



PRESS
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SUPERSTAR VIRGO BEGINS
THE FIRST LEG OF HER VOYAGE TO ASIA-PACIFIC

Star Cruises, "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*" is pleased to announce that the **brand new** US\$380 million 76,800-gross tonne **SuperStar Virgo** will begin the first leg of her epic voyage from the Meyer Werft shipyard in Papenburg, Germany to Asia-Pacific on **Saturday 26th June 1999** at **9.00 am (Germany time), 3.00 pm (Hong Kong/Malaysia/Perth/Singapore time) and 5.00 pm (Australian EST).**

For the June 26th sailing of **SuperStar Virgo** from Papenburg, readers can view her sailing on the internet at www.starcruises.com or www.meyerwerft.com as a camera will be mounted on the bridge of the ship.

"We are extremely pleased that the vessel is being completed one month ahead of schedule," says Dato' KT Lim, Chairman of Star Cruises. "We are absolutely delighted with the **SuperStar Virgo** which has more features and costs US\$20 million more than the **SuperStar Leo**, her twin sister which has already earned accolades in the industry. Together with **SuperStar Leo**, they will be the first and only two world-class megaships in Asia-Pacific," he added.

During the 40-nautical mile voyage, **SuperStar Virgo** will make her way under 2 major bridges – one of which will be temporarily dismantled to allow her to pass - and over a major highway before reaching the port of Emshaven in Holland by the sea. Over 20,000 people are expected to line the river to witness the

SuperStar Virgo making the first leg of her voyage to Asia-Pacific. This journey is more spectacular than crossing the Panama and Suez canals

Upon reaching Emshaven on June 29th, **SuperStar Virgo** will undergo a series of sea trials, which will test her state-of-the-art navigation system on board. It will also ensure that she meets the highest level of safety standards in cruising.

The sea trials will include a crash stop from a full speed of 25 knots (about 60km per hour) to a full stop within six lengths of the ship – a tremendous feat for a ship which is longer and wider than the height and breadth of the tallest hotel in the world, the Westin Stamford in Singapore. She will also complete a full turn within four lengths of the ship at full speed which demonstrates her maneuverability.

SuperStar Virgo will be **delivered** to Star Cruises on **August 3rd** and will be showcased to European agents in Emshaven on July 31st. The ship will sail to Mumbai (Bombay) where her maiden one week voyage to Singapore will commence on Friday August 20th, calling at the Maldives, Colombo and Langkawi. She will arrive in Singapore on Friday, August 27th and after one week will replace the SuperStar Leo on Friday, September 3rd.

“The delivery of yet another world-class megaship will reinforce the Star Cruises brand and maintain its commanding lead in Asia-Pacific,” says Mr Colin Au, the President and Chief Executive of Star Cruises.

“**SuperStar Virgo** will permit us its reposition **SuperStar Leo** in Hong Kong. These two megaships in the two cities of Hong Kong and Singapore will ensure our market leadership in Asia-Pacific,” he added.

Star Cruises “*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*”, is one of the five largest cruise lines in the world. By 2002, Star Cruises will have a fleet of 10 vessels

with a lower berth capacity of about 12,000 with annual growth of 25% per year for the corresponding period.

Star Cruises has also one of the youngest cruise fleets in the world with ships based throughout Asia with Singapore, Port Klang, Phuket, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei and Osaka/Kobe as ports of embarkation by early 2000.

Star Cruises has offices in Australia (Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth); Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand), Europe (Austria, Germany and United Kingdom) and the United States of America.

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