


7 IDEAL PLACES

A THE FREEDOM SHIP

Language in use

- 1 Where do you think would be the perfect place to live? Why?
- 2 Look at the text and the picture and find this information.
 - 1 What is the ship called?
 - 2 How big will it be?
 - 3 Why won't it be 'ordinary'?

- 3 a  46 Read the text carefully. What information does it give about
 - people?
 - transport?
 - entertainment?
 - crime?
 - money?
- b Would you like to live on the ship? Why/Why not?

The perfect place to live?



Can you imagine a ship which is so big that it takes a quarter of an hour to walk from one end to the other? At the moment it's just a plan, but work is going to start on it soon. It will be over 1,300 metres long, as wide as two football pitches and as high as a 25-storey building. It will carry 115,000 people and it will cost nine billion dollars. This is the 'Freedom Ship'.

It won't be an ordinary ship which just provides holidays. People will actually live there. Companies will have their offices there, too. The ship will have everything that you'd find in a normal city – a shopping mall, three hotels, a huge library, a hospital, schools for students of all ages. There will be plenty

of places for entertainment – a sports centre, cinemas, a park, and a casino.

The ship will even have its own transport system. Because it will be so big, there will be cycle tracks and a small railway. The top deck of the ship will be a runway where small planes and helicopters will land and take off. At the back of the ship there will be piers for smaller ships.

Why will people live there? The answer is money. The Freedom Ship will sail round the world constantly. It won't be in any country, so the people who live there won't pay any taxes. Some of the richest people in the world are going to live on the ship. Flats will cost up to 10 million dollars, and a lot of them have

already been sold. Will only rich people live there? Not at all. Like any city, there will be all sorts of people there because they'll need doctors, teachers, shop assistants, cleaners and so on.

The ship's designers and consultants, however, have decided that the Freedom Ship isn't just going to be a city on the oceans. It's going to be the perfect society. There won't be any criminals. Anyone who commits a crime will have to leave the ship. It's going to be an international society with people from many different countries. There will be people from different religions and different social classes, too. They'll all live together happily on the Freedom Ship.