



Star Cruises first cruise line to restart operations in Malaysia, introducing safe cruises with Star Pisces in Penang from 22 December 2021

Fuelling domestic tourism growth with the launch of exciting 'Super Seacation' itineraries for the festive year-end holidays; also paving the way for the re-opening of international cruising



Left to Right (Penang): Mr Mohamed Shaffi bin Khatri Abdulla, General Manager (SPCT), Madam Monaliza binti Suhaimi, General Manager (PPC), Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, Chairman (PPC), Captain Havard Ramsøy, SVP, Marine Operations & Safety (Genting Cruise Lines), Ms Cynthia Lee, VP, Sales (Genting Cruise Lines) & Dato Syed Mohamad bin Syed Murtaza, Chairman (PPSB) at the special press conference to announce the restart of safe cruises in Malaysia by Star Cruises in Penang from 22 December 2021.

Penang (Malaysia), 4 December 2021 – Genting Cruise Lines, together with Penang Port Commission (PPC) and Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) are pleased to announce that the Malaysian government has granted approval for Star Cruises to restart operations in Malaysia on 22 December 2021 with Star Pisces offering safe cruises from Penang. As the first international cruise line to homeport and resume commercial operations in Malaysia, Star Pisces will have five departures every week, offering a series of roundtrip itineraries from Penang, including a 2-Night 'Langkawi Escape' and a 1-Night 'Straits of Malacca' cruise itinerary, providing a timely and seasonal vacation option for Malaysians to celebrate a joyful Christmas and New Year during the school holidays.

Since July 2020, Genting Cruise Lines was the first international cruise company in the world to pioneer and successfully restart operations with Dream Cruises, starting in Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. With its valuable experience and expertise in implementing safe cruises, Genting Cruise Lines also plans to launch more ships under the Star Cruises fleet, beginning with Star Pisces in Penang, Malaysia.

Star Pisces will initially operate at a reduced passenger capacity of 50% with strict enhanced safety and preventive measures that are in accordance with the local requirements and international standards. To provide peace of mind for cruising guests and crew, all individuals on board must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In addition, all embarking guests are required to present a negative test result after completing the mandatory pre-boarding Antigen Rapid Test (ART), which will be conducted at the cruise terminal on the day of the departure.



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“As part of Genting Cruise Lines, Star Cruises is excited to pioneer safe cruises in Malaysia and to work hand-in-hand with the ministries under the Malaysian government, together with PPC and PPSB to support the country’s National Recovery Plan (NRP), including Langkawi’s international tourism travel bubble pilot program. We hope to call on to more Malaysian destinations and to expand our itineraries with the inclusion of regional destinations like Phuket in the near future to spur the cruise tourism industry. We are also actively pursuing with the various port authorities to create a ‘Harmonize Cruising Standards’ for the region in the hope of gradually re-opening international cruising in a controlled and safe manner, which will also bring inbound tourists to Malaysia, especially from our ship in Singapore,” said Mr Kent Zhu, President of Genting Cruise Lines.

“With the approval from the National Security Council (NCS) to restart domestic cruise operations, the cruise industry was given a new lease of life to operate once again. PPC, Genting Cruise Lines, PPSB and the respective Government agencies worked very closely to ensure domestic cruises could resume as soon as possible. PPC believes the cruise packages offered by Star Cruises under Genting Cruise Lines will provide Malaysians with a long-awaited holiday alternative, as traveling abroad is presently restricted. We believe the restart of the domestic cruise operations in a safe manner will further boost the tourism sector, as well as the other supporting sectors. It is PPC’s hope that the domestic cruise operations will run smoothly in accordance with the prevailing SOPs and that international cruises will be allowed to operate in the near future,” said Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, Chairman of PPC.

Star Pisces bookings will be open in mid-December and available to all Malaysian citizens, foreigners with valid Malaysian long-term visit passes, as well as international tourists that had completed and passed the quarantine and home surveillance order by the Malaysian authorities. Vacationers can now look forward to a brand-new vacation option beyond the regular land-based ‘stay-cation’ concept and instead, experience a refreshing ‘Super Seacation’ cruise adventure with Star Pisces from RM199 onwards per person based on twin sharing. While cruising at sea, guests can enjoy the invigorating sea breeze and sunshine, as well as a multitude of leisure activities and recreational facilities on board Star Pisces, such as the pool, Jacuzzi, jogging track, hair and beauty services, massage, foot reflexology and gymnasium, high-tech VR games, duty free shopping, live entertainment stage shows and music performances, as well as inclusive meals, serving international and local favourite cuisine.

With safety being a priority for many vacationers these days, Star Cruises has completely re-examined and enhanced all of its health, hygiene and operating protocols to ensure the safest environment for everyone on board including social distancing measures, safe food and beverage handling procedures, as well as thorough cleaning and disinfection protocols.

Star Pisces also allows for 100% external fresh air to be filtered and supplied throughout the ship, including to each guest stateroom, ensuring a constant and healthy flow of fresh air with no-recirculation of air between staterooms. Star Pisces has also received the ‘Certification in Infection Prevention for the Marine industry (CIP-M)’ from the world’s leading and international global healthcare expert, DNV. The ship has also certified nurses and doctors, including an Infection Control Officer (ICO), a well-equipped Medical Centre with a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine for on board COVID-19 testing, as well as designated negative pressure Isolation Cabins.



"Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) is delighted to announce that the cruise industry in Malaysia will be staging a comeback on 22 December 2021. This is truly a joyful occasion as we are looking forward to jump-start the cruise services through the government's Phase 4 of the National Recovery Plan. PPSB will work closely with Star Cruises under Genting Cruise Lines to ensure safe and comfortable cruise trips for everyone. Now more than ever, tourists should no longer be concerned as the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) has been thoroughly inspected for the passengers' safety through strict SOP and guidelines to curb COVID-19. By working with Genting Cruise Lines, we intend to revitalise the domestic tourism sector and help it reach new heights in the coming years," remarked Dato' Sasedharan Vasudevan, CEO, Penang Port Sdn Bhd.

"Just like many parts of the world that are experiencing pandemic fatigue, residents in Malaysia also deserve a well-earned break. As such, we look forward to welcoming travellers from Malaysia on Star Pisces and to provide them with a safe and ultimately a memorable 'Super Seacation' cruise holiday," added Mr Kent Zhu.

About Genting Cruise Lines

Genting Cruise Lines is a division of Genting Hong Kong comprising of three distinct cruise brands – Star Cruises, Dream Cruises and Crystal Cruises – providing a range of cruises from contemporary cruises to ultra-luxurious vacation experiences spanning the sea and air.

Star Cruises is a pioneer in the Asia Pacific cruise industry and has been operating its contemporary cruise fleet since 1993, taking on the bold initiative to grow the region as an international cruise destination with its fleet consisting of SuperStar Gemini, SuperStar Aquarius and Star Pisces.

Star Cruises' commitment in offering best-in-class services and facilities is reflected in a host of recognitions and accolades received over the years. These include being inducted into the prestigious Travel Trade Gazette's "Travel Hall of Fame" for a twelfth year in 2019 in recognition of winning "Best Cruise Operator in the Asia-Pacific" for 10 consecutive years. Star Cruises was also recently voted "Asia's Leading Cruise Line" at the World Travel Awards for a ninth year in a row in 2020.

Dream Cruises was launched in 2016 delivers the highest level of guest service and spacious comfort in the region in the premium/luxury segments. Genting Dream which debuted in 2016 and World Dream, in 2017, serves the Hong Kong and Singapore markets and provide passengers with inspirational journeys at sea that are Asian at heart and international in spirit. Explorer Dream joined the fleet in April 2019 and now is positioned in Taiwan. The 208,000 gross ton Global Dream is being built in MV Werften, a subsidiary of Genting Hong Kong, in Germany for delivery in 2022.

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 rated 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 Service Cruise Line' at the Travel Trade Gazette's (TTG) China Travel Awards 2020 and 'Best Cruise Line – Cuisine', 'Best Cruise Line – Entertainment' and 'Best Cruise Line – Family' by the Travel Weekly Asia Readers' Choice Awards 2019.

Crystal Cruises has redefined the way the world views luxury travel by sea, river, land and air. The world-renowned Crystal Experience – featuring global journeys with Crystal Ocean Cruises, Crystal River Cruises, Crystal Yacht Cruises Crystal Expedition Cruises and Crystal Air – continues to entice the world's most discerning travellers with incomparable luxury and unparalleled personal service.

Honoured by the world's most respected media outlets and travel experts, Crystal has long legacy of excellence receiving more "World's Best" and "Readers' Choice" awards than any other cruise line in history. Among its recent accolades are inclusion in Condé Nast Traveler Magazine's "Gold List" (1997-2014, 2016-2020) and "Readers' Choice Award – Best Medium Cruise Line" (1992 & 1993, 1995-2005, 2007-2020) and "Readers' Choice Award – Best Small-Ship Cruise Line: Crystal Yacht Cruises" (2019-2020), TTG Luxury Travel, UK "Ultra-Luxury Cruise Line of the Year" (2020) and Travel + Leisure Magazine "Best River Cruise Line – Crystal River Cruises" (2017, 2020) to name only a few.

Through its family of brands, Genting Cruise Lines offers the widest and most imaginative spectrum of cruise products for the modern traveller, catering to all segments, geographies, life stages and travel styles.

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