

Relax in the Bays of Antiquity

The Testing

The actual test consists of a practical boat handling assessment and then a short written paper on navigation, collision regulations etc. Anybody that has done one of our Flotilla Skipper courses would already satisfy all the boat handling requirements but, some extra study may have to be undertaken for the theory, particularly on the tidal elements. This is covered in our Log Book and the RYA Day Skipper Practical Handbook. A guide to the Test syllabus can be viewed online. The ICC test can be taken either prior to chartering a yacht or after obtaining our Non-Tidal Skipper Certificate. These are carried out by Martin Musgrove at Southwest Yachting (www.southwestyachting.com) our recognised RYA sailing school in the UK. Alternatively, for those not citizens of, or residing, in the UK the ICC will have to be issued by their country's sailing organisation.

Feel the Adrenaline Rush!

The Training Programme

The training that we offer follows the syllabus laid down by the majority of countries. We offer this programme because the recreational training syllabus is ideal for organisations like ourselves where we teach in a holiday environment. It is very important that we ensure that any training that we provide, follows internationally recognised standards and that we can issue appropriate, recognised training. Equally it is essential that we do not forget that most people choosing to do their training with us are also looking for a holiday, and that often in any group or family not everybody will eventually want to become a skipper. The syllabus is a modular system which offers a very flexible approach. Total beginners can easily be brought up to a Non-Tidal Yacht Crew level in a week. At the same time nobody is put under any pressure and you can be signed off just part way along the Crew syllabus allowing you to finish it later if you wish. Those with prior experience can quickly be assessed and then may be brought up to a Flotilla Skipper level within a week, if appropriate.

If not they can be assessed up to whichever skippering modules they have covered, allowing them to complete the skipper training at a later stage. All tuition for these levels is on a hands on basis and you learn as the yacht goes from location to location as part of the holiday. The necessary theory is covered through practical exercises and general discussion as you go along, while all previous experience and knowledge, however obtained, is taken into account.

As part of your holiday you will be taught the points of sail, shown how to tie knots and handle ropes correctly, steer a yacht under sail and power, handle the sails, mooring and anchoring, basic navigation, amongst the other things which lead up to gaining our Non-Tidal Certificates.



Take a Sail Trip Through History

The Greek Sailing Programme

On arrival, and after 17:00 hours, you will be shown aboard your yacht. Learn-to-sail clients will meet fellow students and their instructor, and flotilla/bareboat clients will be given a quick briefing about their yacht.

Having been shown everything you need to be able to sleep comfortably on the yacht that night, you will be free to explore Nidri and its range of cafes, bars and restaurants. The first morning is the only late start - there will be a lot of last-minute details for our staff to sort out, including mooring demonstrations for skippers new to Mediterranean sailing techniques. At 0930 hours, the first time that everyone on the flotilla meets up, a comprehensive briefing is given.

After this, the learn-to-sail clients will be asked to familiarise themselves with the layout of their yacht, double-check that they remember where life jackets and harnesses are stowed, etc., while the flotilla/bareboat clients carry out their inventory checks.

The yachts are normally ready to leave at about 1100 hours. The first day's destination is not far away, to give everyone the chance to familiarise themselves with their yacht.

We are normally in port by 1730 hours and, after a cold drink and shower, we go for a meal together so that everyone meets up properly. We keep it simple and everyone pays their own bill. Most people enjoy the opportunity to discuss the day's activities with other members of the group. Sleep is rarely a problem on this second night aboard. We don't arrange group meals every night (unless by popular demand), but people get together among themselves and wander off to try different restaurants.

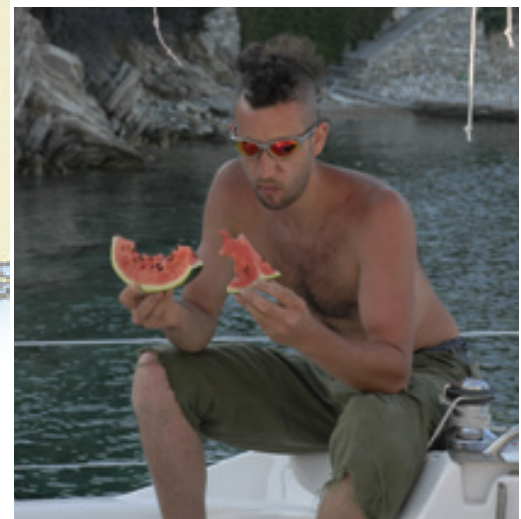
This sets the pattern for the week. The day starts with a short flotilla briefing at 0930 hours and most yachts will have left within an hour or so for their lunchtime destination. During the course of the week, we try to visit a different port or island every night, and there is always enough time to explore locally.

At the end of the week we organise a last night buffet supper at the Hotel Armonia. This meal is for those clients who have participated in either a flotilla or live-aboard tuition holiday. Shore Based and Bareboat clients are of course also, welcome to attend but need to book their place on site.

Those flying home will have their transfer details confirmed; if the flight is in the afternoon or evening, we can store your luggage so as to leave you free to enjoy your last few hours on Lefkas.

After a last night aboard, everyone leaves their yacht by 0900 hours on Sunday morning to allow staff and cleaners time to prepare it for the next clients. Those who are staying on for a second week have a free day - options include a day by Armonia's pool, souvenir shopping in Nidri or maybe renting a car for some sightseeing on Lefkas.

Central Ionian Islands Greece



Give Yourself a Break and Have Fun



A Little Reality

Yachting is not like a cruise on a luxury liner. There is very little privacy on a sailing yacht and it's you against the elements - boats have engines and electronics, which don't always mix well in a water-based environment. Mechanical and instrument failures are not surprising or unknown. Flotilla/Bareboat yachts are worked very hard, especially in the training environment, and although we do our best to keep on top of all repairs, sometimes this isn't possible. Minor defects that do not prevent you from sailing sometimes have to be left until we have more time. Any major defects which prevent you from sailing will, of course, be dealt with immediately either by our staff or IBA the local 24-hour emergency breakdown service we are contracted to, and you will be compensated for any lost cruising time in line with our terms and conditions.

Every day will be different or unpredictable. A sailing holiday is not for the faint-hearted. If, however, you have a sense of adventure, can accept that things may not always go according to plan, are good humoured and can imagine a camping holiday on water, then this is the activity for you - a real escape from routine and predictability.

As on a camping holiday, boats, like tents, can leak in the rain and get damp from condensation. You may experience unpleasant smells from heads and engines. Nature can intrude with the occasional stowaway rodent (the lead yacht carries traps) or grasshopper. In the sea, watch out for jellyfish and sea urchins. Ashore, wasps and mosquitoes can be a nuisance.

If this is your first experience of sailing you may prefer to start by participating in our shore-based instruction packages which will give you a good introduction to being on a yacht without living on it for one week. That said, sailing can easily become an addiction, warts and all, and we have very many clients who have been coming with us since we started (as **Allan Gauci/Activity Holidays**) in 1990.

