



**COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT
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INTERNATIONAL**

**STAR CRUISES TO REDEPLOY SISTER-SHIPS, SUPERSTAR LEO
AND SUPERSTAR VIRGO TO AUSTRALIA**

Star Cruises, "The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific" is deploying two of the world's most luxurious cruise ships, the SuperStar Leo and the SuperStar Virgo to new bases in Sydney and Perth, Australia respectively. The ships are due to arrive on Thursday, 24th April 2003 - SuperStar Leo in Cairns, North Queensland and SuperStar Virgo in Perth.

SuperStar Leo and SuperStar Virgo have been operating in Hong Kong and Singapore since their delivery from Europe in 1998 and 1999 respectively. The two ships have over the years enhanced the skylines of two of Asia's leading air-sea hubs.

"The decision to deploy the ships to Australia is a result of the continuing market challenges and difficult operating conditions we have been facing in our core markets in Asia which warranted an immediate review of the ships' current itineraries. Star Cruises is using the advantage of the deployment flexibility of its ships to operate the larger vessels in non-affected SARS countries," said Mr. Chong Chee Tut, Star Cruises' Chief Operating Officer.

"These ships and cruising generally have proven popular with an increasing number of Australians and their speed, ultra-modern navigational equipment and comprehensive dining and recreational facilities were designed for total flexibility including their swift deployment," added Mr. Chong.

The ships would initially be based in Australia for one-to-three months to evaluate their viability. There are plans to sell the Star Cruises Australian cruise itineraries in the US, UK and Asia as well as around Australia and New Zealand.

Star Cruises' Senior Vice President of International Sales and Marketing, Mr. Gary Sharman who is presently in Sydney to supervise the redeployment programme said the ships should prove a boon for local tourism.

"The arrival of the ships is expected to dovetail well with recent initiatives by Australian tourism bodies to attract more overseas tourists, especially New Zealanders. While Australians are also showing a reluctance to travel to some popular international destinations, there is evidence that domestic travel here is strong. Being able to depart from home ports will give them peace of mind and security as well as a cruise experience they would normally get if they travelled overseas," added Mr Sharman.

"SuperStar Leo will take on local passengers and depart Cairns on Anzac Day, Friday, 25th April 2003 cruising between stopovers in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne before returning to Sydney on Sunday, 4th May 2003. She will then commence regular cruises from Sydney, including nine- and ten-night itineraries to South Pacific and various Australian ports."

"SuperStar Virgo will take on local passengers in Perth before commencing cruises along the West Australian seaboard, north to Broome and then across the Great Australian Bight to Adelaide and Melbourne," said Mr. Sharman.

The twin sister ships are the first newbuilds in the Star Cruises fleet designed to introduce resort-style cruising to Asia as Star Cruises embarked on pioneering the development of the cruising landscape in the region. When delivered in 1998 and 1999 respectively, the SuperStar Leo and SuperStar Virgo were among the fastest cruise ships in the world in the 75,000-gross tonne and above category with a maximum speed of 25.5 knots.

MORE ON SUPERSTAR LEO AND SUPERSTAR VIRGO

Both ships have almost identical statistics at 76,800-grt, 268m in length, 32.2m in width with 980+ cabins and a lower berth capacity of 1,980+ passengers.

SuperStar Leo and **SuperStar Virgo** offer a truly relaxing “freestyle” cruise experience that promises the best in onboard dining, recreation and entertainment. The world-class ships offer luxurious accommodation, endless entertainment options including cinema, live shows, karaoke, discos and indoor and outdoor recreation facilities. There is also the swimming pool, jacuzzi, hair salon, massage services and gymnasium facilities for exercise and relaxation. Teenagers will have a wild time checking out the video arcade which boasts some of the latest games while children can play computer games, watch a movie, laze around or take a nap at the Charlie's Child Care Centre which also comes with child minding services.

Incentive and meetings groups can also make use of the variety of business and meeting facilities that can cater to varying group sizes. Business and meeting facilities come with projector, video and presentation tools including secretarial services. Star Cruises' world-class ships are complemented by an international crew from over 20 nations offering pampering and warm Asian hospitality with a high crew-passenger ratio of 1:2 – which is amongst the highest in the cruise industry today.

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SuperStar Leo and SuperStar Virgo – largest twin sister ships in Asia-Pacific

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