

## **CELEBRITY CRUISES ANNOUNCES FIRST SAILINGS FROM GALVESTON**

The Lone Star State will find a “galaxy” in its midst beginning in November, when Celebrity Cruises’ *Galaxy* sets sail for the first time from Galveston, Texas.

“We are excited that Celebrity has made this announcement and look forward to the arrival of the *Galaxy* in November,” stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. “This is going to be a stellar year for cruising from the Port of Galveston, and by year end, we will have three year-round homeported cruise ships and three seasonal cruise ships operating from our cruise terminal complex. We have invested over \$32 million upgrading, renovating and enhancing our cruise facilities and we believe that all of the hard work and effort has paid off for the port and the city. The citizens of Galveston should be proud of the strides that have been made, and Port staff is hopeful that the community recognizes the opportunity for future growth that has been presented here.”

Celebrity’s 1,870-guest *Galaxy* – ranked among the top 10 “best cruise ships in the world” in the prestigious *Conde Nast Traveler’s* latest readers’ survey – will present a series of 11- and 12-night Panama Canal cruises departing round-trip from Galveston from November 2004 through April 2005.

“We’re thrilled to begin cruising from a city with the sheer charm and multiple attractions that Galveston has,” said Celebrity Cruises President and COO Jack Williams. “This is a significant addition to our expanded number of drive-market cruise options, and our guests are responding very favorably.”

The new itineraries are designed to appeal to ecotourists, art lovers, and history enthusiasts alike. Ports of call include Cozumel, Mexico, whose coral reefs and crystalline waters make it among the world’s best diving and snorkeling destinations; Belize City, Belize, rich with Mayan history and culture, as well as parks and nature preserves; the historic, 50-mile Panama Canal, transecting the emerald jungles of Panama; Cristobal Pier, the port serving Colon and Panama City; Puerto Limon, Costa Rica, featuring virgin rain forests and bird sanctuaries; Georgetown, Grand Cayman, whose famed “Stingray City” was named one of the most rewarding experiences in the undersea world, and Montego Bay, Jamaica, home to open-air markets, resorts, and an eclectic mix of local personalities and lively culture

Meanwhile, onboard the *Galaxy*, guests will experience the “taste of luxury” that Celebrity is known for providing, along with an expanded enrichment lecture series and enticing amenities such as frosty towels, sorbet and fashion shows poolside; new dining options, including a Sushi Café and made-to-order pasta and pizza bar; sunset yoga and Pilates classes, and an entirely new category of plush accommodations, “Concierge Class.”

Fares for Celebrity’s new Galveston-based cruises begin at \$1,100 per person, double occupancy.

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POG-2004-4