



As you may know all major cruise lines are suspending port calls to Mexico in response to CDC's advisory on essential travel to Mexico. Among the cruise lines altering their itineraries are Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean International, Celebrity Cruises, Princess Cruises, Holland America Line and Norwegian Cruise Line. The impact of this unfortunate situation has required some cruise lines to suspend their regularly scheduled Mexico cruise itineraries leaving from Los Angeles and San Diego. This situation has required a quick response—prompting several cruise lines to create new West Coast itineraries for the 2009 summer season

As a result, Royal Caribbean International (RCI) and Carnival Cruise Line have contacted the Port of Seattle this week requesting "port-of-call" berth space in Seattle for the 2009 cruise season--a desired stop on their new West Coast itineraries. Docking in Seattle would be a single day visit during a 7-day cruise itinerary.

The requirements for port of call visits are very different from a homeport. Typically there is no bunkering (vessel fueling), provisioning (supplies), luggage handling or passenger check-in. The vessels arrive early in the morning, passenger/guests, tour the city-see the local sites and attractions, shop and in the afternoon re-board the vessel. Port-of-call visits provide a very visible and immediate economic impact to Seattle attractions, restaurants and retail stores since guests are here to enjoy and explore the city just for the day.

Our cruise team has mobilized to capture this immediate business opportunity for additional port-of-call visits for our 2009 cruise season. At this time, we anticipate the following new vessels as port-of-call visits starting next week, however, we are still awaiting final confirmation from the ship agent.

- ***Mariner of the Seas* (Royal Caribbean) at Bell Street Pier each Thursday May 7- July 30**
- ***Carnival Splendor* (Carnival) at Smith Cove Cruise Terminal/ each Thursday from May 7 - through end of summer (last port call date TBD)**

Feel free to share this information with your colleagues. If you have questions about this additional cruise business contact Rosie Courtney at courtney.r@portseattle.org