



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES MOVES UP YEAR-ROUND CRUISES FROM BALTIMORE AND ADDS 19 SAILINGS; WILL NOW START IN APRIL 2009

Decision Made in Response to Current Market Conditions, Strong Baltimore Bookings

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Carnival Cruise Lines today announced they will begin their year-round cruising program from the Port of Baltimore five months early and will also add 19 sailings to its Baltimore schedule. Carnival, the world's largest cruise line, will now launch the Port of Baltimore's first-ever, year-round cruises on April 27, 2009, instead of in September. The additional 19 sailings will give the Port of Baltimore a total of 79 cruises in 2009, up from 27 cruises this year. Of the 79 total cruises, 36 will be from Carnival, 23 will come from Royal Caribbean International, 15 will come from Norwegian Cruise Lines, and five are from Celebrity Cruises.

"We are very happy to accommodate Carnival Cruise Lines on this schedule change, and we eagerly anticipate their arrival next spring," said Maryland Port Administration Executive Director James J. White. "This is the latest indication that the Port of Baltimore and state of Maryland have come a long way in promoting this area as a viable cruise market."

The 2,124-passenger *Carnival Pride* will operate six, seven, and eight-day Caribbean cruises from Baltimore between April 27 and September 6, 2009. Beginning September 13, Carnival will continue its Baltimore schedule with two weeklong itineraries over the next two years. Seven-day eastern Caribbean departures will call at Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos; the private Bahamian island of Half Moon Cay; and Freeport, The Bahamas. A seven-day Bahamas/Florida cruise will visit Port Canaveral, FL; Nassau and Freeport, The Bahamas. Each itinerary includes three days at sea. As a result of the new schedule, a six-day cruise scheduled to depart September 7 has been rescheduled to a September 6 departure.

"Based on current market conditions, continued economic uncertainty and high air costs to Europe, we are shifting our focus to an even greater extent toward our core, close-to-home cruise options which are clearly the preference of the vast majority of the mainstream vacation market right now," said Gerry Cahill, Carnival president and CEO. "We are excited that this change in deployment will also enable us to bring the *Carnival Pride* to Baltimore four months earlier than originally planned to start up that city's first year-round cruise program, which is proving to be extremely popular based on advanced bookings so far," he added.

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In June, it was announced that Carnival would begin a two-year, year-round sailing schedule from Baltimore in 2009. The recent addition of Celebrity Cruises will give the Port of Baltimore service from four major cruise lines next year. As recently as last year, the Port's only cruise customer was Royal Caribbean.

The economic impact of the 27 cruises from this year's Port of Baltimore cruise season is estimated to be about \$63 million. The Port of Baltimore is the closest East Coast drive-to port from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Chicago. Baltimore is also within a four-hour drive from the New York City metro area. The Cruise Maryland cruise terminal is only 2.5 miles from Baltimore's world famous Inner Harbor, 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, and little more than an hour from three other major airports.

Maryland's median household income of \$68,080 is the highest in the nation and 34 percent above the national median. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of ten of the wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most affluent in the nation and ranks fourth nationally in retail sales and effective-buying income. The region is also the fourth most populated area in the U.S.

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