



Windstar – Who We Are

Windstar Cruises' yacht-style cruises blend a casual, fun-loving atmosphere with unique (often exclusive) ways to get closer to the world's most inspiring destinations. A fleet of Wind Class sailing yachts and Star Class all-suite yachts cruise throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Alaska, Canada and New England, Tahiti and the South Pacific, Japan and Southeast Asia.

Windstar's fleet is the market leader in yacht-style cruising calling on more than 330 off-the-beaten-path and popular ports in nearly 80 countries with yachts that carry between 148 to 342 guests. A relaxed and unpretentious approach creates a home-like environment at sea conducive to connection and friendship.

The award-winning line is known for its friendly, casual ambiance paired with luxury amenities, port-intensive itineraries, exceptional service and an innovative culinary program. Windstar Cruises is a part of Xanterra Travel Collection®, an award-winning, globally diversified travel company.

Windstar – A Company History

The line was established as Windstar Sail Cruises in 1984, and the first ship, *Wind Star*, was launched in 1986, followed by *Wind Song* in 1987 and *Wind Spirit* in 1988. (Both *Wind Star* and *Wind Spirit* sail with the company today.)

Holland America Line purchased Windstar Sail Cruises in 1988 and rebranded the company as Windstar Cruises. Holland America became a subsidiary of Carnival Corporation in 1989. In 1998, Windstar acquired the sail cruiser *Club Med I* from Club Med Cruises and rechristened her as *Wind Surf*. The ship is one of the world's largest commercial sailing ships and still sails with Windstar today.

In 2007, Carnival sold Windstar to Ambassadors International. In 2011, Ambassadors International filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, and an affiliate of the Xanterra Travel Collection® purchased it at auction.

In 2013, Windstar purchased three all-suite yachts from Seabourn, effectively doubling the size of the fleet. These three Star Class yachts were renovated, and *Star Pride* joined the fleet in 2014, with *Star Breeze* and *Star Legend* debuting in 2015.

In 2018, Windstar announced an initiative to "stretch" each Star Class yacht, installing a new section that lengthens each vessel approximately 84 feet and adds 50 new suites, taking guest capacity from 212 to 312. The work also includes the addition of state-of-the-art public spaces including two new dining locations; new shop and retail space; an enlarged fitness center; and a new world-class spa. In addition, the renovation included a comprehensive re-engine project

for each ship with installation of efficient engines plus advanced wastewater treatment systems (AWTS). The project represents an overall capacity increase of 27 percent for the small ship line. The Star Plus Initiative was completed in 2022.

In 2024, Windstar announced a multi-million-dollar initiative, Setting Sails: A Wind Class Refresh, to redesign and update interiors of all three sailing yachts with completion set for 2027.

Two new all-suite Star Class ships are joining the company – Star Seeker in December 2025 and Star Explorer in December 2026. Each ship has a guest capacity of 224 guests with 112 suites featuring full private verandas or infinity windows. Star Seeker, the first new-build for the Star Class, will sail in Alaska in summer 2026 and then Japan and Southeast Asia. Star Explorer sails year round in the Mediterranean.

All Windstar ships are registered in the Bahamas except for Star Seeker and Star Explorer which are registered in Madeira, Portugal. The company is headquartered in Miami, Florida.

Windstar – What's Different

Windstar's yacht-style ships can enter ports that are inaccessible to larger cruise liners and visit more off-the-beaten-path and unique ports, like Monemvasia, Montserrat and Fakarava. Also due to Windstar's small size, we can dock in the heart of major ports (like Old Town Dubrovnik and Venice) as larger cruise ships pass by, plus sail up rivers to dock in the heart of scenic regions.

Windstar has a unique Open Bridge Policy, meaning that guests can wander onto the bridge when the ship is at sea, chat with the crew (the captain is there quite often), and even sit down and enjoy a cup of coffee with him/her.

When anchored in many locations, guests can swim, kayak, paddleboard, and relax on AquaBana floating loungers right from the Marina at the back of the yacht. Guests can check out complimentary snorkel gear for the week.

Windstar's *Wind Surf* is one of the largest sailing ships in the world. She is two football fields long and has five masts, towering 221 feet and supporting 26,881 sq. feet of sails. Her speed record under sail power alone is 15.8 knots.

Windstar – By the Numbers

8 Ships
(3 classic sailing yachts; 5 all-suite yachts)

342 Guests on our Largest Ship. Wind Surf

1 to 1.5 Staff to Guest Ratio

1,375 Square Feet in Our Biggest Accommodation (the Grand Owner's Suite)