



Premiere: AIDA's first world cruise launched from Hamburg

October 18, 2017

AIDAcara says goodbye with a huge fireworks display / Second world cruise with AIDAaura from October 7, 2018, already available for booking

On Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 8.00 p.m., the cry of "cast off" went up for AIDAcara as she set out from Hamburg on AIDA Cruises' very first world cruise. The 116-day cruise around the world will take her, over the course of 116 days until February 10, 2018, to 41 ports in 23 countries on five continents. Highlights of the journey are, amongst others, Easter Island, New Zealand and Australia, Sugar Loaf Mountain in Rio de Janeiro and the Maldives. Reason enough for the cruise company to celebrate this unique event with a very special launch.

Before AIDAcara and around 1,100 guests aboard said goodbye to the Hanseatic City, however, Captain Lars Krüger made a trip from the cruise terminal in Steinwerder around the port passing the Hafencity and the Elbphilharmonie. Afterwards the ship set out towards Altona where a spectacular fireworks display illuminated the Hamburg night sky at 9.30 p.m. Around 2,000 spectators watched AIDAcara's farewell from the banks of the river Elbe or live on Facebook.

From Hamburg, AIDAcara sets a course to South America via Southampton, Lisbon, Funchal (Madeira) and Praia (Cape Verde). On October 31, 2017, Neptun and his entourage are expected aboard to christen guests and crew alike when the equator will be crossed for the first time. Dream destinations such as Recife and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Montevideo (Uruguay), Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego are just some of the stops along the way before AIDAcara travels from Valparaiso (Chile) to Easter Island. The cruise continues on to Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora in the South Seas paradise of French Polynesia. Other stops such as Auckland (New Zealand), Sydney (Australia), the Great Barrier Reef, Bali, Singapore and the Maldives are sure to delight all of our explorers on board.

World cruise guests will be experiencing the different countries and their people in a unique way. Lengthy shore excursions will give them the chance to familiarize themselves with imposing landscapes, cultures and natural worlds from an entirely new angle. On board they will enjoy AIDAcara's intimate and laid-back atmosphere. The specially devised entertainment program makes reference to the typical culture of the respective destinations. Numerous guest artistes performing comedy, magic, drag acts, artistry and music will deliver both thrills and delight. The cruise exclusively features star tenor Tobey Wilson with his classical, pop and jazz repertoire.

Exciting background and well-informed stories relating to the various world cruise destinations will be provided by lecturers such as crime writer Jörg Böhm, or documentary filmmaker and expedition leader Klaus Kiesewetter. Actor Wanja Mues, for his part, will be presenting his favorite books as part of the "Celebrities Read" series. Dr. Pedro Gonzalez, fitness coach for the German soccer league (DFB) and the St. Pauli soccer club will be bringing along his scientific training program for professional athletes and soccer world champions. During this dream cruise, guests can also look forward to exquisite culinary options with over 70 regional specialty menus which are perfectly designed to match the individual destinations – from recipe to seasoning.

On October 8, 2018, the cry of "cast off!" will be heard again when this great adventure gets underway from Hamburg for the second time. Sailing until February 2, 2019, AIDAaura's route over 117 days will take her to 41 ports in 20 countries on four continents. Many of the destinations will be visited for the first time in AIDA's history. These include South Africa, Namibia, Melbourne, Tasmania and the South Seas archipelago of Fiji, Samoa and New Caledonia.

AIDA presents both the cruise and the on-board program at www.aidaselection.de – but there is more as well: the website also has inspiring videos and interviews that bring the individual destinations and their inhabitants vividly to life.

Further information and bookings at travel agencies, by calling the AIDA Customer Center at +49 (0) 381 / 20 27 07 07 or at www.aida.de.

Rostock, October 18, 2017