

CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES TO BRING FANTASY CLASS VESSEL IN 2003

In May, Carnival Cruise Lines announced the deployment of the Fantasy Class Cruise Ship *Elation* to the Port of Galveston. Beginning in September 2003, the 2,052-passenger *Elation* will offer seven-day sailings from Galveston Island to Belize City, Belize, and Progreso/Merida and Cozumel, Mexico.

"We are extremely excited about Carnival's decision to bring a Fantasy Class vessel to the Texas cruise market because of the tremendous impact it will bring to the Galveston area," stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. "Cruising from Galveston Island has been very popular since the inception of Carnival's first venture into the Texas market in 2000 and we are pleased with the growth in cruise operations since that time."

An economic multiplier developed by Price Waterhouse for the International Council of Cruise Lines is utilized to determine the impact that cruise business and passenger travel have on communities. The direct economic impact is calculated to be over \$10.6 million on the Galveston community from the operation of a Fantasy Class cruise ship. The indirect impact is expected to be over \$16 million with the combined impact on the Galveston community of over \$26 million a year.

Vessel length, gross tonnage, number of staff and guest capacity determines vessel classes. Fantasy class vessels are 855 feet long with gross tonnage of 70,367 tons. The staff totals 920 members and the guest capacity is 2,052 passengers.

"We're delighted to expand our Galveston cruise program to include these exciting new seven-day 'exotic' western Caribbean cruises aboard the *Elation*

which offer an unmatched combination of spectacular ports, along with shipboard amenities that have made 'Today's Carnival consumers' number one cruise vacation choice," said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president. He added that the 1,486-passenger *Jubilee*, scheduled to begin four- and five-day cruises from Galveston August 19, 2002, will operate that program through fall 2003 then be deployed to another homeport.

The *Elation* will debut a year-round program of seven-day "exotic" western Caribbean cruises from Galveston. Voyages will depart the historic Port of Galveston weekly and visit Belize, Cozumel and Progreso-Merida, each of which offers a variety of interesting sites and attractions, including archaeological ruins and pyramids, as well as gorgeous white-sand beaches, and myriad shopping and dining opportunities.

"Carnival and the Port of Galveston make a dynamic duo," stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. "Our business relationship has been outstanding. Carnival has shown their commitment to Galveston and the port intends to provide the necessary facility improvements to allow their Galveston operation to grow and prosper. We are pleased and excited that Carnival has chosen to expand its homeport operations here and we look forward to a long, mutually rewarding partnership."

The *Elation's* new cruise schedule combined with the *Celebration's* year-round four- and five- day voyages is expected to bring 240,000 visitors annually to Galveston Island.

Introduced in 1998, the *Elation* offers such on-board amenities as 12 "theme" bars and lounges, including a multi-level theater showcasing elaborate Las Vegas-style revues, as well as three swimming pools, a conference center, Internet cafe, and 12,000-square-foot health and fitness facility. Also featured are two full-service dining rooms, a patisserie, complimentary 24-hour stateroom service and an expansive poolside restaurant offering casual alternatives for

breakfast, lunch and dinner and 24-hour pizza and ice cream. The *Elation* also houses a 2,400-square-foot play area for kids, part of the line's complimentary fleet-wide "Camp Carnival" children's program.