

**Star Cruises “Langkawi Escape” and “Straits of Malacca” Cruises from Penang Begins 13 May, 2021 for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Holidays**  
*Star Cruises first cruise line to resume sailing in Malaysia*



**Penang, 19 March 2021** – Genting Cruise Lines and Penang Port Sdn. Bhd (PPSB) is pleased to announce its plans to restart cruises in Penang with Star Cruises, offering Langkawi itineraries beginning May 13, 2021 at the start of the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Holidays on Star Cruises’ 40,053 tonnage Star Pisces cruise ship, which can accommodate up to 1,600 passengers.

The proposed Langkawi cruises will comprise of 2-Night “*Langkawi Escape*” and a series of 1-night “*Straits of Malacca*” Cruises. Star Pisces will become the first ship to resume sailings in Malaysia and one of the few in the world, contributing to the growth of tourism in Penang and Pulau Langkawi.

“Like all Malaysians, we have been eagerly looking forward to another vacation alternative during this period when overseas travel is not permitted,” said Cynthia Lee, VP for Genting Cruise Lines in Malaysia. “The new Langkawi itineraries will provide Malaysians the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures of cruising again and will bring much-needed benefits to the local workforce, airlines, restaurants, retailers and hotels for pre- and post-cruise stays in Penang and Langkawi.”

“The cruise services have always been the cornerstone in Penang, and what gave Penang its distinctiveness. With the persistent issue of the COVID-19 pandemic that has curbed domestic tourism, supporting the Genting Cruise Lines on ensuring safe and comfortable cruise trips is important to jumpstart the local cruise sector. As such, we will work closely with Genting Cruise Lines to relaunch the cruise trips with safety in mind and without sacrificing safety and quality,” Said Dato’ Sasedharan Vasudevan, CEO of Penang Port Sdn. Bhd. “We hope with this synergy we can witness higher standards of quality for the cruise services sector and revitalise the domestic tourism industry.”

Importantly, the resumption of cruises will revitalize the ailing travel agent sector which has been adversely affected by the pandemic and provide employment opportunities for more citizens.

Cruise resumption will benefit the whole value chain related to goods, services and materials associated with cruise operations, which Genting Cruise Lines has been advocating as part of its guiding principle in rebuilding the cruise economy for each of the homeports where cruise operations can re-start.

## **The Thrill of Traveling Returns**

Malaysian guests will be able to enjoy a brand-new vacation option that will take the regular “staycation” concept and turn it into a “Super Seacation” experience to take advantage of the invigorating sea air and sunshine. These new “Super Seacations” will combine the multitude of dining, leisure and recreation facilities on board the ship with engaging experiences that will keep guests of all ages entertained throughout their journey. Initially operating at a reduced capacity, all activities on board will be organized in accordance with permitted group sizes – specific to each activity – in line with the prevailing national policy, and measures will be in place to discourage close contact between groups.

Star Pisces’ new itineraries will highlight the breathtaking beauty of Langkawi. Known as the Jewel of Kedah, Langkawi is famed for its alluring and idyllic natural beauty and its majestic and spectacular cultural heritage. The two night “*Langkawi Escape Cruise*” departs Penang every Friday and Sunday and passengers can have 10 hours of port time to explore Langkawi. The one night “*Straits of Malacca Cruise*” will depart every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and passengers will be able to see all types of marine vessels in Straits of Malacca, which is the busiest straits in the world.

Departing from Penang, a world renowned exotic holiday destination and listed as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 2008, this homeport also boasts its own array of cultural sights and natural scenery. Nicknamed the Pearl of the Orient, Penang is famous for its soft sandy beaches and is popularly regarded as the food capital of Malaysia.

## **Comprehensive Health and Safety Measures**

Genting Cruise Lines is the number one choice for cruise safety and peace of mind with its pioneering efforts in establishing enhanced preventive measures, setting new standards for its ships and for the cruise industry.

The company was the first cruise line to resume service in Asia and Genting Cruise Line’s track record has been exemplary, having successfully completed about nine months of incident-free operations in Taiwan with Dream Cruises’ Explorer Dream, and about five months in Singapore with World Dream, welcoming more than 150,000 guests on board so far. Also recently announced, with her new Bahamas Escapes cruises from 3 July, Crystal Serenity will become the first ship to homeport in The Bahamas, as well as the first ocean ship to sail from the Americas since the cruise industry’s voluntary halt in operations almost a year ago. Penang will be the fifth homeport for Genting Cruise Line’s fleet, after Taiwan, Singapore, Nassau and Bimini in the Bahamas.

The experience gained through these operations and the close collaboration with local authorities to supplement existing protocols with local guidelines have helped Genting Cruise Lines develop a new norm of safe cruising including passenger testing before boarding and stringent health screening processes and guidelines prior to embarkation and disembarkation; upgraded crew quarantine procedures; thorough sanitization, disinfection and heightened hygiene practices for guest cabins, onboard public areas and recreational activities; and, enhanced food and beverage safety.

The fleet’s ships also boast 100% external fresh air filtered and supplied to each passenger cabin as well as on board public spaces to provide a safer environment than most hotels and office buildings.

Genting Cruise Lines will continue to work with all relevant local authorities in Malaysia in making further adjustments to its comprehensive set of protocols to accommodate local guidelines and ensure the safest environment for everyone upon resumption of cruises.

Third party endorsement of the company's health and hygiene protocols provide further reassurance with both Explorer Dream and World Dream obtaining the newly developed "Certification in Infection Prevention - Maritime (CIP-M)" from DNV, the largest classification society in the world. World Dream was also the first ship to have its CIP-M extended to three years as well as acquiring additional "CruiseSafe Certification" by the Singapore Tourism Board.

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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 also currently underway in Germany on two new Global Class ships.

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.

### **ABOUT STAR CRUISES**

Star Cruises is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Genting Hong Kong, a leading global leisure, entertainment and hospitality corporation. A pioneer in the Asia Pacific cruise industry, Star Cruises has been operating its 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, Star Pisces and The Taipan.

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.

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