



Port E-News

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CARNIVAL TO INCREASE CAPACITY IN GALVESTON

“Fun Ship” Ecstasy to Call in Fall 2004

Volume-Capacity to Increase by 38%

Carnival Cruise Lines, the world’s largest cruise operator, and the Port of Galveston, the Western Gulf of Mexico’s gateway for international cruise vacations, announce Carnival’s increase in capacity from Galveston Island with the addition the “Fun Ship” *Ecstasy* set to replace the *Celebration* in October 2004. The 38% passenger-capacity increase is a result of the deployment of the 2,052-passenger *Ecstasy* to replace the 1,486-passenger *Celebration*, Galveston’s initial year-round cruise operation which began operation on September 30, 2000.

Beginning Oct. 23, 2004, the 70,000-ton SuperLiner *Ecstasy* will launch year-round four- and five-day service from Galveston.

The 70,000-ton *Ecstasy*, built in 1991, is 855 feet long and has 920 officers and staff. Galveston’s newest cruise vessel has ten passenger decks including 28 penthouse suites, 26 suites, 564 ocean-view twins, and 389 interior twin cabins.

Four- and Five-Day Mexico Cruises from Galveston Island

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 note-worthy 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 the 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.

Pricing and Reservations

Carnival will begin accepting reservations on the *Ecstasy's* new cruise programs this week.

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.
