

Captain Mingta Yuen

Mingta “Ming” Yuen was born in Germany and has lived in many countries around the world (France, Italy, Spain, UK, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States). He began his career at sea at the age of 17 as an Ordinary Seaman on a general cargo freighter in Germany. He subsequently went to the State University of New York Maritime College and graduated in 1986 with a bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering as well as earning his Third Mates license, unlimited tonnage, any oceans. He continued going to sea on freighters and then moved on to ‘clean’ and ‘dirty’ tankers, referred to as CPP (Clean Petroleum Products) and Heavy Crude Oil (dirty).

Ming then began sailing on the very large ‘Cape-sized’ vessels (too large to pass through the Panama and Suez Canals, forcing the ships to round the Capes), including bulk carriers hauling iron ore and coal from Australia, South America, South Africa and North America to Europe and Asia, and he became a Ship’s Master. In 1996, Ming moved to Hawaii and began sailing on cruise ships. He worked on the SS *Independence* for American Hawaii Cruises as a Third Officer and then on the MS *Patriot* for the United States Lines until 2001.

He subsequently joined Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) as First Officer (in charge of all things ‘Navigation’) and sailed on several of their ships (*Norwegian Sun*, *Norwegian Wind*, *Norwegian Star* and the *Norwegian Sky*). NCL created Project America, whereby Ming and his crew brought three ships to Hawaii for inter-island cruises. The first ship was the *Norwegian Sky*, which was reflagged and became the *Pride of Aloha*. After this, two brand-new vessels were built called the *Pride of America* and the *Pride of Hawaii*. He was Chief Officer on the *America* and the *Hawaii*. Ming was promoted to Captain and is also a Master Mariner. A master mariner is a licensed mariner who holds the highest grade of seafarer qualification, namely, an unlimited master's license. Such a license is labelled unlimited because it has no limits on the tonnage, power or geographic location of the vessel upon which the license holder is allowed to serve.

In 2013, Ming joined Lindblad Expeditions and sailed on the *National Geographic Explorer* as Chief Mate in Antarctica.

Ming is also an avid SCUBA diver and builds ship models as a hobby. In addition, he is writing a book about his international adventures, experience and travels at sea during his career. He is now semi-retired, leaning towards becoming fully retired.