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# JET-SET STYLE



# Worldview

*Neapolitans explore the world from the comfort of their own apartment at sea*

BY JUDY MARTEL

When author Paul Theroux wrote, "Travel is at its most rewarding when it ceases to be about your reaching a destination and becomes indistinguishable from living your life," he could have been referring to the owners of the 165 condominiums aboard *The World*, a private residential yacht that continuously circumnavigates the globe. Whether gliding through the remote Hebrides islands or docked along Italy's Amalfi Coast, *The World* caters to sophisticated trekkers who believe travel is best when it comes with all the comforts of home.

Aside from the logistical ease of visiting a variety of destinations without the bother of packing and unpacking, owners praise the country club-style amenities, onboard community of adventurers, and the control (as owner-residents) over the ship's itinerary. "It's everything you want without the hassles of travel," says Dolly Bodick, a Naples resident of 30 years and former owner of DBR Marketing. "You don't have to schlep your luggage; we travel with a carry-on. When we get there, we're home in this incredibly beautiful place with great restaurants and activities."

This year, Bodick and her husband flew to France to join the ship and will spend most of the remainder of 2018 aboard. After sailing the Mediterranean, they'll head to Norway's Svalbard Archipelago to see polar bears, a highlight for Bodick. "Then later in the summer, we'll explore some of the outer



RESIDENTS AVERAGE THREE TO FOUR MONTHS ABOARD ANNUALLY, VISITING SPOTS LIKE SYMI, GREECE (BOTTOM LEFT) WITHOUT HAVING TO SACRIFICE THE COMFORTS OF HOME.



islands of Great Britain, where almost no one ever goes," she adds.

Bodick believes sailing on *The World* is unique because of the added touches, both on and offshore, that deepen the experience. "It's not just the amazing places we go, it's also the destination experts we have and the contacts of fellow residents who bring a whole new dimension to travel," she says. "We've visited artist studios in Uruguay, [and] Renée Fleming performed onboard [in NYC]. On the way to Cartagena [Colombia] we had instructors teaching Spanish. In 10 days, I learned enough to get by in a restaurant."

Condos on *The World* range in price from \$1.5 to \$15 million. Since purchasing their unit more than four years ago, Bodick says she and her husband spend six to eight months a year

onboard. "We're very itinerary-driven. Once we spent seven consecutive months onboard, which was kind of horrifying to our land friends, but there was so much that was interesting we didn't want to get off."

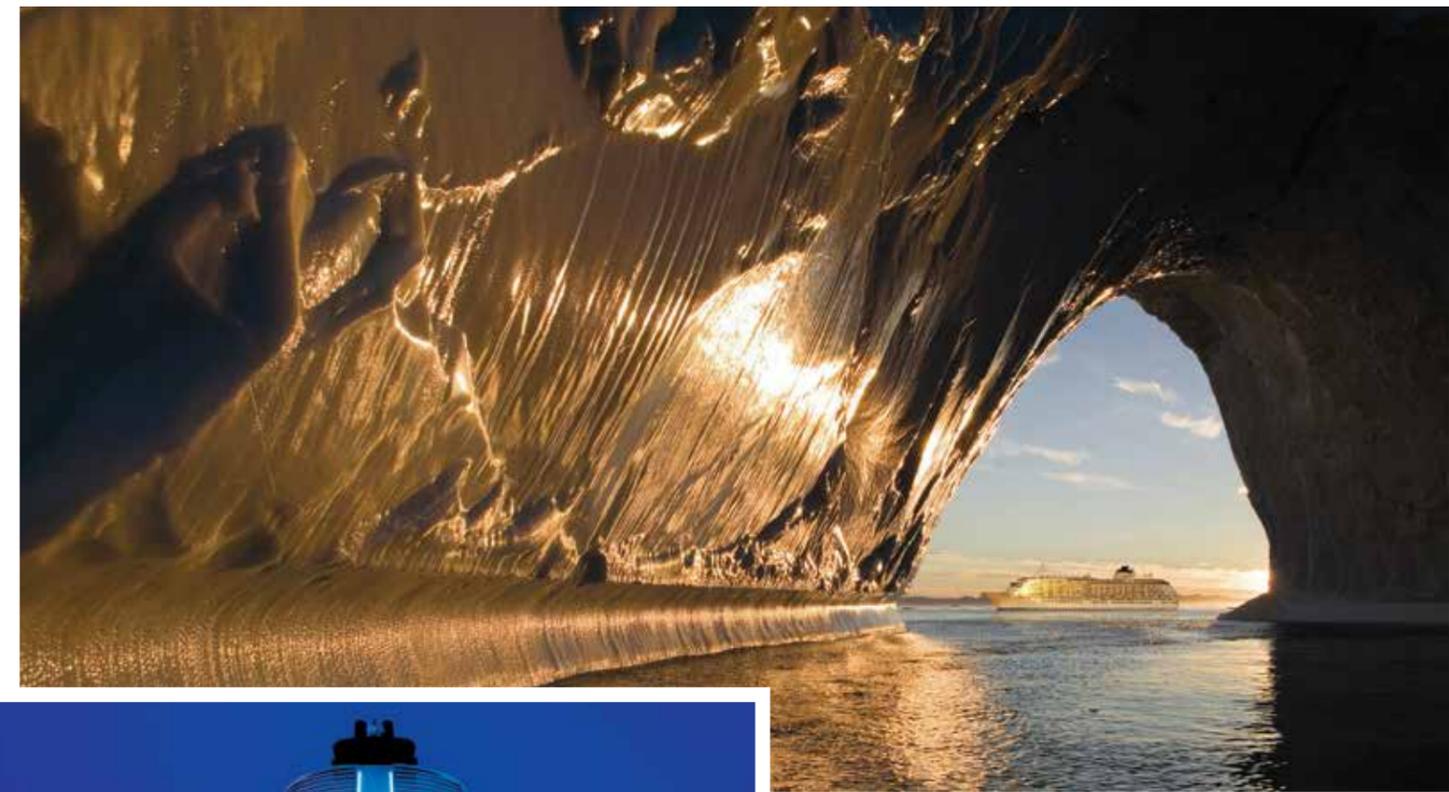
Retired physician and biotech executive Craig Smith and his wife, Susan, first came aboard *The World* in 2013 on a trip through an exclusive travel club. "The staff and residents were very welcoming and friendly," he says. The opportunity to see the world with such a close-knit community cinched the deal for them, and they purchased their condo that same year.

This spring, they flew to Morocco to join the ship before it headed to the Mediterr-

anean. They typically spend up to six months a year onboard in the warmer months and then return to Naples during season. But if *The World* makes compelling stops during winter, they make an exception.

The ship's board approves itineraries three years in advance, with input from residents, explains Smith, who is a board member. Because residents own the ship, they have a say in how it's run and can therefore plan extended stops in such locales as Rio de Janeiro during the annual Carnival celebration or England for the Wimbledon tennis championship. Every occupant has a vote in the final schedule, which differs each year. In 2018, there are 114 ports of call.

Destination experts and speakers frequently join the ship, allowing ample opportunity to whip up excitement ahead of a visit. In 2017, *The World* introduced a lecture series that brings four Nobel Laureates aboard every year to speak about their expertise and interact with residents. In addition to talks on local culture and history, *The World* also hosts regional



WHEN NOT EXPLORING ARCTIC GLACIERS (ABOVE), RESIDENTS OF *THE WORLD* CAN RELAX AT ONE OF TWO POOLS OR SAVOR A SELECTION FROM THE WINE VAULT.



wine tastings and cooking classes, while its restaurants showcase native cuisines.

The education continues in port through one-of-a-kind experiences and access to local luminaries. For example, residents were offered a private tour of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, on a day it's normally closed to the public. In New York City, several Broadway stars came aboard to mingle and perform. While docked in Cape Town, South Africa, the mayor visited the ship for a breakfast discussion. "It was so interesting to hear about the issues from her point of view," Bodick says.

Relaxation is also a priority on *The World*. Owners never have to stock their refrigerators or heat up their stoves, unless they prefer to cook. "The most popular restaurant on the ship is called 'In-Room Dining,'" jokes

Smith. He recalls one night when the ship was docked in Shanghai and he and his wife decided not to go ashore for dinner. They called for in-room dining to set up a meal on their terrace, which featured a view of the city's skyline. "We ordered wine and a lovely dinner," Smith says. "We didn't have to do anything—just pick up the telephone and call. Things like that make the travel experience so memorable."

And then there are the fellow travelers. Although *The World* measures 644 feet long, the feeling aboard is intimate. Bodick says there's a sense of community among residents, who hail from 19 countries. "They bring a different perspective and viewpoint to the travel experiences," she says. "We've made great friends

[whom] we keep in touch with even off the ship, and the staff greets us when we come aboard and says 'welcome home.'"

Bodick believes sailing on *The World* has given her the opportunity to view the world through new eyes. "I thought I was so educated and sophisticated, but there's so much out there to learn," she says. "In some ways, we think we have so much to give. But the truth is that others, whether they be native Solomon Islanders or the people who live in Tonga, have so much to give to us. I think this type of travel, and specifically on this ship, is much more engaging and enriching than any other." ◀