Schöber about his new vessel, the Sea Cloud Spirit, about his life and sailing career, and a few words about the kind of leadership his crew can expect when the Spirit finally goes to the sea. He was most gracious with his answers.**

*Q: What were your impressions of Sea Cloud Spirit when you saw it for the first time?*

A: In January 2020 I had the opportunity to see the Spirit in the shipyard in Vigo (for) the first time. I knew from afar that she would be a beautiful ship. Consistent proportions with plenty of space for passengers and for the crew. She will be the undisputed highlight in every port — I'm sure of that.

*Q: Could you describe in detail what makes the Sea Cloud Spirit unique in its class of sea-going vessels?*

A: Not unique — but of course very rare is the combination of a full rigged sailing ship as a passenger ship in traditional yacht style — built in the 21st century. Possibly a game changer for the future of cruising in general.

*Q: Tell us a little about your sailing career. What inspired you to take up sailing and what were your most memorable ships and voyages?*

A: My father started teaching me how to sail when I was around 12 years old. Living in Flensburg (Germany) near the Baltic Sea, sailing has always been an important part of my life. Later on, I had my own boat and enjoying many trips to the North Sea, the Baltic Sea and enjoying many trips in the Mediterranean Sea. At some point I got the insight to turn my hobby into a profession. After completing my studies, I worked on various types of merchant ships around the world and realized that for me, there was no way around sailing ships - because I realized that even the seriousness of life should also be fun.

I will always remember my first experiences with my own sailing boat, my first command as captain and so many beautiful journeys where the sun shone in my face and a fair good broad-reach breeze pushed me across the sea.

*Q: What were your last few voyages like? What do you think you will miss the most about your last ship?*



A: The last few trips were Atlantic Crossings starting from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean Sea. Traveling the sea for days and even weeks is still very special to me.

Friendships and relations that have been developed over the years.

Q: *When you are not sailing, what kind of a shore-man are you? How do you like to spend time at home? Do you have any hobbies or special interests that you would like to pursue some day?*

A: I like to spend time with my family and friends and I do have a passion for traditional Mediterranean and Asian cooking which I like to enjoy together with my sweetheart and a glass of good Italian wine. Visiting art exhibitions — Contemporary and Modern — are regularly on my “to do list” during vacation.

Q: *Under your stewardship, what kind of leadership should the Sea Cloud Spirit crew expect on board, and what kind of discipline and work spirit do you expect from them?*

A: The tasks of the Captain have changed a lot in the last few decades. A brand-new sailing cruise ship launching into service and sail is certainly still in a league of its own in many aspects — and for sure in leadership.

If you understand the ship as its own microcosm, you quickly realize that it can only work out, if we are pulling together. Professionalism and enjoyment of work. Respectful and polite interaction on board is an elementary part of a good communication culture. And communication is an essential part of developing good working practices.

Listening and being able to motivate yourself and others is just as important as reliability. We have to be able to rely on each other. Solving problems instead of assigning blame is a basic principle. People make mistakes – yes, there is no question about that. The trick is not to let it become a habit. And so, there is also a need for a progressive error culture.

We will only go to sea decently, if we can create this kind of working atmosphere. This principle is actually quite simple — but the process leading to it is not.

Q: *As a sailor, what saddens you most about the state of the environment in our oceans and seas today?*

A: The ocean pollution, from plastics bags to pesticides. We need everyone to act — individuals, communities, businesses, politicians and world leaders. We just have one world and we are all asked not to destroy what we love so much.



**View from the Top:  
Sea Cloud Spirit**



**Together at meals to celebrate the journey of a lifetime**



# CRUISE NEWS

## AIDA announces Canary Islands itinerary for December

AIDA Cruises will open its cruise season around the Canary Islands on 5th December, 2020, with AIDAperla. Its Christmas season will start soon after with AIDamar setting sail on 20th December. Both voyages have a 7-day itinerary starting from Gran Canaria.

AIDA's health and safety protocol, audited by SGS Institute Fresenius and vetted by DNV-GL include free COVID 19 test before the voyage, secure arrival and departure, medical care, distance regulations, enhanced sanitisation on board, as well as guided shore excursions. AIDA's hygiene and prevention measures are in line with the Spanish government's regulations for safe travel in the Canaries.

AIDA recently cancelled earlier planned cruises between 1st December and 26th January 26, 2021, on AIDastella and AIDAprima.

## Chartered flights to provide safe passage for cruise passengers

Atlas Ocean Voyages will charter a wide-body jet to bring guests from the United States to Ushuaia, Argentina, for its 2021-2022 Antarctic expeditions. The charter jet service will also shorten the travel time for guests to reach and return from the Antarctic embarkation port.

"This innovation is part of Atlas' All Inclusive All the Way commitment, in which we take care of the details and make it more convenient and seamless for our guests to enjoy Atlas' once-in-a-lifetime experiences," Atlas' president Alberto Aliberti said.

Upon arrival at Ushuaia, guests will be escorted through immigration and transferred to World Navigator, while their checked luggage is delivered

to their suites and staterooms. The World Navigator will offer 12 departures on nine-night itineraries to the Antarctic Peninsula, starting Nov. 19, 2021.

Chartered flights have been used since April to safely transport cruise passengers following disembarkation. On 28th November, Carnival Corp. completed a routine embarkation of 160 fresh crew on to 13 of their ships near Nassau Harbour. The crew arrived in the morning on a private charter flight from Amsterdam and were transferred directly to ferry boats that took them to their ships.

### Crew Change November 2020 / Sea Cloud / Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

CO Eric Lismis, [Joined 1st November](#)

2E Alexandru Pirloiu, [Joined 1st November](#)

Rigger Michael Bernaldez, [Joined 25th November](#)

Carpenter Aurel Mihaiu, [Joined 25th November](#)

Fitter Mihai Asaovoei, [Joined 25th November](#)

3O Dorde Cvjeticanin, [Disembarked 18th November](#)

Rigger Joselito Repunte, [Disembarked 25th November](#)

Carpenter Cristopher Ramirez, [Disembarked 25th November](#)

### Crew Change November 2020 / Sea Cloud II / Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

CO Vukota Stojanovic, [Joined 1st November](#)

CE Yuriy Konchak, [Joined 25th November](#)

Carpenter Angelito Banglos, [Joined 25th November](#)

Deck Hand Maverick Pugado, [Joined 25th November](#)

EL Ionel Ianculescu, [Disembarked 3rd November](#)

2O Tom van den Boogaert, [Disembarked 4th November](#)

Fitter Vice Cubric, [Disembarked 25th November](#)

CE Aleksandar Rajkovic, [Disembarked 28th November](#)





## From Jason's Desk

AS MANY countries around the world witness a second surge of Coronavirus cases, and the consequential uncertainty of ever-changing travel regulations and port restrictions, most cruise lines are selling future itineraries with a flexible cancellation policy so as to allow travelers to roll their bookings forward to a future cruise. Year 2021 seems to be overbooked already, with thousands of passengers rebooking forward because of late 2020 cancellations.

Even though there is some optimism in the cruise travel industry around 2021, particularly now that we have news of at least two possible vaccines becoming available from January, it is still too early to predict there won't be any cancellations in future and luxury tourism will return to the business-as-usual days of 2019. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to rate cruise ship travel with a Level 3 warning ("avoid non-essential travel"), and there is new pressure building up on the incoming US Presidential Administration to re-introduce the no-sail order that expired on 30th October.

What will cruise travel in 2021 look and feel like? We have some guidelines from the CDC and the

CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) to answer that million-dollar question. Under the new rules, all cruise itineraries will be a maximum of seven days and ships will be required to provide rapid COVID-19 tests for passengers and crew on the days of embarkation and disembarkation. CLIA member cruise lines (nearly 95% of the cruise shipping industry) have also agreed on a series of health protocol such as mask wearing, social distancing, setting aside cabins for quarantine and allowing shore excursions only with supervised chaperons.

One of the recommendations that seems to be gaining consensus is to keep the itineraries short and simple. Stopping at ports in different countries often means dealing with different health requirements. This translates to fewer ports of call, cruises to nowhere or voyages that focus on one country. The CLIA's new health protocols also call for "air management and ventilation strategies to increase fresh air onboard." The cruise world is slowly coming around to the Sea Cloud format because smaller ships visiting smaller, less crowded ports pose less risk. Anyway, small ships carrying fewer people are permitted to sail in the US.

**Photo Captions:** Page 1+ Page 2 + Page 5 + Page 9, Latest pictures of the Sea Cloud Spirit getting its final touches before the test sail. Page 3, Captain Gerald Schöber of Sea Cloud Spirit. Page 4, Engineers and electricians on board the under-construction Sea Cloud Spirit. Page 6, Mealtime bonhomie on the two ships in dry dock. Page 8, Halloween celebrations on Sea Cloud II.