



The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

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THE PRIDE IS BACK!

Carnival Cruise's Pride Returns to the Port of Baltimore With New Restaurants, Entertainment and the Fastest Water Slide at Sea

(BALTIMORE, MD) – Today the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) celebrated the return of the newly renovated Carnival Cruise Lines ship *Pride* to the Port of Baltimore. The ship left Maryland in October 2014 to undergo a multimillion dollar renovation including new dining and entertainment features as well as new emission technologies. Carnival will offer five to 14-day cruises onboard the *Carnival Pride* year-round from Baltimore to the Caribbean and Bahamas.

“Maryland values our long-standing relationship with Carnival and we are delighted to welcome the *Carnival Pride* back to her home port at the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn. “Governor Hogan is focused on building Maryland’s reputation as a place that’s open for business, and today we are pleased that the *Carnival Pride* is once again open for business in Baltimore.”

The 2,124-passenger ship returns to Baltimore with new dining venues like *Guy’s Burger Joint*, *Blue Iguana Cantina*, and *Bonsai Sushi*. There are also new bars and entertainment options like *Hasbro*, *The Game Show*; *Seuss at Sea* and *Playlist Productions*. A new water park was added, featuring *Green Thunder*, which Carnival says is the steepest and fastest water slide at sea.

“We are thrilled to be returning to Baltimore which is such a fantastic cruise departure point for people in Mid-Atlantic States, the northeast and beyond,” said Carnival President Christine Duffy. “*Carnival Pride* has just undergone a massive enhancement program that added a variety of great new features which, when combined with a wide range of itinerary options, makes this ship an excellent vacation choice for consumers and a great selling opportunity for our valued travel agent partners.”

In 2014, nearly 200,000 passengers sailed on 89 cruises from the Port of Baltimore. The Port of Baltimore ranks 6th on the East Coast, 11th in the U.S. and 20th in the world for cruise passengers. Since beginning a year-round cruise schedule in 2009, nearly every cruise that has sailed from the Port of Baltimore has left at full passenger capacity.

Approximately 500 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland, including 220 direct jobs at the Port of Baltimore. Additionally, Maryland benefits from \$90 million in economic activity generated by cruise activities. The economic value to Maryland takes into consideration such factors as local spending, hotels, dining and entertainment.

The Port of Baltimore’s cruise terminal is 2.5 miles from Baltimore’s world famous Inner Harbor and 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. Maryland’s median household income of \$70,004 is the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of some of the wealthiest counties in the U.S. The Baltimore-Washington DC-Northern Virginia region is recognized as one of the most populated and affluent in the nation.

Governor Larry Hogan MDOT Secretary Pete K. Rahn MPA Executive Director James J. White

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