



Canadian Wildlife Service Permit Application

Project Description

Crystal Cruises LLC (hereafter CCLLC) has been in the cruise line industry for over twenty five years. Presently, the company operates two mid-sized passenger ships (CRYSTAL SERENITY and CRYSTAL SYMPHONY) and a 62-passenger superyacht (CRYSTAL ESPRIT) providing luxury cruises throughout the world. In a relatively short period of time, the company has assumed the leadership position in the luxury cruising market. From its beginnings as primarily a West Coast USA-based cruise line, CCLLC experienced substantial growth in awareness and business, both nationally and internationally, and is recognized worldwide for its superior level of service, unique onboard programming, and innovative itineraries. Since the company's founding, CCLLC has added many new destinations and ports to its itineraries. From 1990-2015 the company visited approximately 345 different ports in just about every cruise area. In 2003, when CRYSTAL SERENITY joined the fleet, CCLLC's 89 itineraries included 178 destinations in 56 countries. As the company has grown, it has continued to expand and cruise in all world maritime regions with itineraries including world cruising, Alaska, New England/Canada, South America, Trans-canal, the Caribbean, Europe (all eight different cruising areas), the Black Sea, Africa, the Orient, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica-- and in 2016-- the Northwest Passage.

Details on the company can be found at www.crystalcruises.com

The CRYSTAL SERENITY will be joined in Ulukhaktok by the ice-breaking escort vessel, RRS ERNEST SHACKLETON, to guide her to Nuuk, Greenland. ERNEST SHACKLETON will be carrying an estimated 12 Officers, 11 Petty Officers and Ratings, 1 Supercargo, 2 Cadet Officers for a total of 26 marine crew. Additionally, there will be one Ice Pilot, plus contracted support staff consisting of an Expedition Leader, and an operations team consisting of approximately 14 expedition staff members. In addition, there will be three scientists aboard from Memorial University in Newfoundland doing fisheries research. While doing the transits ERNEST SHACKLETON will be collecting hydrographic data, which will be shared with the Canadian Hydrographic Service and the Hydrographic Office in the United Kingdom.

CCLLC has demonstrated a clear desire to commit funds to ensure that the local residents benefit from these proposed visits. We know that all too often, ship guests spend the day in communities but leave very little financial impact. We are determined to ensure that doesn't happen. To that end, the company has agreed to purchase artwork from the three communities (Ulukhaktok, Pond Inlet and Cambridge Bay) that they will distribute to the guests. They will also work with local artists in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to stock additional artwork onboard the ship so that guests can buy more art on board. In addition, the company has committed to making a donation towards funding development projects in the communities to be visited.

CCLLC is using their charter of ERNESTSHACKLETON as an opportunity for outreach to several Canadian organizations. Two cadets from the Marine Institute in St. John's Newfoundland will embark in Europe and be on board until the ship returns to Europe, or possibly later. As well from St. John's, three scientists from the Centre For Fisheries Ecosystems Research at Memorial University will be conducting fisheries research on both transits of the Northwest Passage. Finally, while doing the transits ERNESTSHACKLETON will be collecting hydrographic data, which will be shared with the Canadian Hydrographic Service and the Hydrographic Office in the United Kingdom.

CCLLC has a long tradition of operating in both environmentally-sensitive areas and in waters in which ice conditions exist. Past sailings include Antarctica and substantial part of its operations have been in Alaska. In addition, the company's ships visit ports in Northern Europe (including Russia), the Norwegian Fjords and cross the Arctic Circle to call at Honningsvåg and the North Cape as well as the archipelago of Spitzbergen (Svalbard). Operations in environmentally-sensitive areas have consistently demonstrated its

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commitment to strictly observing stringent standards and requirements for protection of the environment. Areas where CCLLC has operated under specific environmental standards include: the northern part of the Atlantic along the, Norwegian coast, the Baltic areas, British Isles, all of the Mediterranean areas, New Zealand, the Whitsunday Islands and the Great Barrier Reef as well as the company's nine trips to Antarctica. The company has an aggressive pollution-minimization program and seagoing environmental-awareness program.

CCLLC has also successfully operated in regions which have been designated as Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO, including the Aleutian Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and has operated in several ports designated as World Heritage Sites, including Cape Porto, France (Corsica), Venice, Italy and Rhodes, Greece. With the implementation of MARPOL Annex IV in 2006, CCLLC has scrupulously adhered to specific environmental criteria, including prohibitions on smoke emissions, burning of trash, ballast pumping, and sewage dumping and when feasible, has exceeded regulatory requirements.

The Company actively supports protecting, preserving, and learning more about the environment. It has an aggressive pollution minimization program and seagoing environmental awareness program. In 2015 the company won the prestigious Venice Blue Flag environmental award, which it also won in 2014 and 2013. The prize recognizes the ship's voluntary efforts to safeguard the city of Venice, reducing air emissions by burning low sulfur fuel in port. The luxury line began using low sulfur fuel in consideration of the port city's location in an urban environment, and the need to protect its artistic and architectural treasures for future generations. In 2001, 2002 and 2008 MS CRYSTAL SYMPHONY won the "Port of Stockholm's Annual Environmental Award" for voluntarily burning fuel contains less than 1.5% sulfur while in port.

In a continuous effort to monitor, verify and improve its operational standards, Safety, Security and Environmental audits are carried out yearly on all vessels in the CCLLC fleet. These audits are performed internally by company officers and externally by Lloyd's Register to ensure compliance with company policies and national and international regulations.

For any visits to protected migratory bird sanctuaries, all passengers will be accompanied by members of Crystal Cruises expedition staff, which includes team leaders, multiple Inuit guides, polar bear monitors, and a number of naturalists and expert lecturers. The proposed activities during these visits include zodiac cruising in the ocean surrounding the Bylot Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary (at the Cape Hay location) and Prince Leopold Island (along the South East cliffs). Visitors to Prince Leopold Island may make landfall in the bay to the West of the South East spit for a short time to launch kayaks (weather dependent) and then return to the water in kayaks. Crystal Cruises would like to offer a select number of guests the opportunity to visit Prince Leopold Island by helicopter (Please see attached document detailing the information for this proposed activity). These guests would land at the research camp and make a short hike out to a viewing spot before returning to the helicopter. Crystal Cruises shore staff will provide interpretation of the sites and ensure that all passengers adhere to strict look but do not touch and leave no trace policies. Crystal Cruises has hired Arctic Kingdom, a Canadian company with 18 years of experience working in the Canadian Arctic, to provide the shore staff for this expedition. Their staff have years of experience traveling in protected areas around the Arctic and are familiar with and will abide by all guidelines any governing agencies have for visits to these sites. Site visits are planned to be between a half day and a full day in length, will take place between August 15th and September 16th, 2017, and may be shortened or cancelled due to bad weather or environmental conditions.

The Shackleton carries on board 15 Zodiac boats, which will be used for transporting passengers to and from shore, sightseeing on the water, and support for kayaking and scuba diving activities. Also on board are 16 kayaks used for touring, photography, and observation from the water. Maximum capacity for the Crystal Serenity is 1070 guests with a staff size of 655 including engine & deck crew, hotel department, and expedition team. Approximately 30 field staff are required to go ashore for land visits. Due to the large number of passengers on board, groups are rotated to keep the number of passengers going ashore at any one time to under 200 people.