



# The Maryland Port Administration

# PRESS RELEASE

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## PORT OF BALTIMORE TO WELCOME BACK *ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS* CRUISE SHIP IN 2021

*Royal Caribbean Vessel Will Continue Company's Year-Round  
Cruise Schedule to Bahamas, Bermuda and Caribbean*

**(BALTIMORE, MD)** – The Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore will welcome back Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's *Enchantment of the Seas* cruise ship in April 2021 after its current Baltimore-based ship, *Grandeur of the Seas*, is reassigned for other cruising opportunities. *Enchantment of the Seas* was previously based at the Port of Baltimore from 2010 to 2013 while *Grandeur of the Seas* underwent a renovation. *Grandeur of the Seas* will continue to be based at Port of Baltimore until April 2021. *Enchantment of the Seas* is a slightly larger vessel. It will also offer year-round cruising to the Bahamas, Bermuda and Caribbean, as well as fall voyages to New England and Canada.

"We are excited to welcome the *Enchantment of the Seas* back to Maryland and the Port of Baltimore," said Governor Larry Hogan. "Royal Caribbean's decision to continue year-round sailings is a strong vote of confidence in Maryland and our cruise market. The Port of Baltimore's cruise terminal enjoys a wonderful location off Interstate 95, allowing convenient access from the Mid-Atlantic into the Midwest."

Last year, 218,849 passengers sailed on 94 cruises from the Port of Baltimore. Nearly 400 jobs are generated by cruise activity in Maryland, including more than 200 direct jobs at the Port. About \$90 million in economic benefits to Maryland is generated by cruise activities through local spending, hotels, dining and entertainment.

The Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration (MDOT MPA) recently completed significant renovations to the Port of Baltimore cruise terminal, including an enclosed, temperature-controlled breezeway that protects passengers from the weather and links the terminal to the ship. Other improvements include expanded restrooms, a new VIP lounge, new carpeting and new ticketing kiosks.

The *Enchantment of the Seas* is a 2,446-passenger ship that began service in 1997. It has been refurbished twice, most recently in 2013. It offers amenities such as pools and whirlpools and a bungee trampoline. It also offers the diverse dining options favored by passengers for years.

"*Grandeur of the Seas* will be leaving the Royal Caribbean International fleet in early April 2021 to join our Spanish partner Pullmantur Cruceros," said Jonathon Fishman, manager of corporate reputation for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. "Later that month, *Enchantment of the Seas* will replace *Grandeur* in the Port of Baltimore and offer year-round sailings, starting with her spring 2021 season."

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

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**Page Two – Port of Baltimore Enchantment of the Seas**

The Port of Baltimore's cruise terminal is 2.5 miles from Baltimore's Inner Harbor and 10 miles from BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport. Maryland's median household income of \$83,242 is the highest in the U.S. Baltimore is also located within a four-hour drive of some of the wealthiest counties in the nation. The Baltimore-Washington D.C.-Northern Virginia region is one of the most populated and affluent in the nation.

The Port of Baltimore [generates about 15,330 direct jobs](#), with more than 139,180 jobs overall linked to Port activities. The average salary for people with direct jobs at the Port is 9.5 percent higher than the average annual wage in Maryland. The Port is responsible for nearly \$3.3 billion in personal wages and salaries, \$2.6 billion in business revenues and \$395 million in state and local tax revenues.

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