

NEWS RELEASE

For Information, Contact:
Judy Slocum
Port of Galveston
409-766-6119
jslocum@portofgalveston.com

GALVESTON RECOGNIZED IN MAJOR CRUISE PUBLICATIONS

Galveston Ranks as 7th and 10th

Galveston, Texas...January 28, 2002...Galveston has been prominently featured in articles in major cruise publications, *Lloyd's Cruise International*, and *Travel Weekly*. Both magazines feature topics directly related to cruising and cruise operations.

The Port of Galveston ranked seventh and tenth in listings compiled by *Lloyd's Cruise International* of the Top 20 Cruise Ports.

Galveston was rated number seven among U.S. ports serving the Caribbean region based on estimated passengers figures in 2001. Based on the same passenger figures, Galveston placed number ten in a comparison of all U.S. cruise ports.

An article in *Lloyd's Cruise International*, entitled "The Cream of the Cruise Ports", included Galveston in the Caribbean-region rankings for the first time. A report published by Lloyd's

recognized the leading destinations in the Caribbean region with the potential throughput of over 100,000 passengers in 2001. Galveston ranked #7 in the U.S. standings behind the major U.S. cruise ports of Miami, Port Everglades, Port Canaveral, Key West, New Orleans, and Tampa Bay. Galveston placed tenth in standings that recognized all U.S. ports based on passenger volumes in 2001, taking into account port passenger statistics for the East Coast, the West Coast and the Gulf Coast.

“We are proud to be included in these cruise ratings for the first time,” stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. “We know that we are in the ratings with ports that have been in the cruise business for many, many years and we are proud of what has been accomplished in Galveston. We have worked diligently to put cruise operations at the top of tourism opportunities for Galveston Island.”

An article in *Travel Weekly* is entitled “Gulf Coast Departures Exceed Capacity Jumps.” The core of the article extols the virtues of the ports in the Gulf of Mexico presently home to the new cruise operations being deployed in the Gulf region. The article recognized existing service and the announcements in mid-summer of 2001 related to expanded service from the industry’s top suppliers, Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruises.

In the article, Galveston was recognized for the Port of Galveston’s and Carnival Cruise Line’s 100,000-passenger achievement and the 100%-plus capacity sailings of the *Celebration*. The article referenced Carnival’s deployment of a second ship in Galveston for a year-round series of cruises to Mexican ports beginning in August 2002 because of expanded itineraries.

The article continued with information concerning Royal Caribbean International's expansion in the Gulf Coast region and the return of the *Rhapsody of the Seas* to Galveston Island in April 2002. The Gulf Coast capacity increase is equated as much to changing consumer travel patterns and the cruise line's desire to develop new passenger markets as to capacity growth. Locating ships outside the traditional cruise ports in south Florida make cruise ships accessible to a broader range of first-time cruisers because potential vacationers across the southern and southeastern U.S. can easily reach the Port of Galveston.

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POG-2002-1