CARNIVAL CORP
Form S-3ASR
March 06, 2012
As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 6, 2012
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CARNIVAL CORPORATION	CARNIVAL PLC

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Republic of Panama	England and Wales

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

59-1562976	98-0357772

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

3655 N.W. 87th Avenue Miami, Florida 33178-2428 (305) 599-2600	Carnival House 5 Gainsford Street London SE1 2NE United Kingdom 011 44 20 7940 5381

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

Arnaldo Perez, Esq.
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Carnival Corporation
3655 N.W. 87th Avenue
Miami, Florida
33178-2428
(305) 599-2600
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies to:
John C.
Kennedy,
Esq.
Paul, Weiss,
Rifkind,
Wharton &
Garrison
LLP

1285
Avenue of
the
Americas
New York,
New York
10019-6064
(212)
373-3000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.
If the only securities being registered on this Form are to be offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box. o
If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box. x
If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o
If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. o
If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. x
If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer,” “accelerated filer” and “smaller reporting company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer x	Accelerated filer o	Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if smaller reporting company) o	Smaller reporting company o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
CARNIVAL CORPORATION				
Senior Debt Securities and Subordinated Debt Securities (collectively, “Debt Securities”)(2)				
Common Stock(2)				
Preferred Stock(2)				
Warrants				
Purchase Contracts				

Units
CARNIVAL PLC
Guarantees of Debt Securities(3)
Special Voting Share, nominal value (pounds) 1.00(4)
Trust Shares of Beneficial Interest in P&O Princess Special Voting Trust(5)

(1) Pursuant to General Instruction II.E., this information is not required to be included. An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of debt securities, shares of preferred stock, shares of common stock, warrants, purchase contracts and units of Carnival Corporation is being registered as may from time to time be issued at currently indeterminable prices. Securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or together with other securities registered hereunder. The proposed maximum initial offering prices per security will be determined, from time to time, by Carnival Corporation. Prices, when determined, may be in U.S. dollars or the equivalent thereof in one or more foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. If any debt securities or preferred stock are issued at an original issue discount, then the amount registered will include the principal or liquidation amount of such securities measured by the initial offering price thereof. In reliance on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act, Carnival Corporation hereby defers payment of the registration fee required in connection with this registration statement.

(2) Including an indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may from time to time be issued upon conversion or exchange of debt securities or preferred stock, or upon the exercise of warrants or purchase contracts, as the case may be.

(3) Carnival plc will guarantee the Debt Securities. No separate consideration will be received for the guarantees.

(4) Represents one special voting share of Carnival plc issued to the P&O Princess Special Voting Trust in connection with the dual listed company transaction completed by Carnival plc and Carnival Corporation on April 17, 2003.

(5) Represents trust shares of beneficial interest in the P&O Princess Special Voting Trust, and such trust shares represent a beneficial interest in the special voting share of Carnival plc. As a result of the dual listed company transaction, one trust share is paired with each share of Carnival Corporation common stock and is not transferable separately from the share of Carnival Corporation common stock. Upon each issuance of shares of Carnival Corporation common stock hereunder, recipients will receive both shares of Carnival Corporation common stock and an equivalent number of paired trust shares.

Table of Contents

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We are filing this registration statement solely to replace our prior Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-157861) that is expiring pursuant to Rule 415(a)(5) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). In accordance with Rule 415(a)(6), effectiveness of this registration statement will be deemed to terminate the expiring prior Registration Statement.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

C A R N I V A L
C O R P O R A T I O N

DEBT SECURITIES
COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
WARRANTS TO PURCHASE SECURITIES
PURCHASE CONTRACTS
UNITS

We, Carnival Corporation, or selling securityholders may from time to time, sell:

- shares of common stock;
- shares of preferred stock;
- debt securities, which will be guaranteed on an unsecured basis by Carnival plc;
- warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or debt securities, or any combination of them and warrants to buy and sell government debt securities, foreign currencies, currency units or units of a currency index or basket, units of a stock index or basket, or a commodity or commodity index;
- purchase contracts; and
- units.

Each share of our common stock is paired with a trust share of beneficial interest in the P&O Princess Special Voting Trust. The trust shares represent a beneficial interest in the special voting share issued by Carnival plc. Our common stock and the paired trust shares are not separable and are listed and trade together on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. (the "NYSE") under the symbol "CCL". In this prospectus, whenever we refer to shares of our common stock, unless the context requires otherwise, we are also

Table of Contents

referring to the paired trust shares. Any common stock sold under this prospectus, as it may be supplemented, will be listed on the NYSE, subject to official notice of issuance.

WE WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC TERMS OF ANY OFFERING IN SUPPLEMENTS TO THIS PROSPECTUS. THE SECURITIES MAY BE OFFERED SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER IN ANY COMBINATION AND AS SEPARATE SERIES. YOU SHOULD READ THIS PROSPECTUS AND ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU INVEST.

INVESTING IN THE SECURITIES OFFERED BY THIS PROSPECTUS INVOLVES RISKS THAT ARE DESCRIBED IN THE "RISK FACTORS" SECTION BEGINNING ON PAGE 2 OF THIS PROSPECTUS.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION, HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS OR THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

We or the selling securityholders may sell these securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly, through agents, dealers or underwriters as designated from time to time, or through a combination of these methods. We and the selling securityholders reserve the sole right to accept, and together with any agents, dealers and underwriters, reserve the right to reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts. The net proceeds to us or the selling securityholders from the sale of securities also will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is March 6, 2012.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

References in this prospectus to “we,” “us,” “our” and “Carnival Corporation” are to Carnival Corporation including, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, its subsidiaries. References to “Carnival plc” are to Carnival plc including, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires, its subsidiaries. References to “Carnival Corporation & plc” are to both Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc collectively, following the establishment of the dual listed company arrangement. For more information about the dual listed company arrangement, please see “The Companies.”

This prospectus is part of a “shelf” registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). By using a shelf registration statement, we or the selling securityholders may sell, at any time and from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. The exhibits to our registration statement contain the full text of certain contracts and other important documents we have summarized in this prospectus. Since these summaries may not contain all the information that you may find important in deciding whether to purchase the securities we offer, you should review the full text of these documents. The registration statement and the exhibits can be obtained from the SEC as indicated under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we or the selling securityholders sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the terms of those securities.

Table of Contents

The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

WE AND THE SELLING SECURITYHOLDERS ARE NOT MAKING AN OFFER OF THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD NOT ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR A PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS ACCURATE AS OF ANY DATE OTHER THAN THE DATE ON THE FRONT OF THE DOCUMENT.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

You may read and copy any document previously filed by each of Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room, 100 F. Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20549. Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc file combined reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Copies of such information filed with the SEC may be obtained at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Room. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the Public Reference Room. In addition, the SEC maintains a web site (www.sec.gov) that contains reports, proxy statements and other information regarding registrants, such as Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc, that file electronically with the SEC. Materials that Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc have filed may also be inspected at the library of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The periodic reports of Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc under the Exchange Act contain the consolidated financial statements of Carnival Corporation & plc.

You should only rely on the information contained in this prospectus and incorporated by reference in it.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Carnival Corporation (File number 1-9610) and Carnival plc (File number 1-15136) are incorporating by reference into this prospectus the following documents or portions of documents filed with the SEC:

- Carnival Corporation's and Carnival plc's joint Annual Report on Form 10-K as filed on January 30, 2012, for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011;

- Carnival Corporation's and Carnival plc's joint definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 1, 2012, as amended by Schedule 14A/A filed on March 2, 2012;

- Carnival Corporation's and Carnival plc's joint Current Report on Form 8-K as filed on January 17, 2012; and

Table of Contents

— All other documents filed by Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering.

You should rely only on the information contained in this document or that information to which this prospectus has referred you. Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc have not authorized anyone to provide you with any additional information.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document that is deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

The documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus are available from Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc upon request. Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc will provide a copy of any and all of the information that is incorporated by reference in this prospectus to any person, without charge, upon written or oral request. If exhibits to the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus are not themselves specifically incorporated by reference in this prospectus, then the exhibits will not be provided. Requests for such copies should be directed to the following:

CARNIVAL CORPORATION
CARNIVAL PLC
3655 N.W. 87TH AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33178-2428
ATTENTION: CORPORATE SECRETARY
TELEPHONE: (305) 599-2600, EXT. 18018.

Except as provided above, no other information, including information on the web site of Carnival Corporation or Carnival plc, is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANIES

Carnival Corporation & plc

Carnival Corporation & plc is the largest cruise company and among the most profitable and financially strongest vacation companies in the world, with a portfolio of widely recognized cruise brands that are sold in all the world's major vacation markets and are a leading provider of vacations to all major cruise destinations. Each of Carnival Corporation & plc's cruise brands is an operating segment that is aggregated into either the (1) North America or (2) Europe, Australia & Asia ("EAA") reportable cruise segments based on the similarity of their economic and other characteristics. The North America segment cruise brands include Carnival Cruise Lines, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises ("Princess") and Seabourn. The EAA segment cruise brands include AIDA Cruises ("AIDA"), Costa Cruises ("Costa"), Cunard, Ibero Cruises ("Ibero"), P&O Cruises (Australia) and P&O Cruises (UK). In addition to our cruise operations, we own Holland America Princess Alaska Tours, the leading tour company in Alaska and the Canadian Yukon, which primarily complements our Alaska cruise operations.

On April 17, 2003, Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc completed a dual listed company transaction, or DLC transaction, which implemented Carnival Corporation & plc's DLC arrangement. Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc are both public companies, with separate stock exchange listings and their own shareholders. The two companies operate as if they are a single economic enterprise, with a single executive management team and identical Boards of Directors, but each has retained its separate legal identity.

Carnival Corporation

Carnival Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the Republic of Panama in November 1972. Our common stock and the paired trust shares, which trade together with the common stock, are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "CCL." Our principal executive offices are located at Carnival Place, 3655 N.W. 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33178-2428. The telephone number of our principal executive offices is (305) 599-2600.

Carnival plc

Carnival plc was incorporated and registered in England and Wales as P&O Princess Cruises plc in July 2000 and was renamed "Carnival plc" on April 17, 2003, the date on which the DLC transaction with Carnival Corporation closed. Carnival plc's ordinary shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange, and Carnival plc's American Depositary Shares, or ADSs, are listed on the NYSE. Carnival plc ordinary shares trade under the ticker symbol "CCL" on the London Stock Exchange. Carnival plc ADSs trade under the ticker symbol "CUK" on the NYSE. Carnival plc's principal executive offices are located at Carnival House, 5 Gainsford Street, London, SE1 2NE, United Kingdom. The telephone number of Carnival plc's principal executive offices is 011 44 20 7940 5381.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in the securities offered by this prospectus involves a number of risks. You should carefully consider the following information about these risks, together with the specific risks discussed or incorporated by reference in the applicable prospectus supplement, together with all the other information contained in the prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. You should also consider the risks, uncertainties and assumptions discussed under the caption "Risk Factors" included in the joint Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 30, 2011, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and which may be amended, supplemented or superseded from time to time by other reports we file with the SEC in the future.

Risks Relating to the Guarantees

Carnival plc's guarantee may be unenforceable due to fraudulent conveyance statutes and, accordingly, you could have no claim against it, as guarantor of any Carnival Corporation debt securities.

Although laws differ among various jurisdictions, a court could, under fraudulent conveyance laws, subordinate or avoid the guarantee of Carnival plc if it found that the guarantee was incurred with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud creditors, or if the guarantor did not receive fair consideration or reasonably equivalent value for the guarantee and that the guarantor:

— was insolvent or rendered insolvent because of the guarantee;

— was engaged in a business or transaction for which its remaining assets constituted unreasonably small capital; or

— intended to incur, or believed that it would incur, debts beyond the relevant guarantor's ability to pay at maturity.

Carnival plc does not believe that the issuance of its guarantees will be a fraudulent conveyance because, among other things, Carnival plc will receive benefits. Carnival plc will receive a reciprocal guarantee by Carnival Corporation of its indebtedness. In addition, Carnival plc receives the benefit of a streamlining and unification of the debt capital structure of Carnival Corporation & plc as a whole. However, if a court were to void the guarantee of a guarantor as the result of a fraudulent conveyance by such guarantor or hold it unenforceable for any other reason, you would cease to have a claim against that guarantor based on its guarantee and would solely be a creditor of Carnival Corporation.

Table of Contents

Risk Factors Related to Our Common Stock

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, and holders could lose all or part of their investment.

Volatility in the market price of our common stock may prevent holders from being able to sell their shares at or above the price they paid for their shares. The market price of our common stock could fluctuate significantly for various reasons which include:

- changes in the prices or availability of fuel;
- our quarterly or annual earnings or those of other companies in our industry;
- the public's reaction to our press releases, our other public announcements and our filings with the SEC;
- our earnings or recommendations by research analysts who track our common stock or the stock of other cruise companies;
- general economic and business conditions in the U.S. and global economies, financial markets or cruise industry, including those resulting from availability and pricing of air travel services, armed conflicts, cruise ship accidents, the spread of contagious diseases, incidents of terrorism or responses to such events;
- our ability to continue the payment of a cash dividend on our common stock;
- our ability to access the credit markets for sufficient amounts of capital and on terms that are favorable or consistent with our expectations;
- the decline in the securities market and the economic slowdown that affect the value of assets and the economic strength of our customers and suppliers; and
- the other factors described herein and under the caption "Risk Factors" in the joint Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended November 30, 2011 and "Forward-Looking Statements" beginning on page 5 of this prospectus.

In addition, in the past, the U.S., European and other stock markets experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations. This volatility had a significant impact on the market price of securities issued by many companies, including companies in our industry. The changes sometimes occurred without regard to the operating performance of these companies. The price of our common stock could fluctuate based upon factors that

Table of Contents

have little or nothing to do with Carnival Corporation, and these fluctuations could materially reduce our stock price.

Future sales of shares could depress our stock price.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock, or the perception that a large number of shares will be sold, could depress the market price of our common stock.

As of the date of this prospectus, approximately 215,301,370 outstanding shares of our common stock are restricted pursuant to Rule 144 under the Securities Act (excluding options and restricted stock units), and holders of approximately 36% of the outstanding shares of our common stock (excluding options and restricted stock units) have rights, subject to some conditions, to require us to file registration statements covering their shares or to include such shares in registration statements that we may file for ourselves or other stockholders. By exercising their registration rights and selling a large number of shares, these stockholders could cause the price of our common stock to decline.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements, estimates or projections contained in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus are "forward-looking statements" that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions with respect to Carnival Corporation, Carnival plc and Carnival Corporation & plc, including some statements concerning the transactions described in this prospectus, future results, outlooks, plans, goals and other events which have not yet occurred. These statements are intended to qualify for the safe harbors from liability provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). We have tried, whenever possible, to identify these statements by using words like "will," "may," "could," "should," "would," "believe," "depends," "expect," "anticipate," "forecast," "future," "intend," "plan," "estimate," "ta expressions of future intent or the negative of such terms.

Because forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, there are many factors that could cause our actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied in this prospectus. Forward-looking statements include those statements that may impact, among other things, the forecasting of our non-GAAP earnings per share; net revenue yields; booking levels; pricing; occupancy; operating, financing and tax costs, including fuel expenses; costs per available lower berth day; estimates of ship depreciable lives and residual values; liquidity; goodwill and trademark fair values and outlook. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

—general economic and business conditions;

—increases in fuel prices;

—accidents, the spread of contagious diseases, adverse weather conditions or natural disasters and other incidents affecting the health, safety, security and satisfaction of guests and crew;

—the international political climate, armed conflicts, terrorist and pirate attacks, vessel seizures, and threats thereof, and other world events affecting the safety and security of travel;

—negative publicity concerning the cruise business in general or us in particular, including any adverse environmental impacts of cruising;

—litigation, enforcement actions, fines or penalties, including those relating to Costa Concordia's accident;

—economic, market and political factors that are beyond our control, which could increase our operating, financing and other costs;

—changes in and compliance with laws and regulations relating to the protection of persons with disabilities, employment, environment,

Table of Contents

health, safety, security, tax and other regulations under which we operate;

—our ability to implement our shipbuilding programs and ship repairs, maintenance and refurbishments on terms that are favorable or consistent with our expectations;

—increases to our repairs and maintenance expenses and refurbishment costs as our fleet ages;

—lack of continuing availability of attractive, convenient and safe port destinations;

—continuing financial viability of our travel agent distribution system, air service providers and other key vendors in our supply chain and reductions in the availability of, and increases in the pricing for, the services and products provided by these vendors;

—disruptions and other damages to our information technology and other networks and operations, and breaches in data security;

—competition from and overcapacity in the cruise ship or land-based vacation industry;

—loss of key personnel or our ability to recruit or retain qualified personnel;

—union disputes and other employee relation issues;

—disruptions in the global financial markets or other events may negatively affect the ability of our counterparties and others to perform their obligations to us;

—the continued strength of our cruise brands and our ability to implement our brand strategies;

—our international operations are subject to additional risks not generally applicable to our U.S. operations;

—geographic regions in which we try to expand our business may be slow to develop and ultimately not develop how we expect;

—our decisions to self-insure against various risks or our inability to obtain insurance for certain risks at reasonable rates;

—fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates;

Table of Contents

—whether our future operating cash flow will be sufficient to fund future obligations and whether we will be able to obtain financing, if necessary, in sufficient amounts and on terms that are favorable or consistent with our expectations;

—risks associated with the DLC arrangement; and

—uncertainties of a foreign legal system as we are not incorporated in the U.S.

These risks and other risks are detailed in the section entitled “Risk Factors” and in the SEC reports of Carnival Corporation and Carnival plc. That section and those reports contain important cautionary statements and a discussion of many of the factors that could materially affect the accuracy of Carnival Corporation & plc’s forward-looking statements and/or adversely affect Carnival Corporation & plc’s businesses, results of operations and financial position. Such statements and factors are incorporated in this prospectus by reference.

Forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as a prediction of actual results. Subject to any continuing obligations under applicable law or any relevant listing or stock exchange rules, Carnival Corporation & plc expressly disclaim any obligation to disseminate, after the date of this prospectus, any updates or revisions to any such forward-looking statements to reflect any change in expectations or events, conditions or circumstances on which any such statements are based.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will add our net proceeds from the sale of any securities offered by us under this prospectus to our working capital. The proceeds will be available for general corporate purposes, which may include the repayment of indebtedness, the financing of capital commitments and possible future acquisitions to expand our business. Pending final application, the net proceeds may be invested in marketable securities, including certificates of deposit and commercial paper.

We will not receive any proceeds from the resale of securities by selling securityholders under this prospectus or any supplement to it.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Carnival Corporation & plc

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges on a historical basis for the periods indicated. Earnings include net income, adjusted for income taxes, plus fixed charges and exclude capitalized interest. Fixed charges include gross interest expense, amortization of deferred financing expenses and an amount equivalent to interest included in rent expense. We have assumed that one-third of rent expense is representative of the interest portion of rent expense.

Table of Contents

	Years ended November 30,				
	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	5.7x	5.6x	5.1x	5.7x	6.4x

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may issue from time to time debt securities in one or more series that will consist of either senior debt ("Senior Debt Securities") or subordinated debt ("Subordinated Debt Securities"). The Senior Debt Securities will be issued under an indenture (the "Senior Indenture"), to be entered into between us, Carnival plc, as guarantor, and U.S. Bank National Association (the "Senior Trustee"), as Trustee. The Subordinated Debt Securities will be issued under an indenture (the "Subordinated Indenture"), to be entered into between us, Carnival plc, as guarantor, and U.S. Bank National Association (the "Subordinated Trustee"), as Trustee. The term "Indenture" refers to either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture, as appropriate, the term "Trustee" refers to either the Senior Trustee or the Subordinated Trustee, as appropriate, and the term "Debt Securities" refers to the Senior Debt Securities and the Subordinated Debt Securities. Each Indenture will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

The following statements with respect to the Debt Securities are not complete and are subject to the detailed provisions of the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture. Forms of these agreements are filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement.

The particular terms of each series of Debt Securities (including any additions or modifications to the general terms of the Debt Securities) will be described in a prospectus supplement that will be filed with the SEC. To review the terms of a particular series of Debt Securities, you must refer to both the prospectus supplement for the particular series and to the description of Debt Securities contained in this prospectus. There may be different trustees for one or more different series of Debt Securities. See "—Trustee".

General

The applicable prospectus supplement for a series of Debt Securities to be issued will describe the following terms of the offered Debt Securities:

- the title;
- the aggregate principal amount;
- the percentage of their principal amount at which they will be offered;
- the date or dates on which principal is payable;
- the interest rate or rates and/or the method of determining the interest rates;
- the dates from which interest, if any, will accrue, the method of determining those dates, and the dates on which interest is payable;
- the terms for redemption, extension or early repayment;

Table of Contents

- the denominations in which the Debt Securities are authorized to be issued (if other than denominations of $1,000 or any integral multiple thereof);
- the currency or currencies of payment of principal or interest;
- the provisions for a sinking fund, if any;
- if it is an amount other than the principal amount of the Debt Securities, the portion of the principal amount that will be payable if the maturity of the Debt Securities is declared to be accelerated;
- any other restrictive covenants included for the benefit of the holders of the Debt Securities;
- the events of default;
- whether the Debt Securities are issuable as a global security or securities;
- the applicable tax consequences related to the Debt Securities;
- the terms and conditions, if any, under which the Debt Securities may be converted into or exchanged for our common stock or other securities;
- the applicability of the provisions described in "--Defeasance" below;
- any subordination provisions applicable to the Debt Securities in addition to or different than those described under "--Subordination" below; and
- any other term or provision which is not inconsistent with the Indenture.

One or more series of Debt Securities may be sold at a substantial discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate which at the time of issuance is below market rates. Any applicable federal income tax consequences and special considerations will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Except as otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, principal, premium, if any, and interest, if any, will be payable at an office or agency to be maintained by us, except that at our option, interest may be paid by a check mailed to the person entitled to it.

The Debt Securities will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons and may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange at the corporate trust office of the Trustee. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of the Debt Securities, but we may require payment of a sum to cover any tax or other governmental charge that must be paid in connection with the transfer or exchange. Not all

Table of Contents

Debt Securities of any one series need be issued at the same time, and, unless otherwise provided, a series may be reopened for issuances of additional Debt Securities of that series.

The Indenture does not contain any covenants or provisions that are specifically intended to give holders of the Debt Securities protection if we undertake a highly leveraged transaction. With respect to any series of Debt Securities, the existence or non-existence of such covenants or provisions will be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither Panamanian law nor our Articles of Incorporation or By-laws limit the right of non-resident or foreign owners to hold Debt Securities. While no tax treaty currently exists between the Republic of Panama and the U.S., we believe that under current law interest payments to holders of our Debt Securities are not subject to taxation under the laws of the Republic of Panama.

Guarantees of Debt Securities

Carnival plc will guarantee our Debt Securities under the Guarantees (as defined below), which will be contained in the applicable Indenture. Carnival plc, as obligor, will irrevocably, unconditionally and absolutely guarantee, jointly and severally and on a continuing basis, to each holder of the Debt Securities and to the applicable Trustee and its successors and assigns, as and for Carnival plc's own debt, until final and indefeasible payment of the amounts referred to in clause (a) have been made: (a) the due and punctual payment of principal and interest, and, if applicable, Additional Amounts (as defined below under "—Payment of Additional Amounts") (if any), on the Debt Securities when due, whether at maturity, by acceleration, by redemption or otherwise, and all other monetary obligations of ours under the Indentures (including obligations applicable to the Trustee) and the Debt Securities; and (b) the punctual and faithful performance, keeping, observance and fulfillment by us of all duties, agreements, covenants and obligations of ours under the Indentures and the Debt Securities (the obligations set forth in clauses (a) and (b), collectively, the "Guarantees"). Such Guarantees will constitute guarantees of payment and not merely of collection. The obligations of Carnival plc under the Indentures will be immediate and not contingent upon the exercise or enforcement by any holder of Debt Securities or other person. The Guarantees will be governed by New York law.

Book-Entry System

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with a depository (the "Depository") or with a nominee for the Depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and will be registered in the name of the Depository or a nominee of it. In such a case one or more global securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denominations equal to the aggregate principal amount of all the Debt Securities of the series to be represented by the global security or securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for Debt Securities in definitive certificated form, a global security may be transferred, in whole but not in part, only to another nominee of the Depository for that series, or to a successor

Table of Contents

Depository for that series selected or approved by us, or to a nominee of that successor Depository.

The specific depository arrangement with respect to any series of Debt Securities to be represented by a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Payment of Additional Amounts

We will agree that any amounts payable on the Debt Securities will be paid without deduction or withholding for any and all present and future taxes, levies, imposts or other governmental charges ("Taxes") imposed, assessed, levied or collected by or for the account of (i)(x) the Republic of Panama or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or (y) the jurisdiction of incorporation (other than the U.S., the U.K., or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof) of a successor corporation to us, to the extent that such Taxes first become applicable as a result of the successor corporation becoming the obligor on the Debt Securities, or (ii) any jurisdiction (other than the U.S., the U.K. or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof) from or through which any amount is paid by us with respect to the Debt Securities or where we are resident or maintain a place of business or permanent establishment (each jurisdiction described in clauses (i) and (ii) above is referred to herein as a "Taxing Jurisdiction"), unless the withholding or deduction of such Tax is compelled by laws of the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction. If any deduction or withholding of any Taxes (other than Excluded Taxes, as defined below) is ever required by the Republic of Panama or any other Taxing Jurisdiction, we will (if the holders or beneficial owners of the relevant Debt Securities comply with any relevant administrative requirements) pay any additional amounts ("Additional Amounts") required to make the net amounts paid to the holders of the Debt Securities or the Trustee pursuant to the terms of the Indenture or the Securities after such deduction or withholding equal to the amounts then due and payable under the terms of the Indenture or the Securities. However, we will not be required to pay Additional Amounts in respect of the following Taxes ("Excluded Taxes"):

- any present or future Taxes imposed, assessed, levied or collected as a result of the holder or beneficial owner of the relevant Debt Security (i) being organized under the laws of, or otherwise being or having been a domiciliary, national or resident of, (ii) being engaged or having been engaged in a trade or business in, (iii) having or having had its principal office located in, (iv) maintaining or having maintained a permanent establishment in, (v) being or having been physically present in, or (vi) otherwise having or having had some connection (other than the connection arising from holding or owning a Debt Security, or collecting principal and interest, if any, on, or the enforcement of, a Debt Security) with the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction;

- any present or future Taxes which would not have been so imposed, assessed, levied or collected but for the fact that, where presentation

Table of Contents

is required, the relevant Debt Security was presented more than thirty days after the date the payment became due or was provided for, whichever is later;

- any present or future Taxes which would not have been so imposed, assessed, levied or collected but for the failure to comply with any certification, identification or other reporting requirements concerning the nationality, residence, identity or connection with the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction of the holder or beneficial owner of the relevant Debt Security, if compliance is required by statute or by rules or regulations of any such jurisdiction as a condition to relief or exemption from Taxes;

- any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar Tax or duty; or

- any combination of the foregoing

provided further, that no such Additional Amounts will be payable in respect of any Debt Security held by (x) any holder or beneficial owner that is not the sole beneficial owner of such Debt Security, or that is a fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company or other fiscally transparent entity, but only to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor with respect to the fiduciary or a beneficial owner, partner or member of the partnership, limited liability company or other fiscally transparent entity, would not have been entitled to such Additional Amounts had the beneficiary, settlor, beneficial owner, partner or member been the direct holder of such Debt Security, (y) any holder that is not a resident of the U.S. or the U.K. to the extent that, had such holder been a resident of the U.S. or the U.K. and eligible for the benefit of any double taxation treaty between the U.S. or the U.K., as applicable, and the applicable Taxing Jurisdiction in relation to payments of amounts due under the Indenture and the Debt Securities, such holder would not have been entitled to such Additional Amounts, or (z) any holder that is resident of the U.S. or the U.K. but that is not eligible for the benefit of any double taxation treaty between the U.S. or the U.K., as applicable, and the applicable Taxing Jurisdiction in relation to payments of amounts due under the Indenture and the Debt Securities (but only to the extent the amount of such deduction or withholding exceeds that which would have been required had such holder of a Debt Security been so eligible and made all relevant claims).

We or any successor to us, as the case may be, will indemnify and hold harmless each holder of the Debt Securities and upon written request reimburse each holder for the amount of:

- any Taxes levied or imposed by the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction and paid by the holder of the Debt Securities (other than Excluded Taxes) as a result of payments made with respect to the Debt Securities;

Table of Contents

- any liability (including penalties, interest and expenses) arising from or in connection with the levying or imposing of any Taxes (other than Excluded Taxes) by the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction with respect to the Debt Securities; and

- any Taxes (other than Excluded Taxes) levied or imposed by the Republic of Panama or any other applicable Taxing Jurisdiction with respect to payment of Additional Amounts or any reimbursement pursuant to this list.

We or our successor, as the case may be, will also:

- make such withholding or deduction, to the extent required by applicable law; and

- remit the full amount deducted or withheld, to the relevant authority in accordance with applicable law.

We or any successor to us, as the case may be, will furnish the Trustee within 30 days after the date the payment of any Taxes is due, certified copies of tax receipts evidencing the payment by us or any successor to us, as the case may be,or other evidence of such payment reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee.

At least 30 days prior to each date on which any payment under or with respect to the Debt Securities is due and payable, if we will be obligated to pay Additional Amounts with respect to those payments, we will deliver to the Trustee an officers' certificate stating that Additional Amounts will be payable, stating the amounts that will be payable, and setting forth any other information necessary to enable the Trustee to pay the Additional Amounts to holders of the Debt Securities on the payment date.

Each holder of a Debt Security, by acceptance of such Security, agrees that, with reasonable promptness after receiving our written notice to the effect that such holder is eligible for a refund in respect of Taxes actually paid by us under the terms of the Debt Security or the Indenture, such holder will sign and deliver to us, as reasonably directed by us, any form we provide to such holder to enable such holder to obtain a refund in respect of such Taxes; and if such holder thereafter receives such refund in respect of such Taxes, such holder will promptly pay such refund to us (together with interest, if any, received by such holder from the relevant taxing authority). If a holder applies for a refund of such Taxes prior to our request to apply for such a refund, the holder will, upon receipt of our request to apply for, or to turn over the proceeds of, any such refund, pay any such refund to us (together with interest, if any, received by such holder from the relevant taxing authority), promptly upon receipt of such refund. We will pay all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by a holder in connection with obtaining such refund.

Carnival plc, the Guarantor of our Debt Securities, will agree to make, with respect to the Indenture and the Debt Securities, all such payments to be paid without deduction or withholding for any and all present and future taxes, levies, imposts or other

Table of Contents

governmental charges ("Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes") whatsoever imposed, assessed, levied or collected by or for the account of (i)(x) the United Kingdom or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or (y) the jurisdiction of tax residence (other than the United States, or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof) of a successor corporation to Carnival plc, to the extent that such Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes first become applicable as a result of such successor corporation becoming the obligor on the Guarantee, as applicable, or (ii) any other jurisdiction (other than the United States, or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof) from or through which any amount is paid by Carnival plc under the Indenture or where it is resident or maintains a place of business or permanent establishment (each jurisdiction described in clauses (i) and (ii) above is referred to herein as a "Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction"), unless the withholding or deduction of such Guarantor Jurisdiction Tax is compelled by laws of the United Kingdom, or any other applicable Grantor Taxing Jurisdiction. If any deduction or withholding of any Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes (other than Guarantor Excluded Taxes, as described in the Indenture) is ever required by the United Kingdom or any other Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction, Carnival plc will (if the holders or beneficial owners of the relevant Debt Securities comply with any relevant administrative requirements) pay such additional amounts ("Guarantor Additional Amounts") required to make the net amounts paid to each Holder or Trustee pursuant to the terms of the Indenture or the Debt Security after such deduction or withholding equal to the amounts then due and payable under the terms of the Indenture or the Debt Security. However, the Guarantor shall not be required to pay Guarantor Additional Amounts in respect of the following Taxes ("Guarantor Excluded Taxes"):

any present or future Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes imposed, assessed, levied or collected as a result of the holder or beneficial owner of the relevant Debt Security (i) being organized under the laws of, or otherwise being or having been a domiciliary, national or resident of, (ii) being engaged or having been engaged in a trade or business in, (iii) having or having had its principal office located in, (iv) maintaining or having maintained a permanent establishment in, (v) being or having been physically present in, or (vi) otherwise having or having had some connection (other than the connection arising from holding or owning the relevant Debt Security, or collecting principal and interest, if any, on, or the enforcement of, such Security) with the United Kingdom or any other applicable Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction;

any present or future Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes which would not have been so imposed, assessed, levied or collected but for the fact that, where presentation is required, the relevant Debt Security was presented more than thirty days after the date the payment became due or was provided for, whichever is later;

any present or future Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes which would not have been so imposed, assessed, levied or collected but for the failure to comply with any certification, identification or other reporting requirements concerning the nationality, residence, identity or connection with the United Kingdom or any other applicable Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction of the holder or beneficial owner of the relevant Debt Security, if compliance is required by statute or by rules or regulations of any such jurisdiction as a condition to relief or exemption from Guarantor Jurisdiction Taxes;

- any present or future Guarantor Jurisidiction Taxes imposed on a payment to a holder and required to be made pursuant to any law implementing European Council Directive 2003/48/EC or any other directive implementing the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting of 26-27 November 2000 or any law implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such directive;

- any present or future Guarantor Jurisidiction Taxes presented for payment by or on behalf of a holder who would have been able to avoid such withholding or deduction by presenting the relevant Debt Security to another Paying Agent in a member state of the European Union;

15

Table of Contents

—any estate, inheritance, gift, sale, transfer, personal property or similar Tax or duty; or

—any combination of the foregoing;

provided further, that no such Guarantor Additional Amounts shall be payable in respect of any Debt Security held by (x) any holder or beneficial owner that is not the sole beneficial owner of such Debt Security, or that is a fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company or other fiscally transparent entity, but only to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor with respect to the fiduciary or a beneficial owner, partner or member of the partnership, limited liability company or other fiscally transparent entity, would not have been entitled to such Guarantor Additional Amounts had the beneficiary, settlor, beneficial owner, partner or member been the direct holder of such Debt Security, (y) any holder that is not a resident of the United States to the extent that, had such holder been a resident of the United States and eligible for the benefit of any double taxation treaty between the United States, and the applicable Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction in relation to payments of amounts due under the Indenture and the Debt Security, such holder would not have been entitled to such Guarantor Additional Amounts, or (z) any holder that is a resident of the United States but that is not eligible for the benefit of any double taxation treaty between the United States and the applicable Guarantor Taxing Jurisdiction in relation to payments of amounts due under the Indenture and the Debt Security (but only to the extent the amount of such deduction or withholding exceeds that which would have been required had such holder of a Debt Security been so eligible and made all relevant claims).

Redemption or Assumption of Debt Securities under Certain Circumstances

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement with respect to any series of Debt Securities, if as the result of any change in or any amendment to the laws, including any regulations and any applicable double taxation treaty or convention, of the Republic of Panama (or the jurisdiction of incorporation (other than the U.S or the U.K.) of a successor corporation to us), or of any of its political subdivisions or taxing authorities affecting taxation, or any change in an application or interpretation of those laws, which change, amendment, application or interpretation becomes effective on or after the original issuance date of the series (or, in certain circumstances, the later date on which a corporation becomes a successor corporation to us), we determine based upon an opinion of independent counsel of recognized standing that:

— we would be required to pay Additional Amounts on the next succeeding date for the payment thereof, or

—any taxes would be imposed (whether by way of deduction, withholding or otherwise) by the Republic of Panama (or the jurisdiction of incorporation (other than the U.S. or the U.K.) of a successor corporation to us) or by any of its political subdivisions or taxing authorities, upon or with respect to any principal, premium, if any, interest, if any, or sinking fund or analogous payments, if any,

Table of Contents

then we may, at our option, on giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' irrevocable notice, redeem the series of Debt Securities in whole at any time (other than Debt Securities of a series having a variable rate of interest, which may be redeemed only on an interest payment date) at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption (other than outstanding original issue discount Debt Securities, which may be redeemed at the redemption price specified by the terms of each series of such Debt Securities). No notice of redemption may be given more than 90 days prior to the earliest date on which we would be obligated to pay the Additional Amounts or the tax would be imposed, as the case may be. Also, at the time that the notice of redemption is given, the obligation to pay Additional Amounts or tax, as the case may be, must be in effect.

Merger and Consolidation

Neither we nor Carnival plc, as guarantor of Debt Securities, can consolidate with or merge into any other person or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets substantially as an entirety to any person unless:

- after giving effect to the transaction, no Event of Default (as defined below under "—Events of Default and Notice"), and no event which after notice or lapse of time or both would become an Event of Default, shall have occurred and be continuing;

- (i) in the case of our company, the successor or transferee entity, if other than us, expressly assumes by a supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Trustee, in form reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee, the due and punctual payment of the principal of, any premium on and interest on, all the outstanding Debt Securities and the performance of every covenant in the Indenture to be performed or observed by us and provides for conversion rights in accordance with applicable provisions of the Indenture and (ii) in the case of Carnival plc, the successor or transferee entity, if other than Carnival plc, expressly assumes by a supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Trustee, in form reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee, the performance of every covenant in the Indenture to be performed or observed by Carnival plc; and

- we have delivered to the Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each in the form required by the Indenture and stating that such consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer and such supplemental indenture comply with the foregoing provisions relating to such transaction.

Events of Default and Notice

Unless otherwise noted in an applicable prospectus supplement, the following are "Events of Default" in respect of a particular series of Debt Securities:

Table of Contents

- failure to pay interest (including Additional Amounts) for 30 days after it is due;
- failure to pay the principal or premium, if any, when due;
- failure to make a sinking fund payment for five days after it becomes due;
- failure to perform any other covenant for 60 days after being given written notice of the failure in accordance with the Indenture;
- failure to pay when due the principal of, or acceleration of, any indebtedness for money borrowed by us in excess of $100 million, if the indebtedness is not discharged, or the acceleration is not annulled, within 30 days of us receiving written notice of the failure in accordance with the Indenture;
- certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization;
- any Guarantee of such series ceasing to be in full force and effect as an enforceable instrument; and
- any other Event of Default, as indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

If an Event of Default in respect of a particular series of Debt Securities outstanding occurs and is continuing, either the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Debt Securities outstanding of the series may declare the principal amount (or, if the Debt Securities of the series are original issue discount Debt Securities, the portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of the series) of all of the Debt Securities of the series to be due and payable immediately. At any time after such a declaration of acceleration has been made, but before a judgment or decree for the payment of money due upon acceleration has been obtained by the Trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Debt Securities of the affected series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul the declaration and its consequences if all Events of Default relating to the Debt Securities of the series, other than the non-payment of principal due solely by the declaration of acceleration, have been cured or waived as provided in the Indenture.

The Trustee will, within 90 days after a default in respect of a series of Debt Securities, give the holders of the series notice of all uncured defaults known to it (the term “default” includes the events specified above without grace periods). However, except in the case of default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, on or interest on any of the Debt Securities of the series, or in the payment of any sinking fund installment with respect to the Debt Securities of the series, the Trustee may withhold such notice and will not be liable to holders for doing so, if the Trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the holders of the series.

Table of Contents

Pursuant to the terms of the Indenture, we are required to furnish to the Trustee within 120 days of the end of our fiscal year a statement of certain of our officers stating whether or not to the best of their knowledge we are in default, in respect of any series of Debt Securities or in the performance and observance of the terms of the Indenture and, if we are in default, specifying the default and the nature of it.

The Indenture provides that the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all Debt Securities then outstanding of a particular series will have the right to waive certain defaults in respect of the series and, subject to certain limitations, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceedings for any remedy available to the Trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee. The Indenture provides that, in case an Event of Default in respect of a particular series of Debt Securities occurs (which is not cured or waived), the Trustee will be required to exercise such of its rights and powers under the Indenture, and to use the degree of care and skill in their exercise, that a prudent man would exercise or use in the conduct of his own affairs. Otherwise, the Trustee need only perform such duties as are specifically set forth in the Indenture. Subject to those provisions, the Trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indenture at the request of any of the holders of the series unless they have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity.

No holder of any series of Debt Securities will have any right to institute any proceeding with respect to the Indenture or for any remedy under it, unless the holder has previously given to the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default and unless the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of the series have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the Trustee to institute such a proceeding as trustee. In addition, the Trustee must not have received from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of the series a direction inconsistent with the request and have failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days. However, such limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of a Debt Security for enforcement of payment of the principal of and premium, if any, or interest on the Debt Security on or after the respective due dates expressed in the Debt Security.

The Events of Default may be modified with respect to a series of Debt Securities. Any such modification will be described in a prospectus supplement.

Modification of the Indenture

With certain exceptions, we may modify the Indenture, our rights and obligations, and the rights of the holders of a particular series, with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of that series. However, without the consent of each affected holder of each Debt Security of a series, no modification may be made which would:

— change the stated maturity of the principal or premium, if any, of a Debt Security in the series;

Table of Contents

- change the stated maturity of the interest (including Additional Amounts) on any Debt Security in the series;
- reduce the principal amount of a Debt Security in the series;
- reduce the interest rate on any Debt Security in the series;
- reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount Debt Security that is payable upon the acceleration of the maturity of the Security; or
- amend or modify the terms of any of the Guarantees in a manner adverse to the holders.

In addition, the consent of the holders of all then outstanding Debt Securities of the series is required to reduce the percentage of holders of Debt Securities whose consent is required to modify the Indenture or adversely affect the right of holders of Debt Securities to convert any Securities as provided in a supplemental indenture, or adversely affect our right to repurchase any Debt Securities as provided in any supplemental indenture.

Defeasance

An applicable supplemental indenture may allow us (and Carnival plc) to elect either:

(1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to the Debt Securities and the related Guarantees of any series pursuant to the supplemental indenture, except for the obligation to pay Additional Amounts and certain other obligations, or

(2) to be released from our and Carnival plc's obligations with respect to the Debt Securities and the related Guarantees under certain sections of the Indenture or supplemental indenture or certain Events of Default.

In order to exercise either defeasance option, we must irrevocably deposit with the applicable Trustee, in trust, money or certain direct qualifying obligations of the U.S. or an agency or instrumentality of the U.S. which, in either case, are not callable at the issuer's option ("U.S. Government Obligations") or certain depositary receipts for U.S. Government Obligations that through the payment of interest and principal on them will provide sufficient money to pay all the principal of and premium, if any, and any interest on, the Debt Securities on the dates the payments are due. Defeasance may be effected only if, among other things:

- no Event of Default or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default under the applicable Indenture has occurred and is continuing on the date of the deposit;

Table of Contents

- in the event of defeasance under clause (1) above, we have delivered an opinion of counsel, stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling, or since the date of the applicable supplemental indenture there has been a change in applicable federal law, holding that the holders of the Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit or defeasance, and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the same manner as if the defeasance had not occurred; and

- in the event of defeasance under clause (2) above, we have delivered an opinion of counsel to the effect that, among other things, the holders of the Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit or defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the same manner as if the defeasance had not occurred.

If we fail to comply with our remaining obligations under the applicable Indenture or supplemental indenture after a defeasance of the Indenture and supplemental indenture with respect to Debt Securities as described under clause (2) above, and the Debt Securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any undefeased Event of Default, the amount of money and U.S. Government Obligations on deposit with the Trustee might be insufficient to pay amounts due on the Debt Securities of the series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the Event of Default. However, we will remain liable in respect of the payments.

Subordination

If our assets are distributed upon our dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any), and interest on, the Subordinated Debt Securities will be paid after, to the extent provided in the Subordinated Indenture and the applicable supplemental indenture, all senior indebtedness is paid in full, including Senior Debt Securities. Nevertheless, our obligation to pay principal (and premium, if any) or interest on the Subordinated Debt Securities will not otherwise be affected. We may not pay any principal (or premium, if any), sinking fund or interest on the Subordinated Debt Securities when we are in default in the payment of principal, premium, if any, sinking fund or interest on senior indebtedness. If, while we are in default on senior indebtedness, any payment is received by the Subordinated Trustee under the Subordinated Indenture or the holders of any of the Subordinated Debt Securities before we have paid all senior indebtedness in full, the payment or distribution must either be paid over to the holders of the unpaid senior indebtedness or applied to the repayment of the unpaid senior indebtedness. Until we have paid the senior indebtedness in full, the holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior indebtedness to the extent that payments are made to the holders of senior indebtedness out of the distributive share of the Subordinated Debt Securities.

Table of Contents

Because of the way in which the subordination provisions operate, if our assets are distributed upon insolvency, certain of our and Carnival plc's general creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of Subordinated Debt Securities. The Subordinated Indenture or applicable supplemental indenture may state that its subordination provisions will not apply to money and securities held in trust under the satisfaction and discharge, and the legal defeasance, provisions of the Subordinated Indenture.

The subordination provisions also apply in the same way to the Guarantor with respect to the senior indebtedness of the Guarantor.

If this prospectus is being delivered in connection with the offering of a series of Subordinated Debt Securities, the accompanying prospectus supplement or the information incorporated by reference in it will describe the approximate amount of senior indebtedness outstanding as of a recent date.

Conversion Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, on which Debt Securities being offered are convertible into our common stock or other of our securities will be set forth in an applicable prospectus supplement. The terms to be described will include the conversion price, the conversion period, provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holder or us, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price and provisions affecting conversion in the event that the Debt Securities are redeemed.

Trustee

The Trustee may resign or be removed with respect to one or more series of Debt Securities, and a successor Trustee may be appointed to act with respect to that or those series. In the event that there are two or more persons acting as Trustee with respect to different series of Debt Securities, each Trustee will be a trustee of a trust or trusts under the Indenture that are separate and apart from the trust or trusts administered by any other Trustee, and any action permitted or required to be taken by the "Trustee" may be taken by each successor Trustee with respect to, and only with respect to, the one or more series of Debt Securities for which that successor is acting as Trustee.

Governing Law

The Debt Securities, the Guarantees and the Indenture are governed by and will be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may issue warrants (the "Warrants") for the purchase of our common stock, preferred stock or Debt Securities, Warrants to purchase or sell debt securities of or guaranteed by the U.S. ("Government Debt Securities"), Warrants to purchase or sell foreign currencies, currency units or units of a currency index or currency basket, Warrants to purchase or sell units of a stock index or a stock basket and Warrants to purchase or sell a commodity or a commodity index. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any Securities offered by any prospectus supplement and may be attached to or separate from those Securities. The Warrants will be settled either through physical delivery or through payment of a cash settlement value as described in this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement. The Warrants will be issued under warrant agreements (each a "Warrant Agreement") to be entered into with a bank or trust company, as warrant agent (the "Warrant Agent"), all as set forth in the relevant prospectus supplement. The Warrant Agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the Warrant certificates and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of Warrant certificates or beneficial owners of Warrants. The following summaries of certain provisions of the forms of Warrant Agreement are not complete and are qualified by reference to the provisions of the forms of Warrant Agreement (including the forms of Warrant certificates), copies of which will be filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement (or incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement).

The particular terms of any Warrants (including any modification or additions to the general terms of the Warrants) will be described in a prospectus supplement that will be filed with the SEC. To review the terms of any particular Warrants, you must refer to both the prospectus supplement relating to such Warrants and to the description of the Warrants in this prospectus.

General

A prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of any Warrants (to the extent such terms are applicable to the Warrants):

- their title;
- their aggregate number;
- whether the Warrants are for the purchase or sale of our common stock, preferred stock, Debt Securities, Government Debt Securities, currencies, currency units, composite currencies, currency indices or currency baskets, stock indices, stock baskets, commodities, commodity indices or any other index or reference as described in the prospectus supplement;
- their price or prices;

Table of Contents

- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies or currency units, in which the price of the Warrants may be payable;

- the date, if any, on and after which the Warrants and the related common stock, preferred stock, or Debt Securities will be separately transferable;

- the date on which the right to exercise the Warrants shall commence, and the date on which the right shall expire;

- the maximum or minimum number of the Warrants which may be exercised at any time;

- a discussion of material federal income tax considerations, if any;

- the terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exercise of the Warrants; and

- any other terms of the Warrants, including any terms which may be required or advisable under U.S. laws or regulations.

If the Warrants are to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the prospectus supplement will also describe the purchase price for the underlying common stock or preferred stock.

If the Warrants are to purchase Debt Securities, the prospectus supplement will also describe:

- the designation, aggregate principal amount, currency, currency unit, composite currency or currency basket of denomination and other terms of the Debt Securities purchasable upon exercise of the Warrants;

- the designation and terms of the Debt Securities with which the Warrants are issued and the number of Warrants issued with each such Debt Security;

- the date on and after which the Warrants and the related Debt Securities will be separately transferable, if any; and

- the principal amount of Debt Securities purchasable upon exercise of each Warrant and the price at which and currency, currency unit, composite currency or currency basket in which the principal amount of Debt Securities may be purchased upon exercise.

If the Warrants are to purchase or sell Government Debt Securities or a foreign currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, the

Table of Contents

Warrants will be listed on a national securities exchange and the prospectus supplement will describe the amount and designation of the Government Debt Securities or currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, as the case may be, subject to each Warrant, whether the Warrants are to purchase or sell the Government Debt Securities, foreign currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, whether the Warrants provide for cash settlement or delivery of the Government Debt Securities or foreign currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket upon exercise, and the national securities exchange on which the Warrants will be listed.

If the Warrants are to purchase or sell a stock index or a stock basket, the Warrants will provide for payment of an amount in cash determined by reference to increases or decreases in that stock index or stock basket and will be listed on a national securities exchange, and the prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the Warrants, whether the Warrants are to purchase or sell the stock index or stock basket, the stock index or stock basket covered by the Warrants and the market to which the stock index or stock basket relates, whether the Warrants are to purchase or sell the stock index or stock basket and the national securities exchange on which the Warrants will be listed.

If the Warrants are to purchase or sell a commodity or commodity index, the Warrants will provide for cash settlement or delivery of the particular commodity or commodities, and the Warrants will be listed on a national securities exchange. The prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the Warrants, the commodity or commodity index covered by the Warrants, whether the Warrants are to purchase or sell the commodity or commodity index, whether the Warrants provide for cash settlement or delivery of the commodity or commodity index, the market, if any, to which the commodity or commodity index relates and the national securities exchange on which the Warrants will be listed.

Warrant certificates may be exchanged for new Warrant certificates of different denominations, may be presented for registration of transfer, and may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the Warrant Agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. Warrants to purchase or sell Government Debt Securities or a foreign currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, and Warrants to purchase stock indices or stock baskets or commodities or commodity indices, may be issued in the form of a single global warrant certificate, registered in the name of the nominee of the depository of the Warrants, or may initially be issued in the form of definitive certificates that may be exchanged, on a fixed date, or on a date or dates we select, for interests in a global warrant certificate, as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Prior to the exercise of their Warrants, holders of Warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock or Debt Securities will, until their Warrants are exercised, not have any of the rights of holders of such Securities.

Table of Contents

Exercise of Warrants

Each Warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the amount of common stock, preferred stock or Debt Securities, or purchase or sell the amount of Government Debt Securities, or the amount of currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, stock index or stock basket, commodity or commodities, at the exercise price, or receive the settlement value in respect of that amount of Government Debt Securities, currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, stock index or stock basket, commodity or commodity index, as shall in each case be set forth in or calculable from, the applicable prospectus supplement or as otherwise described in the prospectus supplement. Warrants may be exercised on the date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or as may be otherwise described in such prospectus supplement. After that date (or a later date declared by us), unexercised Warrants will become void.

Subject to any restrictions and additional requirements that may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, Warrants may be exercised by delivering to the Warrant Agent the Warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed and of payment as provided in the prospectus supplement of the amount required to purchase the common stock, preferred stock or Debt Securities, or (except in the case of Warrants providing for cash settlement) payment for or delivery of the Government Debt Securities or currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index, currency basket, stock index, stock basket, commodity or commodities index purchased or sold upon exercise of the Warrants. Warrants will be deemed to have been exercised upon receipt of a Warrant certificate and the required payment, if applicable, at the corporate trust office of the Warrant Agent or any other office indicated in the prospectus supplement. We will, as soon as practicable thereafter, issue and deliver the Debt Securities purchasable upon such exercise, or purchase or sell such Government Debt Securities or currency, currency unit, composite currency, currency index or currency basket, stock index or stock basket, commodity or commodities, or pay the settlement value in respect of such Warrants. If fewer than all of the Warrants represented by a Warrant certificate are exercised, a new Warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of the Warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following is a description of the material terms of our capital stock. Because it is a summary, the following description is not complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our third amended and restated articles of incorporation, or articles, our second amended and restated by-laws, or by-laws, and the other agreements specifically referenced in this section.

Our authorized capital stock consists of 2,000,000,000 shares, of which 1,959,999,998 are shares of common stock, 40,000,000 are shares of preferred stock, one share is a special voting stock and one share is a special stock. As of February 29, 2012, there were 596,260,064 shares of common stock, no shares of preferred stock, one share of special voting stock and one share of special stock outstanding. The one share of special voting stock, which we refer to in this prospectus as the special voting share, and the one share of special stock, which we refer to in this prospectus as the equalization share, were issued in connection with the DLC transaction, which was completed on April 17, 2003. See "--Special Voting Share" and "--Equalization Share."

Our common stock and the trust shares of beneficial interest in the P&O Princess Special Voting Trust, including the beneficial interest in the Carnival plc special voting share, are listed and trade together on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "CCL."

Common Stock

Voting Rights

At any meeting of shareholders, all matters, except as otherwise expressly provided by Panamanian law and our articles or our by-laws, are decided by a majority of the votes cast by all shareholders entitled to vote, including, where applicable, the Carnival Corporation Special Voting Entity, as described below, who are present in person or by proxy at such meeting. In connection with the DLC transaction, special voting arrangements were implemented so that our shareholders and Carnival plc's shareholders vote together as a single decision-making body on all actions submitted to a shareholder vote other than matters designated as "class rights actions" or resolutions on procedural or technical matters.

These are called JOINT ELECTORATE ACTIONS and include:

- the appointment, removal or re-election of any director of us, Carnival plc or both;
- if required by law, the receipt or adoption of the financial statements of us or Carnival plc or the annual accounts of both companies;
- the appointment or removal of the auditors of either company;
- a change of name by Carnival plc or us, or both; or

Table of Contents

— the implementation of a mandatory exchange based on a change in tax laws, rules or regulations.

The relative voting rights of the Carnival plc shares and our shares are determined by the equalization ratio. Based on the current equalization ratio of 1:1, each of our shares has the same voting rights as one Carnival plc share on joint electorate actions.

A change in the equalization ratio resulting from a share reorganization or otherwise would only affect voting rights on a per share basis. In the aggregate, such a change would not affect the relative weighting between our shareholders and the shareholders of Carnival plc.

In the case of class rights actions, the company wishing to carry out the class rights action would require the prior approval of shareholders of both companies, each voting separately as a class. If shareholders of either company do not approve the action, it generally will fail.

CLASS RIGHTS ACTIONS include:

—the voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or equivalent, of either company for which shareholder approval is required, other than as part of a voluntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, or equivalent, of both companies at or about the same time provided that such liquidation is not for the purpose of reconstituting all or a substantial part of the business of the two companies in one or more successor entities;

—the sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of either company other than a bona fide commercial transaction for valid business purposes and at fair market value and not as part of a proposal the primary purpose of which is to collapse or unify the DLC arrangement;

—an adjustment to the equalization ratio, other than in accordance with the Equalization and Governance Agreement entered into by us and Carnival plc on April 17, 2003;

—any amendment, removal or alteration of any of the provisions of Carnival plc's Articles of Association and our Articles and By-Laws which entrench specified core provisions of the DLC arrangement;

—any amendment or termination of the principal agreements under which the DLC arrangement is implemented, except where otherwise specifically provided in the relevant agreement;

Table of Contents

— any amendment to, removal or alteration of the effect of certain tax-related provisions of our articles of incorporation that would be reasonably likely to cause a mandatory exchange; and