



## Port E-News

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### **THREE CRUISE SHIPS AT CRUISE COMPLEX ON DECEMBER 18 Thousands of cruise passengers arrive on Galveston Island**

On Saturday, December 18, 2004, for the first time in the Port of Galveston's history, three cruise ships were in port simultaneously to load and unload passengers.

"Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises and Princess Cruises were in port to load and unload passengers at Galveston's cruise complex," stated Steve Cernak, Port Director. "This is the first time that we have had the opportunity to berth three ships at our cruise facilities and we had to change our normal pattern of cruise operations to fit the situation. Over 6,400 travelers came off the ships and over 7,400 went on these three cruises. It was a terrific opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of our cruise terminals."

The ships arrived in the early morning. Celebrity Cruises' *Galaxy*, arrived first and docked at the west end of the Cruise Terminal Complex. *Galaxy*, with a double-room capacity of 1,870 passengers, unloaded 1,577 from a 12-day cruise and loaded 2,013 on a 12-day cruise which included Christmas Day.

Carnival Cruise Lines' *Ecstasy* arrived in port second and docked next making it the center of the total 3-cruise ship operation. The 2,052 double-capacity *Ecstasy* unloaded 2,230 passengers from a 5-day cruise and loaded back 2,580 on a 5-day cruise.

Princess Cruises' *Grand Princess* came into port last and docked on the eastern end of the terminals. The *Grand Princess*, whose double capacity is 2,600, unloaded 2,676 from a 7-day cruise and loaded 2,830 for an 11-day cruise which also included the Christmas holidays.

"Port staff supported cruise operations with a total team effort and did a fantastic job," added Cernak. "Our maintenance and engineering staff prepared the facilities to handle a multitude that we had not experienced prior to this time. Our police department and our additional cruise-day officers handled an enormous amount of traffic. Additional staff provided needed support for the day's events. But I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding job that Mike Mierzwa, Bubba Smith and Casey Adler provided. These three planned and prepared for months to ensure as smooth an operation as possible. We must also note the excellent shore-side activities by Worldwide Shore Services and Greyhound Shore Services, McRoberts Security, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA), and Flanagan Stevedores and

Suderman Contracting and Stevedore. Everyone offered their best on that Saturday and it worked out extremely well.”

Then, the very next day, Sunday, December 19, 2004, two additional cruise ships worked to add to the total number of visitors on Galveston Island.

Carnival Cruise Line’s *Elation* and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line’s *Rhapsody of the Seas* both docked as part of their regular 7-day itineraries. The 2,052-double capacity *Elation* debarked 2,305 and embarked 2,574 passengers. The 2,000-double capacity *Rhapsody of the Seas* debarked 1,992 and embarked 2,276 passengers on the third Sunday in December.

These accumulated figures show that 12,273 cruising visitors arrived in Galveston on the third weekend in December to begin their cruising vacations and 10,780 returned to Galveston Island from their time abroad.

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