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PORT OF LOS ANGELES WELCOMES BACK PRINCESS CRUISES: *DIAMOND PRINCESS* SETS SAIL

SAN PEDRO, CA – Today the Port of Los Angeles welcomed Princess Cruise Lines' newest, most luxurious cruise liner *Diamond Princess* from her maiden voyage from Nagasaki, Japan to the United States. With the Port of Los Angeles as her first U.S. port of call, cruise passengers who embark at the Port's World Cruise Center will experience the world's first trips aboard the *Diamond Princess*.

The *Diamond Princess* departs the Port of Los Angeles March 13 for the inaugural season of Mexican cruises during spring. The ship will begin Alaskan cruise service this summer from Seattle.

"The Port of Los Angeles is delighted to be the first port in the nation to welcome the *Diamond Princess*," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Larry Keller. "It's a perfect fit: Princess' state-of-the-art cruise ship is at the West Coast's state-of-the-art Cruise Center."

The 116,000-ton, 2,670-passenger *Diamond Princess* launches a new ship design for Princess and makes history as the first large cruise ship built in Japan in more than a decade. Built by Mitsubishi, she is the largest vessel ever made in Japan. Larger than her sister ship *Star Princess*, *Diamond Princess* features an extra deck of state rooms with private balconies, additional swimming pools, in addition to a nine-hole golf course, casino, theater and Internet Café.

Utilizing environmentally advantageous fuel, the *Diamond Princess* is powered by a diesel-electric propulsion system, which minimizes air emissions. The ship will make weekly voyages to Mexico through mid-April.

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After 5:00 p.m.:

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