



**Minister of Transport Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong officiates the launch of Star Cruises' deployment from Penang with Star Pisces**



**(Penang, 23 Dec 2021):** YB Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport Malaysia (left) and Captain Henrik Örtenblad of Star Pisces (right) officiating the launch of Star Pisces' safe cruises from Penang together with YBhg. Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, Chairman (PPC). (far left)

**Penang (Malaysia), 23 December 2021** – Star Cruises, a division of Genting Cruise Lines, together with Penang Port Commission (PPC) and Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) held a special ceremony today on Star Pisces to commemorate the ship's homeport deployment from Penang, which was officiated by the Minister of Transport Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong. With Star Cruises being the first international cruise line to restart safe cruises in Malaysia, its local presence will further boost the domestic tourism industry, providing exciting and unique vacation options beyond land-based staycations. As part of Star Cruises' *'Super Seacation'* cruise holiday, Star Pisces is pleased to launch its 1-Night Straits of Malacca cruise today, complemented by its 2-Night Langkawi Escape cruise.

At the special ceremony, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong was briefed on the safety and preventive measures implemented at the terminal and on the ship. As all embarking individuals are required to be fully-vaccinated, he also personally experienced the embarkation process and health screenings at the terminal. Captain Henrik Örtenblad also provided a briefing of the enhanced and stringent safety and preventive measures on Star Pisces, including the heightened cleaning and disinfection protocols; the 100% Fresh air filtered ventilation system with no recirculation of air between staterooms; the various medical-related facilities, such as the on board Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine for COVID-19, the medical ward and the designated negative pressure Isolation Cabins.



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*“On behalf of Genting Cruise Lines and Star Cruises, we are honoured to have the Minister of Transport Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong graced today’s occasion. We thank you and the ministries for the support and guidance, together with PPC and PPSB as well,”* said Madam Cynthia Lee, Vice President, Sales, Genting Cruise Lines. *“With Star Pisces now in operations, demand has been very encouraging. We are optimistic of the continued growth of the cruise industry in Malaysia, which will also revitalized the overall network of tourism related sectors, such as provisioning, bunkering, cruise terminal operations, employment, travel agents and tour-guides, as well as for the local businesses at the homeport and destinations. Gradually, we hope to expand our safe cruises to more local and international destinations, as well as bring tourists to Malaysia from our sister ships in the region,”* added Madam Cynthia Lee.

With guest and crew safety being the number one priority, Star Cruises has implemented enhanced and strict safety and preventive measures in accordance with Malaysia’s guidelines and international standards, receiving the ‘Certification in Infection Prevention for the Marine industry (CIP-M)’ from global healthcare expert, DNV. Additional on board safety measures include Star Pisces operating at a reduced passenger capacity of 50%, inclusive at the various on board venues with safe social distancing measures, mandatory facemasks wearing for guests and crew, no self-service at dining venues, high frequency of cleaning and disinfection, automated hand-washing machines and hand-sanitizers are readily available on board, a well-equipped medical centre with qualified nurses and doctors, including an Infection Control Officer (ICO).

The introduction of safe cruises from Penang in Malaysia will provide vacationers with exciting holiday choices via its ‘Super Seacation’ cruises with Star Pisces. Travellers can also opt for a quick ‘Super Seacation’ get-away and hop-on the 1-Night Straits of Malacca round-trip cruise from Penang, which departs every Thursday, Friday & Saturday, starting from RM199 per guest based on twin-sharing. So sit-back, relax and don’t miss this chance to enjoy Star Pisces and the many on board offerings and facilities while cruising on the open seas.

Guests can also catch the daily entertainment and live performances at the Galaxy of the Stars, as well as access various recreational facilities, including a pool and Jacuzzi, jogging track, karaoke, hair and beauty services, massage, foot reflexology and the gymnasium. Alternatively for the ultimate retail therapy, guests will have fun shopping at the board duty-free shops that offers a variety of merchandise at exciting prices.

In addition, guests can look forward to the 2-Night *Langkawi Escape* round-trip cruise from Penang, departing every Sunday and Tuesday, starting from RM399 per guest based on twin-sharing. Prior to arriving at Langkawi, guests can rejuvenate and travel in the comfort of their staterooms, as well as enjoy a variety of on board offerings, such as dining at our inclusive restaurants or at our specialty restaurants with up to 8 restaurants, bars and lounges, serving some of the best and authentic Asian and international cuisine.

Upon arriving at Langkawi, guests will have ample time on the island up to 10 hours. For the guests’ convenience, Star Cruises is also providing a series of tour options at affordable prices to discover the best of Langkawi. These include tours to popular tourist sites such as to Eagle Square, Langkawi Tower, duty free shopping-haven at Kuah town and The Zon Shopping Paradise Langkawi, Oriental Village with multiple attractions such as the Panorama Cable Car, Sky Bridge, Sky Dome, Sky Rex and more. To catch some of Langkawi’s beautiful nature, look out for the Mangrove tour or visit Cenang beach, among many other renowned places that Langkawi has to offer.



For more information and bookings on Star Pisces, please visit [www.starcruires.com](http://www.starcruires.com) or contact your local travel agents.



YB Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport Malaysia (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) giving the thumbs up of approval for the start of Star Pisces' domestic cruises in Malaysia together with Captain Henrik Örténblad of Star Pisces (left) and (from right to left) Madam Monaliza bt. Suhaimi, General Manager (PPC), YBhg. Dato Syed Mohamad bin Syed Murtaza, Chairman (PPSB), Mdm. Cynthia Lee, VP of Sales (Genting Cruise Lines) and YBhg. Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, Chairman (PPC).



YB Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport Malaysia receiving a crystal ship memento on behalf of Genting Cruise Lines from Mdm. Cynthia Lee, VP of Sales (Genting Cruise Lines) at the special launch on 23 December 2021.





YB Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong, Minister of Transport Malaysia (left) disembarking from Star Pisces at the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal together Mdm. Cynthia Lee, VP of Sales (Genting Cruise Lines) and YBhg. Datuk Tan Teik Cheng, Chairman (PPC).

Please download hi-res images at:

<https://gentinghk-my.sharepoint.com/:f/p/corpcomm/EseSXTT-aOVJqg0ZQG1WljQBnc-sEfgcSALAHQ3B8Qf4rw?e=TfGNCT>

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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 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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