



# Floating homes

Cruising is a luxury pastime chosen by many; **Ubah Mbarak** discovers the ships that offer not than just a vacation – but a permanent way of life

Sailing across the ocean aboard a luxury cruise liner is the epitome of indulgence. A chance to explore uncharted territories that the regular tourist would find hard to reach, cruisers have the opportunity to wake up in an exotic destination each day. Cruise liners are now taking the pastime one step further by offering long-term residences that can be purchased by the discerning cruiser. So, now passengers can call their favourite suite their own, returning time and time again whenever they wish.

Live in luxury aboard *The World's* largest private residential ship, *The World* ([www.aboardtheworld.com](http://www.aboardtheworld.com)). Since its launch in 2002 it has circumnavigated the globe, spending time in some of the most exotic ports. Boasting 165 individual 'homes' it combines the life of adventure with that of a luxury vacation home, allowing residents to wake up to new scenery every few days.

For 2015 *The World* begins its journey in Singapore, exploring the bustling cities Southeast Asia has to offer, followed

by a trip to the stunning beaches of the Maldives and Seychelles in late winter.

On-board, residents can enjoy an opulent and exclusive lifestyle. Fitness fanatics can continue their personal regime assisted by the ship's attentive personal trainers, taking advantage of the ship's only regulation-sized tennis court at sea. Meanwhile, keen sailors will feel right at home at the on-board marina, where they can sail straight out on to the open Andaman Sea, enjoying a relaxed supper afterwards on

the marina platform. And after a tiring day of exploring exotic islands guests may wish to unwind in the comfort of their personal suite, where spacious lounge areas, full-sized kitchens and private veranda spaces offer captivating views of the ocean.

Residents can choose from a studio apartment to luxurious two-and-three bedroom suites, which have a guide price of US\$1m/€894,062, plus annual ownership charges.

Set to be one of the most opulent residential cruise liners to be built is *Utopia* ([www.utopiaresidences.com](http://www.utopiaresidences.com)). Available in 2016 it will provide 190 luxury residences for purchase, ranging from spacious two bedroom ➤

**Pictured:** *The World*, the largest residential ship, offers an exclusive lifestyle with top-of-the-range facilities and suites



Olympian Estates, to the ultra-luxurious 6,500-square foot Utopian Estates. Equipped with 3-4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms, residents can even customise their suite to reflect their individual style, choosing high-quality materials to create a thoughtfully planned space tailored for them.

Residents will gain exclusive access to The Club, the elite community of resident-only facilities and services, where they will have full use of the ship's gym, private lounges, as well as priority for the best tables at it's many restaurants.

And after a day of Heli-skiing in South America, or hot air ballooning over Cappadocia's fairy rock formations, guests can return and unwind at the ship's state-of-the-art spa. From hot stone massages to herbal

**Above: Residents can enjoy captivating views from their private balcony and luxurious bathrooms on *Utopia* (right)**  
**Below: Explore the globe in style aboard *The World***

wraps, trained masseurs will perform a range of treatments guaranteed to smooth even the fuzziest of heads. If it is late-night entertainment that you are looking for, test your luck at *Utopia's* casino, where croupiers will spin roulette wheels, while Blackjack dealers test your game. Jazz combos and pianists provide a relaxed alternative in the lounges, with acclaimed soloists working their magic fresh from London, New York or Paris. Prices for a Utopian Estate start from US\$3.9m/€3.5m.

Unlike *The World* and *Utopia*, The Marquette River Cruise



([www.rivercitiescondos.com](http://www.rivercitiescondos.com)) travels exclusively across the waterways of the United States. Travelling the northern rivers in the summer and the southern rivers in the winter, its aim is for residents to experience the most pleasant weather conditions the US waterways can provide. The cruise caters for 350-400

residents and offers 185-200 homely condominiums. Ranging from 500sq ft to 1,500 sq ft the estates all come fully furnished, complete with en-suite bathrooms and all the latest mod cons. Residents of the larger suites can choose to customise their apartments in accordance with their personal tastes, for example a hot tub can be added to your private deck.

A theatre, large library, gym and swimming pool are sure to keep residents entertained, while a fishing deck and opportunities for spotting wildlife will please those who prefer the great outdoors.

Additionally, a 24 hour concierge service will be on hand to cater for your needs. Residential prices start from US\$300,000/€270,892 and are available for purchase now. ■

