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For immediate release

***Yorktown* passenger cruise ship en route to Duluth**

Duluth, Minn., U.S.A.— The M/V *Yorktown* made its maiden voyage into the Great Lakes in June of this year and has been entertaining passengers on a series of discovery cruises along this inland waterway ever since. On Wed., Aug. 1, the US-flag cruise ship is scheduled to arrive in the Port of Duluth-Superior and dock behind the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) for the day.

Owned and operated by Travel Dynamics International of New York, the 138-passenger vessel is expected to arrive at 6 a.m. and should complete disembarkation by 9 a.m. Outbound passengers will begin boarding the vessel late that afternoon, with departure set for 11:30 p.m. via the Duluth ship canal. Those outbound passengers will end up in Detroit following an 11-day transit being called “Great Lakes Grand Discovery” – a route with stops in Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron.

The arrival of the *Yorktown* highlights the commitment of its owner to the Great Lakes. Built in Florida in 1988 specifically for coastal cruising, she measures a sleek 257 feet in length and 43 feet wide, allowing her to maneuver in secluded waterways and visit small ports that are inaccessible to larger vessels. Able to accommodate all of its guests in 69 exterior cabins, the *Yorktown* boasts a large sun deck, spacious lounge for social gatherings and lectures, plus a dining room featuring American cuisine. Approximately 95 passengers are booked on each leg of this voyage. The *Yorktown* is under the command of Captain Paul Figuenick; Cruise Director is Mr. Temu Nana.

Onboard passengers enjoy lectures by leading experts, plus excursions to several points of interest along the way, including: Manitoulin Island, Sault Ste. Marie, Mackinac Island, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and the Apostle Islands. The company is already planning its inland waterway itineraries for 2013. Rates for the *Yorktown*’s “Great Lakes Grand Discovery” cruise range from approximately \$5,000 - \$9,000. For details: www.traveldynamicsinternational.com.

Throughout the day on Wednesday, several passengers will be taking bus tours of the city, the Rose Garden, Glensheen, and Great Lakes Aquarium – arranged by Visit Duluth, representatives of which will staff an information tent dockside for the day to answer questions from visitors and onlookers alike.

The Port of Duluth-Superior – the Great Lakes as a whole, for that matter – has experienced a resurgence in passenger cruising in recent years, with multiple visits by the *Clelia II* in 2009 and 2010 and

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the return of the *c. Columbus* last year. "It's great to see another passenger vessel visiting the Twin Ports this year," said Ron Johnson, trade development director for the Duluth Seaway Port Authority and treasurer of the Great Lakes Cruising Coalition. "It's a boost for the local economy and for several port communities along the Lakes. We look forward to welcoming additional cruises in 2013 and beyond."

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