

Celebrity will sail from Baltimore

Contributed by Shaun Robinson
Saturday, 04 October 2008
Last Updated Saturday, 25 October 2008

CELEBRITY's Mercury, a 1,900 passenger ship will be the fourth cruise liner to make Baltimore a Home port.

It joins Carnival Cruise as a recent addition to the port's cruise business. Carnival announced back in June this year that it would start year-round cruises in September 2009. Royal Caribbean and NCL also confirmed Baltimore for new services.

Celebrity's first cruise will be November 2009 for a 12-night trip to St Thomas, St Kitts, Antigua, St Maarten and Tortola.

NCL and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines are the the only firms to call on Baltimore in 2008. But the addition of Celebrity and Carnival bring the port near the high of 60 cruises offered in 2004

Royal Caribbean has 16 trips on offer, while NCL said for summer 2008 they would have operated 11 cruises from the new port.

In 2007 the cruise business brought some \$148 million in economic impact on the sate, including jobs and cruise passengers visiting or staying in hotels within the city.

The Maryland Port estimated \$56 million impact from 125,000 passengers in 2006 and a \$63 million impact from 100,000 passengers for 2008.

Celebrity will also offer trips to: Key West, Nassau in the Bahamas and Charleston.