

Monaco running out of space for millionaires

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Via Kurt Bauschardt on flickr.com

The tiny city-state of Monaco on France's Mediterranean coastline is having problems finding space for rich people. Monaco is less than 2 square kilometers in size and has

some of the richest people in the world living there. It is called the playground of the rich and is home to a Formula 1 Grand Prix, a famous casino and a luxury yacht-lined harbor. Over 30 per cent of its 38,000 residents are millionaires. The country is running out of space for more millionaires. House prices are already the highest in the world, with an average price of around \$100,000 per square meter. City planners say an estimated 2,700 more millionaires are hoping to move there in the next 10 years.

Monaco's ruler, Prince Albert II, has decided to build more homes in Monaco. He wants to reclaim land from the sea. He has OK'd a \$2.1 billion project to fill in 15 acres of the sea with concrete and sand. The project will have a harbor big enough for 30 ships, a landscaped park, a Japanese garden and 120 new waterfront homes for the rich and famous. There will be a huge demand for the new homes. People are attracted by the luxury lifestyle and no income tax. Marine experts are worried the construction will cause great damage to sea life and the environment. The Prince said he cares about the environment. He said important species would be moved to a new artificial reef.

Sources: *bbc.com / dailymail.com / thenational.ae*

Writing

There are too many millionaires in the world. They should share their money. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

tiny / coastline / rich / playground / casino / luxury / millionaire / space / house prices / ruler / project / sand / garden / demand / income tax / construction / environment

True / False

- Monaco is just over 2 square kilometers in size. T / F
- Over half of Monaco's 38,000 residents are millionaires. T / F
- House prices in Monaco are the highest in the world. T / F
- One square meter of property in Monaco can cost \$100,000. T / F
- Monaco will spend \$2.1 million on reclaiming land from the sea. T / F
- A new harbor will be big enough for 30 ships. T / F
- People in Monaco pay just 5% in income tax. T / F
- Important sea life near Monaco will be relocated to a new reef. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. tiny | a. leader |
| 2. rich | b. guessed |
| 3. famous | c. specialists |
| 4. residents | d. wealthy |
| 5. estimated | e. concerned |
| 6. ruler | f. well known |
| 7. huge | g. man-made |
| 8. experts | h. very small |
| 9. worried | i. enormous |
| 10. artificial | j. inhabitants |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Monaco?
- What do you think about rich people?
- Why is Monaco so popular with rich people?
- Would you prefer to live in Monaco or in your town?
- What problems might a rich place like Monaco have?
- What are house prices in your town like?
- How can people become so rich?
- What's the first thing you'd buy if you became a millionaire?

Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. on France's Mediterranean
 2. It is called the playground
 3. The country is running
 4. an average price of around \$100,000
 5. more millionaires are hoping
 6. He wants to reclaim land
 7. 120 new waterfront
 8. People are attracted
 9. cause great damage to sea life
 10. moved to
- a. of the rich
 - b. from the sea
 - c. to move there
 - d. by the luxury lifestyle
 - e. coastline
 - f. a new artificial reef
 - g. and the environment
 - h. per square meter
 - i. homes
 - j. out of space

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think being a millionaire would be like?
- c) What problems do you think millionaires have?
- d) What do you think of reclaiming land from the sea?
- e) Would a country reclaim land to build houses for poor people?
- f) Is space for millionaires more important than sea life?
- g) What are the bad things about the project?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a millionaire?

Spelling

1. France's Mediterranean nclsaoeit
2. the opardlqnyu of the rich
3. a rxluuy yacht
4. 38,000 ienredsst are millionaires
5. an aevaegr price of around \$100,000
6. an tmisdetae 2,700 more
7. ctrcenoe and sand
8. There will be a huge enddma
9. no nmceio tax
10. great amgeda to sea life
11. important csesiep would be moved
12. a new afriitliac reef

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. j	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. c	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Yacht Harbor

You think a yacht harbor is the most important thing for a millionaires' playground. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): 7-star hotel, casino or private beach.

Role B – 7-Star Hotel

You think a 7-star hotel is the most important thing for a millionaires' playground. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): yacht harbor, casino or private beach.

Role C – Casino

You think a casino is the most important thing for a millionaires' playground. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): 7-star hotel, yacht harbor or private beach.

Role D – Private Beach

You think a private beach is the most important thing for a millionaires' playground. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least of these (and why): 7-star hotel, casino or yacht harbor.

Speaking – Playground

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things for a millionaires' playground at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- 7-star hotels
- Casino
- Opera house
- Private beaches
- yacht harbor
- F1 Grand Prix
- Jewelry stores
- Museums

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.