



News Release

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For Immediate Release

GALVESTON ADDS THIRD CRUISE LINE

PRINCESS CRUISES ADDS GALVESTON HOMEPORT

Grand Princess to offer seven-day, four-port itineraries

Galveston, Texas...July 22, 2003...The Port of Galveston enhanced its position as the Western Gulf of Mexico's gateway for international cruise vacations with the announcement by Princess Cruises to increase its roster of homeports, adding seven-day, four-port itineraries to the Western Caribbean from the Port of Galveston.

"The Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves and the Directors of the Galveston Port Facilities Corporation are pleased with the announcement by Princess Cruises to add Galveston Island as a homeport to their operations. We understand that the introduction of a new homeport by Princess is a rare occasion and we are very proud to be a part of their growth strategy," stated Chairman Benny Holland, Jr. "The *Grand Princess* will be the largest cruise ship to homeport at the Port of Galveston. When the *Grand Princess* sails from Galveston Island in the fall of 2004, the community will see first hand the results of the Port of Galveston's commitment to cooperatively expand our cruise terminals in conjunction with our cruise line partners".

The 2,600-passenger *Grand Princess* will offer 22 roundtrip departures from the Port of Galveston beginning in mid-November and continuing through April 9, 2005. Her Western Caribbean seven-day itinerary will feature port-of-calls at Belize City, Belize, Costa Maya, Mexico, Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico. In addition, the ship will offer a special nine-day sailing celebrating both Christmas

and New Year's Day. This holiday sailing will also feature an additional port-of-call at Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

“The Port of Galveston is extremely happy to learn of Princess Cruises’ decision to locate the *Grand Princess* at the Port of Galveston in 2004,” added Steven Cernak, Port Director. “The continued deployment of additional ships by the cruise lines validates the vision of past and current members of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves and Directors of the Galveston Port Facilities Corporation to pursue the cruise industry and to support continued development and expansion of our cruise facilities.”

“The Port of Galveston has established itself as the Western Gulf of Mexico’s gateway for international cruise vacations. Our continued growth allows options where passengers can cruise from the Port of Galveston on a long weekend cruise or relax on a vacation of longer duration. We have come a long way in less than three years and our growth has been phenomenal,” concluded Cernak.

Galveston is unique among American cruising ports, with its cruise terminals located just two blocks from the National Strand Historic Landmark District, a world-class vacation destination. The area is filled with beautifully restored 19th century, iron-front buildings, unique shops, art galleries, antique stores, pubs, restaurants, and hotels, and is just a short distance from several attractions including the Texas Seaport Museum and the restored 1877 sailing vessel *Elissa*. Carriage rides are a popular way to see the Historic District, as in the Island's fixed-rail trolley system, which connects the Historic District to Galveston's popular sun-drenched beaches and many of the Island's other attractions, such as the Historic East End with its turn-of-the-century renovated homes.

The port is located on the upper Texas coast at the mouth of Galveston Bay, just 30 minutes steaming time from the open sea. This ideal location boasts facilities to handle all types of cargo including containers, dry and liquid bulk, breakbulk, Ro/Ro, refrigerated and project cargoes, and cruise passengers. The Port is a significant contributor to the strong economy of the Galveston-Houston, Texas marketplace. Annual business through the Port totals approximately \$12 million, with an estimated economic contribution to the region of over \$125 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.
