

News Release

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CARNIVAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY IN GALVESTON

Fun Ship *Ecstasy* to Call in Fall 2004

Volume Could Increase by 38%

GALVESTON, TEXAS (12/15/03) – Carnival Cruise Lines, the world’s largest cruise operator, and the Port of Galveston announce Carnival’s increase in capacity from Galveston with the addition of the 2,052-passenger “Fun Ship” *Ecstasy* replacing the *Celebration*, Galveston’s first year-round cruise operation. The 38% passenger-capacity increase is a result of the deployment of the 2,052-passenger *Ecstasy* to replace the 1,486-passenger *Celebration* on year-round four- and five-day Mexico cruises in October 2004.

“The Port of Galveston is indeed excited about this newest announcement from Carnival,” stated Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. “Carnival, the first cruise line to take a chance on the market in Galveston, has emerged as a true partner with the Port of Galveston. Our expanding cruise operations are attracting additional visitors to Galveston Island, creating a positive economic impact for the City. Staff continues to market the cruise terminals to the cruise industry in order to maintain and enhance the number of cruise ships which call at the Port of Galveston.”

“Just three years ago Carnival established Galveston as cruising's newest homeport. The addition of the *Ecstasy* next year, combined with the *Elation's* year-round cruises from Galveston, will result in an estimated 300,000 ‘Fun Ship’ passengers cruising annually from that port,” said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president and CEO. “Carnival is Texas’ leading cruise line and this latest capacity increase just further solidifies that position.”

Four- and Five-Day Mexico Cruises from Galveston on *Ecstasy*

Beginning Oct. 23, 2004, the 70,000-ton SuperLiner *Ecstasy* will launch year-round four- and five-day service from Galveston, becoming the only year-round ship to operate short cruises from that port.

On this route, four-day cruises depart the historic Port of Galveston on Thursdays and call at Cozumel, offering the ideal long weekend getaway. Five-day cruises, departing Mondays and Saturdays, are particularly noteworthy as they offer guests the opportunity to visit two of the Caribbean’s most popular destinations, Cozumel and Calica/Playa del Carmen, in less than a week’s time

Guests can also combine their cruise with a pre- or post-cruise land stay during which they can visit Galveston’s many historic sites and museums, or shop and dine along the Strand, the city’s renowned entertainment district.

Special 15-Day Panama Canal Cruise

Prior to the start-up of their new programs, the Ecstasy will operate a special one-time 15-day Panama Canal repositioning cruise.

On its 15-day Panama Canal cruise, the **Ecstasy** will depart Long Beach on Sept. 17 and arrive in Miami Oct. 2, 2004. Ports of call on this voyage will include Acapulco and Puntarenas, prior to the Panama Canal transit, as well as Aruba, and Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The Ecstasy will launch year-round service from Galveston on Oct. 23, 2004.

Prices for the Ecstasy's four- and five-day Mexico cruises from Galveston start at \$349 and \$449 per person, respectively, based on double occupancy. The ship's 15-day Panama Canal cruise begins at \$1,099 per person.

For additional information and reservations, contact any travel agent, call 1-800 CARNIVAL, or visit carnival.com.

The Port of Galveston is a significant contributor to the strong economy of the Galveston-Houston marketplace. Annual business through the Port totals nearly \$12 million, with an estimated economic contribution to the region of more than \$500 million. The Port of Galveston is a landlord port, owned by the City of Galveston and managed by a City Council-appointed Board of Trustees. For more information on the Port of Galveston, visit www.portofgalveston.com.

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