



## Windstar – Who We Are

Windstar Cruises operates a six-ship fleet of Wind Class sailing yachts and Star Class all-suite yachts cruising throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Costa Rica and the Panama Canal, Canada and New England, Tahiti and the South Pacific, and South America. Windstar's fleet is the market leader in small ship cruising calling on more than 275 off-the-beaten-path and popular ports in nearly 80 countries with boutique ships that carry between 148 and 342 guests. 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 offering once-in-a-lifetime experiences in some of the most beautiful and iconic places on earth.

## 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 considered to be the world's largest commercial sailing ship and still sails with Windstar today – a major renovation in late 2019 brought new suites, upgraded public spaces, and a transformed spa.)

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 ships from Seabourn, effectively doubling the size of the fleet. The ships without sails (referred to as power 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 ship, installing a new section of ship 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 includes 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 all three sailing yachts with completion set for 2026.

Two new all-suite Star Class ships will join the company – Star Seeker in December 2025 and Star Explorer in 2026. Each ship has a guest capacity of 224 guests with 112 suites featuring full private verandas or infinity windows. Star Seeker will sail in Alaska in summer 2026 and then Japan and SE Asia.

All Windstar ships are registered in the Bahamas. The company is headquartered in Miami, Florida.

### **Windstar – What’s Different**

Windstar’s ships can enter ports that are inaccessible to larger cruise liners, meaning we tend to 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.

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 lounge on floating mats right from the Watersports Platform on 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**

6 Ships  
(3 classic sailing yachts; 3 all-suite yachts)

275 Ports

80 Countries

342 Passengers on our Largest Ship

79 Days on the Longest Itinerary

1 to 1.5 Staff to Guest Ratio

2,300 Shore Excursions

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