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## Yacht hotels set to drop anchor

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It's impression of the Sunborn Gibraltar, docked in the shadow of the famed Rock of Gibraltar.

**13 Aug** | A new "yacht hotel" is set to anchor permanently off the space-challenged municipality of Gibraltar, and many more are planned to dock in similarly congested cities around the world, or where special events such as the Olympics necessitate extra accommodation.

- **Anchors aweigh on a five-star stay**



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Yacht hotels set to drop anchor  
An artist's impression of the Sunbom Gibraltar, docked in the shadow of the famed Rock of Gibraltar. PHOTO: SUNBOM



A \$224 million "yacht hotel" is set to put down its anchors permanently off the southern tip of Spain by the end of the year.

The *Sunbom Gibraltar* is one of the largest yachts in the world at an astounding 142 metres long and seven stories high, and it's being marketed as a high-end hotel. In land-scarce cities like Gibraltar, ships like these may be the future of high-end hospitality.

The yacht will be moored at the Gibraltar Ocean Village Marina, a prime Mediterranean location, and guests will be ushered onto the boat via an enclosed glass walkway. Six super strong hydraulic arms, each weighing eight tonnes, will hold the boat to its mooring and keep it in place.

It has 189 rooms and will offer guests a spa, gym, cocktail lounges, conference rooms and even a ballroom.

The *Sunbom Gibraltar* is the second of a fleet of luxury yacht hotels by Sunbom, following the *Sunbom Princess* which moored in Finland in 2002. The company is planning to launch more yacht hotels in London and Barcelona, while others could be used in a temporary capacity at major events such as the Olympics.

It's not expected the Sunbom yachts will do much cruising, however, with most expected to be hard-wired to the mooring by giant electrical cables and 10-year agreements.

The *Sunbom Gibraltar* is set to open later this year, and room rates are expected to cost anywhere between \$330 and \$3000 per night, depending on the room.