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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**INTERNATIONAL**

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**STAR CRUISES SHOWCASES SUPERSTAR ARIES IN FUKUOKA, JAPAN AND GOES ON A SERIES OF SHOWCASES IN PUSAN, CHEJU AND NAGASAKI**

Star Cruises, “*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*” is pleased to announce the arrival of **SuperStar Aries** in Fukuoka, Japan today following her relocation voyage from Laem Chabang, Bangkok. **SuperStar Aries** will be showcased in Fukuoka between **October 29<sup>th</sup>** and **31<sup>st</sup>, 2000**.

She will then embark on a series showcases in Japan and Korea and will call at Pusan, Cheju Island and Nagasaki on **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000** respectively.

Present to witness the arrival and showcase of **SuperStar Aries** were dignitaries from the Hakata Port and Harbour Bureau, travel trade-related professionals, travel agents and members of the media.

Familiarisation tours were organised onboard the **SuperStar Aries** where guests, members of the media, travel agents and travel trade professionals were given a first-hand introduction of the ship’s features and facilities. In conjunction with the much-anticipated arrival of **SuperStar Aries**, there will be a series of five inaugural cruises on **October 31<sup>st</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000**.

For her new cruise season between **October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000** and **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001**, **SuperStar Aries** will be offering **5-Day/4-Night** and **4-Day/3-Night Sea of Japan Cruises** to islands and destinations in Cheju Island, Nagasaki and Pusan from her homeport in Fukuoka. Pusan will also serve as an embarkation point for passengers from Korea.

“Star Cruises is confident that **SuperStar Aries** will be equally well-received by the people of Japan and Korea given the positive response received when **SuperStar Taurus** was launched early this year offering itineraries in these two countries,” said Mr. Chong Chee Tut, Chief Operating Officer of Star Cruises.

“Besides generating another tourism revenue base for the economy of Japan and Korea, **SuperStar Aries** will provide both the people of Japan and Korea an alternative vacation experience in Japan.”

“Star Cruises looks forward to a successful cruise season for **SuperStar Aries** with the continuous support from the governments and people of Japan and Korea, local port authorities, travel agents and members of the media,” added Mr. Chong.

#### **MORE ON SUPERSTAR ARIES**

Formerly the MS Europa, **SuperStar Aries** was rated “The Best Cruise Ship in the World” in 1997 by the authoritative Berlitz Complete Guide to Cruising and Cruise Ships. At 37,000-grt, 200m in length and 28.5m in width, **SuperStar Aries** has 339 cabins with a capacity for 700 passengers. She has luxurious interior, first-class recreation facilities, piano and show lounges, elegant food and beverage outlets, having undergone a US\$20 million refit and refurbishment exercise.

#### **MORE ON FUKUOKA**

Located at the southernmost tip of Japan, Fukuoka is the main gateway to the beauty and attractions of Kyushu Island. Visitors will marvel at the unique theme parks, picturesque view of the surrounding mountains and many traditional festivals held throughout the year. Fukuoka also boasts an excellent selection of restaurants.

#### **MORE ON NAGASAKI**

Nagasaki has gone down in history as one of the first atomic bomb sites early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This poignant image of Nagasaki today continuously lures visitors to the various bomb sites, namely Heiwa-Koen (Peace Park) which is presided over by the Nagasaki Peace Statue. This modern city remains as one of the major contact points with the West.

### **MORE ON PUSAN**

Pusan teems with historical sites which feature unique temples and shrines. At Kwongju, once the powerful capital of the peninsula, visitors will find an open museum with ancient monuments, temples, relics and treasures of a bygone era.

### **MORE ON CHEJU ISLAND**

Cheju Island is one of Korea's most popular tourist attractions with its bizarre lava rock formations, cascading waterfalls, scenic coastlines and old world charms that blend harmoniously with modern architecture. Cheju is also touted as Korea's "Hawaii".

### **MORE ON STAR CRUISES**

Following the acquisition of NCL Holdings this year, Star Cruises "*The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific*" is now the fourth largest cruise line in the world operating a combined fleet of 20 ships with over 20,000 lower berths. By end 2002, with the three ships currently on order, Star Cruises with NCL will have about 28,000 lower berths.

Star Cruises also has one of the youngest and most modern cruise fleets in the world with the highest safety standards. Star Cruises is the only cruise line to own a US\$5 million world-class ship simulator in its operational headquarters in Malaysia and together with the Danish Maritime Institute, trains all Star Cruises' officers in addition to a further 500 officers for Maersk Sealand and other shipping lines each year. Star Cruises is the winner of the Third Annual "Salute to Youth and Training 2000" awarded by Lloyd's List and International Maritime Industry in London in March, 2000.

Presently, Star Cruises' 11 ships are based throughout Asia-Pacific with Singapore, Port Klang (Malaysia), Phuket, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Taipei, Kobe, Fukuoka and Pusan as ports of embarkation. Star Cruises' award-winning fleet has the best services afloat with the highest crew-to-passenger ratio reflecting the high standards of the hospitality industry in Asia-Pacific.

Star Cruises has offices in Asia (China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand); Australia (Sydney, Melbourne,

Brisbane and Perth), Europe (Germany, Sweden and United Kingdom) and the United States of America. With a number of branches in some countries such as China, India and Australia, Star Cruises is represented in 25 locations worldwide.

The NCL group operates a fleet of nine ships under two brands. **Norwegian Cruise Line**, with seven ships, offers mainstream cruises in the Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Bermuda, and the Exotics. **Orient Lines**, with two ships, offers destination-oriented cruises in Europe in the summer months and worldwide, as far as Antarctica, in the fall-through-spring. Both NCL and Orient Lines market primarily in North America but also extensively in the UK, Europe, South America, and Asia.

Star Cruises' web-site is at [www.starcruises.com](http://www.starcruises.com) which provides more information on the cruise line and the itineraries.

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