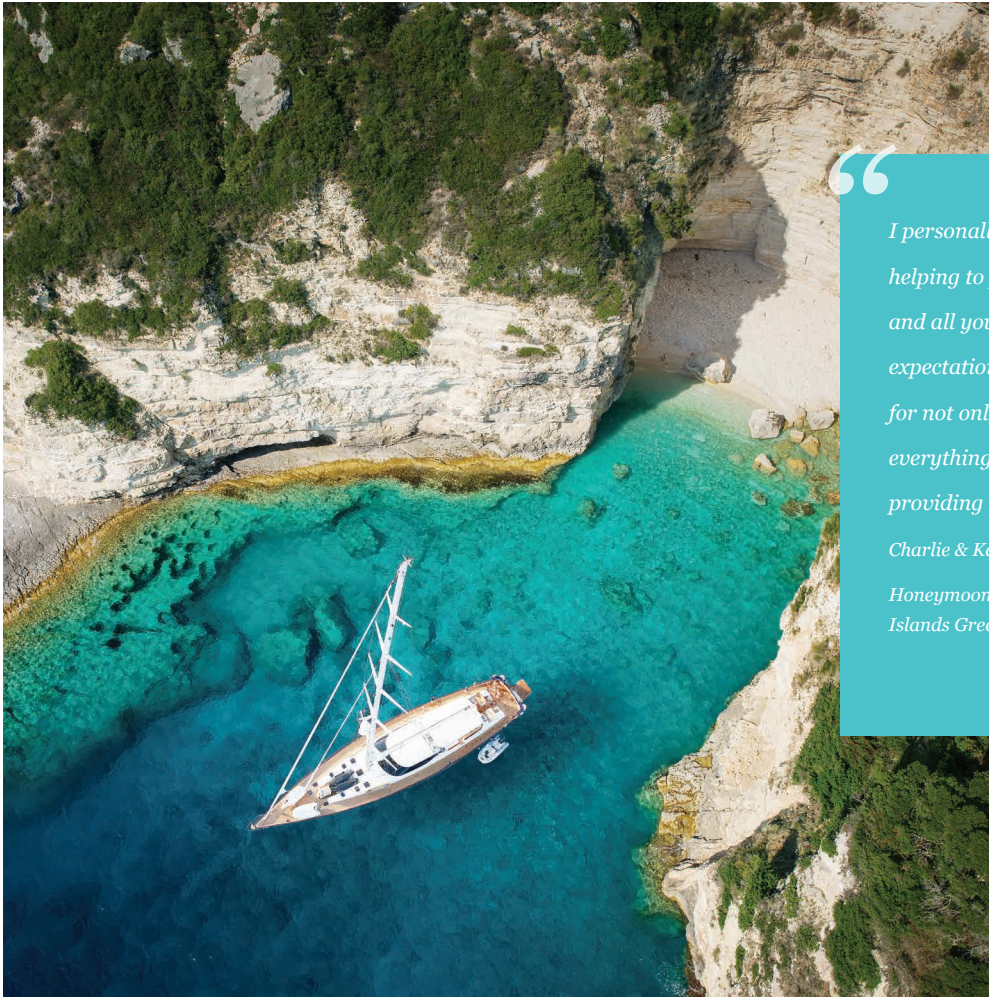


Guide to Skippered Yacht Charter



ISLANDSAILING





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I personally cannot thank you enough for helping to put together the most perfect week and all your efforts were beyond any expectations. Thanks again to Island Sailing, for not only making our honeymoon everything we could have dreamed of, but providing memories for a lifetime!

Charlie & Katie

Honeymoon Skippered Yacht Charter, Saronic Islands Greece

Freedom and discovery

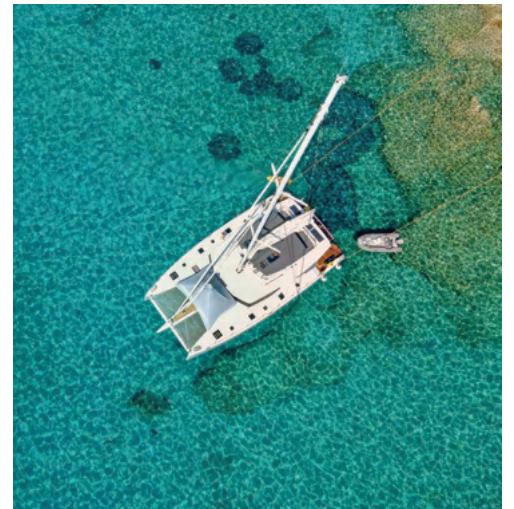
Making the most of life on the water

Set sail for a new destination each day and voyage where the wind takes you. Explore spectacular archipelagos, hopping from island to island to experience the peace and tranquillity of secluded bays, inaccessible to land-based travellers, or the buzz of vibrant harbours filled with cafés, restaurants, and bars. Your skipper will use their expert knowledge of the local area to guide you, but it's up to you where you visit and how far you sail.

Hiring a skipper allows you to enjoy the best of sailing, without the hard work and responsibility, and skippered yacht charters are a popular choice both with those new to sailing and more experienced sailors alike who want as relaxing a charter as possible. Be as active as you wish, taking the helm and learning the ropes or simply sitting back to take in view while making the most of time with family and friends.

By taking time to help guide clients through the process of selecting the perfect boat and destination, Island Sailing can ensure your holiday experience matches up to and exceeds your dreams.





Living the dream

Experience the freedom, flexibility and variety of skippered charters

Dive into turquoise waters for a tranquil early-morning swim before coffee and breakfast on deck. Then, take the yacht's tender across to the quayside to visit the bakery, little shops and cafes and take a morning stroll.

Back on board, it's time to set sail as you head out to a new destination. Perhaps you will stop off for lunch at a crystal-clear anchorage where you can swim, sunbathe, paddleboard and snorkel, then set sail once more to enter harbour in the late afternoon. After a sundowner on deck, it's time to explore the winding streets and alleys of the local town before taking a table overlooking the sea to enjoy a meal of Mediterranean fusion cuisine, paired with fine wines or a cool beer!

Sounds good? This is just one example of a typical day, but how your day unfolds is up to you. No other holiday offers such flexibility and variety. A skippered yacht charter allows you to explore, waking up in a new place each day, but it also allows you to set your own pace so if you find somewhere you really like, you might choose to stay longer than planned.

In experienced hands

Why more people are asking a professional to take the helm

Love sailing but don't have the necessary qualifications or would rather delegate the responsibility of skippering to someone else, so you get to enjoy a relaxing holiday? While ideal for novice sailors and those who are uncertified, skippered charters also make sense for a wide range of people who want to make the most of their valuable time off.

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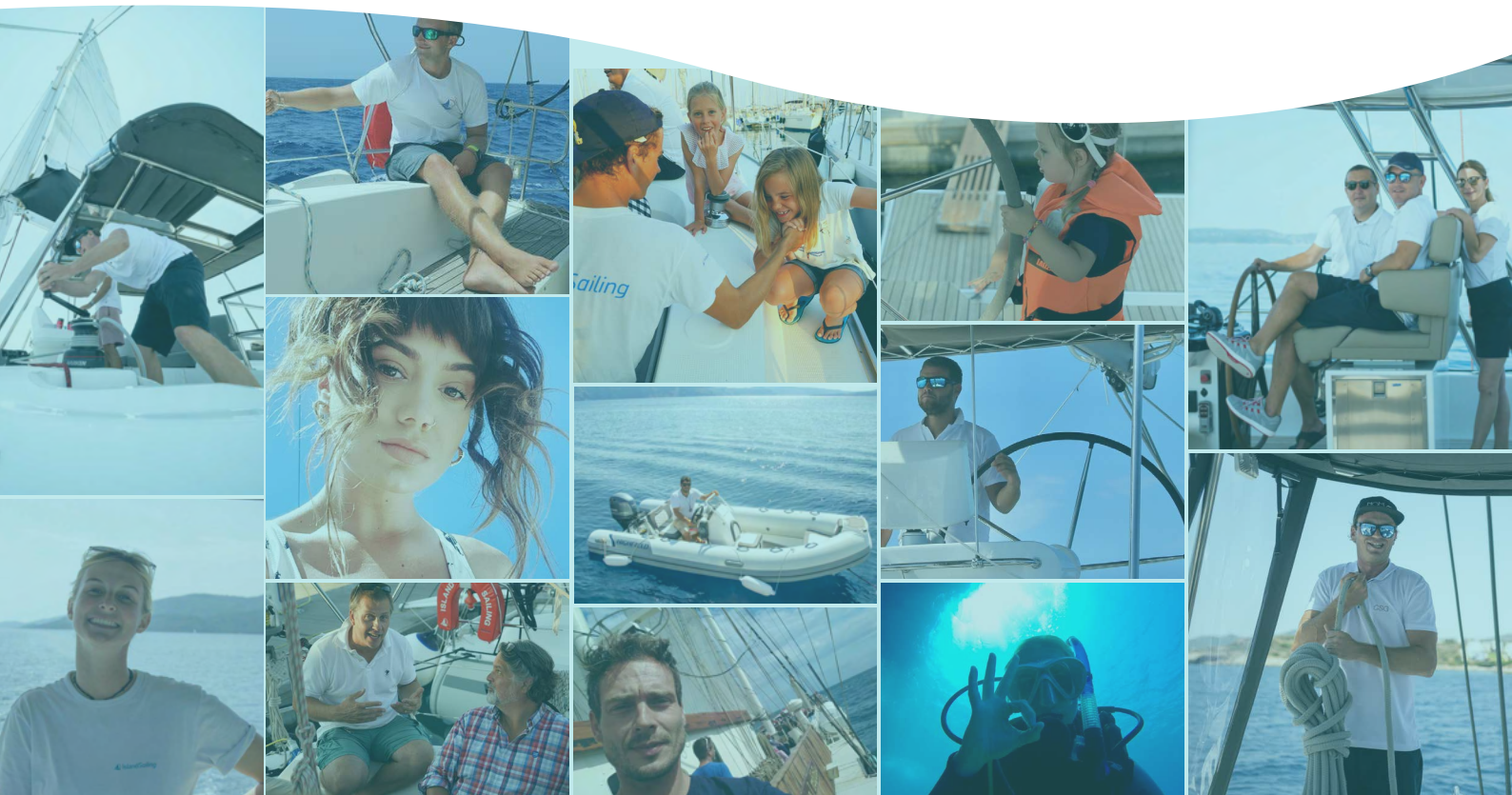
We wanted to say massive thank you for the brilliant organisation of our sailing trip around the Ionian islands! We had fantastic time, lots of lovely memories to take home and the best skipper possible. Giannis made our experience really special. He is very professional, his knowledge about the islands is amazing. Thank you again for everything!

Skippered Yacht Charter Greek Islands, Elena & Family

The freedom of a sailing holiday is enhanced by a professional skipper who will advise you on the best places to visit and plan the itinerary around your specific requirements. They also are on top of the weather forecasts, so your sailing experience is as gentle and relaxing or as exhilarating as you wish and the overnight anchorages or harbours you stay in are always sheltered to ensure peaceful nights' sleep. Their expertise takes the stress out of the most difficult aspects of sailing so you can focus on relaxation and really making the most of valuable time with family and friends.

A professional skipper:

- Takes charge of all aspects of navigation, sailing and onboard safety
- Allows you to take as active a part in sailing the yacht as you wish
- Is happy to teach guests all about sailing
- Can offer their local knowledge, suggesting the best beaches, restaurants and bars
- Will eat onboard during the day but can make their own plans at night
- Requires their own cabin – don't forget to plan for this when choosing your yacht





Food & Drink

There are many reasons to love a Mediterranean yacht charter and the stunning choice of delectable, fresh and varied cuisine always plays a big factor. For whilst you are onboard during the days food and drink can be pre-ordered to be delivered on your arrival at most yacht bases and many marinas also have shops which can arrange to drop groceries to your yacht. Just be sure to order enough to feed your skipper too, and if they aren't going to eat with you onshore in the evenings you can provide them with a small allowance of around €25-30 per day. As all the yachts have fully equipped galley kitchens so you will have everything you need onboard for preparing tasty food and snacks.

Food and drink is a big part of the Mediterranean yachting experience as sun-soaked fresh ingredients meet in a melting pot of amazingly diverse culinary influences. You can explore the diversity of the Mediterranean cuisine and discover the wonderful specialties of each region. With this in mind, most people choose to eat ashore in the evening, and some also like to enjoy breakfast at a local café, but you can cook and eat on board, and many guests find the array of fresh Mediterranean produce very inspiring. It's easy to pick up fresh bread, pastries and provisions at most destinations each morning, and many tavernas or delicatessens will prepare salads and savouries for you to take with you. If you would like to enjoy dinner on deck under the stars in a tranquil bay, without cooking yourself, it's often possible to order from a local restaurant and your skipper will be able to assist with bringing the food onboard.

If you would like a little extra help on board during your charter, you can also hire a host/hostess who will keep the shared areas of the yacht clean and tidy, shop for groceries, prepare and serve breakfasts, snacks and light lunches. If you decide to have a host as well as a skipper you will need a larger yacht with ample accommodation so we generally advise that one of the larger catamarans works best. If you would like a cook or private chef, a higher degree of service for a full-board experience with a full crew to look after the upkeep of the yacht throughout the charter, see **Crewed Yachts**.

Turning dreams into reality

Five simple steps to start planning your perfect charter

- 1. Check your diary and pick some possible dates**
- 2. Decide on numbers and who will be joining you**
- 3. Consider your priorities; sailing, relaxing, exploring?**
- 4. Choose a country you would like to visit**
- 5. Get in contact to see how we can help realise your dreams**



The best of the Mediterranean

Sailing holidays to Europe's most beautiful islands

Island Sailing focus on three Mediterranean countries, Greece, Croatia and Italy, each with amazing islands, uniquely spectacular coastlines and an abundance of historic harbours and places. Different regions within these countries all have their own appeal, so whether you're looking for vibrant harbours, ancient sites of interest or secluded tranquillity, there's an array of options.

Selecting the right destination

With expert, first-hand knowledge and experience of exploring these countries, the Island Sailing team is happy to give advice and recommendations once you have narrowed down the type of experience you are looking for, the number of people in your party and the time of year you hope to travel. Consider if you're looking for bustling towns, vibrant nightlife, peaceful secluded anchorages, a taste of local history and culture or a combination of elements, and whether you want to experience longer sailing days or would you rather a short hop each between destinations.

Greece

With a myriad islands and a coastline steeped in history, culture and mythology, it's easy to see why Greece is such a popular place to sail. This is a landscape that has inspired artists, writers and poets for thousands of years and the names and stories of gods are woven into the fabric of this land. Today it remains an enchanting paradise, with yachting providing the ultimate opportunity to experience this beautiful and varied country. From iridescent turquoise waters and white sandy beaches of the Ionian and Cyclades to rocky coves and lush forests of Dodecanese and Sporades, Greece offers a diverse mix of experiences and a friendly welcome at every port. A warm, dry climate, reliable winds and a long sailing season further add to its appeal and, with so many locations to choose from, the Island Sailing team is always available to help you narrow down to options and select the right area for you.

With five sailing regions to choose from there are so many places to be explored including:

Ionian Islands: Corfu, Paxos, Antipaxos, Kefalonia, Ithaca, Meganissi, Kastos, Zakynthos, Parga, Lefkas.

Cyclades Islands: Kea, Kythnos, Syros, Mykonos, Tinos, Andros, Serifos, Sifnos, Paros & Antiparos, Naxos, Folegrandos & Sikinos, Milos & Kimolos, Ios, Amorgos and Santorini.

Saronic Islands: Aegina, Poros, Hydra and Spetses as well as the Peloponnese mainland.

Dodacene Islands: Symi, Arki & Amarthia, Astypalaia, Halki, Kalymnos, Rhodes, Kos, Leros, Lipsi, Nisyros, Patmos.

Sporades Islands: Skiathos, Skopelos, Alonnisos and Skyros.





Thousands of islands scattered in clear turquoise waters make Croatia's coastline a yachting paradise, with countless hidden bays and quiet beaches waiting to be discovered. It's also rich in cultural history with a number of UNESCO World Heritage designated sites, such as the city of Split whose centre is dominated by the remains of a 4th century palace. For foodies there's an excellent selection of first-rate cafés and restaurants, making the most of the fabulous local produce and seafood, plus thriving nightlife in a number of destinations. The island of Hvar, named 'best island in Europe' by Conde Nast Traveller, is a popular spot for the jet-set, oozing with stylish bars where you can sip cocktails while watching the sunset over the Adriatic. If you're looking for a fun, varied and relaxing sailing holiday amid spectacular scenery and culture, Croatia could be the place for you. Island Sailing can help you narrow down the options to select the ideal charter location.

There are countless beautiful places to visit and a number of sailing areas waiting to be explored including from key destinations such as:

Split: Trogir, Hvar, Vis, Šolta, Maslinica, Stomorska, Korčula, Brač.

Dubrovnik: Elaphiti Islands (Korčula, Mljet and Lastovo), Pelješac Peninsula.

Zadar: Kornati archipelago, Šibenik archipelago (Kaprije and Krapanj).



Italy

Renowned for its culture, glamour and old-world charm, Italy has so much to offer as a charter destination, from the vertiginous Amalfi coastline, studded with pastel-coloured towns and steep-sided harbours to the emerald waters and luxury boutiques of Sardinia's Costa Smeralda, or the volcanic peaks of Sicily and the Aeolian Islands. The landscapes of Italy's 7,500km coastline are as varied as its fabled cuisine – which is enough of a reason to visit in itself. Explore the narrow streets and tree-lined squares of ancient towns and bustling harbours or get away from it all by sailing to uninhabited islands, dropping anchor to bathe and snorkel in tranquil bays. Wherever in Italy you choose, there's always a warm welcome and the Island Sailing team can help guide you to select your perfect location.

Choose your Italian destination and explore one of these amazing sailing regions:

Amalfi: Amalfi, Sorrento, Positano, Ravello, Ischia, Procida, Capri, Ponza, Ventotene.

Sardinia: Maddalena Archipelago, Porto Cervo, Olbia, Bonifacio (Corsica), Budelli Island, Capo Testa, Porto Pozzo, Portisco, Tavolara Island.

Sicily: Portorosa, Milazzo, Aeolian Islands (Lipari, Panarea, Salina, Stromboli, Vulcano, Filicudi and Alicudi), Egadi Archipelago (Favignana, Levanzo and Marettimo).





Choosing the right yacht

Only the best will make the cut

Island Sailing puts quality over quantity and carefully selects the best modern yachts, most suited to Mediterranean charter, from leading brands renowned for excellent designs, performance and comfort. Throughout the season the yacht base teams ensure these yachts remain in tip-top condition.

If you're struggling to choose, guidance is always on hand from the Island Sailing team who will chat through your dream requirements and help find the ideal yacht and location for you.

“

Thank you for our yacht charter with Marko, an excellent skipper who made our first sailing trip in Croatia for our big birthday celebrations so special. Sailing from Split to Hvar and Vis was a highlight. Marko was the perfect skipper and made us feel so comfortable from the moment we met him. The advice and support you provided throughout was so welcomed and we can't thank you enough for all your extra help organising the birthday

Yacht Charter with a Skipper in Croatia. Claudia, James, Toby, Annabelle and Arthur Clarke



Sailing yachts

When most people envisage a sailing yacht, it's a monohull they have in mind. Some prefer the sailing experience of this type of vessel, which can be more responsive and will sail closer into the wind. All Island Sailing yachts have spacious well-thought-out interiors, many with more than one en-suite cabin, as well as generous cooking and living quarters. They have also been chosen with outdoor living in mind, with expansive bathing platforms and roomy cockpits which include all important bimini sunshades. Well-known brands in the sailing yacht fleet include: Beneteau, Bavaria, Jeanneau, Dufour and Hanse.



Catamarans

For many families, larger groups or those looking for a calmer sailing experience, catamarans are a popular choice. They are more stable, heeling over less, while also being surprisingly fast. The two hulls and bridge area combine to provide expansive living space both on and below deck, with large communal areas to get together as a group for après-sail drinks or an evening meal. Catamarans also offer more sunbathing space on deck as well as covered areas where you can still enjoy the climate with a little more shade. Many are also well suited to skippered yacht charters with skipper's cabins often with their own separate access.

Well-known brands in the catamaran fleet include: Lagoon, Fountaine Pajot, Bali, Nautitech and Sunreef.

It's all in the detail

Beyond the type and style of yacht, other important factors to consider are:

- Air conditioning or cabin fans
- Sound system and other electronic requirements
- Water toys – all yachts come with a tender and outboard but other options to hire include stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and snorkel equipment
- Skippered or crewed? If you think you would also like catering help, speak to us about crewed yachts.

FAQ

Answering common queries

1) How do I choose the right yacht?

With such a wide selection of yachts on offer, you may find a quick chat with one of our team will help you narrow down the options and hone in on exactly the right one to suit you. Current availability, prices and optional extras are shown on our website and searches can be refined to include requirements such as air conditioning and number of cabins. The Island Sailing selection is always expanding and developing and we often have new yachts waiting to be listed so, if you can't find quite what you're looking for, it's always worth contacting us to check.

2) How much does it cost to hire a skipper?

The cost of a skipper depends on the yacht size but is usually between €1,000 and €1,500 per week. You also need to account for their food and drink, which will include meals with you on the boat during the day and a small allowance to cover evening meals ashore not taken with you – usually around €30 per day. Gratuities are optional but the norm is to tip 5-15% of the value of the charter if you are happy with your skipper's work.

3) Where can I find a breakdown of extras or additional costs?

Our website shows the range of yachts available at each destination. By opening a yacht's page, you can see a clear list of all obligatory costs, as well as any extras available for an additional fee, such as paddleboards or kayaks, and when payment is due. In most cases, the weekly or fortnightly yacht price is paid in advance while optional extras and skipper fees are dealt with at check-in. There are no 'hidden' extras and we're always happy to clarify any questions about costs by phone or email, to give you additional peace of mind.

4) What extra costs should we expect in addition to yacht hire?

In addition to the skippers fee (see question 2 above)

- There are a small number of fixed fees for each charter, which range from around €200-€500 per charter, depending on the yacht. Each yacht's page on the Island Sailing website clearly details these fees and exactly what is included or excluded.
- **Fuel** – How much you use depends on the size and type of your yacht, how far you motor and whether you use the air conditioning a lot. Costs range between £80-£500 per week, the lesser amount for a three-cabin monohull sailing yacht and the higher for a 46-50ft catamaran with lots of air conditioning.
- **Mooring** – This depends on your destination, the size of your yacht and time of year. Fees are lowest in Greece, with moorings free in many locations, but allow £40-£150 per week if you stay in one or two of the places where mooring fees apply. In Croatia and Italy, you will normally pay more fees with an average week amounting to €150-€600.
- **Optional Water toys** – All of the yachts come with a tender and outboard but for an additional cost you can hire stand-up paddleboards and kayaks for around £100 per week. Other options include RIB upgrades, snorkel gear, fishing tackle and from certain yacht bases dive equipment and seabobs can be organised. You can also upgrade your tender/RIB and outboard engine on some yachts in certain locations for water-skiing.



5) Are yacht charters suitable for children?

Absolutely, babies, toddlers and children of all ages are always welcome. We've been organising charters for families and groups of all ages, including very young children, for many years and also have lots of personal experience sailing with little ones. This means we're able to offer first-hand knowledge and advise you how to find the most suitable yacht for you and your family, whatever their age, so you can enjoy a safe, relaxing holiday.

6) What is the standard duration of a yacht charter?

Most bookings are for one or two weeks. While you can charter for less than seven days, in most cases the yacht price is still based on a full week.

7) What do skippers do and where do they sleep?

The friendly, expert skippers take charge of all aspects of sailing and navigation. They also have lots of local knowledge to help you plan the perfect route and make sure you get the most out of your charter. They will be on board during the day but can make their own arrangements during evenings ashore (see question 2). Your skipper will need their own cabin onboard. Some larger monohull sailing yachts and many catamarans offer a skipper's cabin in the bow (front) with separate access to the main accommodation.

8) Where will we sail?

The beauty of our yacht charters is that there isn't a fixed route or itinerary, it's up to you where you visit and how long you stay. We can offer plenty of recommendations and suggestions, as well as sample itineraries to show you the sort of route possible within your timeframe, but the choice is yours. Before setting sail, you can chat through your ideas and preferences and with your skipper and they will help you plan the best route, taking weather conditions into account.

9) How much time will we spend sailing and how much time ashore?

Ultimately, it's up to you. Some people like to do short island hops, spending much of their time at anchor, swimming, relaxing and snorkelling, or in harbour exploring local towns and places of interest, while others like to explore further afield and take on longer sails. After discussing your preferences, your skipper will help formulate the best plan to suit you. It's all about flexibility and variety, giving you the chance to wake up in a new place each day.

10) Can you get involved, learn how to sail or improve existing skills?

Yes, of course! The skippers are always happy for you to get involved in sailing your yacht, but you are also welcome to sit back and relax.

11) What about cooking and shopping?

On a skippered yacht charter, you buy provisions for yourself and your skipper. In the evenings, it's often possible to book a grocery delivery for the start of your charter and most marinas have shops where you can stock up before you depart. Most people enjoy going ashore and enjoying the Mediterranean cuisine.

12) Can someone help with catering?

In addition to a skipper, you can also hire a host or hostess who will keep the yacht clean and tidy, shop for groceries, prepare and serve breakfasts, snacks and light lunches. If you would prefer a more catered experience, such as three meals a day or a chef, soeak to us about Crewed Yachts options. Larger catamarans with more space and accommodation are the best option if you would like to hire additional crew.

13) What should I pack?

Its best to use soft bags which can be folded up and easily stowed away as space is always at a premium. High heels and other footwear, apart from white-soled deck shoes, should only be used on shore and most people like to relax barefoot onboard. It's nice to bring going-out clothes for when eating out, but much of your time on the yacht will be spent in swimming costumes, shorts and t-shirts. And don't forget plenty of sunscreen!



Why choose Island Sailing?

Island Sailing was established from the need for a type of charter company that could not be found elsewhere, catering for high-quality charters for independent-minded, savvy travellers looking to create their own personalised sailing adventure, backed by expert knowledge and guidance. Founded by experienced sailors and charterers who know what it takes to provide the ultimate holiday on the water, the Island Sailing team enjoys helping clients find the perfect destination and yacht to meet their particular requirements.

Significant time and effort has gone into curating a select choice of modern, well-designed and well-maintained yachts to meet charterers exacting expectations. Rather than listing thousands of vessels spread across the Med, Island Sailing focuses on the best countries to charter – Croatia, Italy and Greece – and only offers recently built, high-quality yachts to ensure the very best charter experience.

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Thank you for organising our skippered yacht charter in Croatia, what has been without doubt, the best family holiday we have ever had! Our skipper, Josip was amazing and made our first yacht charter so relaxing, exceeding all our expectations. We are so excited for next year's charter.

Skippered Yacht Charter Croatia, The James Family



ISLANDSAILING

Get in contact

Set your dream holiday in motion today

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Advising our clients to make sure they get the best yacht charter imaginable is our forte and we're always keen to talk through the options to ensure you make the right choice to fit your dream holiday requirements, so pick up the phone or send an email to find out more.

Speak to one of our friendly and knowledgeable team on:

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