

1000

MEGAYACHT MARINAS *Around the Globe*



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The world's superport industry has embraced a number of strategies to cope with the changing dynamics of the global economy. Some governments see superports as a way out of recession. India has plans to develop a marina, and its yachting industry is still in its infancy. The Cayman Islands government believes a superport might be an essential part of its new development strategy. The Maltese government has a master plan for creating 1,100 new marina berths with facilities for superyachts. In contrast, Camper & Nicholsons Marinas has seen berth sales in Malta slow down, but is involved in a new venture in Limassol, Cyprus, and in discussion on other projects as far afield as Russia, China and the Seychelles. Island Global Yachting's superport empire continues to expand, though it has refocused operations in the Middle East.

Whatever the state of the global economy, quality still matters, demand is still high, and the best superyacht berths are still very much in demand. In the following pages, we bring you 100 of the leading superports and superport projects

around the globe, compiled with the help of our readers. We could easily have included many more, such is the choice and quality that is now available. In the first section we feature five superports from the many recommended by our readers, then we move around the world, region by region, to look at some of the latest news and the best of the rest, and finally we have selected 24 marinas as diverse examples of projects with a strong real estate element.

State-of-the-art facilities, location, comfort and security are now taken for granted, so we're always interested in reader feedback on what makes one marina stand out from the rest. A few common themes develop—quality of service, a broad range of facilities and plenty to do. Wintering skippers and crews have different needs from owners and guests, but the superports that cater to both tend to score highly with our readers. —**JANE CODY**

Note: The numbers depicted within this feature correspond with geographic location, they are not a reflection of rank.

READER RECOMMENDED SELECTION



Paradise Village Marina in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, scores high with our readers on a number of counts—from the personal service delivered by the harbor master and his wife, through the entertainment available for all ages, to the way in which the marina has transformed, beyond all recognition, from a one-finger floating dock to a top-class modern marina that continues to upgrade and improve. Set in a protected natural lagoon and surrounded by elegant properties, evidence of this continual improvement is shown by the recent addition of a marina concierge, additional power to eight of the superyacht berths, and another seven slips for yachts greater than 100 feet in length, bringing the total to 24, including a 240-foot end tie. The golf course has now matured, and other facilities include the yacht-club spa and a great choice of restaurants and cafés.

Corpus Christi Municipal Marina in Texas is the focal point of this lively city that is proud of its enhancements to the Bayfront and a clean marina program. It has recently added four purpose-designed floating piers and has more than 500 slips, 15 for superyachts up to 150 feet in length. The ship channel through Port Aransas provides easy access to and from the Gulf of Mexico, and the bay is protected from the Gulf by sandy barrier islands. Our readers commend Corpus Christi for its great location, good facilities and a charming downtown area. Corpus Christi Bayfront is also the stage for the Texas International Boat Show and a number of other major events throughout the year.

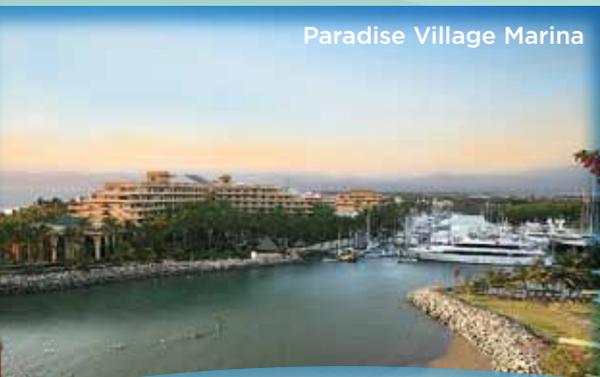
In the Dominican Republic, **Ocean World Marina** has 83 berths for yachts up to 250 feet, as well as a helicopter pad, dive shop and casino. However, the unique feature of this marina is the neighboring interactive marine park providing personal encounters with dolphins, stingrays and sharks among its

many attractions. Ocean World Adventure Park features one of the largest man-made dolphin habitats in the world and 52 scheduled daily events. There's also the chance to explore a tropical forest and meet tigers. The impressive, four-story casino has an aquatic theme and features a floor-to-ceiling tropical-fish aquarium. We're told by our adventure-loving readers that many stay longer than planned once they discover the kite surfing, waterfalls and other local attractions.

Newport is the center of the U.S. summer yachting scene, and it's difficult to choose just one marina in a buzzing town where a number are rated by our readers. **Newport Shipyard** wins on seniority, and though it's the oldest working shipyard on the waterfront, that's not reflected in the modern and comprehensive facilities that include a café, fitness center, courtesy golf carts and, of course, a wide range of repair, refit facilities and services. An additional 200 feet of dock space are to be added shortly to increase the working space.

Apart from its natural beauty, St. Maarten's status as a duty- and tax-free port makes it an attractive destination and a great winter base. That has led to its development as an all-around nautical center with competitively priced repair and refit facilities, and a number of top-quality marinas. Independently owned **Yacht Club Port de Plaisance**, located away from the bustle of bridge traffic in the Simpson Bay Lagoon, discovered the secret of St. Maarten some time ago. Nearly half of the 90 full-service berths are available for superyachts up to a maximum length of 250 feet. Comprehensive facilities, a range of entertainment, and discrete, professional service have led to a loyal following from crew and owners alike; all visitors also have full resort privileges at the nearby Princess Port de Plaisance Hotel & Casino. ➤

Paradise Village Marina



Ocean World Marina



Yacht Club Port de Plaisance

