

A Moving City?

The Freedom Ship will be the first floating city in the world.

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For a long time, sci-fi novels and movies suggested that people would be living on the moon in the future. Of course we aren't there yet, but before that happens we may have something equally as futuristic: a city on the water. Sure, we've all heard about Atlantis, the city underwater, but this one can be found floating above it. Known as the Freedom Ship, it will be the first floating city in the world.

Not only will it be utilized for residential purposes, but commercial as well. The plan is to have seven floors of residential living quarters and four commercial floors. Everything will be found there from corporations to supermarkets, police and fire department, city government,

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schools, a top-rate hospital, a library, banks, casinos, hotels, restaurants, entertainment facilities, warehouses, you name it. Not only will it have all that, but it will also have its own airport, which will be used for small commercial and private aircraft (up to 40 passengers). It will be, as the website proudly declares, a "Community on the Sea."

Now, how did someone come up with the idea for this? It all started when visionary, Norman Nixon, thought to build a resort on the Turks and Caicos Islands off the Bahamas. It was all set until the resident governments of the areas changed and the plan was shot down. They told him to build a platform and place it off the coasts of the islands, and build a city on that platform. Instead of doing that he took it one step further, constructing a ship so large that it would house a city, and let that ship travel to different countries of the world.

An idea like this requires a massive undertaking to make it come true. The plans are set but first the Freedom Ship needs people to invest about 8 billion dollars. It's so big that it can't be built on a shipyard. Instead, it will be constructed in Honduras, and if building starts sometime this year as planned, then it won't be



finished until at least 2006. With a length of 4500 feet (15 football fields), a width of 750 feet and its

height clocking in at 350 feet, this will be, as director of security Peter Banas puts it, "the eighth wonder of the world." Which brings up a point that all of you might be wondering about: how tight will the ship's security be? According to Mr. Banas, very. Not only will the city have its own police force, but there will also be sprinklers in every unit, and if there is a massive fire, then there are some "projectile escape mechanisms" for everyone to use.

The Freedom Ship is scheduled to cover most of the world's coastal regions every two years, spending 25% of its time in motion and the other 75% close to shore for its residents to tour one of the many 100 countries it will visit.

The ship will hold about 60,000 residents, 15,000 employees and 20,000 visitors, people from the shore who will travel to the ship to have fun. And it will also offer 2-week timeshares, for those who just want to get away from it all and relax on the sea. For those who will live there, the ship will be something once only dreamed about: a city that's not just where you live, but like a vacation or year-round cruise.

If you want to learn more about the Freedom Ship, log on to www.freedomship.com.