

Carnival Signs Five-Year Extension with Port of Baltimore

Travel Pulse

Carnival Cruise Lines is signing a five-year extension with the Port of Baltimore and will continue to operate year-round cruises from the Maryland city. The new agreement takes effect on Aug. 31 when the current two-year contract expires.

The first two years of the new deal are financially guaranteed and there are three one-year options. Carnival will continue to offer one seven-day cruise a week from Baltimore to the Bahamas and Caribbean onboard the Carnival Pride. Previous to this announcement, Carnival was committed to sailing from Baltimore through the first quarter of 2012.

“The decision by Carnival to make a commitment like this and to continue offering year-round cruises from Maryland further illustrates the growth of the Baltimore/Washington region as a strong cruise market,” said Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley. “In just three years, we have gone from 27 seasonal cruises to 112 year-round cruises. Located in one of the largest population markets in the country and having a great cruise terminal that is easily accessible from I-95, Baltimore has developed a winning combination that continues to attract passengers in record numbers. This kind of success is good for Carnival and it is good for Maryland.”

Carnival became the first cruise line to offer year-round cruises from the Port of Baltimore in 2009. Since then, Royal Caribbean International has begun a year-round schedule. Gerry Cahill, Carnival’s president and CEO, said the Baltimore program has been “a tremendous success” and now carries more than 115,000 guests annually. In 2010, a record 210,549 people sailed on 91 cruises from the Cruise Maryland Terminal.

Carnival to continue cruising from Baltimore into 2014

Baltimore Sun/ Michelle Deal-Zimmerman

Carnival Cruise Lines will continue to offer year-round cruises from the Port of Baltimore through early 2014.

The Miami-based cruise line is signing onto an extension of its contract, guaranteeing at least two more years and adding three one-year options. The deal makes it possible for Carnival to continue operating from the port for up to five years. The agreement takes effect on Aug. 31, when the current contract is set to expire.

Martin O’Malley The cruise line began year-round cruises from Baltimore in 2009. Since then, Royal Caribbean has also committed to year-round cruises from the port.

“In just three years, we have gone from 27 seasonal cruises to 112 year-round cruises,” said Gov. Martin O’Malley. “Located in one of the largest population markets in the country and having a great cruise terminal that is easily accessible from I-95, Baltimore has developed a winning combination that continues to attract passengers in record numbers. This kind of success is good for Carnival and it is good for Maryland.”

Last year, the port set a record with more than 210,000 people sailing on 91 cruises from the Cruise Maryland Terminal. The Port of Baltimore ranks no. 6 on the East Coast for cruise passengers.

Carnival Cruise Lines extends Baltimore deal into 2016

Baltimore Business Journal/Scott Dance

Carnival will continue to offer seven-day cruises to the Bahamas and the Caribbean aboard the Carnival Pride. No mention was made of adding another ship or changing vessels, as has been rumored by some cruise enthusiasts.

Last month, Carnival announced that it would begin sailing year-round from New York beginning in 2012. Prior to that, Baltimore was the cruise line's northernmost year-round port.

Carnival (NYSE: CCL) was the first cruise line to [schedule year-round cruises](#) from the South Locust Point cruise terminal in Baltimore in 2009. It carries about 115,000 passengers a year through Baltimore, Carnival CEO **Gerry Cahill** said in a statement.

"We are very pleased to continue our outstanding relationship with the port and city of Baltimore," Cahill said.

Cruise liners have scheduled 112 cruises from Baltimore in 2011, up from 91 in 2010 that carried a record 210,549 people.

Carnival Agrees To Extension With Baltimore

WJZ-TV/ Meghan McCorkal

BALTIMORE (WJZ) — Good news for people who like to set sail for their vacation. Carnival Cruise Lines has signed a new five-year deal with the Port of Baltimore. **Meghan McCorkell** has the details.

Last year, a record 210,000 people hopped a cruise right here in Baltimore and with this new deal, even more people are expected to get on board.

Exotic locations, luxury accommodations and getting there couldn't be easier. The Port of Baltimore is seeing record numbers of cruise passengers. Word that a new extension has been inked with Carnival has more people thinking about setting sail.

"Yeah. I live right across from Baltimore, so taking a cruise would be awesome," said one.

Just three years ago, only 27 seasonal cruises departed from Baltimore. This year, the port will have 112 cruises year-round. Baltimore now ranks sixth on the East Coast with cruise passengers and 14th nationally.

"It's not just Baltimore people. People come to Baltimore from all over now," said Mary Eve Vonberger, The Cruise Lady, Inc.

Travel agent Mary Eve Vonberger's business is up because the port is so convenient. One thing that makes the Port of Baltimore so accessible is its proximity to I-95.

Increased passengers means more money for the state, says Rick Powers with the Maryland Port Administration.

"We're looking at about 90 million dollars a year of economic impact and 500, plus or minus, jobs," Powers said.

And with this latest Carnival deal, those numbers could be rising. The first two years of Carnival's extension are guaranteed. There are three one-year options following that. Both the Carnival Pride and the Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas are operating year-round in the Port of Baltimore.

Carnival signs 5-year extension with Port of Baltimore

Maryland Daily Record/Rachel Bernstein

Carnival Cruise Lines has agreed to a five-year extension with the Port of Baltimore to run cruises from the port year round. The agreement announced Monday is effective Aug. 31, after the present two-year contract expires.

The first two years of the agreement are guaranteed, and there are three one-year options. Carnival's weekly cruise lasts for seven days, sailing to the Bahamas and Caribbean.

Before this agreement was made, Carnival was committed to providing cruises from Baltimore through the first quarter of 2012.

"Carnival's launch of Baltimore's first year-round cruise program in April 2009 has been a tremendous success, and more than 115,000 guests annually are coming into Baltimore to sail on the Carnival Pride," Gerry Cahill, Carnival's CEO, said in a statement. "We are very pleased to continue our outstanding relationship with the port and city of Baltimore."

Richard Powers, director of marketing for the Maryland Port Administration, said the discussions for the agreement had been ongoing, and the deal came as no surprise to port officials.

"Our cruise business is still very strong, and Carnival is extremely happy here," Powers said.

The Port of Baltimore will have 112 cruises in 2011, according to the Maryland Port Administration. In 2010, more than 210,000 people sailed on 91 cruises from the port's Cruise Maryland Terminal. That was a record for the number of passengers coming through the city in one year. More than 167,000 passengers traveled on 81 cruises from Baltimore in 2009.

Powers said he expects 2011 will be another record-breaking year for number of passengers that cruised through Baltimore.

"It leads us to believe in a real value of cruising," he said. "That people still want to take a vacation in tough economic times."

The Carnival Pride and Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas liners operate year-round at the port. Royal Caribbean also offers trips to Bermuda, New England and Canada.

Royal Caribbean is not contractually bound with the port, but reserves berths two years in advance, Powers said. The company has requested berths through the next two years, which is usual for the industry, he said.

The Carnival Pride has four swimming pools, 16 lounges and bars, a 1,200-seat theater, a spa and several dining venues. With ships having an inclusive package of entertainment, dining and lodging, consumers looking for an economically smart vacation have been turning to cruises, Powers said.

Baltimore ranks sixth on the East Coast and 14th nationally for cruise passengers, according to the MPA.

Carnival agrees to continue Port of Baltimore cruises

Delmarva. com

Carnival Cruise Lines will continue to offer cruises year round from the Port of Baltimore.

The line agreed to an extension, which was announced Monday and is effective Aug. 31, after the current two-year contract ends.

The Daily Record of Baltimore (<http://bit.ly/orYHwU>) reports that the first two years of the deal are guaranteed, and there are three one-year options.

Last year, more than 210,000 people sailed on 91 cruises from the port's Cruise Maryland Terminal.