



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR O'MALLEY APPLAUDS ROYAL CARIBBEAN ON DECISION TO COMMIT TO PORT OF BALTIMORE THROUGH 2012

*Newer and Larger Ship Begins Year-Round Cruising from Baltimore This Summer;
Will Continue for At Least an Additional Year*

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- Governor Martin O'Malley today commended Royal Caribbean International's decision to extend their relationship with the Port of Baltimore and offer year-round cruising through April 2012. Royal Caribbean announced earlier today that they will schedule 47 cruises from Baltimore in 2011, continuing with 11 additional cruises through April 2012. Royal Caribbean had previously only committed to year-round cruising from Baltimore through April 2011.

"The decision announced today by Royal Caribbean to expand year-round cruising from Baltimore through 2012 reflects that Baltimore is becoming the port of choice for thousands of cruise customers every year," said Governor O'Malley. "Baltimore's central location, the terminal's easy access location off of Interstate 95 and our recent investment to expand parking adjacent to the terminal continue to attract passengers, even in a challenging economy. This winter also proved that the Port of Baltimore can handle year-round cruising, even when faced with unprecedented snowfall."

Royal Caribbean will continue sailing in the next two years from Baltimore to Bermuda, the Eastern Caribbean, and New England/Canada. This summer, Royal Caribbean will begin its first year-round cruising itinerary from Baltimore on a June 18 excursion to New England/Canada. A newer and larger vessel, the *Enchantment of the Seas*, will be based in Baltimore in 2010. It will replace the *Grandeur of the Seas*, which had been home ported in Baltimore since 2004.

"With the great partnership we have had with the Port of Baltimore and our local trade partners, Royal Caribbean is excited to be launching a program from Baltimore for our eighth year and committing to a year round program for our second year," said Diana J. Block, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises Vice President of Revenue Management and Deployment. "Along with an ideal cruise terminal location, this area is proving to be an outstanding cruise market and that is a key reason why we are bringing a larger ship and committing to another year round schedule."

Today's announcement by Royal Caribbean will give the Port of Baltimore a record 113 homeport cruises in 2011. Carnival Cruise Lines and Celebrity Cruises will also serve Baltimore in 2011. The Maryland Port Administration recently announced that a record 167,000 passengers embarked on 81 homeport cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2009.

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Royal Caribbean to Cruise from Baltimore Through 2012

This year, the Port will have 91 homeport cruises onboard Carnival, Celebrity, and Royal Caribbean. The *Carnival Pride* returns for its second year of year-round cruising to the Bahamas and Eastern Caribbean. Royal Caribbean's *Enchantment of the Seas* will travel to New England/Canada, Bermuda, the Eastern Caribbean, and the Bahamas. The *Celebrity Mercury* will return for a second season of winter cruising beginning in October and will travel to the Eastern Caribbean, Western Caribbean and the Bahamas. The total economic value to the State of cruising from the Port of Baltimore this year is expected to be about \$90 million, an increase of about \$10 million from 2009.

The Port of Baltimore is the closest East Coast drive-to port from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis and Chicago. Baltimore is also within a three-hour drive from the New York City metro area. The Cruise Maryland 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 \$70,540 is the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of eight of the ten wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most affluent in the nation.

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