



News Release

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For Immediate Release

GALVESTON DOUBLES BUSINESS WITH WORLD'S #1 CRUISE LINE

CARNIVAL TO HOMEPORT A SECOND FUN SHIP

MS Jubilee Begins Galveston Cruises

Galveston, Texas...August 17, 2002...The Port of Galveston strengthened its position as the number one cruise port in the western Gulf of Mexico today with the arrival of Carnival Cruise Lines' cruise ship *M/V Jubilee*, doubling its business at the Port of Galveston.

The *M/V Celebration* began sailing from Galveston Island in September 2000. The *Jubilee's* new itinerary will complement the *Celebration* by offering 4- and 5-day cruises on an alternate schedule, sailing from the Port of Galveston every other Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

"Carnival's big white Fun Ships provide a festive backdrop for our flourishing waterfront and historic shopping district," stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director of the Port of Galveston. "Carnival's commitment to Galveston and its investment in our business community is the result of a joint effort by the Board of Trustees, the strong backing of the Galveston business community and the Galveston City Council to bring cruising to Galveston Island. The belief by many that 'cruising from Galveston' was indeed a viable option for the Port and tourism interests on Galveston

Island is now being supported by the commitment by cruise lines to sail from The Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island."

Galveston has made remarkable strides in attracting new visitors to Galveston Island. From September 2000 when Galveston's first year-round cruise operation began at the Port of Galveston until mid-August 2002, approximately 297,000 cruising tourists (594,000 revenue passengers) visited Galveston Island. Every cruise has sailed at 100% capacity.

Local merchants benefit from the growing cruise trade. Galveston is unique among American cruising ports, with restaurants, shops and other tourist attractions literally next door to the cruise terminal. Passengers visit area merchants while waiting for the ship to sail. And cruise ships, and their crews, are big buyers, too. Galveston area businesses supplying everything from fuel to flowers are enjoying increased sales.

A History - The Port of Galveston and Carnival Cruise Lines

- **June 16, 1999** - The Port of Galveston announced that it had enticed Carnival Cruise Lines to homeport the *Celebration* at The Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island for 72 cruises annually.
- **September 27, 2000** - The Port of Galveston rededicated the new \$10.6 million Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island.
- **September 30, 2000** - Carnival Cruise Line's *M/V Celebration* sailed on its inaugural voyage from the Port of Galveston.
- **June 22, 2001** - Just 10 months after the start-up of service from the Port of Galveston, Carnival announced that it would double capacity at Galveston with the deployment of the *Celebration's* sister ship, the 1,486-passenger *Jubilee*, in the summer of 2002.
- **July 12, 2001** - The Port of Galveston marked the 100,000th-passenger (200,000 revenue passenger) to sail from the Port of Galveston.
- **May 7, 2002** - The Port of Galveston announced that Carnival Cruise Lines would deploy the 2,052-passenger *Elation* to Galveston Island in September, 2003.
- **June 3, 2002** - The Port of Galveston marked the 250,000th passenger (500,000 revenue passenger) to sail from the Port of Galveston.
- **August 17, 2002** - Carnival Cruise Line's *M/V Jubilee* sailed on its inaugural voyage from the Port of Galveston.

The Port of Galveston is a landlord port, owned by the City of Galveston and managed by a City Council-appointed Board of Trustees.

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