

MSC Orchestra Singapore homeport: eight to 12-night cruises from Q4 2028, bookings open 14 December

Description

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The MSC Orchestra Singapore homeport deal is confirmed: MSC Cruises and the Singapore Tourism Board announced on 16 November 2026 a three-year partnership that brings the ship here from Q4 2028. It will be MSCâ??s first homeport deployment in Singapore. Itineraries for the new sailings open for booking from 14 December 2026.

That is two years away, so no one is packing yet. But it gives local cruise fans a long runway to plan leave and budgets.

What the MSC Orchestra Singapore homeport plan covers

Under the deal, MSC Orchestra will sail eight to 12-night itineraries out of Singapore during the winter season. Those cruises will call at ports in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia. The announcement did not list individual ports, ship dates or fares.

- Start: Q4 2028, with winter 2028/29 as the first season
- Length: eight to 12 nights per sailing
- Regions: Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia
- Booking: itineraries open from 14 December 2026
- Commitment: three years



Source: MSC Cruises

MSC Orchestra will become the cruise lineâ??s second ship in Asia, joining MSC Bellissima. After each winter season in Singapore, the ship will move on to Japan, South Korea and Greater China.

A refit before it arrives

MSC says the ship will undergo a major refurbishment before it starts in Asia. The headline addition is the MSC Yacht Club, the lineâ??s â??ship within a shipâ• concept with its own suites and private spaces.

New dining is part of the plan as well. MSC lists a Butcherâ??s Cut steakhouse and a Kaito Sushi Bar. The MSC Aurea Spa and the fitness facilities will also be upgraded.



Source: MSC Cruises

The refit news is not new for the ship itself. MSC announced earlier in 2026 that the Yacht Club would go onto MSC Orchestra in Q1 2027, ahead of Mediterranean sailings from Bari in Italy.

What it means for Singapore

MSCâ??s chief executive Gianni Onorato described Asia as an important part of the companyâ??s long-term growth. STBâ??s Jean Ng said the three-year commitment reflects the strength of Singaporeâ??s cruise ecosystem and passenger demand. The board added that longer sailings give residents and visitors more options, and that neighbouring ports should see more cruise visitors.

The longer itineraries are a change from the short, no-fly runs most Singaporeans know. An eight to 12-night trip is a proper holiday, so you would need to budget leave and compare fares against flying to each destination separately. The upside is no repacking between countries, which MSC leans on in its pitch.

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Explora Journeys, another brand in the MSC Group, will also run its first cruises from Singapore in 2027. Between the two, the group will have both a contemporary and a luxury brand sailing from here.

What we still do not know

The announcement leaves out several practical details. There is no word yet on fares, cabin categories, departure dates or which terminal the ship will use. MSC also did not say how many sailings there will be each season.

Those answers should arrive when bookings open on 14 December. Until then, treat the Q4 2028 start as the headline and everything else as pending.

Planning ahead

If you are tempted, here is what to do now, and what to hold off on.

- Note 14 December 2026 as the date itineraries open, and check MSCâ??s Singapore site then
- Wait for fares and cabin categories before setting a budget, as none were published
- Check your passport validity and visa needs for each port once the itineraries are out
- Consider a pre- or post-cruise stay, which MSC says guests can add to explore the city

While you wait, our other travel stories may help. See how Singapore Airlines is upgrading its cabins from 2027, how Changi Airport is rolling out autonomous wheelchairs, and how the Desaru ferry copes with monsoon seas.

The full announcement is on the Singapore Tourism Board website.

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