

Cruise Critic

Baltimore: In 2008, 27 cruises departed from Charm City's port. In 2009, that number nearly tripled to 79 cruises, and in 2010, the number will increase again to a record 92 cruises. Why? Two reasons: [Carnival](#) and [Royal Caribbean](#). In April 2009, Carnival began homeporting the 88,500-ton, 2,124-passenger [Carnival Pride](#) in Baltimore to sail seven-night Eastern Caribbean and Bahamas itineraries. Not to be outdone, Royal Caribbean announced that it would upgrade its ship in Baltimore from the 74,140-ton, 1,950-passenger [Grandeur of the Seas](#) to the 80,700-ton, 2,252-passenger [Enchantment of the Seas](#), which will offer cruises to the Bahamas, Eastern Caribbean and Canada & New England starting in 2010. Sister line [Celebrity](#) will also start its seasonal Baltimore cruises on [Celebrity Mercury](#) in October 2010, a month earlier than originally planned. Baltimore can now claim to berth the largest ships sailing out of mid-Atlantic ports (Philadelphia and Norfolk pale in comparison) with plenty of options for the drive-to market on the Eastern Seaboard.