

WBAL

Carnival Pride In Baltimore

Monday, April 27, 2009 - WBAL Radio as reported by John Patti

Baltimore has launched its first-ever year round cruise schedule.

The 2,124 passenger Carnival Pride set sail at 5:30pm Monday on its inaugural departure from Baltimore, the first of 50 voyages annually for the 88,500-ton ship. The Carnival Pride will call Baltimore it's home port, carrying 115,000 passengers a year from Baltimore.

The Port of Baltimore estimates that with the addition of the Carnival Pride, the cruise industry will provide an annual economic impact of \$152 million and generate more than 1500 jobs within the state.

Carnival Cruise Lines says it expects to draw passengers driving from Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, and even as far south as South Carolina.

Carnival says Baltimore is also an easy flight from states like Illinois and beyond.

Carnival Pride Captain Alesandro Galotto says navigating down the Chesapeake Bay will allow passengers nine hours of calm seas before hitting the open waters of the North Atlantic. Captain Galotto says that will be more appreciated in the winter.

The captain says his crew of 900 is excited about calling Baltimore its home port. the ship will set sail each Saturday over the summer.

Carnival will operate a series of six,- seven, and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through August 29th, 2009. These cruises will visit a wide variety of ports, including Nassau, Freeport, Half Moon Cay, Port Canaveral and Grand Turk and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Carnival will then feature a year-round seven day schedule starting September 6th, 2009 with cruises departing every Sunday.

Copy and paste this link into your web browser for audio coverage from John Patti

http://wbal.com/apps/news/articlefiles/26066-FINAL%20MIX%20Carnival%20Pride%20In%20Baltimore%20213%20_mixdown.mp3

WJZ CHANNEL 13

Baltimore Now Home Port For Cruise Ship Reporting

Mike Schuh BALTIMORE (WJZ) —

State and local officials were delighted to see a huge pile of money sail into town. As Mike Schuh reports, for the first time ever, Baltimore is the home port for a cruise ship.

The Pride of Baltimore is a replica of the famous Baltimore clipper ships. Monday, she escorted the new pride, the Carnival Pride cruise ship, to her new home port in Baltimore.

At noon, her first Baltimore passengers walked the gangway. Among those were Crystal Stewart from Deep Creek.

"It's close, fairly close for us to get here. Otherwise, it's driving to Florida for us to take a cruise," she said.

She's exactly who the cruise line has hoped for, a customer within a six or eight hour drive of Baltimore.

"So we've just done some research. With this economy, some people will come from even further," said Joni Rian.

Most cruises go out of New York or Florida. Baltimore taps into a rich pool of customers in the mid-Atlantic, boosting the city's image.

The Pride's new home port is the state's cruise ship pier. No incentives were given to the cruise line, other than attractive lease and services rates. The state says the ship will bring in \$150 million a year to Maryland.

A check of Carnival's website shows that most of the cruises leaving Baltimore will cost between \$550 and \$1,500 for a six or seven day excursion.

Copy and paste this link into your web browser – video links on top right of page

<http://wjz.com/seenon/carnival.cruise.line.2.995753.html>

ABC 2 NEWS

Carnival Pride Cruise Ship Arrives in Baltimore

Contributor: Kanika Ware

Last Update: 4/27 6:46 pm

Carnival Cruise ship Carnival Pride docked at the Port of Baltimore today.

You can take six, seven, and eight day voyages to the such destinations as the Bahamas, Caribbean and Florida. Carnival Pride is Baltimore's first year-round cruise ship. The ship departed on its inaugural six-day cruise from Baltimore accompanied by a traditional fireboat escort.

MARYLAND DAILY RECORD

Carnival Pride's sailing gives a boost to Baltimore tourism

LIZ FARMER

Daily Record Business Writer

April 27, 2009 7:12 PM

In what some are hailing as a much-needed boon to Baltimore's tourism revenue, the 2,124 passenger Carnival Pride set sail Monday, marking the launch of the city's first year-round cruise line.

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, among the several hundred who attended the launch, said the cruise line's return to Baltimore after a four-year hiatus "without a doubt" marked the rise of the Port of Baltimore as a travel hub.

"It shows we're a really big city when you have three major cruise lines here, all with ships coming in and out and hopefully filled to capacity," Cummings, D-Md., said. "And those people are going to spend some time in Baltimore while they are here."

Carnival Corp. ran cruises from Baltimore in 2004 and 2005, but then moved the ship to meet demand elsewhere. Celebrity Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Lines also dropped Baltimore soon after. Last year, Royal Caribbean International, the port's only operator that year, cut its Baltimore sailings to 16, half as many as the company had run in 2007.

The cruise industry estimates the Carnival Pride will carry more than 115,000 guests annually from the port, and total economic impact of cruising from Maryland this year is expected to be roughly \$152 million and generate 1,550 jobs. In 2008, the economic impact was nearly \$63 million.

"This is going to give us some cachet," said Tom Noonan, president and CEO of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association. "It's not just in the summers now — people will be coming out here in the winter, and we'll get everyone in the Northeast region."

Noonan added that cruise passengers will often stay overnight in the port's city on the days before the ship leaves or after it returns. The business will provide a lift to the struggling hotel industry in Baltimore which last year saw a nearly 6 percent occupancy decline, according to Smith Travel Research. Revenue per room also fell nearly 8 percent last year to \$71.50.

"It's just another incentive for people to spend some time in Baltimore, and this year we really need that," Noonan said.

Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari noted that the Port of Baltimore saw a boost in its cruise business after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when many vacationers were became wary of airplane travel. Cruises out of Baltimore went from no more than 15 a year to 60 in the years following 2001.

Since 2004, however, demand has fallen. But with Norwegian returning last year with cruises to Bermuda, 2009 marks the first time in 30 years the nation's top three cruise lines will operate from Charm City. A total of 79 cruises will leave from the port this year.

U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, State Sen. Jennie Forehand, D-Montgomery, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, and others also attended the ship's launch. Baltimore Deputy Mayor Andy Frank attended in place of Mayor Sheila Dixon.

"I'd like to say to Carnival, we know you made the right decision in coming to Baltimore and anything we can do to make it easier for you, we will," an enthused Cardin announced to the crowd on the ship.

Monday's voyage of the Carnival Pride marks the first of 50 trips annually aboard the 88,500-ton "Fun Ship," complete with a casino, four swimming pools, a wedding chapel, a 1,200-seat theater and other amenities.

The ship arrived at Baltimore's South Locust Point Cruise Terminal Monday morning and is scheduled to arrive in the Grand Turk Island in the eastern Caribbean on Wednesday.

The Carnival Pride will operate a series of six-, seven- and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through August to ports in Florida, the Bahamas and the Caribbean. Seven-day packages start at \$549 per couple, according to the company's Web site.

Two seven-day winter cruise packages will be offered in September. Leaving every Sunday, travelers can choose between an eastern Caribbean itinerary and a Florida-Bahamas route.

BALTIMORE MAGAZINE

April 27th, 2009

Port of Baltimore is ship shape

By Amy Mulvihill

Because part of my job is to edit our coverage of Baltimore society galas I get a lot of invitations to a lot of events and I try to attend as many as I can. This is not always possible, however, as I have quite a few other components to my job, which require me to be a desk jockey (fact checking, running the internship program, proofreading, etc.). I always feel guilty when I break away from the office to cover an event during normal business hours. What phone calls am I missing, I wonder? Do the interns have questions? Will there be a mountainous pile of fact checking on my desk when I get back? So it was with my usual worry and reluctance that I accepted a very gracious offer to attend a media welcome reception aboard the new Carnival Cruise Ship Pride today, but boy am I glad I did. The new 2,124 passenger ocean liner with 16 lounges and bars, three

restaurants, four swimming pools, a health and fitness center, a casino, and a wedding chapel will operate out of the Port of Baltimore for at least the next three years, carrying passengers to the Bahamas, the Caribbean, and Florida. It is the first ship to offer year-round cruise departures from Baltimore and officials estimate it will bring \$152 million in revenue to the regions as well as 1,550 jobs. Until now the closest ports of departure were in Norfolk, VA and New York City. Astonishingly, rates for seven day cruises can start around \$500, less than what you'd spend for a long weekend in Ocean City! Can I get an Amen?

But now on to the really great part. They served today's attendees (who included Sen. Ben Cardin, Rep. Elijah Cummings, and Port of Baltimore first lady Helen Bentley) a five course lunch consisting of spinach salad, scallops and shrimp appetizer, a yummy pasta and vegetable dish, a choice of lobster tail or filet mignon for the main course, and a flourless chocolate cake for dessert. Uh, score one for me!

As I was disembarking to head back to the office, passengers were streaming past me onto the boat for its maiden voyage. They were all decked out in vacation gear—shorts, flip-flops, T-shirts, hats, sunglasses—and I felt a twinge of jealousy, especially when I thought about all the lobster tail in their immediate future.

CRUISE INDUSTRY NEWS

4/27/09 - Carnival , Baltimore Commemorate Launch of City's 1st Year-Round Cruise Program

Later today, Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Baltimore will launch the city's first year-round cruise schedule when the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride sails on its inaugural departure from Baltimore.

The Carnival Pride arrived this morning at the South Locust Point Cruise Terminal, accompanied by, appropriately enough, The Pride of Baltimore, an authentic reproduction of a 19th century clipper topsail schooner. Following the Carnival Pride's arrival, a special invitation-only reception was held on board the vessel and attended by port and community officials, dignitaries and VIPs.

Today's voyage of the Carnival Pride marks the first of 50 voyages annually aboard the 88,500-ton "Fun Ship," which is expected to carry 115,000 passengers a year from Baltimore. The Port of Baltimore estimates that with the addition of the Carnival Pride, the cruise industry will provide an annual economic impact of \$152 million and generate 1,550 jobs within the state.

With the new year-round service from Baltimore, Carnival now sails from 19 North American departure points - the most in cruising - providing consumers with easy and affordable access to a wide variety of embarkation ports throughout the U.S.

"Baltimore is an excellent addition to our North American homeport offerings as it is in close proximity to millions of consumers who now have the opportunity to embark on a

'Fun Ship' cruise right from their own backyards," said Gerry Cahill, Carnival president and CEO. "And the Carnival Pride is a truly spectacular 'Fun Ship,' offering a host of exciting facilities and features, along with a variety of appealing itinerary options, to create wonderful vacation memories for our guests," he added.

"The State of Maryland welcomes the Carnival Pride and the beginning of year-round cruising to the Port of Baltimore," said Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. "Now, tens of millions of people that live within a short drive of Baltimore can cruise anytime of the year they wish. The Cruise Maryland terminal's unique location off Interstate 95 makes it easy for passengers to arrive and park on site," he added.

Carnival Pride's New Baltimore-Based Cruises

Carnival Pride will operate a series of six-, seven- and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through Aug. 29, 2009. These cruises will visit a wide variety of ports, including Nassau, Freeport, Half Moon Cay (a private Bahamian island), Port Canaveral (near Orlando) and Grand Turk in the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Carnival Pride will then feature a year-round seven-day schedule starting Sept. 6, 2009, with cruises departing every Sunday. Two different itineraries will be offered including an Exotic Eastern Caribbean itinerary calling at Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay, and Freeport; and a weeklong Bahamas/Florida route featuring Port Canaveral (near Orlando's many attractions), Nassau and Freeport.

Signature 'Fun Ship' Amenities

The 960-foot-long Carnival Pride offers a host of resort-style amenities and facilities: four swimming pools – one with a cascading water slide - a wedding chapel and an upscale supper club located at the top of a glass-enclosed atrium, just one of several dining venues on board.

Sixteen lounges and bars, including a sports bar, wine bar, piano bar and a 1,200-seat theatre showcasing lavish revues, are also featured. These facilities are accessible by a promenade running the length of the ship. Other features include a 14,500-square-foot spa, a jogging track, ship-wide Wi-Fi access and cell phone service.

Carnival Pride also appeals to families by offering expansive facilities and organized activities for children in three age groups - Camp Carnival for 2- to 11-year-olds, Circle "C" for 12- to 14-year-olds, and Club O2 for 15- to 17-year-olds.

The ship offers a wide variety of spacious accommodations and features the exclusive Carnival Comfort Bed sleep system with plush mattresses, luxurious duvets and high quality linens and pillows. This includes approximately 700 staterooms and suites which have a private balcony -- a very popular option for enjoying the beautiful ocean vistas.

Reservations

Reservations are currently being accepted for the Carnival Pride's new departures from Baltimore. Special rates for third and fourth guests sailing in the same stateroom, along with round-trip air supplements from a variety of North American gateways are also available.

Seatrade Communications

Carnival begins year-round Baltimore service

27/04/2009

Carnival Cruise Lines is launching Baltimore's first year-round cruise schedule with today's inaugural departure of the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride.

The ship arrived this morning at the South Locust Point Cruise Terminal, accompanied by The Pride of Baltimore, an reproduction of a 19th-century clipper topsail schooner. A reception on board Carnival Pride hosted port and community officials, dignitaries and other VIPs.

Today's voyage marks the first of 50 annually aboard the 88,500gt Fun Ship, which is expected to carry 115,000 passengers a year from Baltimore.

Carnival Pride will operate six-, seven- and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through August before embarking on a year-round seven-day schedule starting Sept. 6 with cruises departing every Sunday. Two itineraries will be offered, an Eastern Caribbean route to Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay and Freeport, and a Bahamas/Florida route to Port Canaveral, Nassau and Freeport.

With the new service, Carnival now sails from 19 North American departure points.

The Port of Baltimore estimates that with the addition of Carnival Pride, the cruise industry will provide an annual economic impact of \$152m and generate 1,550 jobs within the state of Maryland.

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Philadelphia Inquirer

ANDY NEWMAN / **Carnival** Cruise Lines

The historic sailing vessel **Pride** of Baltimore escorts **Carnival Pride** to the Port of Baltimore. Owned by **Carnival** Cruise Lines, **Carnival Pride** is the first **cruise ship** to be based year-round in Baltimore. Port officials say it will carry about 115,000 passengers a year, with an annual economic impact of \$152 million, generating about 1,550 jobs in Maryland.

WRC TV Washington DC

The summer vacation season is almost here. If you plan together take a cruise, you might have a more convenient option this year. Take a look at the **Carnival "pride"** arriving at baltimore today where it will become that city's first year-round **Cruise Ship**. It could bring more than 1500 jobs to charm city

Outlet: WBAL-TV

It appears **Carnival Cruise Lines** is helping to stimulate the local economy. Passengers set sail on the Carnival pride, the first year round crews from the port of baltimore.

Outlet: WBAL-TV

Carnival Cruises offer service from baltimore to several destinations, including the caribbean.

Outlet: WMAR-TV

Carnival Pride docked at the port of baltimore today. You can take six, seven, and eight-day voyages to the bahamas, caribbean and florida. The **Carnival** pride is baltimores first year-round **Cruise** ship. Tonight she is headed out on her inaugural six-day **Cruise** .

Outlet: WJZ-TV

Are you ready for a sea **Cruise** ? The **Carnival** pride is Baltimore's year round **Cruise** ship. It left on the maiden voyage. It not only provides convenience, its suggested to pump an annual

Outlet: WJZ-TV

That is the baltimore clipper ship. Today, he escorted the new pride, the **Carnival** pride crew ship to the home part here in baltimore. Aboard the pride, wjz eyewitness news.

And a check at **Carnivals** website showing most of the **Cruises** leaving baltimore that will cost between that much for a six or seven day excursion per person. We can book now? Yes, you would love that

Outlet: WBAL-TV

kate amara on the deck of the Carnival pride. This **Cruise** ships arrival is being called one of the most important events in the history of this port. New tonight at 5:30, cruising from baltimore. The first year-round **Cruise** is set to leave the terminal. **Carnival Cruise Lines** now operates year-round leaving baltimore. Youre probably asking why here? And in this economy, could the added service bring big bucks to baltimore?

Kate amara is live at the port of baltimore with some answers. The answer is yes. This Carnival pride, this ship with the addition to the port of baltimore means there are now four **Cruise Line** s operating out of this port adding up to more than 1,500 jobs and \$152 million economic impact every year. Baltimores newest economic stimulus package arrived in the shape of a 960-foot **Cruise** ship, the Carnival pride. Its baltimores first year-round **Cruise** ship and it sailed into port monday morning promising to make waves,

namely, an \$89 million annual economic impact. Because folks will come from the region and have to spend a night, many of them, in Baltimore before they get on the ship

Outlet: NBC Washington

As of today, **Carnival Pride** Cruises is offering year-round cruises out of Baltimore.

In honor of the new offer, The Cruise Guy, Stewart Chiron, is giving customers special deals on his cruise packages.

Carnival Cruise Lines' Carnival Pride:

6,7, and 8-night Florida, Bahamas from Baltimore to Orlando, Orlando or Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay and Orlando.Reduced from \$1769 PP-\$699 PP

Outlet: wbal.com

WBAL Radio as reported by John Patti

Carnival Pride 10 story atrium with glass staircase leading to restaurant

A view of downtown Baltimore from inside the Carnival Pride

WBAL's John Patti talks to **Carnival Cruise** Lines Vice President Kirk Neal

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Outlet: WMAR-TV

Carnival Cruise Lines wants you to know that they are ready to set sail now so the popular carrier has unveiled an interactive computer-animated aquarium in six U.S. cities including here in Baltimore. Don't be surprised if you see this promotion downtown soon. They say people get a fresh glimpse of all their destinations that will cover or mirror the essence of the Carnival vacation experience.

Outlet: WJZ-TV

Cruises will offer year-round cruises to the port of Baltimore this year, becoming the second **Cruise Line** to do so. They say Royal Caribbean will extend its sailing through last year, **Carnival** announced today would be the first company to cruise year-round from Baltimore. That means 92 cruises will depart from Baltimore in the year 2010. Part of Women's History Month, the military is paying tribute to the first female pilot.

Outlet: WTTG-TV

If you are looking to ride on a much bigger boat, you can **Cruise** out of Baltimore year-round. Starting today **Carnival** is launching a new schedule from the port of Baltimore. They take off this evening. They say closer to home vacations are more popular with travelers in a shaky economy rather than trips to Europe.

Outlet: wbaltv.com

BALTIMORE -- The first year-round cruise from Baltimore arrived at its new home port on Monday morning, and it is expected to bring the city revenue and jobs.

Carnival Cruise's 960-foot ship, the **Carnival Pride**, currently operates year-round trips leaving Baltimore, and **Royal Caribbean** will soon join them.

The **Carnival Pride** is expected to make about \$89 million in annual revenue for the city. 'Folks will come from all over the region and have to spend a night in Baltimore before they get on the ship. Some will spend time in Baltimore on the way back, eat in the restaurants and buy items in Baltimore stores,' said U.S. Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Charlotte resident Joan Lacey is cruising on the ship, marking her 80th cruise. 'Carnival, I think, is the only one who knows how to cook a lobster,' she said jokingly. Passengers will consume about 1,000 pounds of lobster on each cruise, along with thousands of pounds of fresh fruit, milk and eggs. Many of the perishables are purchased locally.

The ship will also boost the region's economic health with more than 800 new jobs. 'This is good news at a time when every job really counts,' said state transportation Secretary John Porcari.

From greeters at the dock to the crews who load in luggage and provisions, Porcari said it took high-level lobbying to make it happen. 'As it turns out, (Gov. Martin) O'Malley is a great salesman. He brought the jobs here, brought the business here, and we're all happy

about it,' Porcari said. The state will also make money through fees paid to the port, along with money spent by the ship's crew that stays in the city.

Revenue is expected to increase when **Royal Caribbean** gets started next year.

Outlet: The Daily Record

In what some are hailing as a much-needed boon to Baltimores tourism revenue, the 2,124 passenger Carnival Pride set sail Monday, marking the launch of the city's first year-round cruise line.

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, among the several hundred who attended the launch, said the cruise lines return to Baltimore after a four-year hiatus without a doubt marked the rise of the Port of Baltimore as a travel hub.

It shows were a really big city when you have three major cruise lines here, all with ships coming in and out and hopefully filled to capacity, Cummings, D-Md., said. And those people are going to spend some time in Baltimore while they are here.

Carnival Corp. ran cruises from Baltimore in 2004 and 2005, but then moved the ship to meet demand elsewhere. **Celebrity Cruises** and **Norwegian Cruise Lines** also dropped Baltimore soon after. Last year, **Royal Caribbean International**, the port's only operator that year, cut its Baltimore sailings to 16, half as many as the company had run in 2007.

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This is going to give us some cachet, said Tom Noonan, president and CEO of the Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association. It's not just in the summers now people will be coming out here in the winter, and we'll get everyone in the Northeast region.

Noonan added that cruise passengers will often stay overnight in the port city on the days before the ship leaves or after it returns. The business will provide a lift to the struggling hotel industry in Baltimore which last year saw a nearly 6 percent occupancy decline, according to Smith Travel Research. Revenue per room also fell nearly 8 percent last year to \$71.50.

It's just another incentive for people to spend some time in Baltimore, and this year we really need that, Noonan said.

Maryland Transportation Secretary John Porcari noted that the Port of Baltimore saw a boost in its cruise business after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when many vacationers were became wary of airplane travel. Cruises out of Baltimore went from no more than 15 a year to 60 in the years following 2001.

Since 2004, however, demand has fallen. But with Norwegian returning last year with cruises to Bermuda, 2009 marks the first time in 30 years the nations top three cruise lines will operate from Charm City. A total of 79 cruises will leave from the port this year.

U.S. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, State Sen. Jennie Forehand, D-Montgomery, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, and others also attended the ships launch. Baltimore Deputy Mayor Andy Frank attended in place of Mayor Sheila Dixon.

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Outlet: philly.com

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Outlet: Gazette Newspapers

BALTIMORE The Port of Baltimore is proving a safe harbor to weather the worst of the global economic storm so far.

'We've seen better days,' said James White, the Maryland Port Authority's executive director. 'But we are encouraged by what we see.'

Despite the recession, last year was a good year for the port, with increases in the amount of freight shipping.

Shipping began to fall off significantly early this winter, but White said there are early signs of improvement in February and March.

'We're not where we were in '08, but it is ticking up, which is a positive sign,' he said. Figures for the first quarter are not yet available.

In 2008, shipping container volume through the port increased 2.5 percent while roll-off traffic cargo packed in trailers that can be immediately hooked up to tractor-trailer trucks grew 16 percent, White said. Forest products such as lumber rose 6 percent. Even with the decline in auto sales nationally, the port handled 2.3 percent more vehicles.

'It has slowed down, but not as much as the national average,' said state transportation Secretary John Porcari, recently nominated by President Obama as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

'That's due primarily to two factors,' Porcari said. White 'has emphasized multiyear contracts with shipping companies, and the second is the diversity. It's not just containers or roll-on, roll-off cargo or the cruise business. Rather, it's all of the above. The diversified business base is why we're doing better than many other ports.'

Vehicle traffic shipped through the port has seen the biggest slowdown, White said. During a healthy economy, about 40,000 to 45,000 vehicles will be at the port at any time. That has grown to 57,000 vehicles, as sales at dealerships slump and they can't take more on their lots.

The Baltimore Port Authority made arrangements to use long-term parking at Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport to store the cars 'so we wouldn't have to turn ships away,' White said.

Contract extension maintains 628 jobs

The port employs 16,500 people directly and more than 80,000 indirectly.

'The economic engine that the port provides is huge for Maryland,' White said.

On Thursday, the state signed a six-year extension of its contract with Mediterranean Shipping Co. of Geneva, an international container shipping company, to maintain 628 direct jobs and the continued shipment of the company's container cargo through Baltimore.

'In these difficult economic times, I am very pleased to receive an extended commitment from one of the top container shipping companies in the world,' said Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) in a statement. 'This extension keeps good-paying, family-supporting jobs at the economic engine that is the Port of Baltimore. Maryland is proud to be signing the third long-term contract in a year when many ports are facing much harder times.'

The agreement extends the current contract through the end of 2014 and requires Mediterranean to ship at least 100,000 containers annually through Baltimore.

The company began weekly shipments to Baltimore in 1988.

'At this time of great uncertainty in the global economy, it's refreshing that the relationship between Mediterranean Shipping Co. and the Maryland Port Administration is stable and based on mutual respect and cooperation,' said Nicola Arena, chairman and CEO of Mediterranean.

Customs brokers see light in the tunnel

The global economy has slowed traffic at all ports, but Baltimore's is doing better than others, said Leanna Billings, vice president of the Baltimore Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association, a trade association.

'It's turning around and about even [with last year] now,' Billings said.

Custom house brokers are hired by importers to accept and verify the shipment of the goods and to pay any duties or other fees for clients. Forwarders arrange for shipping the freight after it has arrived at the port.

'The Port of Baltimore has always been a good port, especially for railroad cargo in-bound and outbound, so I don't think Baltimore has seen the numbers diminish as much as much of the ports,' Billings said.

At a general meeting of the trade association, which has 58 members in Baltimore, 'everyone seemed very positive,' Billings said.

But Donna Curtis, import manager for Bruzzone Shipping in Baltimore, estimated her business is still down about 25 percent from a year ago.

'We still have the same customers, but they're importing less,' said Curtis, who has worked at the company since 1976. 'You just have to ride it out. This is a business of ups and downs depending on how the economy is doing. But I've got to say this is the worst I've seen it.'

Cruise business a bright spot

One new business that is doing 'exceptionally well' for the port is the cruise business, White said. Last year, 28 cruises sailed from the port. This year, 79 are projected.

On Monday, **Carnival** Cruise Lines launched Baltimore's first year-round cruise schedule with the departure of its 2,124-passenger **Carnival Pride**. The ship arrived in the company of The **Pride** of Baltimore, a reproduction of a 19th-century schooner. The

cruise ships are expected to generate more than \$152 million in annual revenue and 1,500 jobs in Maryland.

'Baltimore is an excellent addition to our North American home port offerings as it is in close proximity to millions of consumers who now have the opportunity to embark on a Fun **Ship**' **cruise** right from their own backyards,' said Gerry Cahill, **Carnival** president and CEO, in a statement.

The cruises will sail the Caribbean.

Baltimore's port is a good location for the ocean liners because the additional security measures established at airports following the 2001 terrorist attacks have discouraged some vacationers from flying to Florida to start their cruises, White said. With so many people on the East Coast living within reasonable driving distance to Baltimore, it is easier for them to board there, he said.

'The key is going to be their success in filling the cabins,' White said. 'But what we're hearing is that coming out of the blocks things are looking good right now.'

But it is too early to say whether the uptick in cargo and the expected increase of **cruise ship** sailings are indicators that the national economy is beginning to rebound, White said.

'I would hope we're starting to move back to where we were a year ago, but I wouldn't put my whole faith in two months of cargo tonnage moving through the port,' White said. 'It's the bigger things like consumer confidence and getting the banks to start lending again. Until Americans start buying again, it's going to be a tough call on where the economy is going. Consumer spending has bailed us out of the last two recessions. Let's hope history starts repeating itself.'

Outlet: Travel Weekly

BALTIMORE -- Baltimore may call itself "the city that reads," but Carnival Cruise Lines is trying to make it the city that cruises.

The 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride sailed into the harbor here on April 27, launching the city's first year-round cruise program.

The presence of Maryland's political elite at a reception onboard the Pride demonstrated how much this ship, and the 1,500 jobs and \$152 million it is expected to contribute to the local economy, means to this town.

"Those jobs were going to go somewhere; those cruises were going to take off from somewhere," said U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings. "I'm glad it's Baltimore."

Also onboard were Sen. Benjamin Cardin and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

Baltimore is quickly growing as a prominent East Coast cruise port: It will be joined in June 2010 by Royal Caribbean's 2,252-passenger Enchantment of Seas, which will also begin a year-round cruise program from Baltimore.

At the Pride event, the biggest smile among attendees might have belonged to Carnival's director of business development for Maryland and Delaware, Tom Dougher, who began the campaign to bring a ship here almost 10 years ago.

Dougher has always argued that Baltimore was ideally situated within driving distance of millions of people and offers a smoother ride to the Caribbean than New York.

"The demand is here; the agents are behind it," he said. "They kept telling me, 'We need a ship,' and every time I heard it, I'd pass it along."

Many of those agents were on hand to greet the ship they'd lobbied for.

"People have been asking and begging, 'When is Carnival coming back?'" said Paula Dozier of DTS Midway Vacations in Pikesville, Md. "We can sell this ship year-round."

Dozier said that people in this region, especially in the current economy, would appreciate Carnival's pricing structure.

"Some people here are doing staycations, but you would spend more taking your family to an amusement park for the weekend than taking a Carnival cruise," she said. "This is normally a very slow time. Carnival has made us busy."

"It's long overdue," said Mark Jacobs of the Cruise Line Ltd. agency in North Potomac, Md. "This is a huge market. It captures the whole Mid-Atlantic."

Hearing all the homeport virtues Baltimore offered, it was curious that it took so long for Baltimore to get a ship committed year-round.

"Baltimore was not recognized as a serious cruise port," said John Meister, manager of Cruise Marketing for the Maryland Port Administration. But he pointed out that Baltimore is closer to Buffalo than New York is and closer to Pittsburgh than Philadelphia is.

"When you look at the demographics, and the terminal we have, everything comes together, and it made sense to be here."

Outlet; Seatrade Insider

Carnival Cruise Lines is launching Baltimore's first year-round cruise schedule with today's inaugural departure of the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride.

The ship arrived this morning at the South Locust Point Cruise Terminal, accompanied by The Pride of Baltimore, an reproduction of a 19th-century clipper topsail schooner. A reception on board Carnival Pride hosted port and community officials, dignitaries and other VIPs.

Today's voyage marks the first of 50 annually aboard the 88,500gt Fun Ship, which is expected to carry 115,000 passengers a year from Baltimore.

Carnival Pride will operate six-, seven- and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through August before embarking on a year-round seven-day schedule starting Sept. 6 with cruises departing every Sunday. Two itineraries will be offered, an Eastern Caribbean route to Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay and Freeport, and a Bahamas/Florida route to Port Canaveral, Nassau and Freeport.

With the new service, Carnival now sails from 19 North American departure points.

The Port of Baltimore estimates that with the addition of Carnival Pride, the cruise industry will provide an annual economic impact of \$152m and generate 1,550 jobs within the state of Maryland.

Outlet: Cruise Diva

Who knew Baltimore could be so much "fun"? It will be today during Carnival Cruise Lines' Fun City: Baltimore event which takes place in the city's Inner Harbor.

Benefiting Maryland Special Olympics, the day-long event is free, open to the public and offers a variety of activities and attractions, including the creation of a giant sand sculpture and 3-D chalk art. A world record giant beach ball, hip-hop dance performances, live entertainment, a "Camp Carnival" Kids' Zone, karaoke, and an appearance by Carnival's mascot "Fun Ship" Freddy will be featured, as well. Fun City: Baltimore is a celebration to mark the start-up of Baltimore's first year-round cruise program aboard the 2,124-passenger *Carnival Pride* which kicks off Monday, April 27.

Fort Worth Star News

PORT OF BALTIMORE COMMEMORATE LAUNCH OF CITY'S FIRST YEAR-ROUND CRUISE PROGRAM

Ship Expected to Carry More than 115,000 Guests Annually from Baltimore

Carnival Cruise Lines and the Port of Baltimore will launch the city's first year-round cruise schedule when the 2,124-passenger Carnival Pride sails on its inaugural departure from Baltimore.

The Carnival Pride arrived on Friday, April 27th at the South Locust Point Cruise Terminal, accompanied by, appropriately enough, The Pride of Baltimore, an authentic reproduction of a 19th century clipper topsail schooner. Following the Carnival Pride's arrival, a special invitation-only reception was held on board the vessel and attended by port and community officials, dignitaries and VIPs.



This voyage of the Carnival Pride marks the first of 50 voyages annually aboard the 88,500-ton "Fun Ship," which is expected to carry 115,000 passengers a year from Baltimore. The Port of Baltimore estimates that with the addition of the Carnival Pride, the cruise industry will provide an annual economic impact of \$152 million and generate 1,550 jobs within the state.

With the new year-round service from Baltimore, Carnival now sails from 19 North American departure points - the most in cruising - providing consumers with easy and affordable access to a wide variety of embarkation ports throughout the U.S.

Carnival Pride's New Baltimore-Based Cruises Carnival Pride will operate a series of six-, seven- and eight-day cruises from Baltimore through Aug. 29, 2009. These cruises will visit a wide variety of ports, including Nassau, Freeport, Half Moon Cay (a private Bahamian island), Port Canaveral (near Orlando) and Grand Turk in the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Carnival Pride will then feature a year-round seven-day schedule starting Sept. 6, 2009, with cruises departing every Sunday. Two different itineraries will be offered including an Exotic Eastern Caribbean itinerary calling at Grand Turk, Half Moon Cay, and Freeport; and a weeklong Bahamas/Florida route featuring Port Canaveral (near Orlando's many attractions), Nassau and Freeport.

Signature 'Fun Ship' Amenities

The 960-foot-long Carnival Pride offers a host of resort-style amenities and facilities: four swimming pools - one with a cascading water slide - a wedding chapel and an upscale supper club located at the top of a glass-enclosed atrium, just one of several dining venues on board.

Sixteen lounges and bars, including a sports bar, wine bar, piano bar and a 1,200-seat theatre showcasing lavish revues, are also featured. These facilities are accessible by a promenade running the length of the ship. Other features include a 14,500-square-foot spa, a jogging track, ship-wide Wi-Fi access and cell phone service.

Carnival Pride also appeals to families by offering expansive facilities and organized activities for children in three age groups - Camp Carnival for 2- to 11-year-olds, Circle "C" for 12- to 14-year-olds, and Club O2 for 15- to 17-year-olds.

The ship offers a wide variety of spacious accommodations and features the exclusive Carnival Comfort Bed sleep system with plush mattresses, luxurious duvets and high quality linens and pillows. This includes approximately 700 staterooms and suites which have a private balcony - a very popular option for enjoying the beautiful ocean vistas.

Reservations

Reservations are currently being accepted for the Carnival Pride's new departures from Baltimore. Special rates for third and fourth guests sailing in the same stateroom, along with round-trip air supplements from a variety of North American gateways are also available.

For additional information and reservations, contact any local travel agent.

Carnival Pride Makes Grand Return To Canaveral

Port Canaveral today welcomed back the Carnival Pride to its original homeport during the first of 18 calls scheduled this year from Baltimore. Carnival Pride was inaugurated in Canaveral in January 2002 and homeported here until fall 2003. It was replaced with the larger Carnival Glory, which today sails eastern and western Caribbean itineraries from Port Canaveral and will be replaced later this year by the largest Carnival ship ever, the Carnival Dream.

Carnival Pride will stop in Canaveral as part of Carnival's Baltimore cruise program. Carnival expects the Carnival Pride to carry more than 115,000 passengers from Baltimore annually.

"Port Canaveral's reputation as a world-class homeport has contributed to expanding our port of call business and the success we are experiencing with cruise lines such as Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and Norwegian," says Stan Payne, CEO, Port Canaveral.

Carnival Cruise Lines has scheduled a record 94 cruise ship calls to Port Canaveral now through 2011.

"Each port of call visit from a cruise line brings opportunity for Brevard and Central Florida businesses to capture some of the crew members and passengers who want to enjoy the natural beauty of our beaches or the diversity of our area attractions or spend their time ashore shopping," says Tom Goodson, Chairman, Canaveral Port Authority Board of Commissioners.