



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

INTERNATIONAL

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**SPECIAL CRUISE CHARTER ON SUPERSTAR GEMINI BY JTB CORPORATION
FROM JAPAN TO KOREA AND CHINA , 18TH TO 24TH SEPTEMBER 2004**

Star Cruises *The Leading Cruise Line in Asia-Pacific* is pleased to announce a special 6-night cruise charter on **SuperStar Gemini** which departed from Fukuoka, Japan this morning for Busan, South Korea and Shanghai, China.

The special charter by the JTB Corporation is in conjunction with the forthcoming project involving the Mayors of Fukuoka, Busan and Shanghai to jointly contribute towards promoting tourism, cultural exchanges, educational and economic growth, business opportunities as well as enhance ties amongst the three cities. More than 1,000 people embarking and disembarking from the three cities will get together to foster cultural harmony and knowledge sharing onboard **SuperStar Gemini**.

SuperStar Gemini arrived in Fukuoka early this morning and the special charter was given a rousing send-off by the Japanese fire ship HIRYU spraying jets of coloured water as **SuperStar Gemini** sailed out of Hakata port. The departing ceremony complete with a brass band was graced by the Mr Hayao Hora, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Mr Hirotarō Yamasaki, Mayor of Fukuoka City, Mr Hidetomo Tajiri, Chairman of City of Commerce Fukuoka, Mr Hisayoshi Goto, Chairman of Yamakasa and other key members of the project.

SuperStar Gemini departed Fukuoka on 18th September 2004 with more than 700 guests making overnight calls at Busan, South Korea and Shanghai in China allowing guests to have more time to enjoy the attractions of the cities before returning to Fukuoka on 24th September 2004.

On 18th September, Star Cruises' Chief Operating Officer, Mr Chong Chee-Tut exchanged a memento with the Mayor of Fukuoka City, Mr. Hirotarō Yamasaki and in line with the cultural exchange initiative, special awards were presented to 7 junior high school students who have

been selected as International Children Ambassadors with their writings and drawings at the Galaxy of Stars show lounge.

Ceremonies have also been planned in Busan and Shanghai with traditional music bands in attendance at the quayside to welcome passengers. In addition, there will be an exchange of mementos between the Captain of **SuperStar Gemini** and the respective mayors at each destination in Busan and Shanghai.

SuperStar Gemini will arrive in Busan on the evening of 18th September 2004 and will depart for Shanghai on 19th September 2004. She will berth in Shanghai for one night before returning to Fukuoka on 24th September 2004.

A major Fukuoka Festival highlight in Shanghai will be the Hakata Gion Yamakasa Parade, a Hakata Dolls carriage weighing one tonne carried by about 300 Yamakasa men and Dontaku, a traditional Japanese Folk Dance Parade along Nanking Road, on 21st September.

“We are indeed pleased that **SuperStar Gemini** has been selected as the vehicle for the charter and are truly honoured to be associated with this mega tourism project, seen as an important milestone towards further strengthening of relations in the areas of trade and tourism amongst the three cities. We look forward to playing a continued role in supporting the efforts of the three countries in enhancing these relationships that will be beneficial to all parties”, said Mr. Chong Chee-Tut, the Chief Operating Officer of Star Cruises.

“This special charter cruise speaks volumes about the versatility of the cruise product and augurs well for Star Cruises’ efforts in further developing the cruise potential in Asia through widening our market segments”, he added.

MORE ON SUPERSTAR GEMINI

SuperStar Gemini at 19,093 gross tonne is a world-class cruise ship with international and Asian dining, entertainment and recreation facilities. Her facilities include a swimming pool, restaurant and bars, hair salon, spa, well-appointed Karaoke rooms and many more that can cater to all types of passengers, young and old, singles and family members.



SuperStar Gemini

ABOUT STAR CRUISES

Star Cruises, the third largest cruise line in the world is a global cruise brand presently operating a combined fleet of 17 ships with over 22,000 lower berths, with cruises to destinations and islands in Asia-Pacific, North and South America, Hawaii, Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Mediterranean, Bermuda and the Antarctica under the Star Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, NCL America, Orient Lines and Cruise Ferries brands.

Star Cruises is represented in more than 20 locations worldwide with offices in Australia, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

For more information on Star Cruises and NCL, please visit www.starcruiises.com and www.ncl.com

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