



## **Dream Cruises Launches Flexi-Feast Dining Concept at Sea**

Travelers on Explorer Dream's island-hopping itinerary will enjoy complimentary dining vouchers to customize a gourmet experience of their dreams



**Hong Kong, 24 July 2020** – Dream Cruises is the first international cruise company to resume operations with the deployment of Explorer Dream in Taiwan, where she will begin island-hopping itineraries out of Keelung to Penghu, Matsu, Kinmen and Hualien from July 26 onwards. Guests on this cruise will also see the debut of the new Flexi-Feast dining concept which allows unprecedented flexibility for a completely customized dining experience at sea by allowing passengers the freedom to choose from a wider choice of venues and to dine at their leisure. As well, Flexi-Feast will provide additional peace of mind for guests by helping to ease bottlenecks at certain venues for a more spacious and more comfortable environment on board.

Mr. Michael Goh, President of Dream Cruises says, "Gastronomy is an integral part of a memorable voyage. The Flexi-Feast concept on Explorer Dream will open doors to a new world of customized dining at sea, curated by the preferences and habits of each individual traveler. We are confident that this innovative concept will cater to the expectations of discerning travelers who look for flexibility and autonomy in their dining experiences."

"As we enter into a post-COVID-19 new norm of cruising, the Flexi-Feast strategy will also help us provide better social distancing at our dining venues by seating our guests across all our restaurants instead of concentrating on a few inclusive ones," Mr. Goh continued. "We will continue to adhere to our stringent preventive measures on various aspects of the cruise journey, including comprehensive guidelines and protocols on food hygiene practices and standards, to ensure that travelers will be kept safe and reassured on their cruise journey,"

Dream Cruises' Flexi-Feast dining concept will be applicable to all sailings of Explorer Dream's island-hopping itinerary in Taiwan. Guests\* will receive a set of complimentary dining vouchers upon embarkation, which can be used to redeem set meals at designated restaurants. Alternatively, the vouchers will be honored as onboard dining credits at specialty restaurants and bars, as well as for room service.



This innovative concept will allow travelers the flexibility to mix and match different food and beverage options that are available on-board, based on their habits and preferences, for a more comprehensive and personalized dining experience at sea. Instead of following a rigid schedule of three meals a day, guests now have the option of sleeping in and enjoying a scrumptious brunch at the restaurant of their choice at their leisure or skip dinner to catch the last stage performance of the day, then have a delicious meal by room service, thanks to the flexibility of the Flexi Feast dining vouchers.

As part of the new island-hopping itineraries, Dream Cruises is taking this opportunity to showcase the delicious culinary diversity of Taiwan and giving guests even more variety to whet their appetite. To highlight the abundant local cuisine options, Explorer Dream will collaborate with Taiwanese food and beverage brands including **Sharetea** – a leading bubble tea brand with over 28 years of history; **Taihu Brewing**, the world-acclaimed craft brewer and veteran of international beer competitions; **Tien Hsia San Chueh Noodle Cuisine**, honoree of the Bib Gourmand designation in 2019 MICHELIN Guide Taipei; and **Formosa Cheng**, Taiwan's largest fast-food chain specializing in braised pork rice, a traditional local delicacy. In addition, all restaurants aboard Explorer Dream will serve specialty dishes created with seasonal local produce sourced in Taiwan, offering travelers an authentic Taiwan taste experience that transcends land and sea.

In preparation for the resumption of operations in Taiwan, Explorer Dream has also worked closely with local government and health authorities to ensure all aspects of the ship meets official health and safety guidelines.

Upon Explorer Dream's arrival in Keelung, the crew immediately began 14 days of quarantine on land, while the cruise ship underwent a thorough deep cleaning in accordance with EU standard. On July 17, the crew had tested negative for COVID-19 based on nucleic acid tests and returned on board to undergo an additional 7-day self-health monitoring period which ended on 24 July.

Prior to the inaugural sailing on July 26, Explorer Dream also participated in an outbreak simulation drill under the guidance of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control. Medical experts from the Taiwan Public Health Association consulted on the drill with professional advice to ensure the seamless execution of preventive measures both on board and on shore. Dream Cruises has also been exploring with local authorities the feasibility of hosting a medical professional aboard the ship to work as a consultant in collaboration with two in-house professional doctors, including the newly-added on-board Infection Control Officer, to ensure the smooth execution of preventive measures onboard.

Explorer Dream's island-hopping itinerary in Taiwan has been met with an overwhelming market response, with sold out sailings in July and August. The inaugural sailing will depart on July 26 to the scenic islands of Matsu and Penghu, where travelers will have the golden opportunity to enjoy the International Fireworks Festival from the panoramic and unobstructed vantage point at sea.



*\*With the exception of Palace guests, who have exclusive premium privileges and meal entitlement.*

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### **About Dream Cruises**

Genting HK brings 26 years' of Asian cruise industry experience in creating its new cruise line – Dream Cruises. Featuring a complete fleet of quality, German built vessels for Asian sourced passengers, Dream Cruises aims to be a pacesetter in the global cruise industry, meeting the needs of the 'emerging generation' of confident, independently-minded and upwardly-mobile Asian travellers. Dream Cruises offers inspirational journeys, which are Asian at heart and international in spirit.

Purpose-built for the Asian market, Genting Dream, the first ship of the fleet, debuted in November 2016, with her sister ship World Dream joining in November 2017, offering guests cruising from Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Singapore the highest levels of service, as measured by crew to passenger ratio, and most spacious comfort as measured by gross tons per lower berth. Further expanding the Dream Cruises family, Explorer Dream joined in 2019 with homeports in Shanghai, Dalian and Tianjin during summer and Australia and New Zealand in winter. Construction has also started in Germany on the 208,000 gross ton Global Class ship that will join the fleet in 2021.

Dream Cruises has been recognized by the Berlitz Cruising and Cruise Guide 2020, ranking Genting Dream and World Dream once again in the world's top ten Large Resort Ships – the only two highest ships to homeport year-round in Asia. Dream Cruises' third ship, Explorer Dream, also made her debut in the Berlitz Cruising and Cruise Ships 2020 guide under the "Mid-Sized Ship" category in the Top 20 position.



Dream Cruises was also recently awarded 'Best Luxury Cruise Line' at the Annual 30<sup>th</sup> Travel Trade Gazette's (TTG) Travel Awards 2019 and 'Best Cruise Line – Cuisine', 'Best Cruise Line – Entertainment' and 'Best Cruise Line – Family' by the Travel Weekly Asia Readers' Choice Awards 2019.

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