

# SEA CLOUD NEWS UPDATE

OFFICIAL CREW NEWSLETTER FROM  
UNICREW MANAGEMENT LTD.

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
from Sea Cloud II**

## Recap 2020

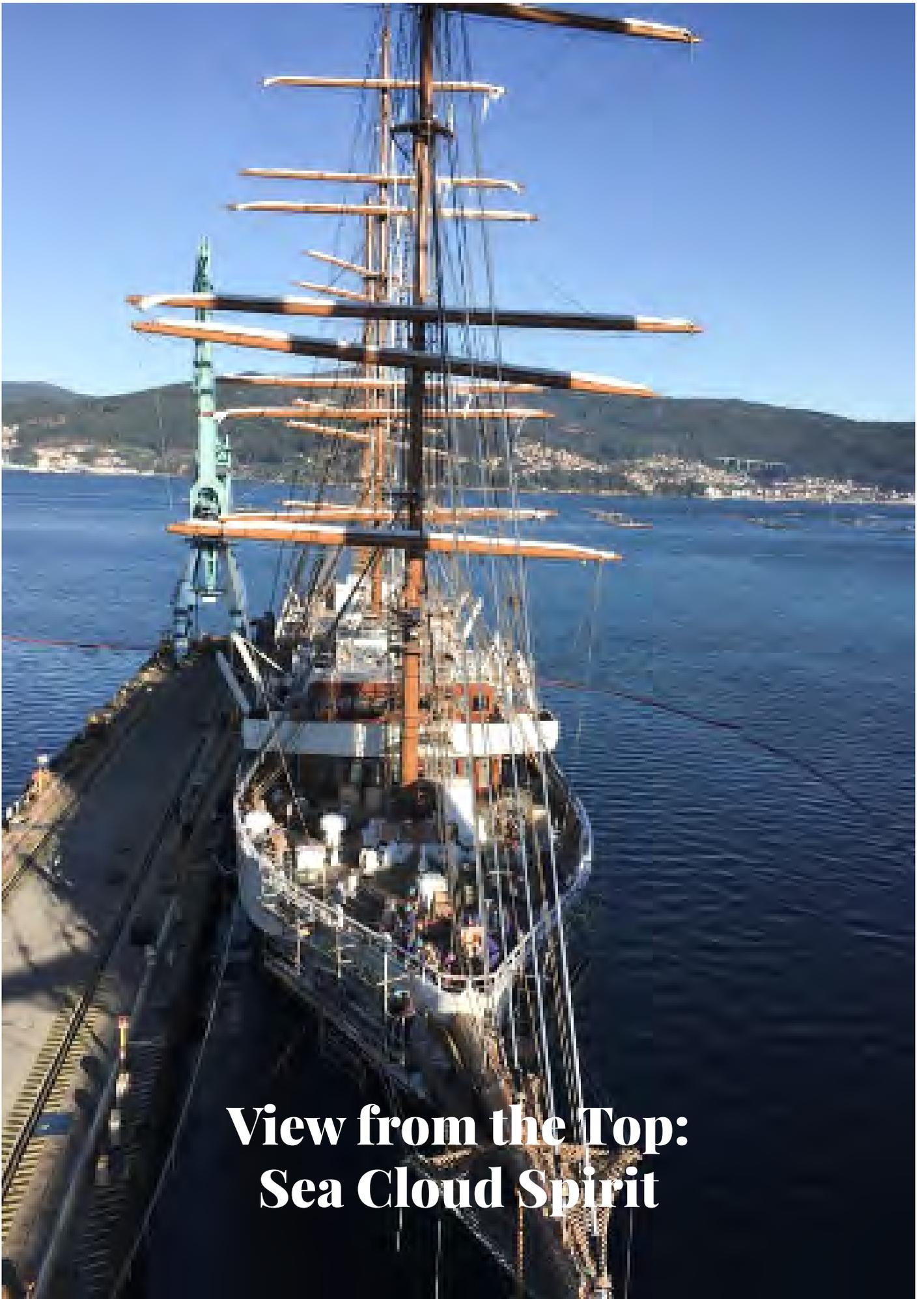
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Few of us who have lived through 2020 can recall another year so characterised by despondency, fear and uncertainty. In early February, as the Coronavirus made headlines around the world, Diamond Princess, a 16-year-old vessel operated by Princess Cruises was the first to witness a serious outbreak on board. A passenger with suspected COVID-19 symptoms disembarked the Diamond Princess, and later Japanese health authorities boarded the ship on 4th February to carry out investigations after 10 people on board were confirmed positive. Most of the ship's 2,666 passengers were Japanese and the Diamond Princess was quarantined in the Port of Yokohama. Guests were not allowed to disembark and told to remain in their cabin.

Eventually, over 700 passengers and crew on board the Diamond Princess would test positive, with 331 of them asymptomatic at the time of disembarkation. The besieged vessel also offered the first inkling of just how badly cruise ships were susceptible to the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the consequent change in attitude among port authorities to allow disease-ridden ships from offloading passengers and crew and allowing transit when in crisis. It became impossible to ensure passengers who were otherwise not affected to return home after the ship had cancelled the rest of the voyage.

Coronavirus is not the first virus outbreak on board large cruise ships, there have been several instances of gastrointestinal disease outbreaks in the past. In fact, it is Norovirus, sometimes



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



Merry Christmas









**New Year Eve spread on  
Sea Cloud II**





# CRUISE NEWS

## ILO raps governments for failing to protect seafarers

A panel of 20 jurists set up by the ILO said governments failed to protect seafarers' rights under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006. "This ruling clearly sets out that it is both legally and morally wrong for countries to continue to expect seafarers to work indefinitely, supplying the world with food, medicine and vital supplies, while depriving them of their fundamental rights as seafarers, as workers, and as humans," ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton and ICS Secretary General Guy Platten said in a joint statement.

"This ruling makes clear that all governments have to follow international law and urgently recognise seafarers as key workers with practical effect. This means allowing seafarers to get off in ports for medical attention. It means enabling seafarers get to an airport to fly home when their contracts are finished. And it means letting replacement crews through a country's border to join those waiting ships without having to battle a mountain of bureaucracy."

The ILO experts panel ruling follows submissions made by the International Transport Workers' Federation and the International Chamber of Shipping. National travel restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected nearly 400,000 seafarers unable to go home after their turn of duty gets over. Hundreds of thousands of crew are currently stuck at sea or are waiting to start their tour of duty. The current logjam puts the health and wellbeing of seafarers at grave risk without offering any relief or compensation.

## Vaccines will be game changer for cruise ships in 2021

The availability of COVID-19 vaccines, combined with foolproof health and safety protocols, will enable cruising to return in 2021, Royal Caribbean

Group chairman Richard Fain said recently. "We envision that the key — but not the exclusive factor — will be the vaccines rather than purely the protocols," he stated.

Fain isn't alone in predicting the role of vaccines. Frank Del Rio, chairman of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, says that COVID-19 vaccination would be a requirement for all crew members, and stated the company is considering making it mandatory for guests too.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is in final stages of developing a digital Travel Pass intended to enable travel across borders. The mobile app is designed to present certified testing and vaccination credentials when going overseas. IATA sees the Travel Pass as a "global and standardised" solution to the current confusion and complication surrounding cross-border travel. Personal health data will be stored on users' phones, rather than a central database.

### Crew Change November 2020 / Sea Cloud

Capt S. Komakin, [Joined 7th December](#)

Capt J. Svendsen, [Disembarked 7th December](#)

CE Nenad Subotic, [Disembarked 13th December](#)

CE Alexandru Pirloiu, [Promoted 13th December](#)

### Crew Change November 2020 / Sea Cloud II

Fitter Mykola Kalashnikov, [Joined 14th December](#)

Fitter Nikolae Jitea, [Disembarked 21st December](#)

**Mr Alexandru Pirloiu, started with us as 3E in June 2014; he gained his promotion to 2/E in July 2017. Alexandru has continued to prove his worth onboard SEA CLOUDs and we are happy that he has now reached his goal as Chief Engineer. CongratulATIONS!**

called the stomach flu that is often associated with cruise ships. Norovirus is a very contagious and causes stomach pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Norovirus is contagious and spreads through infected persons, contaminated food or water, and touching contaminated surfaces. It is also possible to get Norovirus illness many times because there are different types of Norovirus and being infected with one type does not mean immunity against other types.

However, Norovirus outbreaks are rare. Between 2008 and 2014, of the 74 million passengers sailing on cruise ships only 129,678 passengers had acute gastrointestinal illness and only about 10% of these cases got Norovirus. Improved standards of health and passenger safety onboard ensured fewer cases of Norovirus in recent years, and these are likely to help reduce the risks of Coronavirus as well. Here's a timeline of the major events of the 2020 cruise calendar to take home some lessons from.

## JANUARY 2020

Cruise lines begin canceling sailings out of China and halt port calls in that country. Soon, the World Health Organization declares the novel Coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. President Donald Trump declares that non-US citizens who have been to China within the previous 14 days will not be permitted to enter the US from 2nd February, 2020.

## FEBRUARY 2020

An 80-year-old passenger who disembarked Diamond Princess in Hong Kong tests positive for Coronavirus. Diamond Princess is quarantined off the coast of Japan after multiple reports of respiratory illnesses onboard. By 27 February, Princess Cruises confirms the last of the Diamond Princess passengers have disembarked. A special team boards the ship to begin disinfection procedures once the last crew member departs.

## MARCH 2020

The US State Department issues a warning that US citizens should avoid traveling on cruise ships, advising they present a higher risk of Coronavirus infection. Ruby Princess disembarks 2,700 passengers in Sydney, including 158 who are ill. The World Health Organization officially declares a pandemic. Viking Cruises suspends both river and ocean cruises through May 1, 2020, becoming the first cruise line to pause operations. President Trump declares a national emergency. All major cruise lines announce a "voluntary" pause in operations for at least 30 days. Canada closes its ports to cruise ships carrying more than 500 passengers.

## APRIL 2020

Royal Caribbean lays off 26% of its 5,000-strong US workforce and executives agree to take a 25% cut through September. Australia opens a criminal investigation into Ruby Princess and why 2,700 passengers were allowed to disembark in Sydney. Australian authorities conduct an overnight raid on Ruby Princess, seizing the ship's "black box" data recorder and other records as part of the criminal inquiry. The CDC extends the no-sail order for 100 days, ensuring no cruise activity in the US until at least mid-July.

## MAY & JUNE 2020

Carnival announces layoffs or furloughs for over 3,000 shore employees from the Carnival Cruise Line, Princess Cruises, and Holland America Line brands. Australia extends cruise ship ban till 17th September 17 and Canada till 31st October. The CLIA member cruise lines suspend US sailings through 15th September. Pullmantur, a Spanish cruise line, files for bankruptcy. The first ship to be sold because of the pandemic, Costa Victoria arrives at the scrapyards in Italy. More than 1,000 passengers file a class-action lawsuit against Carnival Corporation & PLC, demanding changes to the way their ships operate as well as financial compensation, one of dozens cases filed against cruise operators.

## JULY & AUGUST 2020

Carnival Corporation says it will sell at least 13 ships in its portfolio. Holland America Line sells four ships to other cruise lines almost immediately thereafter. This results in a flurry of announcements from other cruise lines about their plans to either sell ships or scrap older vessels. The CDC extends the no-sail order for cruise ships till end-September. Explorer Dream belonging to Dream Cruises sails from Taiwan, making it the first cruise to depart Asia since the global shutdown. The CDC opens its portal for public feedback on if and how cruising can return safely. Hurtigruten's Roald Amundsen reports four crew members have tested positive and removed from the ship within two weeks of returning to service. Another 32 crew members are diagnosed with COVID-19 not long after, prompting the company to suspend all cruises for three vessels. MSC Grandiosa sets sail on a multi-port Italy itinerary open only to Italian passengers, with reduced capacity and new health and safety protocols.

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

Australia extends cruise ship ban till 17th December. Costa Deliziosa returns to service in Italy, while Carnival and Princess Cruises announce sale or scrapping of four vessels. As the 60-day CDC window on public comment closes, over 12,000 individual responses have been received, among them a 69-page report compiled by the Royal Caribbean Group and Norwegian Cruise Line. The CDC extends the no-sail order for another month, hoping to keep extending it into 2021, but the Trump White House intervened and pushed for shorter extension. Carnival Cruise Line cancels all sailings till December 2020. Norwegian Cruise Line cancels all sailings till end-November. The CLIA announces its member lines will require 100% testing of passengers and crew before every voyage when cruises resume. MSC Magnifica becomes the second MSC Cruises ship to resume cruising in Europe, sailing a 10-night cruise from Genoa, with port calls in Italy, Malta and Greece. Canada extends its cruise ship travel ban from October 31 to February 28. The CDC announced

its no-sail order will not be extended after 31st October but releases a 40-page advisory outlining the necessary steps for cruise lines to be issued a conditional sailing certificate.

## NOVEMBER 2020

Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises and Regent Seven Seas cancel all North America sailing till 31st December. Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Azamara follow suit. MSC Cruises and Carnival cancel all North America sailings till year end. As COVID-19 cases surge in Europe, MSC and TUI suspend Mediterranean sailings. Pfizer announces successful vaccine trials. Royal Caribbean reports that over 100,000 people have volunteered to participate in test sailings as required under the CDC's Conditional Sailing Order. Princess and Holland America cancel all cruises through 31st March; longer duration cruises are cancelled till November 2021. The CDC raises the Cruise Ship Travel Warning to Level 4, or Very High. Disney Cruise Line cancels cruises till 31st January. MSC Cruises receives approval to begin sailing from Japan, the first international line to receive the consent from ClassNK classification society.

## DECEMBER 2020

Quantum of the Seas sails from Singapore, officially becoming the first Royal Caribbean ship to sail in nearly nine months. Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Disney Cruise Line cancel all cruises till end February. MSC cruises pauses all Mediterranean sailings after Italian government imposes fresh travel restriction. Norwegian Cruise Line announces it will install a virus-neutralizing air purification system on 28 ships belonging to Norwegian, Oceania and Regent Seven Seas. AtmosAir Solutions calls this patented technology an all-natural solution with no harmful chemicals, radiation or by-products. Carnival cancels all cruises till end February. Royal Caribbean announces Empress of the Seas and Majesty of the Seas have been sold to an undisclosed buyer in the Asia-Pacific region.

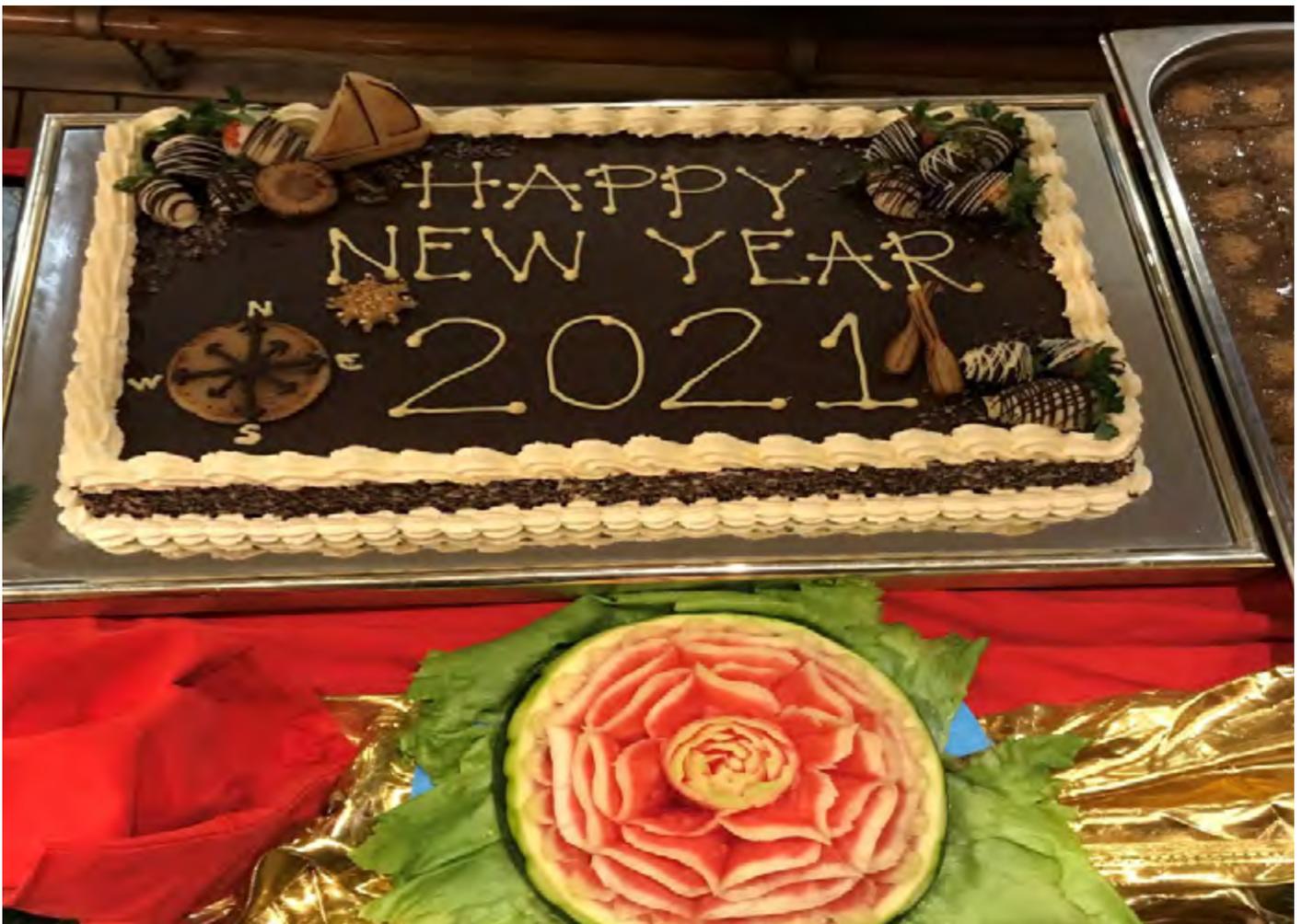








**New Year Eve spread on  
Sea Cloud II**



# SEA CLOUDS NEWS



## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Issued under the provisions of the contract entered 2020-12-03 under DNV GL project number 10269456 (non-statutory advisory service) by DNV GL SE, Maritime Advisory.

DNV GL Document no. M-W-ADA 2020.234

### Particulars of Company

**Company Name:** Sea Cloud Cruises GmbH  
**Company Address:** An der Alster 9, 20099 Hamburg, Germany  
**IMO number:** 5944666

### Particulars of services

Management and operation of sailing cruise vessels Sea Cloud, Sea Cloud II, and (future) Sea Cloud Spirit and related services such as booking, travel arrangements, and chartering.

### This is to certify:

that the Company has been found to comply with the requirements of the DNV GL Healthcare CIP-M Program, revision 20-03, following assessment of the Company's infection prevention and control system in its head office in Hamburg.

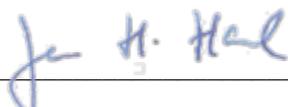
The DNV GL Certification in Infection Prevention - Maritime (CIP-M) designation integrates the CIP-M requirements, standards and guidelines from applicable agencies such as the World Healthcare Organization, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Vessel Sanitation Program Operations Manual) and the European Manual for Hygiene Standards and Communicable Disease Surveillance on Passenger Ships.

This statement is valid from December 11, 2020, subject to onboard verification by June 30, 2021. Lack of continual fulfilment of the conditions set out in the Certification Agreement may render this statement invalid.

Completion date of audit on which this Certificate is based: **December 9, 2020**

DNV GL expects that Sea Cloud's vessels will achieve CIP-M Certification once they have been surveyed after resumption of passenger service.

Hamburg, December 11, 2020



Jan H. Haul, Principal Consultant



Guido Carstensen, Principal Consultant

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DNV GL Maritime Advisory operates independently from DNV GL Class and Statutory services.



## From Jason's Desk

LOOKING back at Year 2020, we still have a lot of unanswered questions that continue to haunt us. Are we ever going to see a return to cruising of the pre-pandemic era? Is 2021 going to be different from 2020?

The disaster in 2020 was largely because of the way in which COVID-19 outbreak caught us all by surprise. It travelled the world on international flights and spread like wildfire where it landed. Italy is a case in point. The virus was directly imported from Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak in China.

Airlines are more cautious and better prepared now. Many of them require passengers to provide test results. Vaccines may become mandatory for international travellers. Adam Goldstein, global chair of Cruise Lines International Association believes a vaccine will help as cruise lines look to head back to sea. Caitlin Shockey, spokesperson for the U.S. CDC says along with testing before and after travel, mask wearing, hand washing, social distancing and frequent cleaning, vaccines can be used to reduce the risk of travel-related

transmission and movement of the virus from one location to another.

The cruise shipping industry is already taking some tough measures with implementing health and safety protocols, to prevent, mitigate and respond to COVID-19 cases onboard.

Sea Cloud Cruises have been proactive to ensure that they are fully prepared for cruising and have already received approval and accreditation for their COVID-19 Risk Management Plans from DNV-GL. The focus on crew health and safety will ensure we are all ready to give the guests a memorable travel experience every time they sail with us in 2021 and in the future.

We are all ready to make up for time lost in 2020 and to also bring in the newest member of the fleet, Sea Cloud Spirit, into the same safety bubble with Sea Cloud and Sea Cloud II.

Happy New Year and happy sailings to you all.

**Photo Captions:** Page 1, Christmas celebration on Sea Cloud II. Page 5, Maintenance work carried out by crew on our ships in dry dock. Page 7, 8, 9, 10, Christmas and New Year Eve parties on SDea Clouid and Sea Cloud II. Page 11, DNV-GL certificate for infection prevention on board Sea Cloud vessels.