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PRESS RELEASE

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**Star Cruises builds on the success of SuperStar Virgo's *Golden Sea Route* and launches *Sun-kissed Winter Escapes* to Japan and the Philippines**

Beat the winter blues with four alternating cruise journeys to seven sunny destinations

**Shanghai, China – 25 October 2017** – In wake of overwhelming market response to the launch of the “Golden Sea Route” this past summer, Star Cruises has announced that SuperStar Virgo will continue her homeport deployment in Shanghai from 30 November 2017 to 28 February 2018, offering four brand-new winter itineraries to seven destinations along the Pacific west coast. Guests departing from Shanghai may choose between the 8D7N *Triple Destination Winter Getaway* to the sunny Philippines and Japan, 6D5N *Charms of the Japanese Onsen* voyage, 5D4N *Picturesque Kyushu* journey, and 4D3N *Love of Okinawa* itinerary.

As a pioneer in the Asian cruise industry, Star Cruises continually strives to explore new horizons with unique itineraries. The brand-new SuperStar Virgo *Sun-kissed Winter Escapes* Virgo consist of four specially-curated journeys that originate from her Shanghai homeport, expanding the destination map of Star Cruises along the Pacific east coast – northwards to Osaka, Japan and southwards to Manila in the Philippines. This exclusive series of itineraries, which covers seven of the most popular East and Southeast Asian destinations, including Laoag and Manila in the Philippines, as well as Okinawa, Osaka, Beppu, Fukuoka and Kagoshima in Japan, provides Star Cruises with a unique and competitive edge that differentiates the brand in the cruise market of Shanghai.

Mr. Ang Moo Lim, President of Star Cruises says, “SuperStar Virgo’s innovative 8D7N *Golden Sea Route* summer itinerary to Japan was met with overwhelming market response – we were honoured to receive the prestigious Best Itinerary Award at the Shanghai Cruise Tourism Festival, which named the *Golden Sea Route* as the most valued cruise itinerary departing from Shanghai. In response to increasingly diversified demands for cruise destinations, as well as to accommodate age demographics and vacation periods that may vary from one occupation to another, Star Cruises has specially curated four winter itineraries featuring various durations and destination combinations, offering guests from Eastern and Northern China unprecedented flexibility to choose the ideal cruise holiday that best suits their needs.”



### **Triple Destination Winter Getaway: change of seasons in Japan and the Philippines**

Guests can leave the cold of the Shanghai winter behind as soon as they set foot on SuperStar Virgo. After a good night's sleep, guests will be greeted by a warm sea breeze on the deck as the cruise travels along the Pacific east coast, followed by the tropical sun of the Philippines in Laoag and Manila, as well as spring-like temperatures in Naha, where the climate is warm and temperate throughout the year. Over the course of this 7-night cruise, guests will travel to three different destinations in two countries, experiencing three seasonal changes at different latitudes.

### **Discover the Charms of Japanese Onsen**

Embark on SuperStar Virgo to learn more about the charms of Japanese *Onsens*, or hot springs, in Osaka and Beppu. The journey will begin with an on-board seminar by Ms. Hiroko Ishii, the one and only *Onsen Beauty* expert in Japan, who will share the knowledge and etiquette of onsen bathing in Japan. Before enjoying the hot springs in Osaka, guests may first indulge in local delicacies, world-class shopping and sightseeing in the ancient capital city of Japan; the ultimate onsen experience will take place in Beppu, the world's second largest source of thermal water and home of the famous "Eight Hells of Beppu".

### **Explore Picturesque Kyushu**

SuperStar Virgo's 5D4N *Picturesque Kyushu* journey will offer two alternate itineraries to Kagoshima and Fukuoka, where guests can immerse themselves in the natural and cultural beauty of Kyushu. With a scenic harbour dominated by Sakurajima, an active volcano in Kagoshima Bay, passengers can delight in sampling the over 2,000 hot springs in the area and the city's distinct, rich food culture; foodies also must not miss Fukuoka, the largest city in Kyushu and home of Japanese ramen.

### **Fall in Love with Okinawa**

Take the time to enjoy everything that Naha, the capital city of Okinawa, Japan has to offer! Travel back in time at Shuri-jō, the UNESCO World heritage site that was once home of Ryūkyū royalty; admire the wonders of nature at Gyokusendo cave, where rock formations of over 300,000 years old are found; or simply shop till you drop in the animated urban centre of Naha city! January will be the perfect time to plan a romantic trip to Yogi Park in Naha, one of the earliest cherry blossom viewing sites in Japan.

### **Learn something new every day on SuperStar Virgo**

Cruise travel is a hassle-free and relaxing vacation option that many golden-age guests enjoy – why not add some excitement to the journey and learn something new while you are on-board? Join the *Senior Cruiser Program* and enjoy exclusive access to Taiji Zen at Sea by Grandmaster Wang Xi'an, best known as Tai Chi master of business tycoon Jack Ma; enjoy delicious wellness menus designed



by the award-winning culinary team of Star Cruises, SCP talent show, book clubs, chess tournaments at sea and more!

The acclaimed Junior Cruiser Program will return to SuperStar Virgo this winter, taking kids on a fun-filled adventure with interactive and educational activities. Festive celebrations will keep up the cheerful vibe on-board, where guests will ring in Christmas, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year with the best parties at sea.

**SuperStar Virgo Sun-kissed Winter Escapes: 30 November 2017 to 28 February 2018**

	Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
<b>8D7N</b> <b>Triple Destination</b> <b>Winter Getaway</b>  Departures: 11 Nov 2017   12 Jan, 5 & 17 Feb 2018	Day 1	Shanghai		14:00
	Day 2	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 3	Laoag, the Philippines	12:00	19:00
	Day 4	Manila, the Philippines	10:00	19:00
	Day 5	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 6	Naha, Japan	16:00 (17:00)	-
	Day 7	Naha, Japan	-	01:00 (02:00)
	Day 8	Shanghai	07:00	

( ) local time indicated in brackets

	Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
<b>6D5N</b> <b>Charms of</b> <b>Japanese Onsen</b>  Departures: 7 & 15 Dec 2017   3, 26* & 31 Jan, 12 Feb 2018	Day 1	Shanghai		15:00
	Day 2	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 3	Osaka, Japan	09:30 (10:30)	18:30 (19:30)
	Day 4	Beppu, Japan	10:00 (11:00)	19:00 (20:00)
	Day 5	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 6	Shanghai	07:00	-

( ) local time indicated in brackets | \*Destination on Day 3 will be changed to Kobe, Japan



	Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
<b>5D4N</b> <b>Picturesque</b> <b>Kyushu- Fukuoka</b>  Departures: 23 Dec 2017   8 & 22 Jan 2018	Day 1	Shanghai		15:00
	Day 2	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 3	Fukuoka, Japan	07:00 (08:00)	17:00 (18:00)
	Day 4	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 5	Shanghai	07:00	-

( ) local time indicated in brackets

	Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
<b>5D4N</b> <b>Picturesque</b> <b>Kyushu- Kagoshima</b>  Departures: 27 Dec 2017   24 Feb 2018	Day 1	Shanghai		15:00
	Day 2	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 3	Kagoshima, Japan	07:00 (08:00)	17:00 (18:00)
	Day 4	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 5	Shanghai	07:00	-

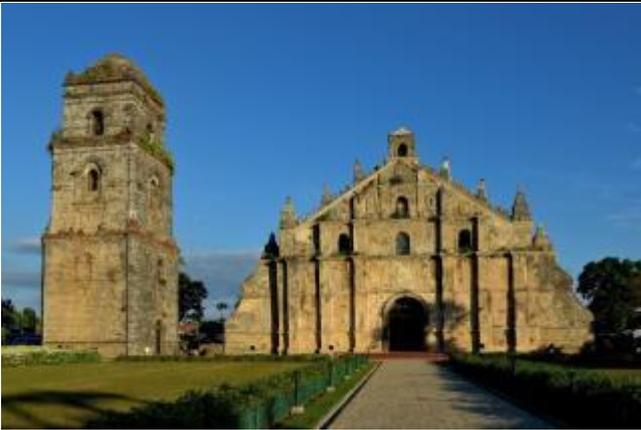
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	Day	Destination	Arrival	Departure
<b>4D3N</b> <b>Love of Okinawa</b>  Departures: 12 & 20 Dec 2017   19 Jan 2018	Day 1	Shanghai		15:00
	Day 2	Naha, Japan	15:00 (16:00)	23:59 (01:00)
	Day 3	Cruising Day	-	-
	Day 4	Shanghai	07:00	-

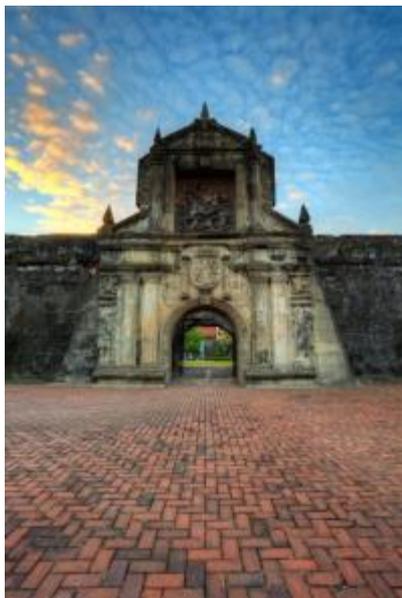
( ) local time indicated in brackets



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Laoag is the capital of Ilocos Norte, Philippines, located at the very north of Luzon. Laoag features Spanish colonial buildings, baroque churches and white-sand beaches



Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is known for its diverse entertainment, international food, shopping malls, historical architecture and museums.



The thriving urban centre of Naha offers a selection of colourful and energetic restaurants, hotels, bars and shops to explore. Plan a visit to Shuri-jō, a beautifully restored castle that was once the home of Ryūkyū royalty and a UNESCO World heritage site.



The second largest city in Japan, Osaka is an important business centre famous for the Osaka Castle, one of the largest and most beautiful in Japan, and for its many shrines and shopping at the Tenjinbashi-Suji arcade. Families can take in Universal Studios or the acclaimed Osaka Aquarium.



Beppu is one of Japan's most famed hot spring resorts and the world's second largest source of thermal water. "8 Hells of Beppu" is a spectacular collection of eight boiling *onsens*.



Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu and one of Japan's top culinary destinations, famous for traditional *Hakata* ramen noodles, *motsunabe* hot pot and *mentako* pasta with spicy cod roe, all served at traditional night-market stalls.



With a scenic harbour dominated by Sakurajima, an active volcano in Kagoshima Bay, passengers can delight in sampling the over 2,000 hot springs in the area and the city's distinct, rich food culture.

Please download hi-resolution photos at: <http://bit.ly/2xjnnds>

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### **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 a fleet of six vessels including SuperStar Virgo, SuperStar Libra, 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 the tenth consecutive year in 2017 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 the sixth year in a row in 2017.

### **About SuperStar Virgo**

The 13-storey SuperStar Virgo is equipped with 935 cabins, including sea-view cabins and balcony suites. Offering a wide variety of dining, shopping and entertainment choices, her facilities embrace Chinese, International and Japanese restaurants, an alfresco bar, foot reflexology salon and spa, gym, steam and sauna rooms, hairdressing salon, two-level theatre, duty-free shops, a 100-metre mega water slide, outdoor swimming pool, mini golf course, karaoke room, children's activity centre and more. A calendar of themed entertainment constantly refreshes the onboard fun and excitement, ensuring every voyage is a brand new enjoyable experience.



Official Website: <http://www.starcruises.com>  
WeChat: “SCTA-HK”或“麗星郵輪香港”  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/starcruises](http://www.facebook.com/starcruises)  
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**On Star Cruises, every journey is a voyage of discovery and surprise.**

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