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SUPERCAT HEMISPHERE IN SEARCH OF THE BEST CRUISING & DIVING DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD

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World Class

The most exclusive private owner's 'club' in the world aboard what could be described as the largest superyacht of all time.



Emblazoned upon gleaming white bows with a name as grandiose and globally encompassing as *The World* does set you up for high expectations. *Ocean* was invited aboard this most exclusive vessel for a private inspection and sumptuous lunch on the aft deck under crystal blue Sydney skies during the most recent Australian visit of *The World*. We were intrigued to take a sneak peek aboard what is unquestionably the most luxurious, indeed only, floating residential community constantly at sea. Unlike any luxury cruise ship, this intimately special vessel has more in common with a very large superyacht, indeed more akin to an exclusive private club cruising the oceans of the world, with no casual guests at all, only residents and their families who have acquired one of the magnificent private apartments aboard.

The apartments are grand in scale and have almost no resemblance to a cruise ship, with even the two-bedroom and living room 'standard' version, with private balconies, a real home at sea.

They even range through to palatial



six room apartments for the wealthier residents who may cruise all year at sea, visiting the most desirable destinations around the globe. As a "floating democracy on the move", the global cruising itinerary of the ship is proposed and voted upon by the residents every year, to best reflect the majority of their cruising preferences. The residents, and their families or guests, can come and

WE ARE THE WORLD
Clockwise from top: *The World* visiting Bordeaux; private apartment living; greens at sea; private dining in luxury; dining and diving from the spectacular opening aft marina deck.

go from the ship – port to port – as they wish during the entirety of the non-stop voyaging of *The World*, with most owners picking and choosing various legs and destinations that most interest them. The typical owner is surprisingly not always retired, with many continuing to run their business interests while on board thanks to modern IT and communications technology. So, cruising aboard the world is not only a luxury home away from home, but also can function as a workplace well away from the typical office!

The entirety of *The World* is finished much more in keeping with a true superyacht standard of decor and quality appointments than any other luxury ship we have set foot upon. So, it's not surprising that many of the owners of apartments aboard *The World* are potential, or previous, superyacht owners themselves. *The World* provides similar levels of comfort and luxury to an ocean going superyacht on a grander scale, with all private apartments fit-outs and decor totally up to the owners own tastes and decisions. Whereas the 'public

areas' aboard – from saloon lounges, restaurants, bars, theatre, recreational areas, libraries, and even the gymnasium – are stunning in their contemporary, luxurious appeal. Subtle sophistication is evident everywhere you go aboard the ship, seen in the work of multiple world-class designers providing stunning solutions for the best possible use of space and decor aboard any vessel, with magnificent workmanship and finishes of fine timbers, marbles and floor coverings, complemented by contemporary art adorning the walls, even that of some of the owners themselves. Suffice to say that overall service, food and beverages aboard are also of the highest order, with a cellar truly representing the world of wine. With passenger numbers only 20 percent of a normal cruise ship of this size, and with crew staffing levels unmatched in the cruising world, the



experience of being closeted in care, comfort and quality is sublime.

As voyaging aboard *The World* is something of an unusual opportunity, given you need to have not only the desire but also the financial means to acquire

an apartment on board, the 'community' on this ship is clearly going to be an especially global one. Indeed, the ship has residents from a wide range of countries, particularly from the US and various European nations, but also a surprising number of Australians too.

The ship is absolutely exquisite but the appeal is really about the lifestyle experience – the amazing journeys, the spectacular residences, the enriching experiences (lectures, cultural events, gastronomy), and the thrilling expeditions.

So its easy to see that the unique lifestyle and personal interaction found aboard *The World* with genuinely like-minded people who share a love of the sea, global travel and making the most of life, would be as enticing as the exotic destinations the ship visits. ○ <http://www.cruisetraveller.com.au>

Melanesia – Orion style

In February / March 2013, the luxury expedition ship *Orion* will be exploring Melanesia, a less visited area of the South Pacific, visiting islands unspoilt by tourism. The cruise will follow a unique itinerary, balancing authentic cultural experiences with comfortable luxury amenities and must-see sights with stops that no other cruise has access, such as visiting remote islands settled as early as 25,000 BC by skull worshipping tribes. Today they are some of the most dive-friendly islands in the South Pacific, rich in fish and brightly-hued corals. These islands abound with pristine white sand beaches and guests may climb the side of a still-active volcano for an unforgettable view. *Orion* is more megayacht than cruise ship, with 100 guests cared for by an experienced crew of 75. Life on board is relaxed and casually elegant. From gourmet dinner menus designed by Serge Dansereau of Sydney's 'The Bathers' Pavilion', to pampering at the beauty salon, you will rediscover your capacity for relaxation and indulgence. www.orionexpeditions.com

World Traveler

The year was 1922. The Cunard ocean liner *Laconia* left the dock at Southampton, her destination: the world. So began an unparalleled legacy of a global voyage only Cunard could claim to have launched. Over the years, other ships and lines have sailed worldwide cruises, but none with quite the same romance and excitement you'll experience seeing the greatest places across the earth from the scale and perspective of a Cunard Queen. Cunard's regal *Queen Mary 2* embarks Southampton, United Kingdom on January 10th on its 2013 World Voyage, cruising to the East over some 106 nights of pampering and exotic exploration on the high seas. *Queen Victoria* similarly departs Southampton on her Global Voyage of 103 nights, heading west to the United States. Or, you may choose to voyage sector by sector depending on your timetable. What a choice to have to make! www.cunardline.com.au