

7. **Superyachts** These large luxury yachts, also called megayachts, are usually over 24 meters in length and can reach up to 110 meters. Typical occupancy onboard is approximately 200 passengers, and all cabins are classically well-appointed suites or estate rooms.

A ship's size will impact the **space ratio** or how much space is allocated to each passenger. You can find the space ratio by dividing the GRT of a ship by the number of passengers it can accommodate. The greater the space ratio, the roomier and less crowded the ship will feel. Space ratios of 25 to 40 are fairly common on today's ships.<sup>26</sup>

The variety of jobs onboard cruise ships is even greater than the types of ships. Obviously, ships require a crew to guide them efficiently and safely through their itineraries. In addition, cruise ships carry a large staff, over 2,000 for some megaships, in charge of resort operations. Included among these employees are the hotel manager, **purser**, shore excursion manager and staff, entertainers, **cruise director** and cruise staff, housekeeping staff, executive chef, chief steward and kitchen staff, *maitre d'* and dining room staff, and food and beverage manager and beverage staff. Onboard cruising operations are supported by large land-based marketing, management, and finance staff, which means that employment opportunities abound. Securing a position on a cruise ship can be difficult and these positions are not suited for everyone.

Most ships are registered in developing countries with limited or no labor law protections. Therefore, most of the crew members also come from developing countries. Some positions such as cruise director, purser, spa, casino, and medical staff come from English speaking countries. However, before you decide to work on a cruise ship think about working long hours, even split shifts, living in cramped quarters below the passenger decks, and being on duty seven days a week for months at a time. You might want to “test the waters” by working in a land-based position, especially in a seasonal setting such as Alaska where the cruise lines own and operate lodging, transportation,



*Because of their mobility, cruise ships are floating, year-round resorts.* Photo by Cathy Hsu