

## Carnival Cruise Lines to bring in 2<sup>nd</sup> Fantasy-Class vessel

Cruise business at the Port of Galveston is growing and it is evidenced again by the recent announcement by Carnival Cruise Lines, the world's largest cruise operator, to bring in a larger cruise ship, *Ecstasy* to replace the *Celebration*, Galveston's first year-round cruise operation. In mid-December, Carnival and the Port of Galveston announced the move as Carnival planned to increase capacity from Galveston. A 38% passenger-capacity increase is the result of having the larger 2,052-passenger *Ecstasy* to replace the 1,486-passenger *Celebration* on year-round four- and five-day Mexico cruises beginning on October, 23 2004.

"The Port of Galveston is excited about this future growth for Galveston," stated Steven M. Cernak, Galveston Port Director. "Carnival, the first cruise line to take a chance on the market in Galveston, has emerged as a true partner with the Port of Galveston. Our expanding cruise operations are attracting additional visitors to Galveston Island, creating a positive economic impact for the City. The possibility of this increased capacity only enhances the passenger numbers that we are projecting for next year and supports our plans for the development of Cruise Terminal No. 3."

"Just three years ago Carnival established Galveston as cruising's newest homeport. The addition of the *Ecstasy* next year, combined with the *Elation's* year-round cruises from Galveston, will result in an estimated 300,000 'Fun Ship' passengers cruising annually from that port," said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president and CEO. "Carnival is Texas' leading cruise line and this latest capacity increase just further solidifies that position."

Prior to the start-up of the four- and five-day 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.

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](http://carnival.com).