



The complete guide to a sailing vacation

everything you need to know about yacht charter

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Welcome to our complete guide to sailing vacations!

Who we are?

We're Jackie and Roi Ben-Zvi, the proud owners of SY Boating yacht charter agency.

With vast personal experience in the yacht charter industry and the love of the sea in our hearts, we finally decided to sit down and write our guide to yacht charters...

What will you find here?

Whether you're a seasoned sailor or a first-time adventurer, our guide is your go-to resource for everything you need to know about sailing vacations. From planning your day's activities to making the most of onboard services.

where do we start?

For answers to all your burning questions about sailing vacations, Simply click on the topic you're curious about in the table of contents below!

Enjoy!



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What do you do on a sailing vacation?

Embrace the good life! From exploring charming towns and villages to taking a dip in picturesque bays, there's plenty to do. Indulge in delicious food and drinks, unwind with a book, or have a blast with your loved ones.

What are the benefits of a sailing vacation?

We believe that **yacht charter is the ultimate way to explore the world**. A yacht sailing vacation has many advantages:

- **Freedom to Explore:** Sail wherever your heart desires, deciding each day's adventure based on weather and crew preferences. From idyllic villages to secluded bays, the choice is entirely yours.
- **Unparalleled Flexibility:** Move between destinations effortlessly, enjoying a new stop each night without the hassle of repacking.
- **Comfort for All:** With onboard amenities like bathrooms and kitchens, sailing is suitable for all ages, ensuring a comfortable experience for everyone from infants to seniors.
- **Wake up to Serenity:** Start your day with the soothing sounds of the sea right outside your door, no matter where you are.
- **Escape the Crowds:** Find peace and privacy by anchoring in secluded bays inaccessible to tourist crowds, offering a serene escape.
- **Learn and Grow:** Gain valuable life skills and a sense of accomplishment as you learn to operate a yacht, all while surrounded by breathtaking scenery.
- **Tailored Experiences:** Customize your vacation to suit your preferences, whether you prefer relaxation, exploration, or adventure.
- **Bonding Moments:** Share unforgettable experiences with loved ones, as the open sea fosters deep connections and cherished memories.
- **Spacious Comfort:** Modern sailing vessels offer ample space for relaxation, whether you're soaking up the sun on deck or unwinding with a book.

What is a yacht?

A yacht is a vessel built for pleasure and leisure, there are 3 main types:

Monohull sailboat:

The classic choice for sailing adventures. With its single hull, one engine, and two sails, a **monohull offers a unique and safe experience** with an incomparable feeling of sailing.

Enjoy a cozy interior with a living room, galley, bedrooms, and bathrooms, complemented by a spacious rear cockpit for relaxing and operating the boat.



catamaran sailboat:

Catamarans are built from two hulls with two engines connected in the center. they are **spacious, stable, easy to maneuver and sail relatively well**.

Thanks to their design, they offer a good balance between sailing performance and comfort and With ample living space both on deck and inside, they are Ideal for families or large groups.



motor yacht:

Motor yachts are the **ideal vessel for luxury and convenience**. These vessels offer unparalleled comfort, speed, and the freedom to explore wherever your heart desires.

Motor yachts are usually operated by a professional team, which makes the cost of the vacation higher than a sailing yacht, but With powerful engines and spacious interiors, you can reach your destinations quickly in comfort and enjoy a unique feeling of freedom.





What type of yacht is best for a sailing vacation?

When picking the perfect yacht for your sailing getaway, consider your group's preferences, the sailing destination, and your personal tastes.

Catamarans offer several advantages, including easy maneuverability in crowded areas, the ability to sail and anchor in shallow waters, spacious and comfortable communal areas with great views, and increased privacy with separate cabins. However, they can be more expensive to charter and finding a berth in a busy marina might be challenging.

With the incredible sensation of sailing on the open sea and wide range of vessels available, **Monohulls are the classic choice**.

For those who love the thrill of sailing, nothing compares to a monohull.

Key Considerations for Choosing Your Perfect Yacht

In the world of yacht charter, you'll find a wide array of models with different layouts, sizes, and designs based on when they were made and their specific model.

The **total cost is influenced by numerous factors** such as the yacht's type, size, and age, the sailing location, dates of your vacation, and any additional amenities. For those new to yachting, the abundance of professional terms and options can be overwhelming.

We suggest **thoroughly reviewing the yacht's specifications to avoid surprises** such as a couple discovering they'll be sleeping in bunk beds instead of a double bed, or that all the crew will have to share a single bathroom.

Keep in mind that even a small increase in boat length can significantly enhance onboard living space. When divided among multiple participants, the extra cost is minimal compared to the comfort gained from sailing on a larger vessel.



How many people can sail on a yacht

When sailing, the Maximum number of people allowed on board a yacht is determined by the local port authority. Each person, including children, must be listed on the crew list provided to the authorities.

Failure to comply with the Crew list can result in fines or legal action against the skipper.

Most charter yachts will accommodate 8-10 people, several larger ones allow up to 12 people. However, this capacity is unusual so it is important to note this when looking for the right yacht for your vacation.

*According to international maritime regulations, **vessels accommodating more than 12 people must comply with the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)** standard, which is uncommon for charter yachts.

To ensure a comfortable experience, it's advisable to **limit the number of guests to 80% of the yacht's maximum occupancy.**

Bareboat Yacht Charter

For those looking to charter a yacht with complete independence, the "bareboat" option is perfect. This means you're **renting the vessel without a professional crew**. It's a chance to sail wherever the wind takes you, giving you the freedom to explore at your own pace (weather permitting, of course!).

To operate the yacht yourself, you'll need to present **a recognized skipper's certificate**. This option offers a sense of achievement and total responsibility, from navigation to meal prep and everything in between.

If you prefer a more relaxed experience or lack the necessary sailing experience, **consider hiring a professional skipper**. They'll take care of navigating while you soak up the scenery stress-free.



Yacht vacation with professional crew

If you're dreaming of a special vacation on the water with loved ones but lack a sailing license or experience, **hiring a qualified and skilled skipper is the perfect solution.**

With a seasoned skipper at the helm, you can kick back and **enjoy the ride while they take care of everything boat-related.** From navigating to ensuring safety, they've got it covered, leaving you free to make unforgettable memories with your family or friends.

If you're eager to learn the ropes, sailing with a skipper provides an excellent opportunity to do just that. You can pitch in, lend a hand, and even pick up some tricks from a true pro along the way.

The role of a professional skipper

Hiring a professional skipper ensures your yacht is expertly operated, and they can suggest the best sailing routes and places to visit, making your vacation enjoyable and stress-free.

The cost for a **professional skipper typically ranges from 190 to 250 euros per day** of sailing. Additionally, you'll need to cover their accommodation and food expenses onboard.



How long does a sailing vacation typically last?

Most fleet operators typically offer charters from **Saturday to Saturday**, but they may also accommodate requests for different days or shorter durations. For an even longer and better experience, you can charter a yacht for two weeks or even a month.

How many hours do you sail?

The ocean offers an abundance of routes to explore so you can plan your sailing vacation just the way you like.

From sailing between protected islands and bays to the open sea the possibilities are endless. Whether you prefer shorter journeys, longer trips or decide to spend your day anchored in a tranquil bay or charming town—it's all up to you!

For a smoother sailing experience, consider consulting a professional who can tailor a route to your group's needs. We can suggest interesting spots, great restaurants, and ideal docking locations. With thorough planning, you can gauge the number of hours you'll spend sailing each day accurately.

where do you sleep at night

Experience the ultimate luxury of waking up in a cozy bed aboard your boat, with breathtaking views of the sea! Whether you choose to drop anchor under a canopy of stars or dock at the marina, **the possibilities are endless.**

While dropping **anchoring in a tranquil bay comes at no cost**, docking in a marina usually involves marina fees (these may vary depending on the season and location). However, it offers a vibrant hub of activities From essential services like water tank refills, shore power electricity, and waste disposal to exploring charming alleys, shops and local cuisine.

Fresh Water, Showers and toilets

Modern yachts come equipped with marine toilets and showers featuring hot water. Yet, it's essential to note that **yacht facilities differ from those at home** due to their independence from permanent infrastructure. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

Toilet Services:

Yacht toilets operate by pumping seawater to flush and collecting sewage in a dedicated tank to prevent environmental pollution.

Toilet operation which can be manually or electrically, involves pumping the seawater through the toilet and into a holding tank (usually located behind the toilet walls). Only if the yacht is at a proper distance from shore, the tank's contents can be released. However, **in closed bays or anchorages, the tank should remain closed** (or emptied at a dedicated pumping station).

Marine toilets are more sensitive to clogging than your Home Toilets. to avoid malfunctions, **Don't flush toilet paper or any hygiene products!**

Showers:

The shower is drained using a small electric pump, which discharges the water directly into the sea. space is a premium on yachts, so showers are typically smaller than those at home. **Most yachts integrate the shower into the toilet cabin**, requiring the use of a pull-out sink faucet for showering. However, some models feature separate showers, offering a more luxurious experience.

Fresh Water:

Water tanks can be refilled at various moorings or via water makers (which are coming increasingly popular). However, since **fresh water is limited onboard**, it's best to keep showers relatively short and use seawater for washing dishes whenever possible.

Heating water onboard is achieved through a heat exchanger in the engines or with an electric heater, which operates when a generator or shore power are running.





Yacht Electricity Systems

Yachts typically rely on a battery based low-voltage (12v) electrical system charged by the yacht's engine or solar panels. **This voltage runs all essential systems onboard**, like fridge, water pumps, anchor windlass, music, lights, and navigation equipment.

As **the standard socket is a USB type**, you can easily charge devices like phones, cameras, and laptops. however, “heavy” electricity consumers like hair dryers won't work well on this system.

When the yacht is connected to shore power or the generator is running, normal sockets (220v) will work, and the battery charger will provide electricity to charge the batteries.

Cellular reception and communication

Sailing vacations usually take place within sight of shore and in populated regions, so **most of the time you can count on reliable cell phone coverage**. It's wise to confirm beforehand that your phone is connected to the network through a local SIM card, international data package, or other means.

In more remote spots like isolated bays or uninhabited areas, **you can always communicate with shore stations or other vessels Via the yacht's marine VHF radio** .



Food on Board

When you're on a sailing adventure, food becomes a highlight. Sure, dining out at Local Taverna or seaside caffe by the sea is a delight, but there's something equally special about cooking on board your yacht!

The yacht's kitchen, or galley, might not be as fancy as your home setup, but it's got all the essentials for whipping up delicious meals for your crew.

What's included in a charter yacht galley?

- Various cooking gear: pans, pots, bowls, knives, and utensils.
- A trusty gas stove and oven.
- Cutlery, dinnerware, and glasses for everyone on board.
- Cabinets for storing all your supplies.
- A refrigerator (just a heads up, it runs on 12V power, so **it's not as chilly as your fridge at home** – packing some extra ice is a smart move).

What's not included in a charter yacht galley?

food and cleaning supplies like dish soap, paper towels, and trash bags.

How to Provision for the week

When stocking up for the week, your shopping list will likely include everything from toilet paper to milk to coffee. To ensure you've got everything you need for cooking and cleaning right from the get-go, we've put together a handy shopping list for you.



Where are the best sailing destinations

From sunny tropical islands to the picturesque shores of the Mediterranean, **The world is full of amazing sailing destinations.**

While there are numerous destinations to choose from, it's crucial to consider your level of experience. Some destinations may be more suitable for beginners, while others are more remote and require careful planning.

For more details on popular sailing spots, visit our website at www.syboating.com or reach out to us directly. We're here to help you plan your perfect sailing adventure!

How to Conquer Seasickness

Most **popular sailing destinations offer calm seas and shorter trips**, making for a pleasant sailing experience without the discomfort of seasickness.

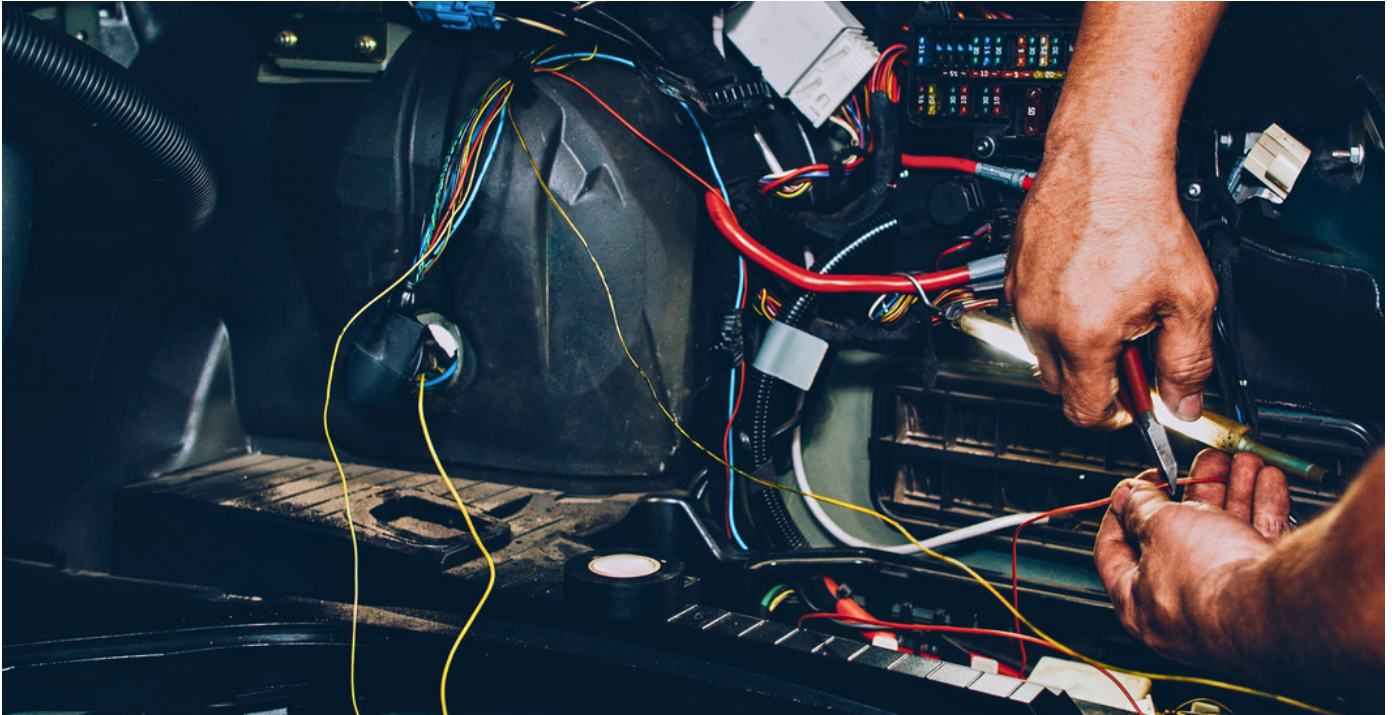
From our experience, **most people will feel better once they get used to the yacht's movement.** Even if seasickness occurs, it usually subsides shortly after stepping onto land or swimming.

For those still concerned, there are several effective ways to reduce symptoms, including medical and alternative remedies.

What to do when the sea is Rough

Storms typically last just a few hours, and today's forecasts are reliable and frequently updated. If you find yourself out at sea during a storm, it's wise to **reef your sails and navigate towards safety.** Should the forecast indicate Rough conditions it's advisable to stay in a secure anchorage.

Keep in mind that stormy days offer opportunities for enjoyable land excursions or quality time with family and friends.



How can you ensure the yacht's condition?

To comply with insurance requirements and local sailing rules, **charter companies must offer well-equipped and maintained sailing vessels.**

To ensure a smooth experience, it's wise to research and **choose a reputable charter company** known for prompt responses to any issues. While newer yachts typically boast better conditions, some companies uphold high standards even with older vessels.

Upon embarkation, **carefully and thoroughly inspect** all the yacht's systems, safety equipment, and navigation equipment for any deficiencies or malfunctions. **It is the sole responsibility of the skipper to ensure the yacht is seaworthy before heading out to sea!**

What happens if the yacht breaks down?

Sailing yacht is a complex machine that needs to work smoothly, even in the most challenging conditions like rough seas.

If you notice any issues when receiving the yacht or during your vacation, **it's crucial to let the rental company know right away** so they can fix it promptly.

Charter companies try their best to provide a quick solution, ensuring you can get back to enjoying your vacation as soon as possible. However, occasionally repairs might take longer due to complex problems or unavailable spare parts.



Deductible yacht insurance (deposit)

When you book a yacht, you'll need to provide a deposit as part of the insurance. so when you pick up the yacht, you'll be asked to provide your credit details, which the charter company will use to secure the deposit during your vacation.

This deposit acts as your deductible in case of any damages during your sailing adventure.

Once you return the yacht safely **without any damage this deposit will be released.** However, If any damage occurs, the charter company will **charge the repair costs from the deposit**, but only up to the maximum amount (which typically ranges from 1500 euros to 8000 euros).

There are several options to insure or reduce this amount, depending on the specific yacht charter company terms, but It's important to note that **the deposit only covers damage to the yacht itself**, not detachable accessories like dinghies, outboard motors, or cushions.



Additional costs of a sailing vacation

- **Fuel:**

The amount of fuel used **depends on how long the engine or generator runs**. Most marine engines use between 3 to 5 liters per hour, but you can save on this cost by lowering the RPM or using sails.

- **Food:**

Your food expenses will vary depending on where you're cruising and your personal tastes.

- **Yacht Extras:**

For your sailing adventure **there are plenty of optional extras available**, each with its own cost. These can include things like an outboard engine for a dinghy, SUP, water toys, hiring a skipper, hostess, or private chef, as well as bedding and towels.

- **Docking Costs:**

The **mooring fees at a marina can fluctuate based on yacht size, location, and time of year**. Prices may reach hundreds of euros in popular and prestigious spots. Mooring fees usually cover electricity, water, and additional services like showers, toilets, laundry, and WIFI.

*In some destinations, **docking fees can be a significant part of your vacation expenses**. We recommend reaching out to us beforehand to get an estimate for the docking costs in your chosen sailing area.

APA- Handling daily expenses on Crewed Charter

Operating a yacht with a professional crew involves various expenses. To ensure you don't have to handle payments regularly, it's customary to use the **Advance Provisioning Allowance (APA)** method.

Before setting sail, you deposit 30-35% of the charter cost into a "yacht fund," which is managed by the captain to cover the daily expenses.

every expense is documented with invoices so that at the end of your vacation, the captain will provide a detailed expense report and any unused funds will promptly returned to you.



How to pack for sailing vacation

Start your vacation prep by envisioning the weather and your daily plans, then focus on packing smartly. [Download our comprehensive list here.](#)

- Opt for a soft, collapsible bag to save space on the yacht—remember, when it comes to personal items on board **"Less is more"**.
- Pack **comfortable, light clothes**, sandals or sneakers, swimwear, and a quick-drying travel towel for your days at sea.
- Protect yourself from the sun with **sunglasses, hats, and sunscreen**.
- For cooler evenings and sailing, bring warm layers like a **sweatshirt, windbreaker, and long pants**.
- For evenings in town, **pack a few dressier options** like a comfortable dress, long pants, a collared shirt, or a light jacket.
- **Don't forget the essentials** like different forms of payment, passports, personal medications, and the right amount of cash.
- If you're sailing **in cooler weather**, **include a wool hat and storm suits**.
- Bring chargers for your smartphone, cameras, and any other electronics
- consider a **personal headlamp** for nighttime activities.

Ultimately, **sailing vacations don't require much gear**, and you can always do laundry if needed.



Why should you book with us

Planning a sailing vacation is **more than just finding the cheapest yacht**. There are several factors to consider that can affect both your enjoyment and the total cost .

When booking your vacation, it's crucial to carefully review the details, factor in additional costs, and ask plenty of questions. With years of experience, we can help you find the perfect sailing destination and vessel while **saving you money, time, and effort**.

We believe that **thorough planning and preparation are key to a great experience**. That's why we'll be with you every step of the way, **providing comprehensive, professional, and supportive assistance** from the moment you start planning until you return home.

Here's how we can help:

- ✔ Help you *find the best deal that suits your needs*.
- ✔ Help you *organize every aspect of your vacation*.
- ✔ Provide a *personalized sailing itinerary and pre-charter briefing*.
- ✔ Provide any *help, advice, or remote assistance you may need* during your vacation

**Thanks for choosing our
comprehensive sailing vacation
guide!**

**We trust you found it helpful in
planning your next yacht
charter adventure!**

**For further details on sailing
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