



'Genting Dream' offers a diverse range of leisure activities including a six-slide waterpark, rope course with zip line, a mini golf course and a glow-in-the-dark bowling alley. — Photos: ZHAFARAN NASIB/The Star

# Splashing debut for liner

## Penang to be important destination for 'Genting Dream'

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ASIA'S newest luxury cruise ship 'Genting Dream' has made its maiden call at Swettenham Pier in Penang.

The 335m-long and 40m-wide vessel, which is Dream Cruises' inaugural vessel, has just started operating from her new homeport in Singapore.

Some 1,700 passengers disembarked from the ship to tour the heritage enclave in George Town on Monday.

More than 300 guests comprising government dignitaries, business and trade partners as well as media personnel were taken on a tour of the 18-deck and 151,300-tonne luxurious floating integrated resort.

The mesmerised guests caught a glimpse of Genting Dream's signature production show inspired by her hull art entitled 'Voyage of a Lover's Dream'.

The show, which tells a tale of love and hope between a mermaid and an astronaut, was staged at the 999-seat Zodiac Theatre.

The guests were later treated to five-course dinner.

Dream Cruises president Thatcher Brown said 'Genting Dream' was designed specifically for the Asian market to take guests on two-night weekend cruises and alternating five-night Sunday cruises from Singapore to destinations in the Straits of Malacca and Java Sea.

He said they were thrilled to debut 'Genting Dream' in Penang and Port Klang as Malaysia continued to be an important destination for the Genting Dream Line.

He added that Dream Cruises



Guests being entertained at the 999-seat Zodiac Theatre on 'Genting Dream'.

was proud to support the country's tourism industry.

"With the addition of a second ship named 'World Dream', we have doubled the size of our fleet in just a year and we appreciate the continuous support from our business partners," he said in his opening speech.

Guests on 'Genting Dream' will enjoy an integrated resort experience at sea featuring thrilling shows and numerous options for leisure and dining.

The ultimate in luxury at sea is redefined at the Dream Palace, which offers a 'ship within a ship' experience featuring highly personalised European-style

butler service.

There are also wellness facilities including Asia's largest reflexology spa at sea, 1,100sq m of duty-free shops together with over 35 restaurants and bars.

Passengers can enjoy a diverse range of leisure activities including a six-slide waterpark, rope course with zip line, a mini golf course and a glow-in-the-dark bowling alley.

Second International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan, representing Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, announced that Swettenham Pier would have two new escalators costing RM1.83mil with

construction scheduled to start next month.

He also said Penang Port would also expand its terminal with a wider berth extension, concourse and gangway reconstruction to cope with future demand.

"Construction is expected to be finished in two years.

"The port will then be able to receive Oasis-class ships and attract more international cruise companies to make Penang their homeport."

Also present were Penang Port Commission chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, tycoon Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar al-Bukhary and several other state MCA leaders.