



**GALVESTON WHARVES SIGNS LONG-TERM AGREEMENT WITH
ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISES LTD. TO DEVELOP NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART TERMINAL**



Galveston, TX, Dec. 12, 2019* – The Port of Galveston, the fourth most active cruise port in North America, has signed a long-term contract with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCL) for a new \$100 million cruise terminal. Through the public-private partnership, RCL will build the terminal, then lease it from the port for an initial term of 20 years, with four 10-year extension options.

The two-story terminal will have a footprint of approximately 170,000 square feet on 10 acres in the eastern section of the port known as Pier 10. Construction is expected to begin in April 2020. Anticipated to open in fall 2021, the facility will feature state-of-the-art technology, including mobile check-in and facial recognition to expedite guest arrival. The terminal will be designed and developed sustainably to meet LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental) certification standards.

Improvements to the pier bulkhead and apron will be made to safely accommodate the cruise line's largest vessels. In addition, a staging and loading area, bus and taxi staging areas and substantial parking will be constructed.

The port will be responsible for items including maintenance, parking, and improvements to the dock so that it can accommodate the larger vessels. RCL will contribute to the cost of improving the docks.

(more)

“This is historic moment, not only for the port but for Galveston. This partnership will bring economic growth to the region and the state by generating new jobs, spending and tax revenues. It also will bring more visitors to the island, a popular tourist destination,” said Port Director/CEO Rodger Rees. “Galveston is on course to become a global destination for cruising, and we are thankful for partners like Royal Caribbean.”

As the Port of Galveston’s cruise industry grows, so does its local and state economic impact. According to a national report, Galveston’s cruise business grew by 13 percent in 2018, resulting in \$1.5 billion in cruise industry direct expenditures and 26,241 jobs with total wages of \$1.75 billion in Texas.

“We are excited to partner with the Port of Galveston to develop a world-class facility which will allow us to sail our newest, largest and most innovative ships from Texas starting with *Allure of the Seas*, one of the largest ships in the world,” Michael Bayley, president and CEO, Royal Caribbean International. “The new terminal will allow us to increase our guests to the region by 50% generating a \$100 million economic impact within the first year of operation.”

The port began its successful partnership with RCL in 2002 with the inaugural sailing of *Rhapsody of the Seas*. Currently, the port is home to *Enchantment of the Seas* and *Liberty of the Seas*, the largest cruise ship in the state of Texas.

In November 2021, the newly completed terminal will welcome one of the largest cruise ships in the world, *Allure of the Seas*. Following her \$165 million amplification, *Allure* will pump up the adventure with the addition of the Ultimate Abyss, the tallest slide at sea that touts a 10-story plunge; The Perfect Storm, a thrilling trio of multistory waterslides; and an array of culinary possibilities with more restaurants, including the introduction of Giovanni’s Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar and returning favorites Playmakers Sports Bar & Arcade and El Loco Fresh; and more. *Allure* will sail 7-night Caribbean itineraries from Galveston and will be the biggest and boldest ship sailing from the Lone Star state.

***June 2020 Update** - Due to the global pandemic’s unprecedented impact on the cruise and travel industry, Royal Caribbean and the Port of Galveston have agreed to postpone the development and opening of the destination’s new, \$100 million cruise terminal. Based on adjusted plans and timelines, the terminal is now scheduled to be completed in October 2022.

This also impacts plans for Allure of the Seas' Texas debut and winter 2021-22 sailings from Galveston. As the destination's first and only cruise terminal designed for Oasis Class ships, its postponement impacts Allure's itineraries until the new completion date. Liberty of the Seas will now remain in Galveston year-round, offering 7-night Western Caribbean cruises through April 2022.

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