

SEA CLOUD NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL CREW NEWSLETTER FROM
UNICREW MANAGEMENT LTD.



See You Soon...

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The Covid-19 pandemic literally took the wind out of our sails, resulting in an early close of the Caribbean season. Many guests had to cut short their voyage, while others could not even embark on theirs. Same for our crew, many had their contracts cut short and the joining of many was canceled. Despite the horror stories coming out of Coronavirus hit cruise ships, all the guests and our crew members were disembarked healthy and safely. In addition our crew members who remain onboard are healthy thanks to the implementation of early protection measures.

We would like to mention that from our Filipino crew who disembarked from the Caribbean late March 2020, many were stopped in Manila due to the total “lockdown” there. Only this week they are able to reach their homes and families, throughout this period our office kept in touch with our crew and supported them with living expenses.

All departures on Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II remain canceled till end July 2020 due to the Covid-19 Crisis and the International restrictions for immigration and flights. The majority of Sea Cloud’s office team are still working from home. Preparations are on full swing for the remaining season and 2021 season, together with the 90th Anniversary of Sea Cloud. Sea Cloud Cruises are carefully monitoring the Covid-19 international crisis to determine when it is safe for the passengers and our crew to rejoin the Sea Clouds to start sailing again. Most definitely, August 2020 is a month we all look forward to.

Ready to sail after Las Palmas lay-up

Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II have been moored at Las Palmas, Spain, for well over four weeks now. On board, a small crew is continuing with the maintenance and restoration works, giving the ships a fresh coat of paint, readying them up for the sailing season later this year.

If you are interested in what has been happening with Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II ever since they were docked at Las Palmas, try visiting their Facebook page. You can see a couple of videos with Captain Kathryn Whittaker supervising maintenance work on board Sea Cloud II. Captain Whittaker started off as a deck hand on Sea Cloud in 1996, and before making Captain in April 2018 she worked as Chief Officer of Sea Cloud II for six years. She is the first female captain in Sea Cloud history.

Meanwhile, the IMO and the CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) have laid down some guidelines for passenger vessels. Both Passengers and Crew on ships should strongly adhere to healthy travel practices, similar to recommendations associated with the flu season: wash hands often, cough into your elbow and sneeze into a tissue, avoid contact with people who may be sick already, etc. Proper social



distancing rules and hygiene etiquette must be followed at all times on board as well as during port stopovers. Ships must be fitted with onboard medical facilities, and trained professionals should be available on board around the clock, 24/7, to provide initial medical care in the event of illness and help prevent disease transmission.

As international borders and air travel slowly open up, and immigration restrictions are lifted, we are hoping that our ships can once again take guests on a once-in-a-lifetime journey of the world's top-rated coastal destinations.



Nothing can stop Sea Cloud's spirit

It is no secret that Sea Cloud Spirit, which was supposed to embark on its maiden voyage on 29 August has been delayed because of the complete shutdown of shipbuilding activity in Spain. The ship's three masts have arrived at the shipyard from Poland, but mast installation was delayed along with interior outfitting when the Coronavirus forced Spain to take emergency measures and enforce a countrywide lockdown.

Sea Cloud Spirit will have 13,500 square feet of sails as well as twin diesel engines using low-sulphur marine fuel for a sustainable sailing experience

In fact, shipbuilding activity across Europe came to a grinding halt in late March. Several shipyards had to disband their building teams and clear out their workshops as one yard after another shut down their activity to prevent Covid-19 transmission among the workforce. Big ticket cruise lines such as Carnival, Celebrity, MSC, Norwegian and P&O, expecting delivery in 2020-2021 had to announce delays.

Sea Cloud Spirit was bang on schedule for delivery this summer till the Coronavirus outbreak swept across Spain. Work on interior fitting has resumed recently, but social distancing norms mean fewer people are working on the job. Some of the subcontractors and suppliers involved in the project have not yet returned to Spain due to entry restrictions. Upon delivery in November, Sea Cloud Spirit will not cross the Atlantic and head to the Caribbean remain in the Canary Islands until April 2021 instead.

A new date will be announced soon for the maiden voyage of Sea Cloud Spirit. If all goes well, and delivery schedule does not stretch beyond November, we will be bringing in more crew.





From Jason's Desk

Dear Crew,

This has been a difficult year for us all. Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II has been laid up at Las Palmas, Spain, since April second week because of the worldwide Covid-19 crisis. In early March this year, I was in the Philippines recruiting more staff for the much-awaited Sea Cloud Spirit, and only a week later the WHO had declared a global pandemic. Suddenly, everything had changed. Our office remained working, albeit with reduced staff, to serve our owners, vessels and crew.

Our thoughts are with our crew who remain on board, away from their families, as well as our crew ashore, waiting to re-join duty and be able to support their families again. I believe the situation is made worse by our not knowing when this crisis will end and when we can all resume normal

lives. Yet, it is not entirely hopeless as we do see good news on the horizon with many countries announcing to lift restrictions and allow air travel in the coming weeks. This does not mean the crisis is over. We must remain alert and act responsibly. As soon as we have more information on the resumption of sailing by Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II, you will hear from us immediately.

The delay in Sea Cloud Spirit's delivery was inevitable. The Spanish shipyard had to shut down work completely for several weeks. However, with the vessel due for delivery in November 2020 this gives us enough time to prepare the crew for the vessel's arrival. We must now be patient and also be prepared, ready for a shorter summer season sailing schedule. You will be hearing from me again soon. Till then, take care and stay safe!

Photo Captions: Page 1, Sea Cloud II crew with Captain Whittaker (extreme left) just before crew disembarcation. Page 2, (top) Sea Cloud docked at Las Palmas, (bottom) Sea Cloud crew just before arrival at Las Palmas. Page 3, Sea Cloud Spirit at the Vigo shipyard in Spain getting outfitted. Page 4, Sea Cloud crew hold up a cheerful goodbye message.