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# Star tourists visit KK

By ANNA VIVIENNE

**S**tar Cruises ships can increase their tourists' interest in Sabah by going around the beautiful tourism spots along the State Coastline.

Sabah has a beautiful coastline with wonderful sights that are interesting to tourists. It is only right therefore that they are promoted to the international community as places of interest.

Offshore Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital, there are ten islands that spot beautiful beaches and marine wonders that will fascinate divers and landlubbers alike.

Sail from Kota Kinabalu towards the North and cruisers will enjoy the blueness of the sea against the sky, the white shore in the distance with swaying palm trees like a welcoming committee.

And the ship upon coming towards the Tip of Borneo will bring its occupants to a beautiful windswept point of land which is of much significance to the natives. There when the sun sets, the sea seems to turn into molten gold and the horizon into a darker hue.

Sail from Kudat and towards Sandakan, and the Star tourists will enjoy a city which has so much history behind its evolution. Here soldiers' feet thump the ground, marched towards a camp that would be the last place of domicile for many. But then again, where sorrow once dwelled, a park now thrive. Not far from there is the Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, the Kinabatangan River where crocodiles and proboscis monkeys live alongside with the Pygmy Elephants. This is a place where one will feel peace as the rainforest is like a balm to any weary soul.

Towards Tawau where tourists can look up the

Sipadan island and many more interesting place to visit. These areas have deep seas and are able to accommodate large ships.

So much to show and share.

Tan Sri Chong Kah Kiat, the Minister of Tourism Sports and Environment shared all these information and more with crew and staff of the STAR Cruise ship Gemini.

"We hope that the Star Cruise can consider stopping at more destination in Sabah. I am sure that your guests will be very interested in what we have to offer. As you know we have beautiful islands and fascinating rainforests. In the State of Sabah, we also have 40 ethnic groups with their own colourful costumes and traditions. But they all share one traits... hospitality. Sabah is actually a perfect place for Star cruises to come to," he said.

Two Star Cruises ships were at the harbour yesterday. More than 2200 passengers from the world community were aboard and stopped to shop and sightsee in the State Capital.

The Superstar Gemini and the Superstar Virgo were docked side by side; the Gemini was from Nhat Thang Vietnam while Virgo was from Singapore. Gemini left for Kuching last night at 8pm while Virgo sailed for Singapore an hour later.

Gemini has a capacity of 800 passengers with facilities that include a swimming pool, restaurants, bars, hair salons, and spa and karaoke rooms. She tours around South East Asia and Hongkong.

The Superstar Virgo takes tourists along the Straits of Malacca and Andaman Sea. It can accommodate about 2000 people at any one time. It has 980 cabins.

They have a wide range of suites and staterooms to choose from, according to one's tastes and budgets.

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