

CARNIVAL'S *JUBILEE* BEGINS SAILINGS

Cruise Ships Now in Port 4 Days a Week

The Port of Galveston strengthened its position as the number one cruise port in the western Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, August 17, 2002 with the arrival of Carnival Cruise Lines' cruise ship *M/V Jubilee*, doubling Carnival's business at the Port of Galveston.

This event also marked this first time two cruise ships had loaded passengers at the same time in Galveston. The *Jubilee* embarked passengers for a two-day cruise-to-nowhere and the *Celebration* embarked passengers for her regularly scheduled trip to Mexico.

The *M/V Celebration* began sailing from Galveston Island in September 2000. The *Jubilee's* regular itinerary complements the *Celebration* by offering 4- and 5-day cruises on an alternate schedule, sailing from the Port of Galveston every other Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

"Carnival's Fun Ships provide a festive backdrop for our flourishing waterfront and historic shopping district," stated Donald L. Schattel, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Port of Galveston. "Carnival's commitment to Galveston and its investment in our business community is the result of a joint effort by the Board of Trustees, the strong backing of the Galveston business community and the Galveston City Council to bring cruising to Galveston Island. The belief by many that 'cruising from Galveston' was indeed a viable option for the Port and tourism interests on Galveston Island is now being supported by the commitment by cruise lines to sail from The Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island®."

Galveston has made remarkable strides in attracting new visitors to Galveston Island. In addition to cruise sailings by Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean International now offers seven-day cruises to Mexico and the Caribbean every Sunday. Cruises now operate from Galveston's Cruise Terminal every Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

From September 2000 when Galveston's first year-round cruise operation began at the Port of Galveston until mid-September 2002, 333,478 cruising tourists (almost 667,000 revenue passengers) visited Galveston Island. Every cruise has sailed at 100% capacity.

"The Port of Galveston first joined the ranks of the top 10 U.S. cruise ports in 2001," stated Steven M. Cernak, Port Director. "The 2002-passenger count will rank the Port of Galveston as number six among U.S. ports with Caribbean destinations, also taking into account all of the vessel deployments that will take place in the other ports. Not bad for a port that, a little more than two and a half years ago, was just an occasional port-of-call for the cruise lines."

Local merchants benefit from the growing cruise trade. Galveston is unique among American cruising ports, with restaurants, shops and other tourist attractions literally next door to the cruise terminal. Passengers visit area merchants while waiting for the ship to sail. And cruise ships, and their crews, are big buyers, too. Galveston area businesses supplying everything from fuel to flowers are enjoying increased sales.

The Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island

- **June 16, 1999** - The Port of Galveston announced that it had enticed Carnival Cruise Lines to homeport the *Celebration* at The Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island for 72 cruises annually.
- **July 11, 2000** - Royal Caribbean International announced that it would test the Gulf of Mexico from Galveston Island with nine seven-day, homeport calls between October 28 and December 23, 2001.
- **September 27, 2000** - The Port of Galveston rededicated the new \$10.6 million Texas Cruise Ship Terminal on Galveston Island.
- **September 30, 2000** - Carnival Cruise Line's *M/V Celebration* sailed on its inaugural voyage from the Port of Galveston.
- **June 22, 2001** - Just 10 months after the start-up of service from the Port of Galveston, Carnival announced that it would double capacity at Galveston with the deployment of the *Celebration's* sister ship, the 1,486-passenger *Jubilee*, in the summer of 2002.
- **July 12, 2001** - The Port of Galveston marked the 100,000th-passenger (200,000 revenue passenger) to sail from the Port of Galveston.
- **October 2001** - Prior to the first Fall 2001 "test" call, Royal Caribbean International announced its permanent homeport placement of *M/S Rhapsody of the Seas* in Galveston for seven-day cruises.
- **October 28, 2001** - Royal Caribbean International's *Rhapsody of the Seas* sailed on its inaugural voyage from the Port of Galveston as part of a series of seven-day cruises.
- **April 14, 2001** - Royal Caribbean International's *Rhapsody of the Seas* returned to Galveston Island to begin offering seven-day cruises on Sundays as part of a five-year agreement extending through 2007.
- **May 7, 2002** - The Port of Galveston announced that Carnival Cruise Lines would deploy the 2,052-passenger *Elation* to Galveston Island in September, 2003.
- **June 3, 2002** - The Port of Galveston marked the 250,000th passenger (500,000 revenue passenger) to sail from the Port of Galveston.
- **August 17, 2002** - Carnival Cruise Line's *M/V Jubilee* sailed on its inaugural voyage from the Port of Galveston.
- **October 1, 2002** - Work began on the Port of Galveston's 2nd Cruise Ship Terminal.