



Carnival Cruise Lines goes Wi-Fi fleetwide

Carnival Cruise Lines is expanding wireless Internet access to all public rooms and suites aboard its entire 21-ship fleet by the end of 2006.

With various Wi-Fi hot spots located throughout the ships, guests will be able to access the internet and send e-mails via any wireless-equipped laptop computer from virtually anywhere aboard ship, including all lounges, bars, pool areas, open decks, dining venues and suite accommodations.

Currently this access is only available throughout Carnival Valor and Carnival Liberty. On other ships guests can use wireless-equipped laptop computers in select areas in and around the Internet cafes fleetwide. Both the wireless Internet and Internet caf  s cost 75 cents per minute to surf the web and review e-mails. There is also a one-time activation fee of \$3.95. Minutes can also be purchased in bulk at a discount.

The project is roughly 75% complete, reports CCL, with the balance of the fleet expected to be completed by year's end.

'The Internet has become an indispensable tool for staying abreast of the latest news and keeping in touch with the office and loved ones and we are very pleased to offer convenient and cost-effective wireless technology to our guests on a fleetwide basis,' said Bob Dickinson, Carnival president and ceo.

Last week, Carnival and Wireless Maritime Services, a joint venture of Cingular Wireless and Maritime Telecommunications Network, announced that it would offer fleetwide cell phone service to guests sailing in any cruising region.