

CRUISE NEWS  
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## **CARNIVAL'S *ECSTASY* TO RETURN TO GALVESTON BETTER THAN EVER**

Following its 6-month charter to the U.S. government for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in New Orleans, Carnival's *Ecstasy* will undergo an extensive multi-million-dollar makeover before returning to the Port of Galveston on April 8, 2006. *Sensation* and *Holiday*, also part of the charter, will also undergo similar renovations.

"Because the ships were maintained to Carnival's high standards throughout the charter period, they are all in excellent condition and these multi-million renovations will make these terrific 'Fun Ships' even better when they resume service this spring," said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president and CEO.

The 35-day refurbishment of the 2,052-passenger *Ecstasy* will take place in Mobile, Ala., and will include a new nine-hole miniature golf course and new 1,600-square-foot Children's World play area, part of the ongoing expansion of the line's top-rated "Camp Carnival" program.

All of *Ecstasy's* 1,026 cabins, including 54 suites, will be completely redone. The aft lounge will be reconfigured to house new family recreation areas featuring audio/visual equipment for displaying movies or other programming. New lighting, flooring, wall coverings and dessert stations will enhance the Panorama Bar & Grill poolside restaurant. A new art gallery and 1,200 square-foot conference room will be added. The ship's gift shops will be renovated as well.

The *Ecstasy* will resume its previously operated schedule from Galveston now maintained by *Elation*. On this route, 4-day cruises depart Thursdays and visit Calica, Mexico, while 5-day voyages depart Mondays and Saturdays and visit Progreso and Cozumel.

Beginning April 30, *Elation* will launch a new 7-day itinerary from Miami that will run through October 15. The ship will sail every Sunday to Half Moon Cay, the Bahamas; St. Thomas/St. John, U.S.V.I.; San Juan Puerto Rico; and Grand Turk, Turks and Caicos Islands. On October 23, *Elation* will take over a new year-round program of 4 and 5-day cruises from Port Canaveral.

Carnival *Conquest's* 7-day itinerary departing Sundays from Galveston to Montego Bay, Jamaica; Grand Cayman, Cayman Island and Cozumel, Mexico, remains unchanged.

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## **IMAGINE THE CHECK-IN LINES!**

Royal Caribbean International recently ordered a new ship—the largest and most expensive ever to be built. The 5,400-guest, 220,000-gross-registered-ton ship is a  
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prototype developed under the project name Genesis. (For comparison, Carnival *Conquest* and *Grand Princess* weigh in at 110,000 and 109,000 tons, respectively.) At 1,180 feet long, 154 feet wide and 240 feet high, Project Genesis will be built by Finnish shipbuilder Aker Yards for a fall 2009 delivery, taking an estimated 5,800 man years to complete. Price tag: approximately one billion dollars.

Royal Caribbean estimates the all-in costs of the ship to be approximately \$230,000 per berth, despite its being a prototype with significant advancements. The contract is contingent upon the completion of certain conditions by the end of February. Royal Caribbean also has an option for a second ship.

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