

GENTING CRUISE LINES

Genting Cruise Lines to Establish Presence in the Sanya CBD and to Develop Domestic Cruise Itineraries Out of Hainan



Hong Kong/Sanya, 1 September 2020 – Genting Cruise Lines announced that the company is working to forge a strategic partnership with the Sanya CBD Administration and a prominent national travel industry corporation to establish a joint venture company to facilitate operations of Dream Cruises’ flagship in Sanya. The goal of the new joint venture will be to launch domestic cruise itineraries out of the central cruise hub of Hainan, and to support the development of a free trade, pilot cruise tourism zone on Hainan Island.

“We are keen to support the Chinese government’s efforts in rebuilding its travel and tourism sector by providing a safe and care-free vacation option for consumers,” said Mr Kent Zhu, President, Genting Cruise Lines. “Genting Cruise Lines has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with China, and especially in Hainan Island, for nearly 30 years and we will continue to build on the strong collaborative spirit we have forged together.”

Genting Cruise Lines’ rich history with Hainan Island has been marked by numerous milestones. From as early as 1994, Genting Cruise Lines’ ships have been visiting Hainan as a regular port of call, introducing millions of international travelers to the fabled beauty of Hainan Island via the convenience of a cruise vacation. In 2011, Genting Cruise Lines became the first international cruise company to homeport in Sanya, developing the city into an international cruise destination.

Sanya boasts an abundance of advantages to complement the pilot implementation of the “Hainan Cruise Port Sea-Upstream Route” plan, such as the first dedicated cruise terminal providing the only cruise itineraries to the Xisha islands in the country. The city’s location also allows for the longest number of cruising days for domestic sailings, and there are plans to further develop Sanya into the largest cruise homeport in China. The Sanya CBD, one of the 11 districts and parks implementing Hainan’s free trade port policies, manages the Sanya Headquarters Economy division, the CBD division and the cruise and yachting division, to establish a modern industrial system supported by professional services for the leisure sector.

Mr. Wu Haifeng, Vice Mayor of the Sanya Municipal People’s Government and President of the Sanya CBD Administration said, “Genting Hong Kong is the first cruise company to

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homeport in the city and with the longest deployment period and the highest number of sailings to date. Since its establishment, the Sanya CBD Administration has initiated planning for the industry and devised policies in support of the industry. We have also established a cruise and yachting service center and a representative system for commercial stakeholders, as well as hosted a Forum on the Innovation of the Cruise and Yachting Industry. Moving forward, the Sanya CBD will collaborate with the government to diversify the supply of cruise travel products in the market, to develop cruise destinations and extend the industry chain, with the aim to build Sanya into a key cruise travel hub in the Asia-Pacific region. The Sanya CBD Administration will continue to strive for excellence in its public service to the industry, to foster an ideal business environment for investors, as well as to work with companies to rebuild consumer confidence in cruise travel and to drive the sustained development of the cruise industry.”

To further boost tourism and reinforce the positioning of the Hainan Free Trade Port, the Hainan government announced earlier this year the pilot plan for the “Hainan Island Cruise Itineraries for Chinese-funded ‘Flag of Convenience’ Ships” providing more options for cruise companies.

Mr. Zhu added, “The establishment of a joint venture company in Sanya demonstrates our commitment and determination to further drive the development of cruise tourism in Hainan. Our aim is to provide a dedicated presence in Sanya, focused on promoting the rich cultural heritage of the island coupled with the wealth of cruise experience of Genting Cruise Lines. In the post-pandemic era of travel, we hope that the authorities will further relax their policy for cruise companies operating domestic cruises and we will leverage on policies in Hainan, such as the “Flag Of Convenience” pilot program, to entice inbound international travelers. The long-term goal is to put Hainan on the map as one of the most popular global cruise homeports and the central hub among popular destinations that can be easily reached within 24-hours.”

As the first cruise company in the world to launch updated preventive measures for a post-pandemic era and to ensure the safest environment for everyone on board its ships, Genting Cruise Lines has completely re-examined and enhanced all of its health, hygiene and operating protocols including thorough sanitization and disinfection and enhanced hygiene practices for guest cabins and crew member quarters, public areas and recreational facilities; social distancing in dining, entertainment and public areas; safe food and beverage handling procedures. All cruise ships in the Genting Cruise Lines fleet also feature 100% fresh air ventilation in staterooms and public areas, preventing cross-contamination of air flow, to provide total peace of mind to travelers.

“A testament to the efficacy of the company’s enhanced health and safety measures, we are proud to also report that Explorer Dream, the first cruise ship to resume operations after the global industry shutdown, has been operating in Taiwan for over a month without any incident and garnered high scores in terms of passenger satisfaction. The successful resumption of operations of Explorer Dream helped us gain invaluable experience for our upcoming deployments,” added Mr. Zhu. “It is our goal to provide our guests in Mainland China with same opportunity to enjoy a much deserved vacation experience marked by Dream Cruises’ reputation for unbeatable quality, hospitality and safety.”

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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 products from contemporary cruises to ultra-luxurious vacation experiences spanning the sea to air.

Founded in 1993, Star Cruises established the Asia-Pacific as a popular, world-wide cruise destination and, with its current fleet (SuperStar Aquarius, SuperStar Gemini, Star Pisces and The Taipan), continues to pioneer the contemporary cruise market in the region.

Launched in 2015, Dream Cruises delivers the highest level of guest service and spacious comfort in the region. Genting Dream which debuted in November 2016 and World Dream, in November 2017, were developed specifically for the China and Asia market, and provides passengers with inspirational journeys at sea that are Asian at heart and international in spirit. Explorer Dream, launched in April 2019, will further fuel Dream Cruises' global aspirations. Production is currently underway in Germany on two new Global Class ships that will join the fleet beginning in 2022.

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

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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