

News Release

Carnival Cruise Lines' *Celebration* Sails from Galveston on Inaugural Voyage

Galveston, Texas...September 30, 2000...Carnival Cruise Lines, the largest and most popular cruise line in the world, inaugurated a new service in the Gulf of Mexico with the sailing of the 1,486-passenger *Celebration* on September 30th out of the Port of Galveston. The voyage marks the debut of an innovative four- and five-day Mexico schedule from Galveston and represents Carnival's first "Fun Ship" departure from Texas.

"Galveston has been anticipating year-round cruising for some time now and the community has totally embraced the concept," according to Recy L. Dunn, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. "The Port is receiving positive comments about the Carnival experience as well as testimonials concerning the efficient operation of our new cruise facility."

On this unique schedule, four-day cruises call at Playa del Carmen-Cozumel and include two "fun days" at sea. These voyages operate Thursday to Monday creating the ultimate long weekend getaway. Five-day sailings, departing alternate Mondays and Saturdays, feature two ports of call – Cozumel and Calica/Cancun – along with two "fun days" at sea.

“Response to our first Galveston-based cruise program has been nothing short of phenomenal – attracting not only a significant number of Texans but also residents from a broad cross-section of the U.S.,” said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president. “Galveston city and port officials, travel agents and the community at large have been very supportive and we are thrilled to inaugurate ‘Fun Ship’ cruising from Texas,” he added.

Dickinson pointed out the new Galveston program represents the company’s most recent entry into the booming “short” cruise market (voyages of five days or less in length). These voyages fit the lifestyle of today’s vacationers and are also an excellent means for whetting the appetite of first-time cruisers by enticing them to give cruising a try with a minimal investment of time and money, he noted. “The average vacation length among North Americans has decreased and most people are now seeking short, convenient getaways to de-stress and re-energize,” he said.

Carnival’s Galveston cruises are available in conjunction with Carnival’s “Fly Aweigh” program which offers round-tip air transportation from a variety of gateways throughout the U.S. and Canada, along with ground transfers. Reduced rates for third and fourth occupants in a stateroom and/or children 12 and under are also available.

The *Celebration*, which entered service in 1987, is 733 feet long and features nine passenger decks. The ship also houses 10 bars and lounges, three swimming pools, including one with a 115-foot-long water slide, a children’s play center – part of the line’s complimentary year-round Camp Carnival program for kids ages 2-15, a Nautica Spa health and fitness program, a multi-

deck show lounge featuring original production shows, an expansive casino and acres of open deck space for sunning and relaxation.

The *Celebration* also features a complimentary 24-hour pizzeria and stateroom service, a casual alternative dining area for breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus two main dining rooms offering extensive menus and wine lists.

Carnival Cruise Lines is a member of the exclusive *World's Leading Cruise Lines* alliance which also includes Holland America Line, Cunard Line, Seabourn Cruise Line, Costa Cruises and Windstar Cruises.

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