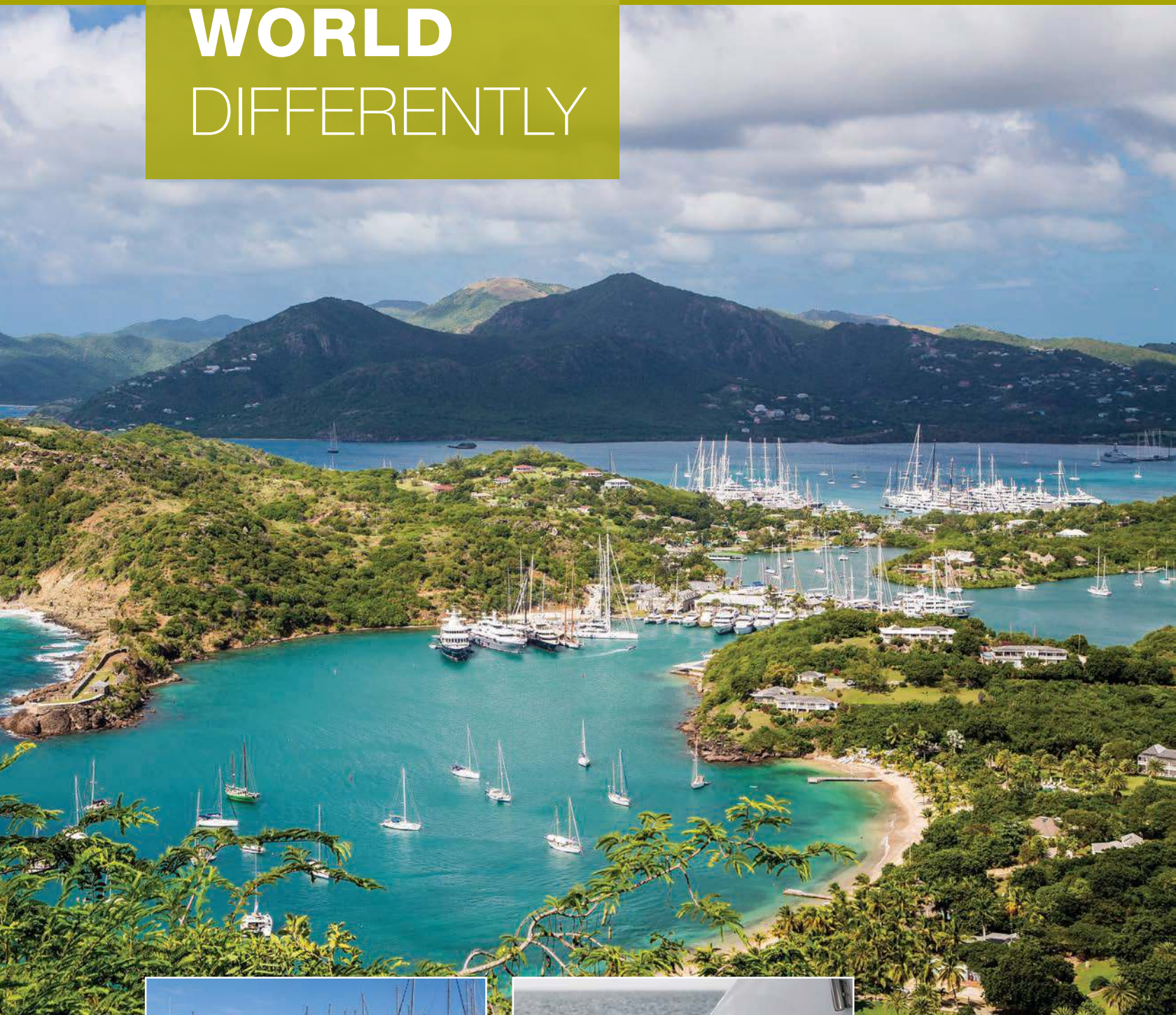


# SEA THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY



Our Guide  
to the Luxury  
Yachting  
Experience

Author: Todd Beechey  
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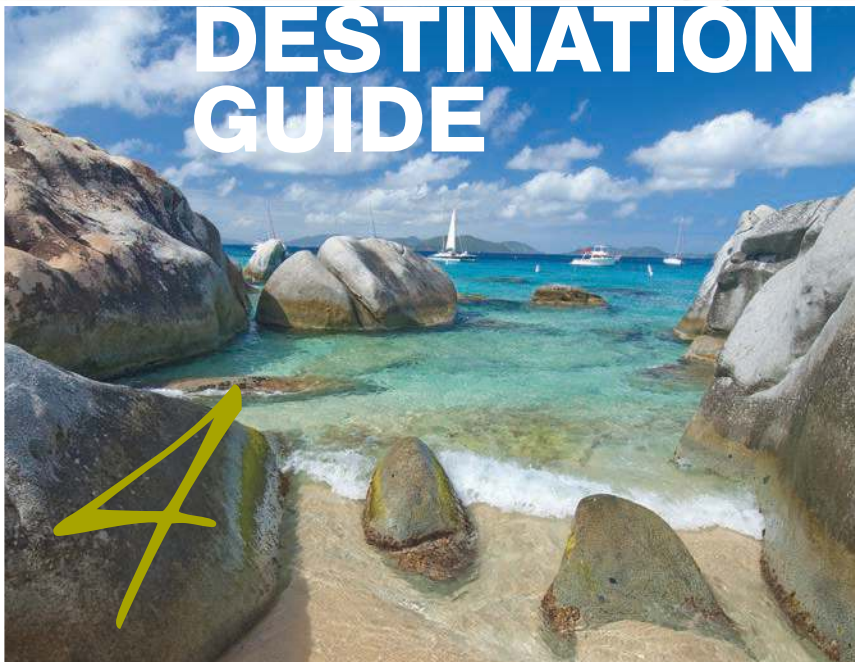
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# EXPERIENCE



## DESTINATION GUIDE



5



## SUPERYACHT COOKBOOK





**Welcome** to our guide to discovering all of the secrets of the best vacation experiences – the luxury yachting vacation.

Perhaps the biggest secret of all is just how affordable and attainable these luxury yachting vacations are – much more attainable than many people think. And that is the message that we want to share with this guide – that more people – people like you – should be able to enjoy the luxury of these magical vacation experiences at least once in their lifetime.

We want to show you just how to make it happen for your family and friends!

This project has been in the works for a while, and I could not have done it without the help of some very talented writers, people who understood my vision of writing about the life changing experiences that people enjoy while on a yachting vacation, and not the yachts themselves. Special thanks therefore goes to Isla McKechnie from Albatross PR in New Zealand, Jo Morgan, a travel writer in Australia who started her career as a superyacht stewardess, and to Rebecca Taylor, a yachting journalist in the United Kingdom, who has helped tremendously with putting all of this together for me and doing most of the editing. Thank you all!

We start with the story of our very first charter vacation to show you just what is possible on a superyacht vacation.

*Enjoy!*

And I look forward to hearing your eventual stories of the best vacation you have ever had! Please share them with me at [tbeechey@oceanscapeyachts.com](mailto:tbeechey@oceanscapeyachts.com).

Happy travels and happy reading,

**Todd Beechey**



## OUR STORY

My love affair (ok, some of my friends and family may call it an obsession) with the world of luxury yacht vacations began in the Atlantis Marina in the Bahamas, over 10 years ago. My wife and I were on a big cruise ship vacation, and wandering around the harbour at Paradise Island, sharing ideas of how nice it would be to have access to one of the yachts in the marina for a vacation someday. We even had a name picked out for our own yacht, should we win the lottery. From that point, we began to learn more and more about this vacation option and eventually had interest from friends of ours in planning a charter yacht vacation with us. Having never done anything like this before, it was difficult to know where to start. We decided to make a trip to Miami to the Yacht and Brokerage Show, to begin the planning process. Meeting with a couple of brokers, and touring some yachts led to booking our first yacht vacation, which ironically left from the same Bahamas island where the dream started 10 years before.





With the amount of homework we had done over the years, our expectations were high at the start of our trip, but our vacation experience exceeded those expectations on almost every level.

So, our journey began back where it truly started, on the beaches of the Exumas chain of islands in the Bahamas, on our very first superyacht holiday. Each day of our own vacation was an amazing experience – the best vacation that we had ever taken - and we did it without breaking the bank. My goal in doing this is to show you some of the experiences that are possible, bearing in mind that the trip described below was done at a cost of less than \$8,000 per person. In other words, for a price that is comparable to other luxury vacation options, you too can have your own private charter yacht vacation. It's an experience that I think is second to none.

**DAY 1** Our trip was in May 2012. We had been planning our trip for 2 to 3 years ahead of time and by May, our group of four couples was very anxious for the trip to begin. We were scheduled to meet our yacht, HP4, on the Saturday morning at 11 a.m. and at 10:45 we arrived at Hurricane Hole Marina on Paradise Island, ready to go. The crew ran out to meet our van and grab our luggage. This was the start of the exemplary service that we were to receive on the yacht for the whole week. The crew insisted that they carry our bags onboard. Cold margaritas were waiting for us, which was the tradition of the yacht. As we toured the yacht for our safety and familiarity briefing, our friendly stewardess Jamie followed closely behind, making sure our margarita glasses were always full.

After our tour, we were on our way. Leaving Nassau behind, we cruised for four hours over to Highbourne Cay. While en route we had a fabulous lunch of fresh-caught fish and salad, a taste of the great food we were to enjoy the rest of that week. The crew made sure our drinks were always full as we enjoyed the leisurely cruise over to Highbourne. Once we arrived, we settled in at the dock and enjoyed an afternoon of snorkelling and swimming. After a fabulous steak dinner and some after-dinner drinks, we turned in early as we had an early morning appointment to catch some fish.

**DAY 2** Day 2 started at 6 a.m., when we were off in the tender to see if the fish were biting. By 10 or 11, we had caught three good-sized mahi-mahi and called it a successful morning. We returned to HP4 for lunch, and an afternoon of playing with the jet skis and jet boat. Just before dinner, we went over to Allen Cay, where the attraction

is an island full of iguanas, waiting to be fed. We had handfuls of grapes that you put on sticks the feed to the iguanas. We returned to HP4 to find that dinner that night was our catch of the day, cooked Bahamian-style with peas and mac and cheese.

**DAY 3** Perhaps my favourite day of our entire trip. We left the big boat and took the tender over to Norman Cay, where we did some snorkelling around a plane wreck shot down as part of the Bahamas drug trade.

Once we were done snorkelling, we noticed this little island just off the way. We asked the crew if we could visit the island as it looked intriguing with its one palm tree, out in the middle of nowhere. The crew said sure, and we anchored nearby.

A short visit turned into an afternoon enjoying each other's company as we spent two or three hours sitting in two feet of beautiful crystal-clear blue waters near this island, without another person anywhere in sight. Every 20 minutes or so, the crew would call over and see if our drinks needed to be refilled, and would bring new beverages to us if we needed them.

It was a perfect afternoon, and it occurred to me that you don't get to places like this on any vacation other than a yacht vacation. Big cruise ships, for example, can't get anywhere near Lone Palm Island (as we later discovered it was aptly named), and even if they did, you would likely be sharing your afternoon with two or three hundred other people.

We returned to the big boat, which by now had moved over to Shroud Cay, and spent the afternoon paddle-boarding and jumping in the ocean off the swim deck of the yacht. In the late afternoon, we had more playtime on a beach where ours were the only footprints, and enjoyed yet another beautiful sunset, cocktails, and good times with good friends.

**DAY 4** The next day we were off to Exumas National Marine Park. This marine park is a beautiful underwater sanctuary with lots of fish and beautiful coral in a protected environment. Fishing is not allowed in this area. We went a little ways out in the ocean and anchored in a spot known for its healthy population of reef sharks. After summoning up the courage, we jumped in for a swim with the sharks. Once you got beyond that initial fear, it was an amazing experience as these magnificent creatures glided effortlessly around you, curious but not dangerous.



After our swim, the crew dropped us off on an island for a late afternoon hike. We had not spent much time on land up until this point, and an afternoon walk was a nice change, in a unique setting (many of the rock formations on the island were like lava rock) with unique vegetation. It was a hot afternoon, however, and we ended our hike ready for drinks before dinner.

We returned to the yacht and got ready for dinner. It was a special evening that night, as it was our wedding anniversary, and the chef had made a fantastic dinner, Italian-style, as we had requested. After dinner, we were remarried by the captain in the spirit of a wedding at sea. Returning to our room that night, there was a gift and card that had been signed by the crew. A special end to a special day!

**DAY 5** After breakfast the next day we were off to Staniel Cay. Staniel is known for Thunderball Grotto, made famous in the James Bond movies *Thunderball* and *Never Say Never*. When the tides are right, you can snorkel into the grotto and we did just that. The underwater cave was amazing to see, as was the abundance of fish waiting to be fed. We returned to the yacht, restocked the beverages, and headed off for a late afternoon on another secluded beach, where we played some beach football and watched our fifth spectacular sunset in a row.

We stayed in the marina overnight as there were still lots to see and do that was easily accessible using our tender.

**DAY 6** The next day we were off to Big Major, which is famous for the swimming pigs. These are wild pigs that have taken over this island, and are the main attraction. They hear your boat coming, and come rushing out from the bushes into the ocean, swimming out to greet you. The toll that they will extract from you for visiting their island is a treat or snack. I must say, it is quite a sight to see five or six pigs frantically swimming out in the ocean just to be fed.

From there we headed over to Compass Cay, known best for the sharks that you can pet and feed. The nurse sharks come right up on the dock, waiting for you to drop in some hot dogs or cold meat for them to enjoy. They will even allow you to pet them, and you'll find out that their skin feels like sandpaper. On the other side of the island after a short hike, we enjoyed an afternoon playing beach baseball with the crew and swimming in the beautiful waters.

We headed back to the main yacht to get cleaned up and ready for happy hour before dinner, then went ashore and visited the local yacht club on Staniel Cay for a couple of drinks.

I want to give you another example of the level of service you can expect to receive on a charter yacht vacation. Our supply of the particular brand of beer that I drink was running low, and the captain was worried that we might run out before the end of our trip. He arranged with the owner of the pub to trade some beer that they had in stock for my favourite brand, just to ensure that that would not happen.

We had another fabulous dinner that night cooked by Chef Brandon, where we dined on barbecue chicken and fresh fish. The crew had set up a beautiful table on the pool deck at the yacht club. Dessert that night was s'mores, prepared Canadian-style. We taught the crew how to toast marshmallows, dipping them in Bailey's to make them taste even better.

**DAY 7** The next day was a sad day, as it was the last full day of our trip. After breakfast we set off to cruise back towards Nassau, so that the trip on our last day wasn't too far and enabled us to get to the airport in time for our early afternoon flight. It was a six-hour cruise from Staniel Cay to Rose Island, the longest cruise of our trip. It was a nice relaxing cruise, however, during which we spent time relaxing and reading on the sun deck, and watching the islands of the Exumas go by. We even had a dolphin swim in the wake of the boat for a while, yet another example of the beauty of seeing wildlife in their natural habitat.

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Once we settled in at Rose Island, we took the tender out for our last afternoon of beach time. One of the interesting aspects of this trip was that as we rounded the corner of the island, off in the distance we could see another island, made famous as the island shown in the opening credits of Gilligan's Island. Of course, this set off a rousing chorus of the theme song to the television show. After our beach volleyball game, we returned to the yacht for our last dinner of the trip. Chef Brandon's choice for us this night was a delicious meal of beef tenderloin, mashed potatoes and Swiss chard, followed by a dessert of chocolate soufflé.

Once again, an amazing end to an amazing day.

**DAY 8** The last day was a short hop from Rose Island back to Paradise Island and the marina there. The crew had arranged for our ride back to the airport and a return to civilization. In many respects, we all hoped that that trip never had to end, but everyone has to return to reality at some time.

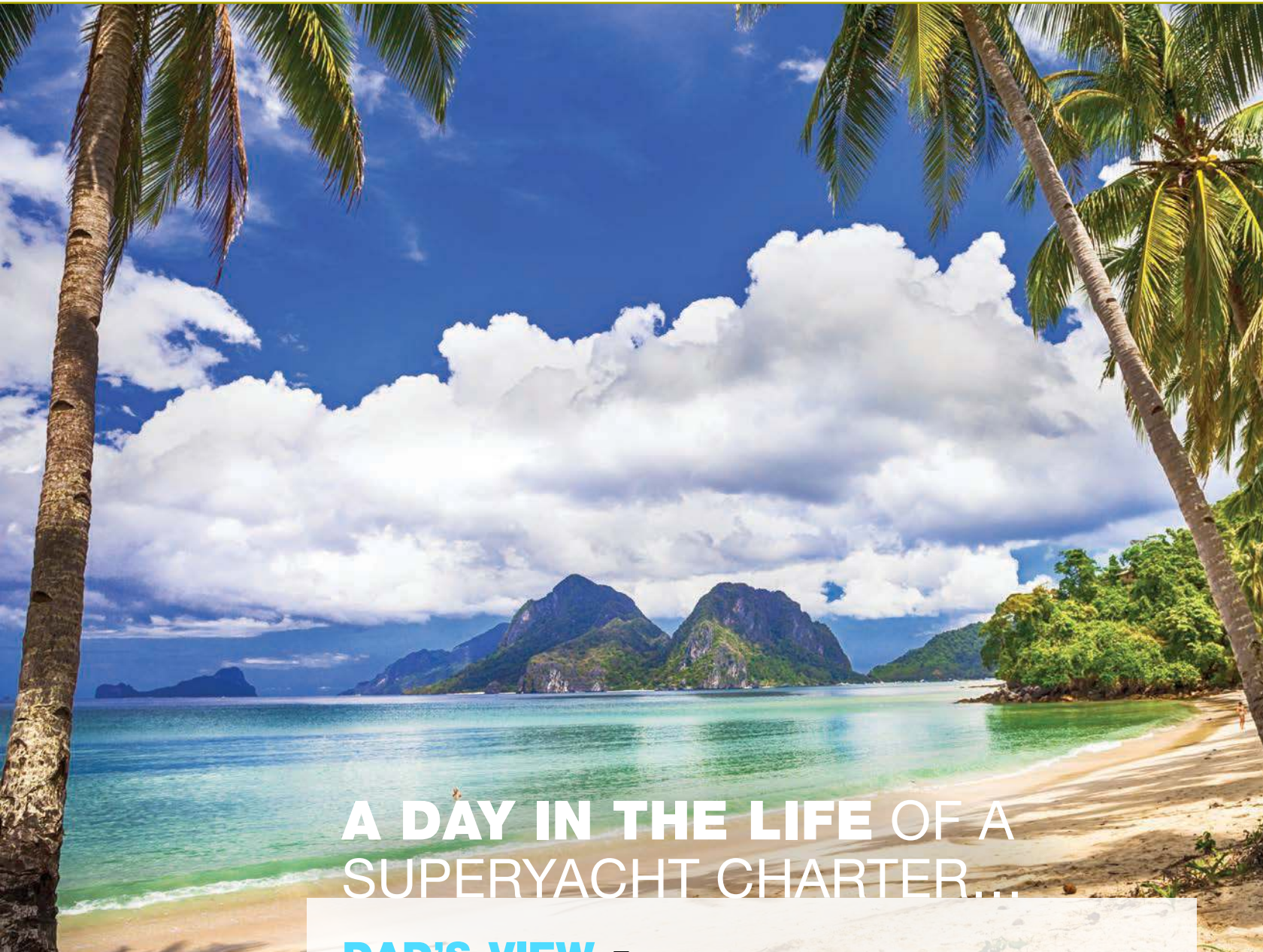
Because we were new to the whole charter yacht experience, in one way, we had no set expectations as to the quality of the trip. Having said that, though, we'd done a fair amount of homework prior to the vacation, and so we did have some fairly high expectations. In almost all respects, those expectations were exceeded, and the trip was one of the best vacation experiences we have ever had! We could not wait to start planning the next trip, where this time we would bring our kids.

It occurred to me that the wonderful destinations we went to and the experiences we enjoyed were largely only accessible on a yacht vacation. It also occurred to me what a shame it was more people aren't aware that this type of vacation experience is possible, and that many of these yachts sit idle many weeks a year.

Vacations are an opportunity to spend precious time with family and friends. That is time that I don't think should be wasted on "ordinary" vacations – that we should look to create extraordinary experiences that we will tell stories about for years to come.

Where are your next great vacation stories going to be created?

**COME ABOARD AND BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURES!**



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SUPERYACHT CHARTER...

**DAD'S VIEW 7am:** You wake up in an unfamiliar room. It's dark and cool and quiet, except for the faintest sound of water lapping at the hull. You pull yourself quietly from under the soft duvet, padding on thick plush carpets over to the porthole. You pull the curtain aside, and there's the sea, shining dappled and golden in the morning light. You half-expect to see a dolphin swimming by your bedroom window. The beach is only a few hundred metres away- it's completely deserted, with palm trees bending down over the white sands. Quickly pulling on your swim trunks, you walk through the yacht, past cabins where your family sleeps peacefully.

The smell of freshly baking bread fills the air as you pass by the galley; you poke your head in to see the chef preparing platters of tropical fruit and glass bowls full of fresh berries and creamy yoghurt. You head out on deck, where one of the stewardesses is laying the breakfast table, dressing the tablecloth with crisp linen and fresh flowers. The



cutlery and glassware glints in the sunshine. 'Would you like a coffee? Fresh juice?' she asks quietly, almost in a whisper, the spell of early morning not yet broken.

You decline, the water is calling. On the swim platform you find a deckhand washing down the teak with a hose, soft chamois at the ready to polish gleaming white paint and stainless steel. He points at the tender. 'Would you like a lift ashore?'

You say you'd prefer to swim, at which point the deckhand offers goggles, snorkel, fins and sunscreen. He then asks politely if you'd like him to follow you in the tender in case you get tired. You spend a moment wondering if you'll ever be able to return to normal life again. You say yes to the snorkel, there's a reef nearby you want to explore.

The water is such a pale sapphire that you can see the sea bed, far below. You dive in. Sheer happiness overtakes you as you open your eyes in the clear, sunlit sea. You spend a lazy hour snorkelling over the reef, a riot of colour and life hidden beneath the surface. A turtle swims lazily past, looking at you curiously, and schools of tropical fish dart and whirl through the coral formations. Occasionally you raise your head to look back at your yacht, sitting huge and gorgeous in the morning sun. You can't see anyone on deck yet; the family is obviously enjoying a lie-in, so you decide to stay a little longer. You go for a long run along the sandy beach and then wave to the boat to get picked up, you're more tired than you thought and suddenly ravenous.

**8:30:** The Australian captain approaches to discuss the day's plans. He suggests watersports in the morning before the breeze ruffles the water, then a short cruise to another anchorage before lunch. There's a turquoise lagoon nearby full of giant granite boulders, as well as a jungle hike to a waterfall with a deep forest pool. He can organise a helicopter trip over the volcano if you'd prefer, a horse ride along the beach, or a trip to some mineral hot springs. There's also boutique shopping in the harbour, as well as several luxury spa resorts nearby. Of course, he has numbers on hand if you'd prefer a masseuse come to the yacht. 'No worries', he says, as if it's nothing. There's also the option of a spectacular night dive, or a trip to a nearby sand bar for a luxury beach barbeque. It's up to you, of course, he says. No rush.

**9:00:** Your family finally drag themselves out of bed, arriving at the table wearing an odd collection of soft white bathrobes and colourful swimwear. Everyone looks well-rested, happy and excited, gazing out to sea and just drinking in the view. You compare it to resort and cruise holidays of the past, only to realise there really isn't any

comparison. This is so many levels above anything you've done before. The breakfast arrives. Great piles of pancakes and bacon dripping in sweet maple syrup, baskets of fresh-baked pastries and cooked breakfasts to order. Your coffee turns up by your side, just the way you like it, and you think you might truly be in heaven.

**10:00:** Everyone's in the water; you're tearing about on a jetski, the kids are being towed behind the tender screaming their heads off in a giant yellow tube, and your wife is taking a kayak around the beautiful boulder coastline.

**11:30:** You're back on board and the crew weighs anchor and you pull out of the bay. The family gathers on the big sunbathing cushions by the Jacuzzi, the kids chattering with excitement about their morning of watersports. The huge flag snaps and billows above the bubbling white wake that curves behind the yacht. The scenery is magnificent: jungle-covered peaks rise up above sugar-white beaches, and perfect coves hide at the edge of the rainforest.

**1:00:** You're on the other side of the island now, and it is even more beautiful than your last anchorage. This captain really knows his stuff. A quick swim before lunch!

**1:30:** Lunch- Slices of deep pink sashimi, colourful salads and more of that crunchy fresh-baked bread. All washed down with a crisp glass of white wine and a cooling dessert of coconut parfait. A breeze has sprung up off the water, breaking the midday heat, and the boat rocks ever so gently at anchor.

**2:00:** You're wonderfully full, and the sun is making you sleepy. The office feels a million miles away, like that life and its worries belong to someone else. Your wife is already dozing on a deckchair, book resting open on her chest. The kids, full of energy still, have gathered around the crew, who are dressed up in pirate costume and are about to lead them on a merry treasure hunt. You take the chance to sneak away, down to your soft bed and a heavenly afternoon nap.

**3:00:** You wake up, the water reflection from the porthole glimmering across the cabin ceiling. Suddenly full of energy, you're up and only minutes pass before you're plunging off the swim platform back into the tropical waters. Everyone then piles into the tender for a trip to the lagoon, where you snorkel through a maze of granite boulders in crystal clear water. You can't drag the kids away, so you leave them with the capable deckhands and hike to the waterfall, a hidden paradise deep in the jungle.



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**5:00:** A masseuse comes to the yacht, easing tired muscles. Bliss.

**6:00:** Relaxed beyond all measure, you climb into the Jacuzzi, where the stewardess brings you a cocktail, and leaves bathrobes on the side. The kids have been relaxing playing video games in their cabins and watching TV/baking cupcakes with the chef; one by one they come up to the Jacuzzi and sink in to the bubbles to watch the sun sink huge and fiery into the sea.

**6:30:** Lanterns flicker on at a nearby sandbar, and coals glowing in the darkness. You see the tender do trips back and forth, laden with picnic gear. You shower and dress for dinner and the tender drives you to the sandbar, where an elegant table has been set up on the sands with white linen tablecloths, filled with huge platters of food. The stewardesses pours your wine and the chef turns the lobster one last time on the coals, serving it hot to your plates with lashings of melted butter and great squeezes of zesty lemon. All around, moonlight turns the sea silver, and phosphorescence makes the water glow as if possessed by magic. The crew have brought music, and it plays in the night under the stars. You and your wife dance, and the kids splash about chasing crabs, out here on a sandbar in the middle of the shining sea.

**9:00:** You head back to the yacht to shower and get into your pyjamas, then the whole family snuggles on the huge soft couches together to watch a movie. You can't remember the last time you did this together, or felt this good. The stewardess brings popcorn and hot chocolate, a bit of fine cognac for the adults- and one by one everyone heads to bed, tired and happy.

TOMORROW YOU'LL GET TO SEE THAT VOLCANO, AND DO THAT EXCITING NIGHT DIVE. YOU'LL WAKE UP TO LOOK THROUGH THE PORTHOLE AT A DIFFERENT ANCHORAGE, POSSIBLY EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE ONE YOU'RE IN NOW. ON A LUXURY YACHT CHARTER, IT'S UP TO YOU, **JUST LIKE THE CAPTAIN SAYS. NO RUSH. NO WORRIES.**

**MOM'S VIEW 6:30am:** You can't help but awaken to your normal body clock. It's just after sunrise and you can feel the sunlight poking through the blinds in your suite. But today isn't like every other day; today you're on board a luxury superyacht and you can't wait to see what's in store for the day. Feeling a bit peckish and woken by the smell of fresh bread and hot coffee, you give a glance to your sleeping partner and tiptoe out to greet the day.

While the day has barely begun, the crew have been busy getting things prepped for the day. You pass a few deckhands who greet you with a warm smile and make your way to the kitchen. The chef is preparing the breakfast and serves you a delicious cappuccino just the way you like it. "Do you mind if I join you? I love cooking at home" you ask. He of course obliges and before you know it you're rolling up the last of the croissants with him for breakfast.

**8:00:** You sneak up to the bow ahead of everyone arising for breakfast. You breathe in deep mouthfuls of the salty sea air. You glance around and see nothing but sunshine and glistening turquoise water for miles. You can't help but smile at the beauty that surrounds you. The peace and quiet, the complete blank slate that lies ahead - no rules; no schedules; just your family and the sea.

**8:30:** Everyone is sitting on the aft deck when you make your way back down. Your mug now empty, one of the stewardesses is ready to greet you with a fresh cappuccino, again just the way you like it. You sit down amongst the excited chatter to hear what everyone wants to do for the day. The captain has come down to have a chat and discuss some options. "We can tender over to the deserted island a few nautical miles away; we can go snorkeling along the reef off to the starboard side; you name the toy and we've got it - jetskis, paddle boards, water skiing, all can be done. But I'll leave you to enjoy the delicious breakfast on its way out and you can let me know how we can make this day exactly what you want". He smiles and slips quietly away.

The breakfast arrives - the fresh croissants you helped to make are accompanied by large bowls of fruit, fresh yogurt, homemade granola and all the fixings for a proper breakfast of bacon, eggs and pancakes. The kids eyes grow wider than their stomachs and dig in.

**10:00:** Stomachs full and sunscreen applied, everyone is excited to jump into the inviting water. A few of the braver ones take to the second and third decks to jump



overboard. Your husband dives in, followed by your eldest who screams with joy when hitting the water. It's your turn and you can't wait to feel the salt water on your skin. A hop skip and a jump and you're all floating and playing in the water. Bliss.

The toys come out and the kids jump on the jetskis with the crew. You take a paddle board so you can get a closer look at the island, maybe pick a spot out for lunch later.

**11:30:** Back on board for fresh coconuts from a straw, you head to dry off in the sun loungers on the deck. A cool breeze runs through your hair and you let out a contented sigh. If only everyday could start like this!

**12:00:** A round of gin and tonics are brought out - exactly what you could go for at the moment - how did they know? The captain wanders over to check in. He's heard from one of the crew you liked the look of the local island on the paddleboard. They've arranged tables and chairs on land and notify you that lunch will be served over there in an hour. You never had to say a word or request a thing - it's all been taken care of.

**1:00:** You all climb into the tender to make your way to the island for lunch. Unbroken white sand gets closer and invites you to take a walk and look around. But that will have to wait - an incredible array of food has been laid out for you. Plates of fresh seafood glistening with butter, colourful fresh salads, more fresh bread and

homemade oils and dips. One of the crew is waiting, bottle of rosé in hand ready to fill your glass. You sit down, take in the view and smile at your own private yacht anchored mere miles away.

**2:00:** Full and deeply satisfied with lunch, you suggest a walk around the island before the tender will take you back on board. You watch the kids run up ahead splashing and playing in the water. You walk hand in hand with your husband, smiling at the wonderful holiday you've sorted for this year. How can we never have done this before you both wonder. You pick a few fresh mangoes off the trees and make your way back to the tender. A simple nod to the deckhand and he's making his way over.

**3:00:** Back on board and following a brief sleep in the sunshine, it's time to get back in the water. There's a great little reef calling everyone's name. You are given a selection of masks, snorkels and fins to go exploring. You get pictures of the kids underwater next to bright yellow fish, deep pink coral and even a passing sea turtle. No one else is exploring the same place as you - no queues, no over crowded tourist traps - just you, your family and the world is your oyster.

**5:00:** Time to soothe those muscles before dinner - relaxing is such hard work! You sink into the jacuzzi where the stewardess has left one of those delicious coffees for you. The kids are well looked after with the crew - given a tour of the yacht, pretending to be pirates and learning all of the yacht terms, before retiring to the lounge to play video games before dinner.

**6:00:** Cocktail hour! Freshly showered and blissfully relaxed, you head up to the top deck to enjoy a glass of cold champagne with slices of that fresh mango you picked up on the island. The soft lighting and smooth jazz playing throughout sets the scene for a delicious dinner to finish off an incredible first day. Not wanting to return you to the same place twice, whilst you were preparing for dinner the yacht has moved to the other side of the island. You can see tikki torches and lanterns flicking across the way. You're informed the tender will be taking everyone ashore again to enjoy a dinner in the sand followed by a moonlit cruise in the tender.

**6:30:** You're brought ashore where the stewardess hands you a glass of cold crisp white wine. Fresh large pieces of grilled tuna await you accompanied by colourful vegetables all glistening with lashings of butter. The kids, sunkissed and chatting happily about their day, begin to dig in. The chef shares a bit about the locally sourced



fish and villages they collect the vegetables from. You're a million miles away from home, the sinking sun casting a lovely pink and orange glow over the horizon.

**8:00:** Another little walk to help digest after dinner and you come across the nocturnal creatures creeping about - seeing crabs scurrying along the sand, while the kids try to point out the different types of fish they can see from the crystal clear water. It's time for that cruise. You get in the tender and see the crew have brought hot chocolate for the kids and a little digestif for the adults. Pulling out of the bay, the captain takes you around the full perimeter of the island and while you can't see much else in the distance, he knows all the hidden delights. You quietly cruise over toward a sandbar that has another incredible snorkel and dive site just off the side. You can see shapes darting around beneath you and wonder excitedly about what you can explore tomorrow.

On your way back to the yacht the captain informs you they'll weigh anchor at sunrise, cruising to a new bay with new dive sites, new beaches and new excursions for you to enjoy. There's nothing for you to do - the yacht will be on its way while you're still snuggled in your soft sheets with the water lapping around you. You'll lift the curtains in the morning to see a new view, your coffee prepared just the way you like it. On a luxury yacht charter you may create any itinerary you want, but it's all done for you, with the only goal to enjoy this slice of heaven as long as the real world can wait.



## NOW WE'VE PAINTED THE PICTURE, WHAT MAKES A YACHTING HOLIDAY SO DIFFERENT?

We're all looking for that moment; the kind we remember when we're old. That extraordinary moment that grabs us by the shoulders and shakes us, that electric shiver of excitement up our spines- 'This is amazing! I am the luckiest person on earth!'

When's the last time you felt like that?

A yachting holiday makes you feel like that. It's like the nicest holiday you've ever been on - but supercharged.

The first time you charter a luxury yacht, you just can't stop grinning. The whole charter is like a series of immense, unforgettable moments, hitting you one after the other. Whether it's swimming at night with dolphins in the Maldives, watching a volcano erupt in Italy or kayaking through a glacier field in Norway.



No matter which stunning location you visit, that's still not what makes yachts so special.

A yachting holiday is above all a journey, an escape from the world and into a carefree paradise where you want for nothing and everything is beautiful. It's the sense of privacy, of freedom, of something your family and friends share in that moment: your own luxurious floating island.

When you step aboard and physically move away from land, it feels like you're casting off from real life and into an adventure. On a yacht, you get to set the program. Each morning the captain will come and discuss what you'd like to do for the day. Want to go to that nearby island to dive? No problem. Want to invite people for an extravagant dinner? No problem. Want someone to come to the yacht to give you a massage? It will be done. You'll find on a yacht, there's very rarely a problem: your crew are professionals working at the absolute top of the hospitality game. Seven star service is the goal, and you'll very quickly warm to it.

The extraordinary freedom it allows you is part of what's so special about chartering a yacht. You can choose to plan your days, to change your mind, to go wherever the wind takes you.

The special touches are what elevates the yachting holiday above all others. The slippers waiting for you on deck as you arrive on the yacht and accept a cold jasmine-scented facecloth. The trays of iced teas and cocktails that appear as if out of nowhere, the fresh baked cakes and cucumber sandwiches at afternoon tea, or the canapés that pass around on deck as the sun sets. Your newspapers laid out at your breakfast table, next to a hot cup of coffee made just the way you like it. It might be a theme night where the sundeck is festooned with Chinese lanterns, or your family cuddled up on the sofa watching a movie in the sky lounge, the stewardess bringing popcorn and soft blankets.

This is when you get to sit back and relax, and have other people take care of you and your family.

Life on a yacht is whatever you want it to be. Adventurous or calm, glamorous or laid back; a quiet day of swimming and reading on a deck chair; or going for an afternoon sleep in your deliciously cool cabin, climbing under silk-soft sheets and watching the reflections of the water play across the ceiling from the porthole. Yachting is family and

friends and laughter; it's jumping off the bow into deep water off Monte Carlo and dancing on deck under the Caribbean moon.

It's making your way up to the Jacuzzi after dinner to find that the crew have lit candles and laid out soft bathrobes, a bottle of champagne resting in a solid silver ice bucket within arm's reach, your favourite music drifting from the speakers. The job of yacht crew is to pre-empt what you want, to provide experiences you didn't know that you wanted, or that even existed. They are striving for perfection, for you and those you love.

On a yacht, you measure your days by swims and sleeps and tremendous feasts. By glorious sunrises and sunsets, that ever so gentle hum of the engines as your yacht powers through the night as you sleep. You are with the people you care about. You are in an exotic paradise. You are waited on hand and foot for a week. And you have a view that goes on forever, wild and free.

And you just can't stop grinning.

To do as you please, in gorgeous places, on a stunning yacht, surrounded by those that you love. Being looked after at the highest level. As a proposition, it's quite hard to argue with. Just be warned...it's hugely addictive. Yachts specialize in the removal of worries. They are the ultimate escape.







## TOP 10 REASONS YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY SHOULD BE ON A SUPERYACHT

So you thought you couldn't afford a superyacht vacation? There's good and bad news for you. The good news is vacations onboard superyachts are more affordable and accessible than you thought. The bad news is that you're going to have to start deciding who you want to take with you. We can't help you with that, but we can help you start dreaming of your trip. Here's our top ten reasons you need to take a superyacht vacation.

**10.** Live like a superstar, without the paparazzi. Whether you're in the mood for a slow Nantucket saunter, a golf trip along the Florida coast, or forging a path of adventure through Alaskan waters, on a superyacht you write your own storyline.

**9.** Become a water baby as you swim from the yacht's beach platform, snorkel undiscovered reefs or even take the time to learn to dive courtesy of an onboard instructor.

**8.** Did you know that you can take to the high seas on your own superyacht for about the same price per person as renting a luxury villa with friends, or other luxury travel options? Jet skis, a private chef, crew attending to your every need, deserted islands, a different beach every day - or a nice house or hotel room for a week? You decide.

**7.** Speaking of jet skis, superyachts come equipped with toys, toys and more toys! In addition to jet skis and other personal watercraft, try inflatable slides, jet packs, and mini-sub. Enough said!

**6.** The chef. You deserve, no - you need - a private chef! This is vacationing at its finest, meals cooked to your taste, served privately on the aft-deck, on a deserted beach or wherever else takes your fancy. (They'll even cook fish fresh from your line.)

**5.** And about the crew. Superyacht crew are highly trained to provide the best in personalized service. Think five star hotel service tailored to your preferences, carried out by a relaxed, friendly group of people, and you get the idea.

**4.** Being dropped off to doze in the clear waters of a deserted island with not another soul in sight (apart from your crew bringing you fresh drinks). A superyacht vacation provides the utmost in privacy. While on vacation, you want to spend precious quality time with those you love – family or friends. On a superyacht, you do what you want, when you want to do it; without the worry of someone else impacting your fun!

**3.** More luxurious than a cruise, superyachts let you choose the destination and who you take your holiday with. (And there's no queue at the buffet or schedule of when to depart.)

**2.** Sunrises and/or sunsets - depending on where you are vacationing - there is nothing like watching the sun rise or set over the edge of the horizon from the deck of your own yacht. A cup of coffee (or a mimosa) in the morning, or a nice glass of wine in the evening, make it even that much better!

**AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON IS...** We think a superyacht vacation is one of the world's best-kept secrets in terms of great vacation options available. Be part of the inside crowd and get out and plan your own dream vacation. It will be an experience that you and your travelling companions will never forget!





## SUPERYACHT VACATIONS - IDEAL FOR FAMILIES TOO!

The idea of bringing children on a yacht sometimes gives parents pause: what if they get bored and pace the decks, what if they need to be constantly supervised?

Is a trip on a luxury yacht really a family holiday for all ages?

Well, that really depends on whether you can see your children enjoying swimming with dolphins or snorkelling over colourful reefs teeming with life.

It depends on if your kids might like wakeboarding, racing about on jet skis or being pulled behind the yacht's tender in an inflatable banana, screaming their heads off.

It depends on whether they might have fun following a treasure hunt set up on the yacht, quad biking on a Greek island, or jumping off the yacht into the sparkling sea.

It depends if you think your children might like catching fish from the swim platform



at night, dangling their feet in the water and seeing the fish swim about in the yacht's glowing underwater lights. If they'd enjoy midnight swims and picnics on the beach, or chatting to the captain in the bridge as he drives the yacht through the darkness to the next exciting destination.

Or maybe you can see them spending lazy evenings in front of the yacht's giant televisions in the sky lounge, eating popcorn and watching movies, the whole family enjoying the time together.

It depends on whether you think they'd like seeing new places, kayaking through icebergs in Alaska, scuba diving in Australia, watching celebrities on the red carpet in France. Exploring shipwrecks in Malta and underwater caves in Italy, and watching whales in New Zealand or giant turtles in the Galapagos.

Not all kids are active, and that's fine too, the yacht's cabins are spacious and the yacht has all entertainment systems and comforts there ready for them. (We all know that sometimes no amount of cajoling can get the kids away from the TV or Playstation, no matter what manner of adventure awaits outside).

Babies and toddlers are in an extremely safe environment too, safety is the prime concern on all yachts, at all times, with all guests. The high crew to guest ratio on luxury yachts ensures that someone will always be watching any kids on deck or in the water. Yachting is a very safe pastime for children of all ages.

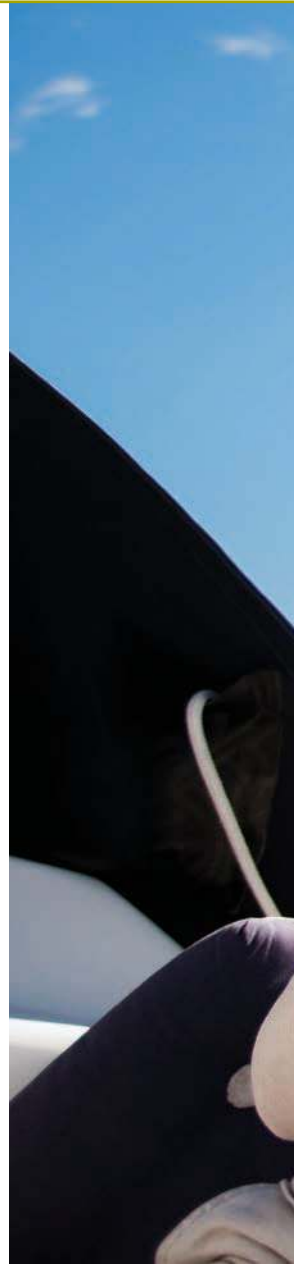
So is a yacht charter really a holiday for families of all ages? The answer is yes, absolutely. A luxury yacht charter affords kids of all ages a mix of adventure, excitement, relaxation and new experiences, all in a very safe and tremendously comfortable environment.

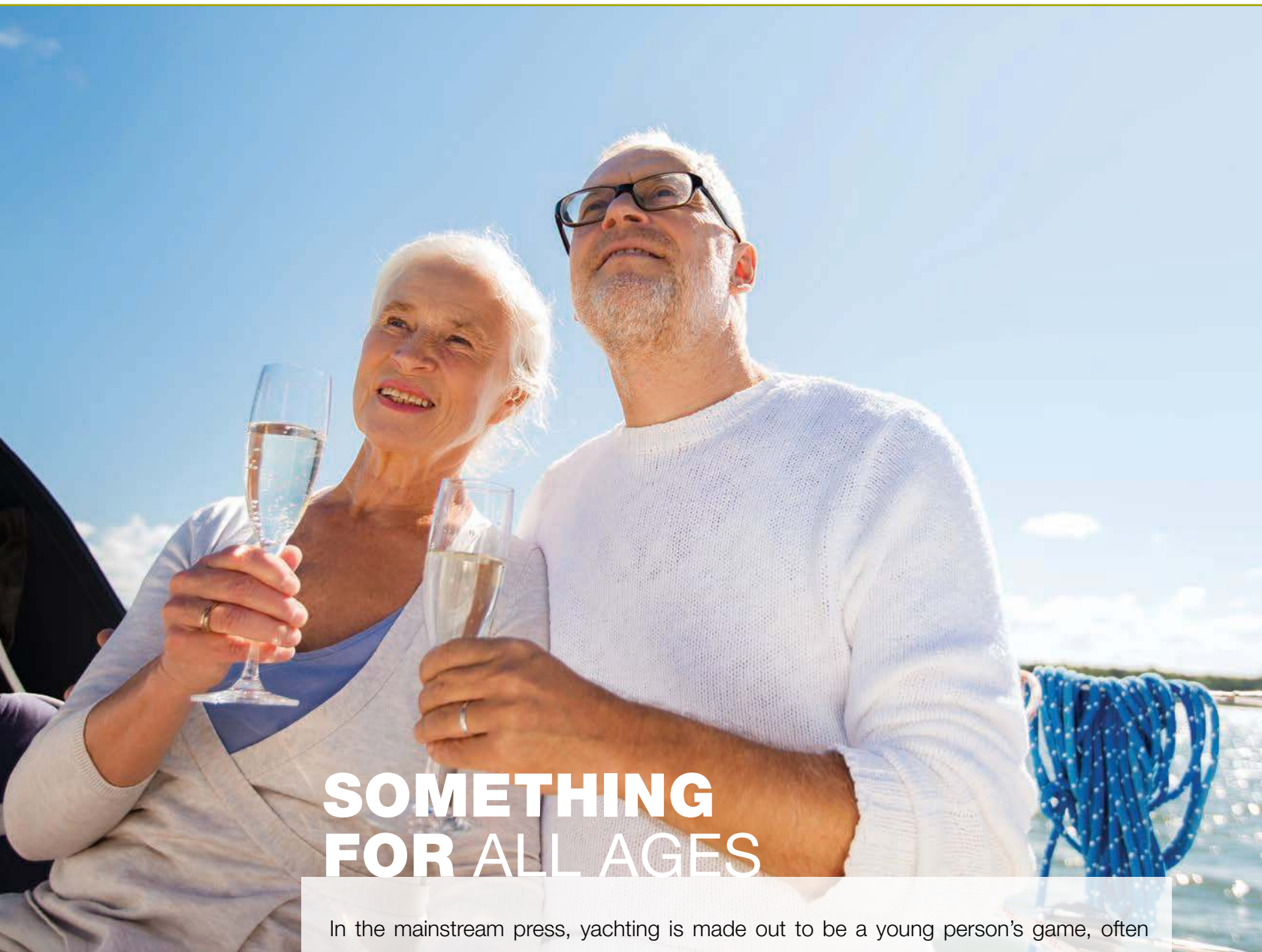
However, there are a few things that are helpful to know about taking your children on a yacht, in order to prepare them (and you) for the holiday of a lifetime:

- For your first yachting holiday, try to decide on an itinerary where there are not long passages between destinations. Some active kids may get bored if they can't swim and run about for long periods, so pick a destination where there are lots of islands or destinations in short cruises from each other. Your yacht charter broker will advise of some great child-friendly itineraries.

- Luxury yachts have sophisticated entertainment systems. Find out which movies and games are on board, the yacht will have a list they can send through. You can generally make requests for the yacht to purchase certain materials (at a cost to you), or bring your own.
- Yachts all have wifi now, but do be aware that it is generally slower than on land, and can be very slow in remote cruising regions. If your family does a lot of streaming and has high internet usage, then make sure to enquire about download speeds before chartering to avoid sullen teenagers!
- Be aware that crew are there to supervise your children and entertain them to some extent, but are not employed as babysitters. If you have young children, some yacht charter contracts will insist you bring a nanny or carer with you to ensure that the crew are not pulled away from their busy schedule. It is reasonable to expect that the deck crew will spend all available hours with your children doing watersports, as that is part of the service, while normally a treasure hunt and a few activities are factored into the stewardess' schedule. However, it's not normally acceptable to go out to dinner ashore each evening, leaving your children in the crew's care. Find out from your broker and captain what is considered acceptable when it comes to childcare responsibilities.
- Your captain and broker will suggest great activities for your kids in the local area, use them to tailor the best possible experiences for your children.

**THE MOST WONDERFUL THING ABOUT A FAMILY YACHT CHARTER ON A LUXURY SUPERYACHT IS THE MEMORIES IT CREATES TOGETHER.** THE YACHT, CAPTAIN AND CREW ARE ALL THERE TO PROVIDE YOUR FAMILY WITH THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE OF YOUR LIFE, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR AGE.





## SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES

In the mainstream press, yachting is made out to be a young person's game, often painted as the preserve of celebrities and beautiful people jet skiing around the yachts and throwing glittering parties. Meanwhile, yacht charter brochures tend to feature young families tearing about playing water sports, diving into the water from the upper deck and kids running helter-skelter along the beach.

From a distance, it all looks rather active. Does this mean that yachting vacations are best left for the young?

Absolutely not. There are few nicer ways to spend your twilight years than cruising around on a crewed private yacht.

Take the example of a couple in their late 60's, enjoying a yachting holiday together, and you can begin to see the allure of this type of vacation experience.

This couple were grandparents, but for the most part, they came on alone. They used the yacht very much as a floating home, on which they'd cruise from place to place, taking great pleasure each morning in researching what there was to do in each town. They'd get the deckhand to drop them ashore in the tender to explore each place: one day a medieval hilltop village; the next a ruined city, or taking a long walk through a pine forest on a midsummer's day. They'd visit art galleries and museums, shop for souvenirs, and arrive back at the boat in time for an early dinner. As they ate on deck under the setting sun, the captain would weigh anchor and we'd be off again, to the next beautiful destination. They seemed very happy.

At night they played board games or cuddled up on the sofa together to read books or watch movies. Sometimes they'd ask the captain to head into port when they felt like seeing other people or taking an evening walk along the quay to get an ice-cream; but mostly they didn't, choosing to stay at anchor in their splendid isolation.

Each morning they'd wake to another beautiful view, occasionally taking a gentle swim ashore for a walk on a deserted beach in the early morning light. They didn't really do many watersports, although the yacht was stocked with dive gear and snorkels and jetskis and all sorts for when their children and grandchildren came on board, but they barely used any of it. It was nice to go for a kayak occasionally on one of those glassy days at sea where the water looks like sheet metal, but for the most part they lay on deckchairs or sat at the shady sundeck table, reading papers, playing scrabble and passing the days.

It was all very easy.

They both still worked a few hours a day, running their successful businesses from the yacht, she in the study, and him from an iPad and a mobile phone on deck. You'd see him looking around occasionally at the extraordinary setting of his office, or perhaps calling the stewardess to bring him another cold drink and some fresh-cut fruit.

Occasionally their family would come on board- and the dynamic would change instantly as three generations talked over each other and dive-bombed off the swim platform at all hours of day and night. Huge, noisy meals and kids squealing as they ran around the normally quiet boat. The grandparents loved it, but they also loved it when everyone left again. There's nothing wrong with that, is there?





Yacht charters allowed them to travel, without any of the fuss, or inconvenience, or heat or planes or customs, it allowed them to travel to all the historical places they'd ever wanted to go; to watch all the sunsets and sunrises and all the world's weather reflected in the seas; catch up on all the unread books of a lifetime. And they could still work - their holiday, their remoteness, didn't matter as they were digital nomads, or 'grey nomads' as the Australians affectionately call their wandering over-60's.

And the crew of course, were always around when they were needed, but never in the way. They had their private chef to cook meals for them specifically catered to their diets, and the stewardesses kept their cabins spotless and their laundry done. The captain and deck crew were there to drive the boat and show them extraordinary places, and the engineer was on hand to fix any problems (or more commonly, show them how to use the remote control for the TVs, blinds and air conditioning just one more time). Once, when the gentleman was in poor health, he simply brought his doctor along with him, and they stayed close to shore that trip until he recovered. They had everything they needed, and all in surroundings of complete safety and luxury.

Can you imagine a more splendid way to spend your later years than on a luxury yacht, if you were the type to enjoy nature and beauty and all the world's wonders? Having friends onboard when you felt like it, having family on when you felt like it, but for the rest of the time, just you and your partner, floating from one exotic paradise to the next.



# THE Y GENERATION AND LUXURY YACHTING: THE PERFECT COMBINATION

The world of luxury yachting is changing, and it's changing fast. Not only are spectacular yachting vacations becoming much more accessible to luxury travellers, but new exotic yachting destinations are opening up and 'once in a lifetime' experiences are now sky-high on the yachting agenda.

Who's behind this change? It's the Y Generation (also called Millennials), who are entering the yacht charter market and making quite a splash. You see, Gen Y yacht charterers don't just want the 'milk run' charter experience of fine dining, diving, and staggering scenery. Gen Y's want more. And when you look at it closely, private yacht charters are the perfect vehicle to deliver exactly what they want.

### What do affluent millennials want from a luxury holiday?

Gen Y's like things a bit different when it comes to luxury travel. A recent report by travel intelligence company SKIFT showed that affluent American millennials have a



strong preference for transformative, once-in-a-lifetime experiences, and don't like doing the same old thing as everyone else. They are accustomed to having travel experiences personalised for them, and increasingly find formal, silver-service style stuffy and old fashioned. They don't like tight scheduling and being told what to do on someone else's timetable, and they have a much stronger preference for exotic travel destinations than older travellers. Like all luxury travellers, they prize gourmet food and drink experiences on holiday above all else.

Looking at this preference list, could there be a better vacation experience for a millennial than a luxury yacht charter? It seems to be the perfect match. Go where you want, do what you want, see what you want- all while being looked after by an elite and friendly yacht crew trained to offer experiences personally tailored to you. Oh, and did we mention the private chef?

### Imagine This...

There are two luxury yachts anchored next to each other in a bay just outside Monaco, having two very different kinds of charter. Neither is by any means wrong or better than the other (far from it), but this scenario highlights how versatile yacht charters can be for all ages and tastes.

One yacht is chartered by a couple in their late fifties. They see the yacht as an oasis, a place of privacy, fine dining and hushed calm. During their week charter they will rarely leave the yacht, rather cruising from one place of beauty to the next, anchoring off in splendid isolation, having massages, reading books, eating elegant meals on deck and drinking champagne in the Jacuzzi under a setting sun. The next morning they will start their day with an early morning swim and a delicious breakfast, and so it begins again, a leisurely and deeply pleasant escape from the pressures of normal life.

The other yacht, chartered by a group of friends in their early 30's, is a hive of activity. Jetskis buzz around the yacht, music plays loudly, and people dive off the swim platform and hurtle themselves happily down the huge inflatable slide into the deep blue sea. In the afternoon, some of the guests are going zip-lining through the forest canopy, others are going sportfishing, and a few are staying behind for a cooking masterclass with the yacht's private chef. Later that evening, the captain has organised for the ladies to do some after-hours shopping in Monaco with a famous fashion icon, and they'll all meet up to dine at a Michelin-starred restaurant and finish the night at one of the Riviera's glittering

nightclubs. Tomorrow, some of them will be going for a spin in an F1 racing car followed by shooting clay pigeons off the back of the yacht, while the rest of the group want to do a private art history tour tracing the Riviera footsteps of Picasso and Matisse.

Tomorrow night, they're planning a themed Prohibition-and-poker night on board the yacht and are inviting some friends around for the party. In a few days they need to be down the coast, where there's a music festival happening in a Roman amphitheatre, and there's also a few wineries they want to visit. Mind you, they also want to do a fair bit of nothing, and of course a champagne lunch at Nikki Beach in Saint Tropez is essential... but they'll decide that as the charter goes on.

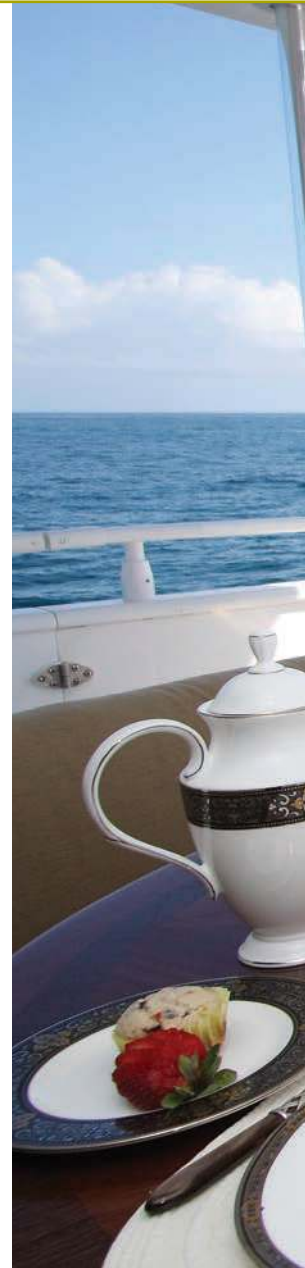
And that's fine too, for with yachts, comes freedom to do what you please. It's so far from the regimented routine and crowds of cruise ships that there can be no comparison, while a resort or villa stay will only ever offer you one view from your bedroom window, and could never hope to offer the freedom and personalised service a crewed private yacht can offer.

### Can millennials really afford to charter yachts?

Definitely. Many Gen Y's can afford to charter yachts, particularly at the smaller end of the size range. A recent study by Atmosphere Research Group showed that over 50% of Americans with household annual incomes of over \$250 000 are under the age of 40. When you think about it, many young people have been renting luxury villas in Ibiza and summer houses in the Hamptons for years by the time they hit 35 and they've just made the happy discovery that you can charter a luxury yacht for the same price (and have a whole lot more fun).

Luxury yacht charters and Millennials really are the perfect combination. By allowing their guests an intensely personalised holiday, rich in new experiences and freedom to travel to exotic places, a luxury yacht charter ticks all the boxes for affluent Gen Y travellers.

**OH, AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PRIVATE CHEF...**





## THE FOOD EXPERIENCE

A superyacht vacation is a gourmet experience like no other. With your own highly-trained private chef preparing dazzling menus catered exactly to your tastes, every meal on a luxury yacht charter is a superb dining experience.

In fact, the sensational food on a private yacht is often the much-talked about highlight of any yachting holiday.

### What makes the dining experience on a yacht so special?

Well, that's hard to narrow down. Each morning just after dawn, your yacht chef goes ashore in the tender to visit the local markets, arriving back at the yacht laden down with wheels of fresh cheese, the best organic produce available and gleaming fish straight from the fisherman's nets.

They'll get to work slicing fruit for large platters and whipping up pancake batter and scrambled eggs ready for your breakfast orders. By the time you get up, the whole yacht will smell of freshly baking bread and your breakfast table will overflow with a buffet spread right out of a gourmet magazine.

Oh, and the view's not bad either. The sun glimmering off the sea, a turquoise lagoon or tropical beach just waiting for you. This floating 'restaurant' can move for every meal, from one spectacular view to the next.

With breakfast cleared away, your chef will arrive at the table to discuss some possible menus for the coming day based on using the best local produce found at the market and some of your personal favourites. Perhaps you'd even like to try your hand at catching dinner?

### But how will they know what I like?

After you book your luxury yacht charter, the yacht will send you a very important document: the all-important preference sheet. This form allows you to let the chef know what your favourite foods are, as well as dislikes and the way you prefer to eat.

After all, what's the point in having a chef spending all their effort and skill creating refined, seafood plates suited to a fancy Michelin-star restaurant, when your family actually prefers an unpretentious buffet-style extravaganza with lots of variety?

Never be shy to tell your yacht chef what you want, whether it's a Thai feast, a fancy French affair or a laid-back barbeque on the beach. They're there to make you happy, and the more you tell them, the happier everyone will be.

### What if some of us have allergies or dietary restrictions?

There might not be a better environment for someone with allergies than a private yacht. Your yacht chef will be highly accustomed to different dietary requirements, whether it be gluten-free, kosher, lactose intolerant, paleo, high-fat...or a madcap combination of all of them! If you say 'special diet', chances are, the chef has catered to it before and you'll be treated to some very special cooking.

In addition, because a yacht chef is only cooking for your group, there is no risk of

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cross-contamination as there is with restaurants or resorts catering for large groups.

## What if my friends all like different foods?

Again, this is where the preference sheet really comes into its own. Make sure all your yacht guests get one to fill out so that the chef can plan how to accommodate you all. Sophisticated, varied buffets are often the best way to impress a wide range of tastes.

## How will the kids be catered for?

Yacht chefs are very accustomed to cooking for kids (and fussy ones, too.) If you're wanting to eat later or separately from your kids, that's no problem at all, it's quite a common practice on yachts to have separate dinner mealtimes for kids and adults so that the kids can get to bed early and the adults can enjoy evenings on deck with a long elegant meal.

## I don't want to fill out the preference sheet; I want the chef to surprise us.

The chef always loves having people to impress with their own innovative cooking so it's completely fine if you don't want to fill out a preference sheet. However, the yacht will only have a certain amount of produce and dry goods on board, so if you like particular brands or things, it's best to use the preference sheet. The chef will be able to shop locally, but the range is often minimal (and more expensive) on tropical islands.

As mentioned, you'll get a chance to chat with the chef every day, so that if you have a sudden craving or preferred one style of meal to the next, you can easily let them know, or just tell the friendly stewardess and they'll pass the message on.

## How many meals can we expect each day on a typical yacht charter?

This is up to your discretion to some extent, but one thing is sure: you're not going to go hungry.

On a yacht there is normally a cooked and buffet breakfast, followed by lunch with dessert, then afternoon tea and/or sunset canapés, followed by dinner and yet another

dessert. There are also fruit and snack bowls scattered around the yacht, and if you fancy a midnight feast or a light snack, all you have to do is ask (although I'm not sure where you'll fit it in!)

### Can we invite friends onto the yacht for a dinner party?

Yes, invite away! Yachts are there to be enjoyed, just give the chef as much notice as you can about guest numbers so that they can ensure that they can wow your guests. Also, be aware that the boat is not allowed to have more than 12 passengers onboard if it is leaving the port, and that dining tables on yachts rarely accommodate more than 12 guests.

If you're looking to have a party, then cocktails and canapés may be a better idea or if it's a large party, the chef may need to get the assistance of a local catering firm. Just speak to your chef and captain beforehand and ask them what can be done as they're highly experienced in yacht entertaining.

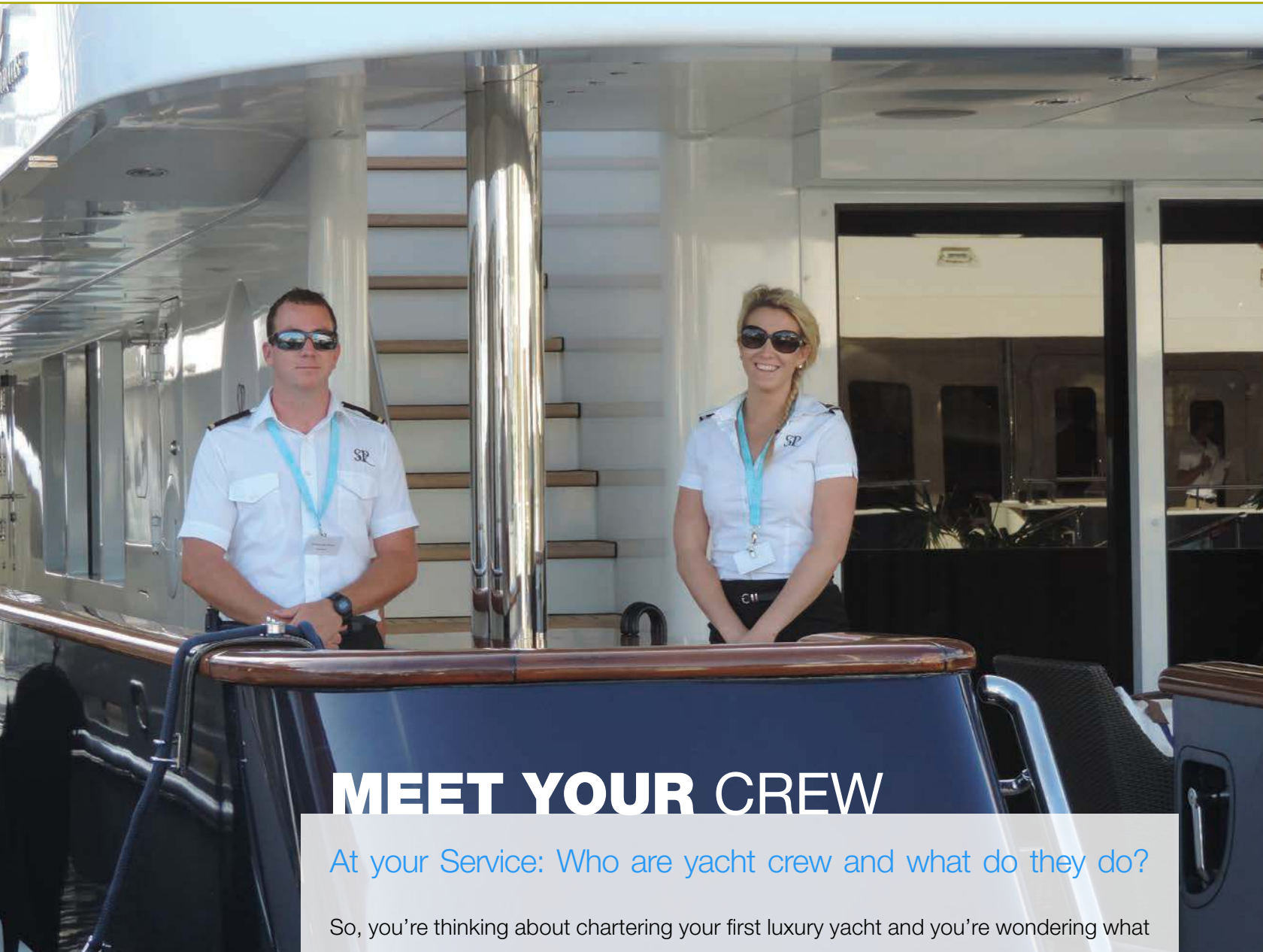
### Will we eat every meal onboard?

You definitely can if you like, although it's quite rare that guests don't go ashore for at least one or two restaurant meals over the course of the charter. While it can be difficult to drag yourself away from the excellent meals on board, your yacht will almost certainly be dropping anchor off some of the world's premiere gourmet destinations.



WHETHER EATING A DELICIOUS DINNER ON DECK UNDER THE STARS, A LUXURY BARBEQUE ON THE BEACH, OR VISITING A WORLD-RENOWNED RESTAURANT ON A CLIFF-TOP, **A LUXURY YACHT CHARTER IS ONE OF THE GREAT FOOD EXPERIENCES OF A LIFETIME.**





## MEET YOUR CREW

### At your Service: Who are yacht crew and what do they do?

So, you're thinking about chartering your first luxury yacht and you're wondering what the yacht crew do to provide this 7-star service you've heard about. Who are yacht crew, and what on earth do they do that's so special?

Anyone who's ever chartered a luxury yacht will tell you that while of course it's important that the yacht has all the facilities and toys, the most important factor by far for a brilliant charter is the crew.

### Who are yacht crew?

A yacht charter is an extraordinarily complex operation, carried out by a team of highly trained yet fun-loving 'yachties' who travel the world on these gorgeous superyachts, living on them year-round in shared cabins up in the bow. Generally a pretty young bunch, the majority of your yacht's crew will be in their 20's or early 30's, ranging up

to their 40's and 50's for engineers and captains. You'll find that US-flagged boats will normally run with an American crew, while Australians, Brits and South Africans make up the majority of foreign-flagged yacht crews, particularly in the Mediterranean.

Regardless of where they're from, yacht crew are chosen for being highly personable, discreet and well-trained. They adapt to your desired style of service, whether that is more formal and refined or a more relaxed family atmosphere.

As a highly professional team, yacht crews are like swans: while everything's calm and smooth on top of the water, they're paddling frantically beneath the surface! It's a busy job creating a 7-star, 24 hour experience for up to 12 guests.

### But I'm not that hard to look after, how can there be so much to do?

Well, that's nice, you're welcome on a yacht any time! However, no matter how easy you are to look after as an individual, the spectacular yachting that the crew put on for you relies on countless little touches and a huge preparation that starts long before the charter.

Luxury yachting relies on perfection, you see, and yacht crew are there to deliver it. Many weeks before you step on board, the yacht is already deep in planning for your arrival. The yacht broker is discussing your charter plans with the captain, who is drawing you up a personalized itinerary, making tentative bookings at sought-after marinas and restaurants, and researching the best anchorages, beaches, and dive spots. No matter what you want to do, the captain will make it happen, using years of experience and exclusive contacts.

The chef has by now received your preference sheet and has started crafting menu plans suited to your tastes. They've contacted their suppliers for the absolute best produce available, and ordered in what they can't find locally. In the days before your charter, the deliveries will arrive, and the cupboards and fridges of the yacht will be filled to overflowing with your favourite food and drinks. The yacht is now ready for one of the great cuisine experiences of your lifetime.

The stewardesses, meanwhile, will have the interior of the yacht immaculately presented with polished silver, vases of flowers and gleaming marble. When you board, the table will be set for an elegant lunch underway, with crisp white linens and crystal glassware. They've read your preference sheet too, they are already discussing what music to put on,

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what wine to chill, how to make your coffee, and this is all before they've even met you!

The first mate and/or deckhand, will have been using the time getting the boat's exterior absolutely spotless, hanging in harnesses off the side of the boat with soft brushes and chamois to make sure that every speck of salt and every watermark is gone, and that every bit of stainless steel and white paint is shining. The deck is scrubbed clean and the yacht's toys are readied; the jetskis, the wakeboards, the snorkels, the kayaks, and the dive gear all ready for your enjoyment.

The engineer is busy too, although it's unlikely you'll see much of them during the charter. They're working behind the scenes ensuring the smooth operation of the satellite and AV systems, the internet, the generators, engines and the air-conditioning that's so deliciously cool after a hard day's relaxing in the Caribbean sunshine.

And you haven't even arrived yet! All this industry by so many people is just the preparation stage. The action intensifies hugely when you step aboard – a wave of meal services, cruises, and watersports activities that ebbs and flows throughout your week charter. You, meanwhile, get to lie back and not lift a finger. That level of service is what luxury yachts are all about.

## What's so special?

It's funny what things yacht guests remember after their first yacht charter, the particular touches that somehow strike them as being particularly special. Perhaps for you it will be the beautiful array of luxury toiletries in the bathrooms, or the slippers waiting for you on deck as you arrive on the yacht and accept your cold jasmine-scented facecloth.

It might be the sight of all your freshly laundered clothes neatly put away for you in the cupboard each day and your cabin cleaned every time you leave the room. It might be the menu on embossed paper that the chef presents each morning for your approval, or the trays of fresh iced teas and cocktails that appear seemingly out of nowhere when you're relaxing in the Jacuzzi.

Perhaps it's the deckhand that patiently teaches your son how to windsurf, or leads the kids on a treasure hunt on a nearby deserted island. Or maybe it's just the idea of the captain coming to the breakfast table each morning and asking you what you dream of doing that day. Your yacht crew can make it happen. Creating perfection is what they do, remember?



## YACHTS AND BRANDS: THE PERFECT COMBINATION

You're looking to take your business to the next level, but you're just not sure how to go about it. You've had a really successful year, in fact a few of them now, and you're looking for an innovative and exciting way to celebrate your success and announce to the world that you're really here to do business.

A corporate yacht charter is the very thing to help your brand make that leap into the big league.

Just imagine. It's the Cannes Film Festival, and your company branding flutters from the decks of a gleaming white superyacht. Your staff are standing on the dock, welcoming important clients, past, present and future, to step aboard. They enter the luxurious interior of the yacht: a quiet, private meeting space of plush carpets, decadent furnishings and wood panelling. After talk of business concludes, you invite them to stay for lunch consisting of a seafood feast served by the attentive yacht crew. You may not talk about business at the table, but business is certainly being done.



From the lunch table on deck, you watch the crowds of festival attendees walk past the yacht, craning their necks to see who's on board. They see your company flags flying.

'They're obviously doing well' they might think. 'To have a yacht here at Cannes, that's a company to watch.'

You look back at your lunch guests, your key clients, or those you hope to be your clients very soon. They're enjoying this meal on a superyacht, the interest of passers-by. They're impressed; you can see it in their eyes. And why wouldn't they be? Superyachts have the power to impress everybody; they are the epitome of prestige and success.

Your employees are happy too. They look forward to this week every year, and work damn hard to ensure they're the ones that are chosen to represent the company at this glittering event. As far as staff incentives go, they don't get much better than a week on a superyacht.

Later that night, you're throwing a party: cocktails and canapés on the sundeck under the stars, the strobe lights of Cannes rippling across the sky. A band will play by the bubbling Jacuzzi, the champagne will flow, and a couple of celebrities will make an appearance. You've got a couple of surprises in store that will get everyone talking all week about your great party, your great brand.

Or perhaps it's the Monaco Grand Prix, and the cars are whining and roaring around the cliffside city. Thousands of people cram the streets, elbowing each other for room and spilling champagne from plastic cups as they jostle for a view. No, that's not your scene at all. You've decided to make a big splash this year and have chartered out a superyacht, right down in the port. You've got a front-and-centre view of the F1 cars as they scream down towards the yachts and hurl around the famous Rascasse bend.

You look at your clients stretched out across the deck, champagnes in hand and eating fancy sliders and caviar from pearl spoons as they watch the action unfold in front of them. These 'tickets', these views, are priceless, and you know they'll think of your company when it comes time to sign the next deal.

You've invited your key clients to stay on board in the opulent cabins for a few nights. Other years you've just settled for getting rooms in a hotel, but the logistics and expense of hiring out whole floors was just turning out to be too much of a headache. On a

yacht, everyone's already in one place, and no-one has the hassle of transport from the hotel through Monaco's steep and crowded streets. No need for costly venue hire any more either, what better venue could there be than a superyacht anyway?

After the Grand Prix's finished, you'll set off for a cruise with your clients to really seal the deal. Coming out of Monaco, you could either turn the yacht to port and cross the Italian border, cruising along the cliffs between the pretty pastel towns of the Cinque Terre to the desperately pretty town of Portofino, or turn to starboard and cruise along to the famous Cap d'Antibes, the clubs and restaurants of Cannes, the pine trees and beaches of the Porquerolle Islands and finish up in glamorous Saint Tropez.

Back stateside, your key executives are sitting around the dinner table, enjoying a delicious meal cooked by the yacht's private chef. The lights of the Miami skyline shine bright, and then fall away into the distance as the yacht powers through the darkness towards the tropical islands and sapphire waters of the Bahamas. You've decided to reward your high-flyers and their spouses with a week of cruising, snorkelling and relaxing in the Exumas. Sure, it may be an expense, but it's a clever one- after all, how many of your competitors really reward their staff with something exceptional? Would you leave a job that rewards you with a superyacht charter? No, didn't think so.

Whether an industry conference or a world-class sporting or cultural event, it would be hard to imagine a more hard-hitting, powerful association for your brand than with a superyacht. A superyacht says that you are strong. That you are successful. A corporate charter on a superyacht announces to the world that you have arrived.





# SUPERYACHTS ON A SHOESTRING: IS IT TIME YOU JOINED THE SUPERYACHT-SET?

'Superyachts on a shoestring.' Now there's a phrase that's never been written before. And up until now, it's no wonder: private luxury yachts have been exclusively for the super-rich, costing many millions to buy and run and many hundreds of thousands of dollars to charter out by the week.

Yet as the global yacht fleet grows, the secret is getting out that you can actually charter a smaller superyacht for about the same price as you'd expect to pay for a luxury hotel on the French Riviera or on a Caribbean island.

## So what's changed, and why is it such a great time to take your first superyacht vacation?

The last 15 years have seen extraordinary changes sweep through the private yacht industry, with an explosion in the number of superyachts on the water, and a change in perception by those who own them. These work in your favour, opening up the luxury yachting experience to you and your family.

## How so?

15 years ago, a 150 foot yacht was considered a very large yacht; anything over 200 feet was simply enormous. Yet as luxury yachting became the most prestigious pastime on earth, a race began between the billionaires to own the biggest yacht. As a result, a 150 foot yacht is no longer considered too big, and the largest private yacht in the world, Azzam, is a staggering 590 foot long!

Recently, I was on a 150 foot yacht when a much larger yacht came in 'next door'. The yacht owner, visibly annoyed, went to the captain and told him, 'I want to buy a bigger yacht. This is too small.' He then insisted that the captain immediately move to another anchorage.

Amusing, yes. But the point of the story is that what impressed a billionaire in terms of luxury 10 years ago rarely impresses them now. This, of course, works in your favour.

The market has been flooded with bigger and bigger yachts, meaning that the smaller superyacht range (from 79ft to 100 ft) is no longer as popular with the upper end of the market and has become more accessible. So much has the perception changed on the size of superyachts, that the industry is seriously considering changing the very definition of superyacht to being a yacht over 98 ft.

All industries evolve, and in this case it's in your favour.

## How did the GFC bring more yachts onto the charter market?

When the Global Financial Crisis hit, the superyacht industry was riding an extraordinary wave, with huge luxury yachts being ordered faster than shipyards could build them. Yet with the recession, things slowed down, and the public perception of owning yachts became less popular in times of austerity.

Yacht owners started worrying about how they could utilize these assets rather than have them tied up on a dock for much of the year. They still loved their yachts and wanted to keep them, but wanted to use them more effectively. This ties in with a stronger worldwide trend for people to put their assets to work for them; whether through their cars (Uber) or accommodation (Airbnb).



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In the yachting industry, of course, owners started offering their yachts on the charter market, to offset the high costs of owning them.

So here we are now, in the delightful position of having a global fleet of charter yachts, which are more affordable than ever before.

## Why are the smaller superyachts so great to charter?

The yachts in question at this smaller end of the range are still extraordinary: remember, these are the very same superyachts that were considered the height of indulgence and luxury by the richest people on earth just over a decade ago.

They even sleep the same number of people as the bigger yachts. You might think that as yachts got bigger they'd take more and more guests, but for the most part, yachts still accommodate only up to 12 guests due to licensing restrictions.

There are also huge advantages of chartering these smaller yachts that go way beyond the lower charter cost.

- Smaller superyachts can easily find spaces in ports and shallow anchorages, where the very big yachts often struggle to find places big enough to accommodate them.
- In addition, the smaller yachts also deliver a more authentic holiday experience—they're big, but not so big that your family and friends don't spend quality time together as a group.
- On smaller luxury yachts, your crew are a small group of discreet and friendly professionals who you get to know you and your group over the week; whereas on bigger yachts there can be 20, 50, or even over 100 crew!

**AS IT TURNS OUT, SIZE ISN'T EVERYTHING.** IN FACT WITH SUPERYACHT CHARTERS IT CAN WORK AGAINST YOUR ENJOYMENT WHEN YACHTS GET TOO BIG. (JUST DON'T TELL THAT YACHT OWNER WHO'S OFF TO ORDER A BIGGER YACHT!)



# DOING THE MATH: CAN LUXURY CRUISE SHIP PASSENGERS SWITCH TO PRIVATE YACHT CHARTER?

For most people, chartering a private yacht seems an unattainable dream or something that only the super-rich could ever afford. Most of us who dream of adventure and luxury at sea therefore settle for taking a cruise on one of the fancier liners. When we come into port we might look a little wistfully at the private yachts, but conclude that they would be too expensive to charter, too out of reach—even on our good incomes.

What you will be interested to discover—the secret that very few realize—is that *if a group of you are paying for the luxury experience on a cruise ship you could have actually all pitched together and chartered a private yacht instead.*

And with more yachts flooding the market as the industry grows, the luxury yachting experience is becoming more affordable with each passing year.

## So, how expensive is chartering a yacht, really?

The luxury end of the cruise ship industry is undergoing a massive boom. We looked



at the top 10 luxury cruise ships, as reported in an article by Cruise Critic, and the data shows that a great many of you are already spending at least \$6,000+ per person per week on all inclusive cruise vacation, or \$12,000 per cabin. Some of you are spending more than that again— in fact 34% of the rates on these ships are more than \$7,000 per person per week. That's a very good start towards a yacht charter vacation if you have some friends who are also looking to make the step up to luxury yachting.

It's worth noting here that if you do travel as a couple and have no interest in travelling with friends or family, then the cruise ship option is a better option financially as you would have to absorb the entire cost of yacht charter on your own. (We're not in the business of pulling the wool over your eyes after all).

It's when you travel with groups that things start to get very interesting on cost comparisons.

A private yacht has a license to sleep up to 12 guests, but at the smaller end 8 guests is more common, so let's start with that to keep the comparisons realistic. If each person is spending \$6,000 on a cruise ship vacation, you and your partner could raise \$48,000 for a yacht charter by pooling your money together with just three other couples. (Of course, if you were to get a yacht with ten beds you could raise \$60,000, and twelve beds you could raise \$72,000 towards the cost of charter).

Remember though, that while cruise ships tend to be all-inclusive or mostly so, on a private yacht you need to pay for food and beverage, fuel, berthing fees and tips on top of your base rate. (You might ask about an all-inclusive model, which is becoming a little more widely accepted).

So let's assume that using the eight-person model raising a total of \$48,000 you can charter a yacht with a base rate of \$32,000—with money left over to pay for all the extras.

### What kind of yacht will we get for \$32,000 a week?

Well, you're not going to get one of the ones you see on TV with a helipad and huge lap pool, but you will get a fantastic luxury yacht in the 80-100 foot range for that kind of money. As mentioned, it will probably have cabins for eight people, although the rare few will sleep up to 10 or 12.

In this size range the yacht will normally have two decks, a very comfortable main salon, dining areas and a larger master cabin. The yacht will carry a range of watertoys, AV equipment and will almost certainly have WIFI and flat screen TVs in all cabins. And of course, you'll have a team of crew dedicated to you for the entire vacation, including the captain and the all-important stewardess and private chef.

If you put in a couple of thousand extra per person you can charter a yacht with a base rate of around \$40-45,000, at which point you can expect to get a larger, more luxurious yacht nearing the 100-120 foot mark, particularly on the older models. At this size of a yacht you will often get a Jacuzzi, a main deck master suite, larger deck spaces and an upper salon. You'll also have a bigger crew, and potentially an extra cabin or two to bring the number of guests up and costs down. However, remember that berthing fees, fuel and tips will also go up with larger yachts, so take that into account when budgeting. The total cost of your vacation on this size yacht will be in the range of \$60-70,000 for the group - still quite comparable to the cost for that same group on a luxury cruise ship.

### Why should I make the swap? What's so great about private yachts?

We don't mean to criticize cruise ships, but private yachts are another level of luxury entirely. The freedom is exquisite. You'll speak to your captain each day about the itinerary, you can change your mind whenever you like, and above all, there are none of those awful orange boats bringing you back from a shore excursion when you're simply not ready to leave. And don't forget that luxury yachts can get into shallow anchorages and pretty marinas that cruise ships cannot, and access to the sea is always just a few steps away, rather than via the crowded lifts and stairwells of cruise ships.

On a private yacht, the chef cooks just for you and your friends or family. They're informed about your food preferences and any allergies, and the yacht is stocked with all your favourite things before you arrive. Each meal is served at a beautifully decorated table on deck and there are no buffet queues or complete strangers making small talk over dinner.

A yacht is an extremely private place to spend time with family and friends where the crew respect your personal space but are always discreetly on hand if you need anything. On a luxury cruise ship, much is made of the butler service, but that is restricted to your



room, and when you're roaming the ship you are just one of many hundreds of guests.

On a luxury yacht, the crew are dedicated just to you and no one else, whether it's the deckhand giving you another wake boarding lesson, the chef grilling the fish you just caught for lunch, or the captain driving you to that nearby reef for a snorkel before breakfast. The stewardess or steward makes sure your cabin is always kept immaculate and keeps you constantly refreshed with food and drink. A yacht charter is all about freedom, privacy, superb food and wonderfully personalized service that cruise ships simply can't match.

ON A CRUISE SHIP, YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER NUMBER IN THE CROWD. **ON A LUXURY YACHT, YOU ARE THE STAR.**




# TOP QUESTIONS YOU NEED TO FIND ANSWERS FOR WHEN PLANNING YOUR NEXT SUPERYACHT VACATION

Are you thinking about taking a superyacht vacation in the near future? Good for you! You won't regret the decision - a superyacht vacation is quite possibly the best vacation experience in the world today. The combination of beautiful destinations, expert service provided by your crew, and the quality time spent with those closest to you is an experience that can't be beat.

So, just how do you go about planning a superyacht vacation if you have never done so in the past? It can be a daunting proposition, particularly when there is not much information out there easily accessible for those new to the market. With that in mind, we have prepared the following list of questions that you need to ask and have answered as you go about planning your dream trip.

## **KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF**

Believe it or not, the first set of questions are things that you need to ask yourself, and those who will be travelling with you. The first thing that you will need to get



used to is that this is your vacation, your way. You choose where to go, how long to stay, when to leave. Your itinerary can be as simple as show up on Saturday and let the captain take you on a great adventure; or you can be actively involved in planning each step along the way. A superyacht vacation is the ultimate customizable break – no lines, no predetermined schedule – just great times with great friends. So, to help the planning process and narrow down your choices, here are a few key questions for you and your travelling party:

### **1. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?**

The destination is as good a starting point as any. Do you have a specific location in mind? How specific is it - do you want to go to the Bahamas, or the British Virgin Islands as an example, or would you be happy anywhere in the Caribbean? Are there specific events that you may want to attend i.e. the 4th of July in Boston, or the Monaco Grand Prix? Do you want an adventure trip in the South Pacific or Alaska? All of these choices are possible, and having at least a broad idea of where you want to go will help determine the best options for you and your party.

### **2. WHO WILL BE TRAVELLING WITH YOU?**

The size and composition of your group will be important, at least in terms of making sure that the yacht options you are presented with have the right sleeping arrangements. How many are in your group? Are they all adult couples, or are there children coming as well? If so, how old are the children? Is your trip a family vacation, or is it a business trip with important clients?

### **3. WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU IN TERMS OF THE ACTIVITIES ONBOARD YOUR YACHT?**

Are you looking for lazy days on secluded beaches on a remote island? Do you want to go fishing or scuba diving or snorkelling? Do you want to have some fun on jet skis, skimming across the ocean waves? Or, would you prefer to visit big cities or ancient villages, exploring wonderful port cities in your destination of choice? Is golf an important item for you? All of these things (and more) are possible on a superyacht vacation, and knowing what you might like to do will also help in determining the right yacht for you.

### **4. WHAT STYLE ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ON YOUR VACATION?**

Is your group looking for a relaxed and casual vacation, taking each day as they go, and having meals on the back deck, or picnics on a beach? Or, are you looking for formal dinners

in a sit down setting, with white glove service? Understanding your expectations in terms of the service style is important in finding the best crew for your group. The quality of service will be seven star in either case - it is just the style that you should be thinking about.

## **5. WHAT IS YOUR BUDGET?**

A superyacht vacation can start at \$6,000-8,000 per person for a group of 6-8 people, and it can go all the way up to over a million dollars per week on the biggest and most exclusive yachts. An idea of what you want to spend on your vacation is another one of those key questions to start with.

## **KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ADVISOR**

The following set of questions are things that you will need to ask the travel advisor or broker that you are working with to plan your trip.

### **1. WHAT IS THE STYLE AND COMPOSITION OF THE CREW?**

Many people looking to charter a yacht focus almost exclusively on the yacht itself. Truth be told, the perfect vacation experience onboard a superyacht vacation all starts with the crew. The crew are dedicated professionals and their mission is to ensure you and your group have the best experience possible, all in an environment of safety and security. Within a day or so, the crew will know what you like in your coffee and how often your drink needs to be refilled. That is their job, and they do it well. You need to know whether or not the crew on the yachts you are considering will match your groups style - casual or formal as an example? What is the composition of the crew - are there both male and female crew members (if that is important for your group)?

### **2. HOW IS THE YACHT OUTFITTED – WHAT TOYS AND ENTERTAINMENT ARE ONBOARD?**

The answers here should match up with your expectations in terms of activities. A tender onboard (or towed) is a key consideration, as it will help immensely in getting you into special little remote locations that your main yacht may not be able to get to. It can also help in making the most of your days at sea - while you are off fishing or snorkelling, the main yacht could move to the next island location and you could meet up with it there - saving travel time as an example. Jet skis, waterskis, kayaks, water slides, the list of possible toys onboard a yacht is endless and various yachts are outfitted with a variety of those toys.



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### **3. WHAT ARE THE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONNECTIVITY ONBOARD THE YACHT?**

In today's world, connectivity seems to be very, very important. Having solid internet and WIFI connections may be very important for your group to stay in touch with life at home, or it may not. You may need or want to get totally disconnected for a week and truly enjoy a relaxing vacation.

### **4. WHAT STYLES OF CUISINE ARE THE CHEF'S SPECIALITIES?**

This is truly one of the best parts of a superyacht vacation - having access to your own personal chef onboard. The ability to have gourmet meals prepared for you each and every day is an experience everyone should enjoy at least once in their lifetime. Having said that, you also want to make sure that the chef can accommodate any allergies or special dietary needs - vegetarian, vegan, nut allergies, etc. If your group likes Italian or Asian cuisines, or you prefer fresh caught seafood, it is important to know that your chef is ready to cook whatever your heart desires. The preference sheets that you fill out in advance of your charter will help the chef prepare the menu once your trip is booked - it will be important for you to be as specific as possible on those sheets to ensure that you are not disappointed.

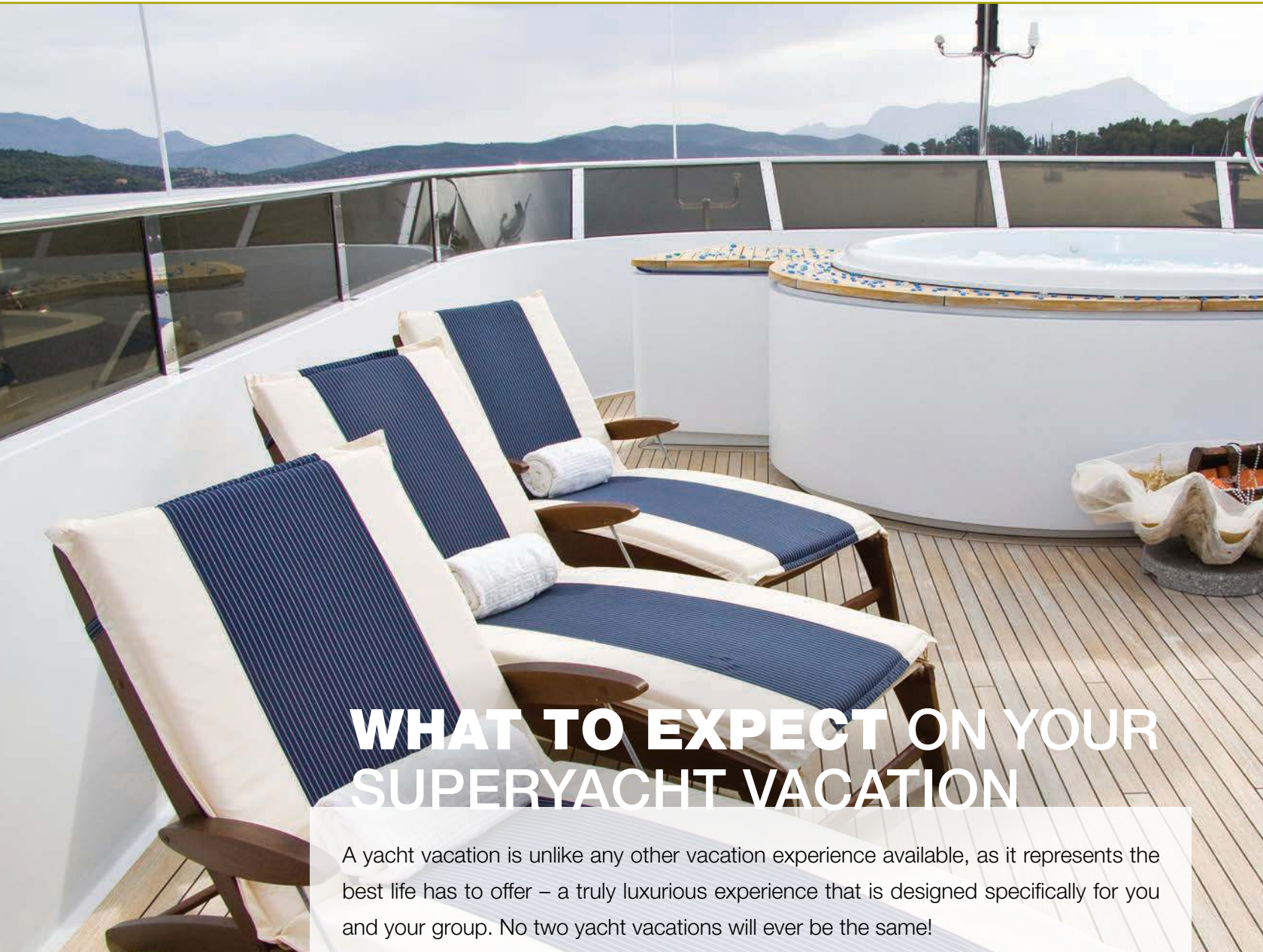
### **5. WHAT FIRST AID AND MEDICAL PROVISIONS ARE ONBOARD THE YACHT?**

Obviously, we hope that nothing unexpected medically happens while you are on your vacation, but as we all know, the unexpected occurs more frequently than we might like. You should ask what the first aid qualifications of your crew are, and how medical events are treated. In the event that someone in your group has special medical conditions, it would be important to let your crew know ahead of time, so that they can be prepared.

### **6. ARE THERE SPECIAL EVENTS THAT YOU ARE CELEBRATING?**

Is there a birthday or anniversary celebration happening during your trip? Any other special events or celebrations? Do you like theme parties or events? If so, be sure to let your advisor and/or crew know ahead of time, so that they can prepare accordingly - nothing would please the crew more than preparing an event to remember for you and your group.

We hope that this guide is a useful start as you begin the planning process for your superyacht vacation. Again, it is important to remember that this is your vacation, your way, so please make sure that you ask the questions that are important to you, and get the answers you need. Your advisor and the crew are there to make the vacation experience the best it can be for your group, and create those memories that last a lifetime. The more information that you provide them, the better able they are to do their jobs.



## WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR SUPERYACHT VACATION

A yacht vacation is unlike any other vacation experience available, as it represents the best life has to offer – a truly luxurious experience that is designed specifically for you and your group. No two yacht vacations will ever be the same!

What can you expect on a superyacht vacation? Well, for starters, you are going to have unbelievable, personalized service from a great crew, catering to every wish and desire you may have. You are going to be able to visit exotic locations that are only available to people on this type of vacation, in many cases your footprints are the only ones on a beautiful beach. And finally, you are being “chauffeured” to each of these locations on a stunning yacht, where, for that week, you will enjoy some of the best things life has to offer.

It all starts with the crew. Most crew are dedicated professionals and their mission is to ensure you and your group have the best experience possible, all in an environment of safety and security. Within a day or so, the crew will have uncovered your expectations, likes and dislikes and ensure they are delivering daily.



You will wake up in the morning to the smell of coffee and fresh muffins baking in the oven. After everyone awakes, your chef will make breakfast, made to order for everyone in your group.

After breakfast, the Captain will ask “What do you want to do today?” It is totally up to you! Go where you want, stay as long as you want, play as hard as you want, or just relax and read a good book.

Sometime in the early afternoon, your chef will offer you lunch. Freshly made soup and salad, or gourmet sandwiches, or perhaps a BBQ on the beach, all to get you prepared for another afternoon of fun in the sun!

An afternoon of snorkeling or scuba diving? Sure. Waterskiing or jet skiing? Why not! Or take the tender and head to the beach, making sure you take the sunscreen. You will return to your yacht for a brief moment to restock the beverage cooler, and then head to yet another beach to watch a perfect sunset in paradise. A magical way to end a magical day!

While you were out for the day, your chef has been busy preparing a gourmet dinner suited to your tastes and preferences. Relax and enjoy the evening, before heading off to sleep. You will need your rest to do it all over again tomorrow!

We also think that a superyacht is a great base for a golf trip or cycling adventure. For the golf enthusiast, imagine waking in the morning with the crew ready to take you ashore to hit the links, enjoying a morning round of chasing the little white ball. After lunch, it’s playtime in the ocean. Sometime during the day, the captain has sailed up the coast or to a new island, and tomorrow you get to do it all over again at a brand new course. Replace your golf clubs with your bicycle if you are a cyclist instead of a golfer, and the same type of trip is available.

The crew will do their best to provide you with the utmost in comfort. Your luxurious accommodations will be suited to your party, where the yacht will have three, four or even five or more cabins, depending on the yacht you select for your trip. Yachts will typically have a master suite and a VIP suite with king or queen beds in each, and then the other suites with a combination of double or twin beds.

There is a global superyacht fleet just waiting for you, in all corners of the earth. You just have to decide where you want to go.



## 15 THINGS TO PACK FOR A YACHT CHARTER VACATION

So, you've booked your first superyacht charter, and any day now you're going to be stepping aboard into a floating world of glamour and adventure. You've come up with the perfect itinerary in collaboration with your yacht broker and yacht captain, and you've filled out your preference sheet so the crew can prepare the yacht beforehand with all your favourite food, drinks and entertainment.

There's only one thing left... and that's **knowing what on earth to pack!**

Packing for a luxury yachting vacation isn't exactly the same as packing for other high-end holidays, and there's nothing worse than getting onboard to realise that your holiday would have been just that little bit better if you'd known more about what electronics, clothes, and accessories would prove useful on board.

We're here to help. We have been lucky enough to spend a lot of time on luxury yachts - whether as charter guests or professional crew, so have the inside knowledge on what you should pack for the perfect holiday.



## 15 THINGS TO PACK FOR A YACHT CHARTER VACATION

**1. Soft, new, white-soled shoes.** Many first-time charter guests don't know this, but most types of shoes are completely forbidden on board a superyacht. High heels dent and ruin the teak, dirt from street shoe soles mark the deck and plush carpets, and black-soled shoes leave horrid scuff marks on floors and staircases. Most yacht guests are happy to go barefoot, but if you'd prefer to wear shoes, buy yourself a pair of white-soled, brand new flat shoes such as loafers—to be worn only while onboard. Alternatively, some yachts will provide white fluffy slippers, or you can bring your own.

**2. Glare-proof electronic screens.** You lie down on a deckchair on the sundeck, champagne fizzing and the Jacuzzi bubbling softly. You pick up your iPad to do some afternoon reading or post some holiday pictures on Facebook... and you can't see a thing with the summer sunshine blazing directly onto your screen. Before your holiday, invest in some glare-protectors for tablet and phone screens, which will improve readability in full sunlight. For reading, Kindle has an excellent in-built glare resistance.

**3. As much swimwear as you can fit.** The one item of clothing you'll wear more than any other is swimwear- and they're tiny, so you won't waste much space packing them. Why not splash out on a few new pairs of designer swimwear before your holiday to make you really feel the part of the superyacht set.

**4. The right international adaptors.** You might be chartering an Italian-built boat, owned by a Japanese family, cruising American waters, so it's probably safe to say that you don't know what the plug sockets on board are going to look like... or if there will be enough of them. Find out from your broker which type of electrical sockets the boat has, and throw in a couple of international adaptors and double adaptors for good measure. The yacht will almost certainly provide an international adaptor for each cabin, but unless you only have one electronic device, that's not going to be enough!

**5. Your favourite TV or Movie Downloads.** While generally pretty good, the Wi-Fi signal on yachts often isn't as strong as on land. If you're desperate to watch a certain series or movie while on holiday, play it safe and download it beforehand rather than depending on streaming it at the time—particularly if you're cruising away from major centres. (This might be a particularly useful tip if there are any teenagers or Game of Thrones fans in your group.)

**6. Soft-shell luggage.** This one is often unexpected, which leaves some yacht guests living with their hard-shell suitcases blocking corridors or even sitting awkwardly in the corner of their luxurious cabin! Remember, even though your luxury yacht looks like a designer mansion inside...it's still a boat, so storage will almost always be an issue. Unless you're chartering a massive megayacht, pack in soft-shell luggage that can be folded down to fit away neatly in the bilges and out of sight.

**7. Multiple hats.** Most women imagine sitting under a giant floppy hat while on a yachting vacation; the men perhaps see themselves in a fashionable trilby. Which is all well and good, as long as the wind isn't blowing or you're not sitting in a high-speed tender flying across the water at 30 knots. Countless hats go over the side on a yachting holiday, never to be seen again. So bring caps for windy days and tender rides, and then glam it up as much as you like on the still days.

**8. Light, summery clothes.** Unless you're chartering in cooler climes like Norway or Alaska, you'll overwhelmingly be wearing light clothes made of soft cottons and linens. Think colourful kaftans, sarongs, light coloured slacks, flowing dresses and comfortable shorts. While your attire on board can be as casual or dressy as you like, it's always a good idea to bring some dressy clothes for the evening if going ashore, as yachting ports are often quite fancy places and many restaurants and clubs have strict 'smart casual' dress codes.

**9. Sunglasses.** You technically only need one pair, but superyachts and sunglasses are a match made in heaven. Bring one pair for each deck of the yacht to save you having to walk up and down stairs...and one more for good measure. Sounds decadent? Totally, but this is a superyacht holiday, remember?

**10. Comfy sweatpants and a light jumper.** Most people don't automatically think 'warm clothes' when booking a Caribbean holiday, but the wind can often pick up unexpectedly at sea so it's nice to have a light jumper or windcheater handy for when the yacht is underway. Also, it's relaxing to have comfy clothes for snuggling up and watching TV at night in your lovely air-conditioned cabin.

**11. Seasickness tablets and medications.** Different seasickness medications seem to work differently on everyone, so if you suffer from seasickness then be sure to pack what works for you. The yacht will certainly carry seasickness meds, but not necessarily the ones you prefer. As for your other medications or natural

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remedies, stock up beforehand. The yacht carries a medical kit for general issues but it can't be exhaustive, and you certainly don't want to waste your yachting vacation at the doctor or pharmacy chasing prescriptions!

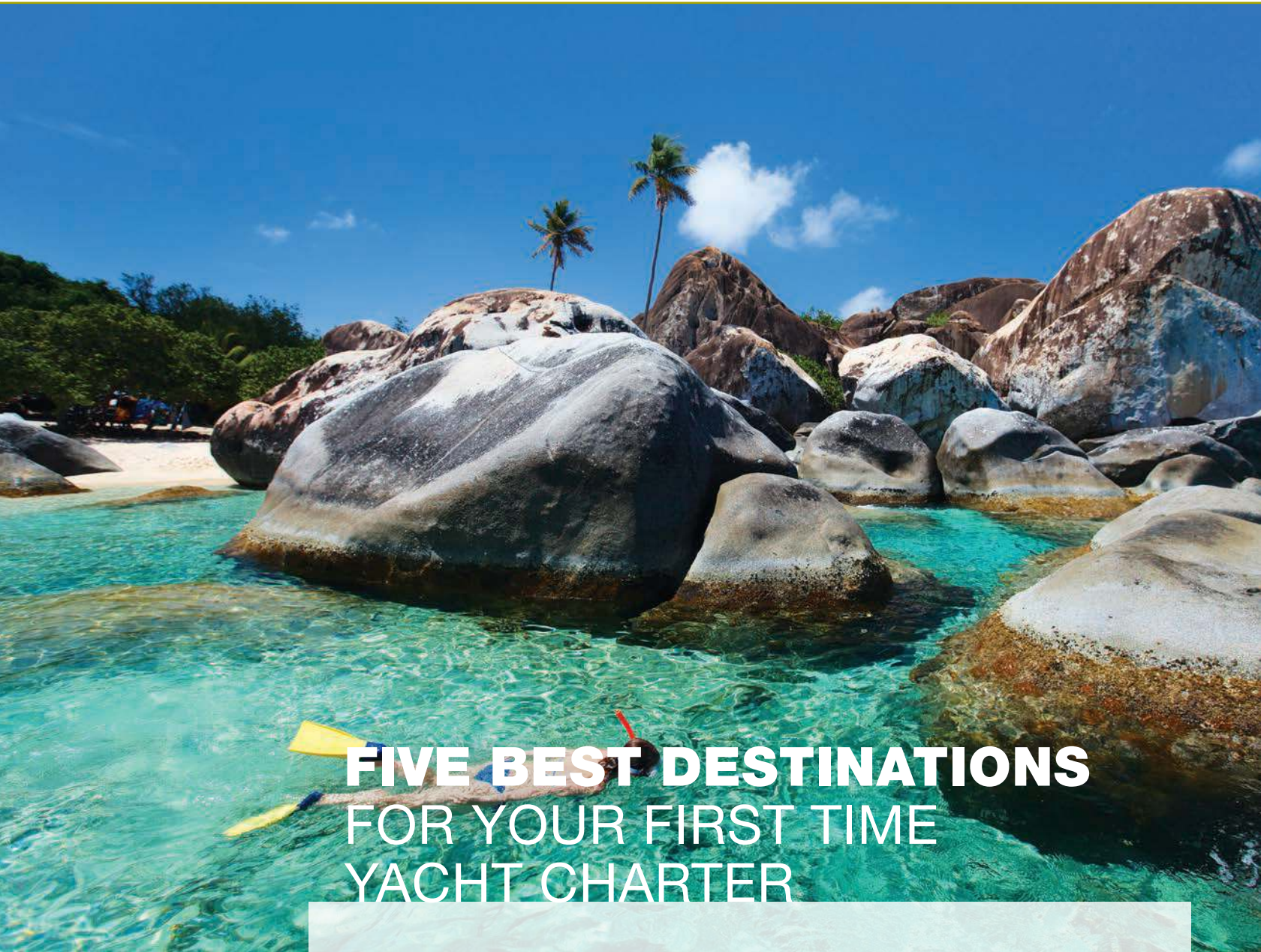
**12. Favourite toiletries and sunscreen.** The yacht will have toiletries (and nice ones, too). However, on most charter yachts you will be charged for the toiletries under the 'consumables' section of the charter agreement, so if you have a particular brand you like using, bring it from home if you have the space in your luggage and you want to keep your charter bill down. Also, don't bring suntan oils as they mark the decks and upholstery, so you may foot a bill at the end for any damage.

**13. A good camera.** Smartphone cameras are good, but they don't tend to function as well as designated cameras in conditions with lots of glare, haze, and sunlight. Bring a good digital camera, and if you can get your hands on an underwater camera all the better- they are some of the most brilliant vacation shots of all!

**14. Earplugs.** Don't worry, your cabin isn't going to be loud, in fact they're normally beautifully calm and quiet. However, some guests spend the first night in their comfy bed aware of the unfamiliar creaks of the yacht, the soft hum of the air conditioner, or the lap of the water on the side of the hull. They're not unpleasant noises, just different. So if you're a light sleeper, pop some earplugs in your bag. Most people don't ever need them (in fact they love hearing the water lull them to sleep), but there's no harm packing a pair for that first night just in case.

**15. Exercise gear.** Lots of yachts have exercise gear like a treadmill onboard, or you might like to have a yoga class onboard or at a resort ashore. If you've got space, throw in those sneakers and gym gear, they might end up being the perfect outfit for a hike in the jungle or a run along the beach, even if the idea of a treadmill on holiday is not for you. Why not bring your Fitbit or Apple Watch to see how much action you really get up to on holiday?

**There's one last piece of advice we have for you.** Despite all of these things you should consider taking, do remember not to pack too much. Storage and cupboard space on board tends to be limited, so give yourself plenty of time to plan outfits, find out what's already onboard, and pack cleverly before casting off on your luxury yacht adventure.



## **FIVE BEST DESTINATIONS FOR YOUR FIRST TIME YACHT CHARTER**

SO YOU'VE DECIDED ON A LUXURY YACHT HOLIDAY FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION. BUT WHERE DO YOU BEGIN? WHEN FACED WITH UNLIMITED CHOICE, HOW DO YOU DECIDE? AS A QUICK INTRODUCTION, WE'VE ROUNDED UP WHAT WE FEEL ARE THE FIVE BEST DESTINATIONS FOR FIRST-TIME CHARTERERS.





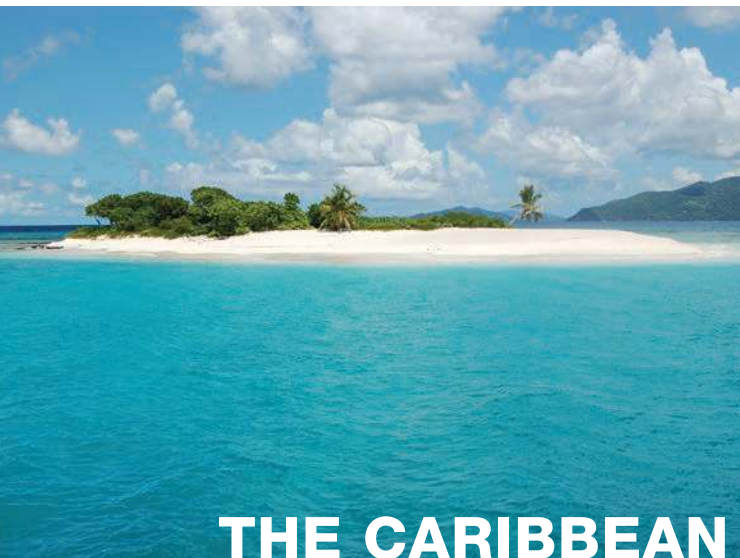
After all, it's not just you that you're thinking about. There are 8 to 12 of you coming along on this spectacular superyacht vacation, and everyone likes different things. Your teenage girl adores shopping, you love diving, your son is becoming quite the little surfer and your wife is simply mad about good restaurants. Your toddler doesn't know what she likes yet (but will quickly and loudly alert you if she doesn't approve of something), while your parents are getting on a bit and just want a relaxing holiday with lots of good books, a comfy deckchair and some spectacular scenery. Your wife's parents, on the other hand, seem to have ants in their pants and enjoy every activity under the sun, while your 22 year old nephew just wants to meet girls.

This may or may not sound like your family, but a superyacht vacation really can suit everyone when you pick the right cruising grounds.

There are a few things you might need to look for to choose your first yacht charter destination.

- 1. Lots of destinations within a short cruise of each other.**
- 2. Sheltered anchorages and marinas with good facilities.**
- 3. Calm waters, low winds.**
- 4. A range of different activities, onboard and ashore.**
- 5. Spectacular scenery**
- 6. Towns with good shopping, restaurants and nightlife.**
- 7. Good Wi-Fi coverage** (this varies between yachts and between regions).

So, where to start? We've put together a list of what we think are the best cruising grounds for first time charterers in each region. They don't necessarily fill all of the above criteria, but they do meet the first crucial 5.



## The Virgin Islands

With more than 60 islands within a short hop of each other and calm, sheltered waters, the Virgin Islands are considered one of the best first-time yacht charter destinations on earth. Gentle winds, deep water and a multitude of secluded anchorages make the British Virgin Islands and the US Virgin Islands ideal. It also helps that they're outrageously pretty, with vivid green rainforest running from volcanic peaks down to the turquoise seas and dazzling white sands. Whether shopping in St Thomas, diving the reef of Anegada, surfing the break at Tortola, snorkelling the Baths at Virgin Gorda or partying on Jost Van Dyke, the Virgin Islands delivers a charter experience to all tastes.



## Croatia

Croatia has become the darling of the yachting set over the last decade, and it offers a particularly good yachting destination for first time yacht charterers. With excellent marinas, thousands of sheltered anchorages and over 700 islands within short cruises of each other, a summer charter in Croatia almost always offers calm seas, warm air and gentle breezes. Not to mention the simply spectacular coastline of mountains, rolling lavender fields and ancient cities, glamorous beach clubs and boutique shopping.



## French Riviera

To get a taste of what yachting is all about, come back to where luxury yachting was born on the French Riviera. Very few places on earth can challenge the glamour and excitement of a French Riviera yacht charter, and because it is the birthplace of the superyacht industry, there is an abundance of world-class yacht marinas and stunning anchorages. Cruise under clear summer skies from the casinos and cliffs of Monaco to the superclubs and boutiques of Cannes, and down to the beach clubs and fine restaurants of Saint Tropez. It's not all glamour though, you'll find quiet beauty in the forests of the Porquerolles, the towering empty cliffs of the Calanques, the crystal clear coves of the Cannes Islands and the picturesque medieval hill villages overlooking the coast.

## The Whitsunday Islands, Great Barrier Reef, Australia

The 74 tropical islands, calm sapphire waters and protected anchorages make the Whitsundays an ideal yachting destination for first time charterers keen for a tropical escape. Blessed with simply spectacular white sand beaches, waving coconut palms and the world-famous Great Barrier Reef, the Whitsundays also have several superyacht marinas and many high-end resorts for fine dining, golf and relaxation. While the shopping and nightlife might not be world-class, Airlie Beach on the mainland does offer a fun party vibe, and anyone who likes to dive or snorkel will simply be in heaven.



## New England

This was a tough one to decide, and New England only edged out the beautiful Florida Keys by a whisker. New England offers staggering diversity for a summer yacht charter, from the art galleries and lighthouses of Nantucket to the rugged coastline and deep pine forests of Maine. With six US States in a very small geographic area, you can cruise easily between the long sweeping beaches and summer homes of Martha's Vineyard to the regattas and grand mansions of Newport, or dock under the skyscrapers in cultured, exciting Boston. Of course, the glittering nightlife and shopping of the ever-fashionable Hamptons are only a short cruise away, as is the thriving metropolis of New York.



## THE FINAL DECISION: UP TO YOU!

There are of course many other brilliant yachting destinations for first time charterers, and your yacht broker will be able to advise you properly on what's best for your charter group's individual needs.

WHEREVER YOU CHOOSE, A WELL-PLANNED YACHTING ITINERARY WILL DELIVER A SUN-BRONZED, HAPPY FAMILY WHO HAVE ALL SPENT THEIR VACATION DOING THE THINGS THAT THEY LOVE. AND THAT'S WHAT A SUPERYACHT VACATION IS ALL ABOUT. HAPPINESS, FOR EVERY ONE INVOLVED.



# BEST YACHT CHARTER DESTINATIONS FOR WILDLIFE-SPOTTING

When planning where to go on a yacht charter, there are three main attributes that people tend to focus on: sugar-white beaches, world-class restaurants and staggering scenery. So far, so good. After all, these are excellent things to focus on.

Yet perhaps we're missing something. In my experience on yachts, I found that the factor that elevated a yacht charter from the gorgeous to the utterly spectacular was more often than not...

Animals. They are the secret ingredient to a wildly successful yacht charter.

For instance, I will never forget the charter in the Maldives when a notoriously grumpy Russian oligarch arrived back on deck in his wetsuit after a night dive, punching the air, grinning from ear to ear and babbling like a teenage girl at a Justin Bieber concert after swimming with a huge school of hammerhead sharks.



Or the guests leaning over the side of the yacht in New Zealand as the yacht cruised slowly through a huge colony of walrus seals, all floating with their flippers crossed over their fat bellies as if they were leaning back on armchairs in the ocean. In a moment of perfect timing, the fin of a killer whale split the glassy water and all hell broke loose.

From seals and tortoises in the Galapagos to bears and whales in the Alaskan wilderness, a yacht charter is the ideal way to get up close to wildlife in a pristine environment. Yet you don't even have to go off the beaten track to experience wild and wonderful animals on a yacht charter- some of the most extraordinary sights are just a short hop from the US, or even on its shores.

So we have put together a list of the best locations around the world for wildlife-spotting on a yacht charter. Some near, some far, some jaw-dropping and some just downright funny, these wildlife yacht charter experiences will create memories that go far beyond boutique shopping and crystal clear waters of a more traditional yacht charter.

## **GREAT WILDLIFE CHARTER DESTINATIONS**

### **Costa Rica**

Just a short hop from the U.S., Costa Rica is an astonishingly good location for a wildlife-spotting yacht charter. The waters abound with dolphins, turtles, manatees, and frolicking humpback whales and their calves, the whale watching season here is the longest on the planet. Surely one of the great experiences of a yacht charter in Costa Rica is diving down to the ocean floor and watching graceful manta rays float above you. On land, the jungles and cloud forests of Costa Rica provide an immensely rich ecosystem for monkeys and toucans, sloths and even shy, furtive jaguars. In fact, National Geographic named the Corcovado National Park on Osa Peninsula the 'Most Biologically Intense Place on Earth', which surely warrants a visit!

### **The Galapagos**

All wildlife fanatics crave a visit to the Galapagos in their lifetime, and little wonder. These remote islands off the coast of Ecuador changed our understanding of the natural world when the diversity of the animals there sparked biologist Charles Darwin to write *On the Origins of Species*. A yacht charter is the only way to do these islands justice, as you dive with whales, penguins and seals, walk among colonies of friendly blue and

red footed boobies and marvel at the giant Galapagos turtles that trundle past under their huge saddle like shells. On a Galapagos yacht charter, the skies, earth and water around you are filled with the sights and sounds of the natural world. As a wildlife destination, can it be beaten?

### The Bahamas

One of the most amusing sights of the yachting world must be the famous swimming pigs of Exuma in the Bahamas. These pigs swim out to the yachts hoping to be fed, their pink snouts poking above the clear sapphire waters and their little pink trotters paddling furiously beneath. The seabirds will often join in on the action, perching on the pig's backs hoping to catch some stray food. Pigs may not fly here, but neither do the 'dragons' - the Bahamian Dragon in this case, a rare species of iguana. When it comes to things that do fly, birdwatchers will be delighted with the tiny wood star hummingbird and the colourful Bahamian parrot. Not enough for you? Well you'll be happy to know that the world beneath the surface is even richer, with teeming coral reefs and deep caves full of wonderful marine creatures.

### New Zealand

What a country this is! While many may not immediately think of New Zealand when planning a yacht charter destination, I would class New Zealand as one of the must-sees on the yachting map, largely because of the astonishing wildlife you can see up close during a yacht charter. I've already mentioned the killer whales and sea lions; what I failed to mention was the humpback whales, the colonies of walrus seals, the pretty little fjord penguins and tiny dolphins of the Sounds, and the wonderful bird life swooping across the skies above the yacht. With scenery quite literally out of a fantasy movie (Lord of the Rings even fails to do this landscape justice), there are few better places to see animals in their natural habitat than New Zealand.

### Alaska

In quiet fjords under the midnight sun, killer whales breach and slap their tails to hunt, circling in on their prey. Bald eagles soar above glaciers and snow-capped mountains, and grey wolves stalk quietly through the forest, blending in with the timber. On the riverbanks and beaches, big grizzlies and brown bears catch fish, swiping at spawning salmon with their huge furry paws. Birds gather round, waiting for the scraps of rich pink meat left on the river stones, while just offshore, rare salmon sharks (mini great whites) also come to the feast. Don your scuba gear with a guide and explore the pristine reefs, finding giant Pacific octopus, stellar sea lions and wolf eels. Back on land, harbour seals

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rest on the docks of fishing villages and moose stand on ridges, antlers silhouetted against the sky. Alaska is an opportunity to see some of the great predators and prey of our world in majestic scenery.

## The Great Barrier Reef, Australia

This year, head Down Under and charter a private yacht to visit the Great Barrier Reef, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. So large you can see it from outer space, this coral reef is the world's largest living organism, stretching for a staggering 1600 miles up the northeast coast of Australia. Pull on your snorkel or scuba gear and dive off the yacht's swim platform into a magical underwater world where colourful coral grows in fantastic shapes and vast schools of tropical fish flit and dart about in the warm, sunlit waters. Giant 300 pound groupers hide in the shadows, a reef shark cruises for food, and sea turtles move slowly through the endless blue. The Great Barrier Reef must be on every wildlife-lover's bucket list, but that's not all this stunning tropical paradise has to offer. Back on the North Queensland mainland you can take an adrenaline-filled safari up the crocodile-infested Persopine River, see kangaroos and emus grazing on grassy mountainsides, and possums, cassowary birds and koalas in the forests. When you've seen enough of Australia's bizarre creatures, you can hop back on your luxury yacht and cruise the mesmerizing beaches of the Whitsunday Islands, or cool off in a deep rainforest pool under a waterfall. North Queensland offers a spectacular yacht charter experience for wildlife enthusiasts. However, the Great Barrier Reef is in grave danger from warming sea temperatures, so do yourself a favour and visit this region before this natural wonder of the world is lost to us forever.

## Thailand

Thailand is on a rapid rise as a superyacht destination, with new charter licenses and developing yacht marinas finally making the most of this spectacularly beautiful and exotic land. Thailand offers the yacht charterer a wild and wonderful array of creatures: tigers and leopards and bears, monkeys, mongoose, rhinoceros, water buffalo-and of course, the mighty elephant. In the water you'll find fabulous coral reefs that teem with life, you can even dive on a reef just off magnificent Ko Phi Phi island where the blockbuster movie *The Beach* was filmed. Other marine creatures in Thailand include otters, beaked whales and false killer whales, and all manner of turtles and dolphins. In the skies, meanwhile, you will find a thousand species of birds, this place is truly a twitcher's delight.

On your yacht charter in Thailand, cruise through the famous limestone outcrops of Krabi and Phuket, and drop anchor off perfect beaches and in deep blue lagoons.

Enjoy the local cuisine of creamy coconut curries, chilli and lemongrass, and relax with a Thai massage in a bamboo hut overlooking the sparkling sea.

Expect to hear a lot more in coming years about yacht charters in Thailand, or be some of the first to explore its wild treasures by yacht.

### Maldives

This tiny string of tropical islands far out in the Indian Ocean is heaven for divers- and easily one of the most unforgettable yacht charter destinations on earth. At anchor at night in the Maldives, you can hear the dolphins squeak and breathe heavily through their blowholes as they chase fish around the yacht. On the ocean floor, a huge carpet of corals and fans are home to schools of brightly coloured fish, small reef sharks, manta rays, barracuda, groupers, unicorn fish and whale sharks.

If you don't dive, never fear, the snorkelling is brilliant too. In fact you can climb out of your hammock on the beach, walk into the water and before long the sugar soft sands give way to the coral reefs that ring these remote islands. When you're done exploring for the day, perhaps it's time to visit one of the luxury spas in huts built over the crystal clear water, or there's the famous underwater restaurant where you can dine in absolute luxury while watching the action of the reef moving all around you.

Sadly, the Maldives will probably be lost in our lifetimes due to rising sea levels, so make sure you book a luxury yacht charter to this extraordinary place before it disappears beneath the waves.

### Indonesia

This vast archipelago in South East Asia is another rising star on the superyacht scene, and its pristine ecosystem increasingly lures wildlife-spotting charters to its tropical shores. Indonesia boasts coral reefs beyond counting, and its waters hold the most biological diversity on earth. Migrating whales and prehistoric fossil fish are worth making the trip for alone, while on land you'll find that 40% of the species aren't found anywhere else in the world. Orangutans, giant Komodo lizards, Java Rhinos and dwarf buffalos make Indonesia a spectacular wildlife destination for your yacht charter.

In Indonesia, you can anchor off jungle-covered islands almost untouched by time and progress, and surf beach breaks that have never been surfed before. Take a trip in a traditional outrigger canoe across the crystal clear seas, wakeboard across empty



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bays with a backdrop of mountains, or relax in the exclusive resorts and spas of Bali. A luxury yacht charter in Indonesia will never be forgotten for its wildlife or its staggering beauty. It is far off the beaten track, but for those seeking adventure and animals you have never seen before, you shall find them here.

## Patagonia

Finally, we come to wild, desolately beautiful Patagonia and its extraordinary creatures. Here, on the southern tip of South America, you are very close to Antarctica, and can see many of the wonderful animals without having to journey across the wild Southern Ocean to Antarctic's white wastes. (Although that is highly recommended too!)

On a yacht charter in Patagonia you'll find whales hunting in quiet bays and condors soaring in empty skies, and vast colonies of penguins and elephant seals lining the beaches. In the mountains, the Andean Puma hunts pretty Heurmel deer and Guanacos, the iconic Patagonian llama. Back on your yacht you can cruise by mighty glaciers and up silent waterways. Small dusky dolphins will chase the yacht through this immense landscape of arid and haunting beauty.

Even if you don't go to the locations on this list, a yacht charter will always bring you nature at its finest. Sometimes, pilot whales frolic just off Monaco, the city's cliffs and skyscrapers providing an extraordinary backdrop to their playing and splashing and a rare yacht charter where the dolphins don't stream in from all around to surf and jump in the yacht's wake. The fact is that no matter where you go on a luxury charter, you will marvel at the life around you. Yes, we know there's more, of course there's more. Mexico, Nicaragua and Brazil should be on this list too, as well as a whole host of Asian and Caribbean destinations. And what about Africa; How about safari in South Africa? Madagascar? Seychelles? The list goes on forever.

But the hints we've provided so far should certainly be enough to get you started (and keep you busy for quite a few years). Your yacht broker will be able to help you in more detail, or get in touch with us to find out which yachts we can organize in your favourite locations.

**HAPPY WILDLIFE-SPOTTING. THERE'S TRULY NO BETTER WAY TO DO IT THAN FROM ON A LUXURY YACHT.**



# AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN

## NEW ENGLAND

The New England Coast, stretching from Long Island Sound in the south to Maine in the northeast, offers many opportunities for memorable sailing adventures. The founding shore of America; New England has a unique heritage feel.

The 'Old Country' nature of this cruising destination will see you exploring picturesque islands, coves and quaint cobblestoned villages. New England offers opportunities to wine, dine and unwind in a charming colonial environment.

### Cruising with a difference

Lined with white sand beaches and rolling sand dunes which give way to rock outcrops and pine forests heading further north, and dotted throughout with beautiful historic light houses, New England has plenty to offer. Cool New England waters are teeming with a top shelf array of seafood: scallops, clams, mussels and oysters, as well as beautiful Maine Lobster, Halibut and Codfish.



New England, in climate and weather conditions, can show huge variation. Summer is extremely hot and humid, peaking around August. This is ideal if you are looking to swim, kayak and explore the beaches, or for a family friendly adventure. However, New England comes alive in fall, pumping up the romance and scenery. Autumn tours are breathtaking, with the fall foliage in its full splendour: orange, yellow, scarlet and gold enveloping the coast, making for a scenic cruise of a lifetime.

One of the must see attractions are the mansions lining the shores of Newport, Rhode Island, 'The City by the Sea'. These homes, once country cottages to the affluent New Yorkers of the Post Civil War era, are impressive, all set on majestic grounds, sure to impress.

Explore these majestic manor houses from the water or by foot; a beautiful way to spend an autumn afternoon.

### Culture in Comfort

Hyannis, the hub of the marine community, should also be on your to-do list, the 'Capital of the Cape' is a beautiful sailing destination, the natural harbour full of islands to explore. Venture down the historic main street, then to the West Beach Club or the Hyannis Port Yacht Club; the humming marine centre of Hyannis, Cape Cod's yachting hub. Portland, another onshore destination, the southern sea town of Maine, is an artist's haven, littered with galleries and eateries and quirky boutiques. The old port is a seamlessly revitalised warehouse district, running down to the waterfront which boasts top-end retail, fine dining and entertainment galore.





With a multitude of deep sea anchorage spots and charming attractions to boot, New England offers a uniquely serene summer sailing destination, not to be missed. Home to many boat shows, regattas, festivals and the maritime museum, New England is paradise for keen sailors. Add the priceless historic setting, the beautiful dining, boutique shopping, art galleries galore and cruising adventures and New England really is the trip of a lifetime.

### A coast full of Highlights

That most famous of New England summer resorts, Newport is a must-see for its colonial mansions. With one of the highest concentrations of colonial buildings in the US, this is the spot to wind back to a slower time as you soak up the best of old-world charm. From Newport it's an easy cruise to Martha's Vineyard, where you'll be tempted by the opportunity to swim at any one of the beautiful sandy beaches, and be pulled into this laidback spot's summer pace.

Once you've had your fill of summer, Vineyard style, your captain will set a heading for Boston where your holiday pace will lift. Boston - home to those accents, incredible dining, a thriving city centre with old world charm and the Red Sox of course, is the perfect city break, within a break. And with plenty of home games scattered throughout June, July and August, there couldn't be a better time to be in town.

One of the highlights of the whole coast, of course, is the chance to whale watch. Keep your eyes peeled as you cruise from one beautiful spot to the next, for the finback whales, humpbacks, minke, pilot and false killer whales calling these waters home in July and August.



# FLORIDA

## Main ports:

With its white sand beaches, pulsing Miami night life, colonial charm of St. Augustine, shopping and theme parks in Orlando for the adrenally-inclined, Florida is a destination of sensory spoils, ready to satisfy the needs of every vacationer. For those seeking an ocean escape, Florida can offer breathtaking trips with two coastal borders, in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. With an abundance of secluded beach coves, quaint seaside towns and excellent marina facilities, 1200 miles of Florida coast is yours for the taking.

## Fort Lauderdale

With 3000 hours of sunshine annually, it's difficult not to enjoy sunny Fort Lauderdale. The beach front promenade is bound to charm every visitor, but they stay for the historic intrigue and the luxury dining, shopping and accommodation. North of Port Everglades, centrally positioned between Miami and Palm Beach, the arts and entertainment district are a great reason to come ashore and take in the sights.

Fort Lauderdale's seven miles of well-developed beachfront and further 165 miles of local waterways, is any nautical-lover's dream come true. With sunken ships and expansive coral reefs, the snorkelling or diving opportunities here are abundant, made all the more appealing by the local climate.

A day ashore in Fort Lauderdale could be spent taking in the river walk, otherwise known as 'Florida's most beautiful mile', showcasing boutiques, eateries and museums

amid the lush tropical scenery.

The canal-laced city lends itself perfectly to a cruising adventure, for families and couples alike, the cooling ocean breeze amid the semi tropical climate is bound to soothe the senses. The 200 slips and mooring facilities in the area are bound to entice even the most resistant cruisers to this sunny beach paradise.

## Miami

With its tropical landscape, buzzing nightlife and famous art deco architecture, all bathed in Florida sun, Miami is another 'must see' on your yachting adventure. The high rise cityscape of downtown and the palm tree-lined beaches create the perfect juxtaposition for a high life holiday in the sun. As the fourth largest metropolitan area in the USA, there is much to explore in Miami. With a strong hispanic vibe, Miami's hustle and bustle can offer something for all holiday goers.

Coral Gables, 'The City Beautiful' provides relief from the cosmopolitan swell of central Miami. With tree lined boulevards and an old fashioned vibe, the area, planned in the 1920's provides luxury shopping and specialty dining, the laid back elegance is bound to capture the heart of any traveller. Prepare for ultimate sophistication during this trip ashore.

Miami is a haven for the sailing community, boasting great yacht and cruising clubs up and down the coast. These include the Coconut Grove Sailing club and the Miami Yacht



Club. Life in Miami revolves around the beautiful coast, the locals really share a passion for sailing, water sports and the outdoors.

## The Everglades

Unlike the city buzz of Miami or the history of Fort Lauderdale, you'll be drawn to the Everglades for the isolated beauty of the national park. The wild and natural habitat makes for beautiful cruising, with many isolated spots for overnight stays, the Everglades will allow you to relax and explore like no other destination.

With great walks and trails, the Everglades offer a unique opportunity to get out into the national park and get up close with the local wildlife. Come ashore for the Anhinga Trail or the mahogany hammock and allow yourself to really explore. Kayak tours are another great way to see the Everglades, on guided tours, or a short tender ride from your vessel, which can be docked at the point where the Everglades meet the sea.

## The Florida Keys

Approximately 30 miles south of Miami is the start of the Florida Keys, a 120 mile stretch of over 800 islands, where it will seem like you have entered a whole new world. If you like warm water and fresh fish, the Florida Keys is a must see destination for your trip.

Long a favourite for celebrities such as Ernest Hemingway and Jimmy Buffett, the Keys start at Key Largo, where you will find the only living coral reef in the continental United





States (and the third-longest in the world), an ideal spot for scuba divers and snorkelers alike. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary are home to some of the best diving in the Keys, where you will not only experience an amazing underwater ecosystem, but also oddities like the Christ of the Abyss, an 11-foot bronze statue of Christ with his arms raised up towards the sun.

As you head towards the Middle Keys, you should make a stop at Islamorada, the “sportfishing capital of the world” and try your hand at catching dinner. Once you reach the Lower Keys, your time at Key West wouldn’t be complete unless you enjoyed sunset at Mallory Square, where the nightly Sunset Celebration can be quite inspiring.

### St Augustine

Abounding in romance and history, St Augustine is the perfect spot to stop and get your dose of colonial USA history. Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park is one of the many sights to see in St Augustine, along with the truly stunning ‘Old England’ type scenery. The diversity of this destination, again is a testament to the diversity of the Florida coast.

The stark contrast to the beach-lined coast of Miami is welcome, the Florida coast offers exciting and diverse cruising, giving you a taste of the Atlantic, in the perfect climate for relaxation and rejuvenation. The ocean is always calling in Florida, the sunniest state. The question is, why not plan your next adventure along these long and luscious shores Florida’s notoriously sunny state is the perfect destination, lending itself to the nautical adventurer, year round. With cities and secluded coastal destinations, the Florida coast is a truly rewarding cruising destination.





### Golf anyone? Imagine this...

You awake in the morning to the smell of breakfast specially prepared for you by your own personal chef. After breakfast, you and your guests are taken ashore and head to the links for 18 holes of golf at a fabulous golf course - Florida obviously has many to choose from. In the Miami area, the Trump National Doral Golf Club has five courses to test your skills. Further up the coast in Palm Beach Gardens, you might want to try the PGA National Golf Resort. And even further to the north still, in the St Augustine area, you can play the PGA Tour's home course, TPC at Sawgrass.

After your round of golf, you return back to your yacht where the chef has a fresh lunch prepared and cocktails on ice. The afternoon is spent on or in the water, playing with all the toys onboard the yacht - jet skis, kayaks, snorkelling, or just a lazy afternoon at the beach.

SOMETIME DURING THE DAY THE CAPTAIN LIFTS ANCHOR AND SAILS UP THE COAST, WHERE YOU HAVE A FANTASTIC DINNER, AND RELAXING EVENING, GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT DAY, WHERE YOU GET TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN AT A BRAND NEW GOLF COURSE. **THE PERFECT MIXTURE OF TWO GREAT PASSIONS - GOLF AND THE SUPERYACHT VACATION - NEED WE SAY ANYTHING MORE?**



## THE EXUMAS

Looking for your next holiday destination? The Exumas in the Bahamas deserve your careful consideration.

### Activities galore

The water is one reason the Exumas deserve your consideration - blue and crystal clear - and the activities on offer are another. Pigs which swim up to the yacht, jet skiing across open sapphire seas and enjoying fantastic days of fishing (twice when your chef serves up your catch of the day), the Exumas' best features are even better when seen from the deck of your own superyacht.

Between Highbourne Cay and Staniel Cay, there's plenty to keep the kids and adults alike in your party, busy, happy and raving about the holiday of a lifetime for years to come.

Ready for more? Try snorkelling around a sunken airplane at Norman Cay or flying across the open waters on one of the yacht's jet skis - stopping far from anywhere to throw in a line and find a lucky fishing spot to nab yourself dinner.

If you're a Bond fan, you won't want to miss Thunderball Grotto for an easy snorkel into 007 history. Both Thunderball and Never Say Never, Again (each starring Sean Connery) feature scenes filmed at Thunderball Grotto.

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## Easy, accessible and convenient

Fly directly to Nassau from numerous spots in the US and Europe to meet your yacht and begin your vacation. Nassau also boasts two excellent FBOs for private aircraft, all the more convenient for you to quickly get to your vacation destination.

The Exumas chain begins only 30nm from Nassau. Though your superyacht will almost certainly be fitted with gyro stabilizers to keep it steady in a swell, the calm waters of the Exumas mean there are no rolling anchorages to contend with. And that also means no rough, beam sea crossings between islands; if any of your party are concerned they may suffer sea sickness, they can rest easy.

The distances between islands are never more than a short hop, and the clear, shallow water means the bottom is visible over the entire trip. Children will love spotting sea life on the move - there's no boring stretches of sea crossing in the Exumas!

That shallow water also makes for exceptional snorkelling and diving and if that sounds like too much exertion, there are numerous deserted islands and beaches within quick tender ride that only need a towel, a wide hat and a book to make them complete.

With all that warm water and miles of beautiful sandy beaches, you don't need to do much more than find your own deserted island for the afternoon and practice the perfect footprint in the unblemished sand.

If that doesn't sound like enough excitement for you, feeding time with a few of the locals might be more up your alley. Try your hand at lunch with some of the friendly 'pet' sharks or take in iguanas as you cruise by onboard the yacht.

Beware that when you approach Major's Spot Cay you may be subject to some uninvited guests at mealtimes. The domesticated pigs of the island aren't ones to turn up their noses at a free lunch. They exact a toll from yachts visiting their island in the form of treats, tossed from the side of the boat and you can expect to see them swimming towards you for their share of your goodies, as you approach the Cay.

If a holiday without golf sounds like no holiday, make sure you've let your captain know and he'll ferry you between exceptional golf courses, cruising between them in relaxation and privacy as you go.



## THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

This winter, set your course to cruise between the lush jungle peaks of sunken volcanoes and brightly coloured coral reefs in the stunning Virgin Islands. But why do it on a cruise ship or be stuck in busy resorts like everyone else?

Create the holiday your family will talk about forever: take your kids, and their kids, away from it all and charter a luxury private yacht to float through tropical Caribbean paradise...on your own terms. With complete privacy and total luxury, a yacht is the ultimate way to travel as a family- and the best way to bring the generations together.

Look out the porthole of your palatial cabin each morning to see another stunning anchorage you've arrived at overnight: sapphire waters lapping at soft white sands in Tortola, pink flamingos stalking gracefully across salt ponds in Anegada, and the giant boulders and rock pools of Virgin Gorda, shining in the morning sun. Get up, have a fresh breakfast on deck cooked by your private chef- and then dive right in to warm, crystal clear waters to explore the underwater world below.

The Virgin Islands are one of the world's best yacht charter destinations, and not just because they're outrageously pretty, with vivid green rainforest running from volcanic peaks down to the turquoise seas and coconuts washing up on the shore. The Virgin Islands are a perfect cruising ground because there are so many islands within short distances of each other, and heaps to see and do. Everyone will have the time of their lives here, no matter what their ages or interests. We all know that it's sometimes difficult

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to please everyone when the generations come together: a luxury yacht charter in the Virgin Islands will do just that.

Take a hike up to the peak of an extinct volcano to look out across the spectacular coast laid out before you, shop until you drop in vibrant St Thomas, learn to surf at Tortola and sail around the bay at the famous Bitter End Yacht Club in Virgin Gorda. Snorkel the vast horseshoe reef encircling the coral atoll of Anegada, followed by a luxury barbeque on white cloth tables on the beach, eating lobster grilled on the coals and served up with lashings of melted butter. Keen divers will explore the wreck of RMS Rhone off Salt Beach, the Caribbean's best wreck dive, or make their way along Wreck Alley, where ships and aircraft have been deliberately sunk to make homes for sharks, dolphins, turtles and schools of tropical fish. The kids will delight in visiting 'Treasure Island', an old Caribbean pirate haunt- and younger kids will love when the crew lead them on a shwashbuckling treasure hunt around the yacht and ashore.

Watch the teenagers tearing round on the jetskis or wakeboards, take a leisurely kayak through a sea grotto, and be sure to spend a day at the spectacular Baths of Virgin Gorda, some of the most incredible rock pools in the world. Visit pretty Caribbean villages where brightly coloured shacks sell jerk chicken and curried conch, and bare-foot bars serve up rum punch and pina colodas under the palm trees. Get a massage in a luxury beach hut spa, listening to the waves lap gently at the shore, the smell of frangipani and jasmine rich in the air.

When night falls, get dressed up and have cocktails on deck, before jumping in the tender to speed across the moonlit sea, warm night air rushing against your face. Dine at elegant restaurants in glamorous ports filled with other yachts, or onboard the famous Willy T schooner restaurant, where everyone dances on deck to a steel band that plays long into the night.

Other evenings, stay on board your gorgeous yacht enjoying an elegant meal under the stars, while the kids are busy fishing off the aft deck, the water illuminated electric blue by the underwater night lights. Or the family can relax in the Jacuzzi, chatting and watching the stars, or cuddle up in the sky lounge to watch movies with popcorn and fizzy pop.

Yacht holidays are about creating memories with the people you love. This winter, why not have your own, floating, private island as it moves slowly through a perfect world of palm trees, white sands, and laughter. It will be the holiday your family talks about, forever.



# THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

## Main ports:

Long a superyacht charter haven, the US Virgin Islands are blessed with a year-round pleasant climate and clear blue waters, with well-equipped marinas which make for easy cruising.

The U.S. Virgin Islands are a sophisticated alternative to their British neighbours. There's a little bit of everything dotted within the USVIs. Ancient ruins vie with cosmopolitan cities for your attention, while the whole is tied together with that pristine, sparkling water. Deep, lush rainforest tumbles down island slopes to turquoise waters; not just on the main islands of St Thomas, St John and St Croix, but across the whole spread of islets, providing more photo opportunities than you could possibly take advantage of on a single trip.

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The islands boast direct flights from many North American cities and capital city, Charlotte Amalie's port is the most visited in the Caribbean, making the USVIs incredibly easy to reach. Lying in the northern section of the Leeward Islands, this group of islands are a microcosm of the best of the Caribbean, with just as much opportunity to kick up your heels as to lay back with a good book and drift a while.

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## High impact activity on St Thomas

Considered the more sophisticated cruising ground when compared to the neighbouring British Virgin Islands, the USVIs' St Thomas boasts buzzing nightlife, shopping galore and plenty of casinos to offer the perfect foil to all that clear blue serenity offshore.

### DON'T MISS

- Test your skills on the world-class golf course
- Try your luck in a St Thomas casino
- Climb Charlotte Amalie's 99 steps for an unbeatable view across the Caribbean
- Sample St Thomas' three S; shopping, snorkeling and sightseeing
- Visit the second-oldest synagogue in the western hemisphere
- Check out the childhood home of French impressionist, Camille Pissarro
- Take in some steel pan and Calypso in one of St Thomas' buzzing night spots.

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## Cross-culture melting pot in St Croix

St Croix serves up a diverse mix due to the many cultures which have left their stamp on it. This diversity continues in the seas surrounding St Croix where you can dive a wall, wreck, pier and reef all in a day.

### DON'T MISS

- Explore a colonial-era church
- Explore Buck Island, one of three underwater national monuments in the U.S.
- Take in Crucian culture in Christiansted
- Try surfing a local break at Cane Bay Beach
- Visit Captain Morgan's distillery
- Feed a non-alcoholic beer to St Croix's world famous beer-drinking pig at Mt Pelier Domino Club
- Visit the easternmost point in the United States; Point Udall

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## Quiet bays and pirate wrecks on St John

If all of that activity has you ready to wind down, head to St John to soak up its unique brand of laidback romance. Quiet bays and pirate ruins are a recipe for perfect hours spent exploring, and with 60% of its land area formed from a national park, finding a peaceful spot to take it all in is never a problem.

### DON'T MISS

- Step back in time and explore the Annaberg Sugar Plantation Ruins
- Watersports - swimming, diving, waterskiing - whatever takes your fancy, St John is the place to indulge
- Walk the Reef Bay Trail to view ancient Petroglyph rock carvings, before encountering plantation ruins near Genti Bay
- The underwater nature trail at Trunk Bay
- Sample indigenous Caribbean food at one of the locally run restaurants when you hop off the yacht to explore



## THE WINDWARD ISLANDS

In the Windward Islands, lush green mountains rise over beaches where brightly painted fishing boats rest on soft sands under the palms. As your yacht floats southwards on your Windward Islands luxury yacht charter, the landscape becomes more mountainous, the jungle gets deeper, and the reefs below teem with extraordinary life. Time feels slower here in the southern Caribbean Sea, a yachting experience more remote, more mysterious and (dare I say) more authentically charming than the more developed Caribbean islands.



### Martinique

A Windward Islands yacht charter might begin with the Parisian cafes and boutiques of French Martinique, or taking a walk through colourful market stalls piled high with tropical fruit and flowers. On a Martinique yacht charter you can anchor your yacht in a pristine bay surrounded by rolling green hills and dive off into the crystal clear waters to explore the vibrant reefs below. As the sun sets, the smell of French Creole cooking fills the night air and music starts to play in sophisticated lounge bars overlooking the silvery sea.



## St Lucia

Who can ever forget waking one morning to the sight of the Pitons in Saint Lucia-those extraordinary volcanic crags rising from deep blue waters, thin ribbon of sugar-white sand running around the water's edge. Thick rainforest and sparkling waterfalls beckon nature lovers to the interior, while luxury resorts dot the coastline offering massages and swinging hammocks, the smell of jasmine and frangipani floating on the afternoon breeze. St Lucia is one of the top yachting spots of the Caribbean, offering a staggering beauty, fine dining, and a quiet pace of life.

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## Barbados

In Barbados, British red post boxes and old black cannons stand sentry by the sea, and ceiling fans spin lazily in colonial hotels with wide verandas and staff dressed in crisp white. Off the coast, sails snap and billow across the bay, as yachts race around rocky cliffs and wide sandy beaches where coconut palms bend down over the turquoise sea. Old plantations and sugar mills sit on green lawns overlooking the water, and local rum distilleries brew their famous liquor of molasses and local spice.

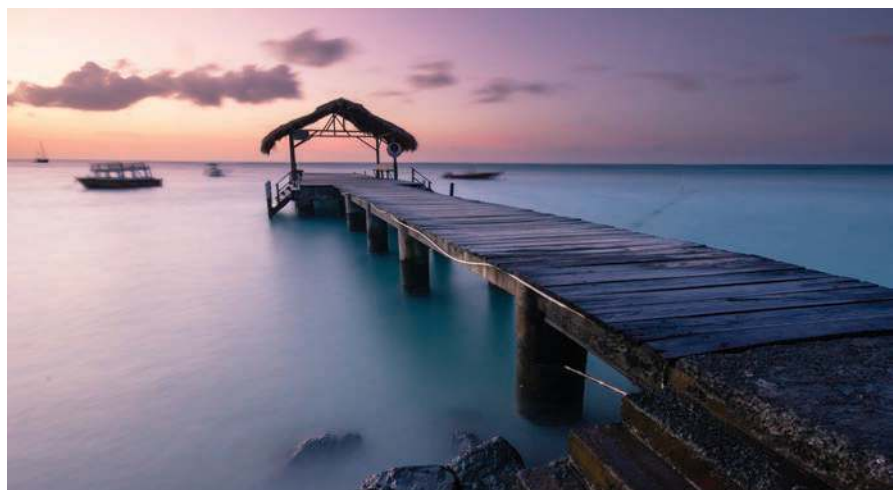
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## Trinidad & Tobago

Further south in Trinidad, calypso music and carnivals fire up the night, with jump-ups and steel bands on moonlit beaches and festival processions marching through the streets. On the eco-tourism island of Tobago things are quieter, with glorious deserted beaches and perfect anchorages, while protected rainforest and marine parks create a haven for world class diving and birdwatching. In Tobago, nature reigns supreme.

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### Diving in the Windward Islands

The Windward Island chain is a world born of volcanoes, and the dramatic scenery you see rising all around is mirrored under the sea's surface, where rivers of lava flows have slowed and cooled upon meeting the ocean, creating an underwater wonderland of fantastical, tumbling shapes, spires drop offs and underwater passages. The mineral rich waters attract an abundance of life such as sea turtles, sharks, manta rays, whales and dolphins in great numbers, and the multitude of wreck dives make the Windward Islands a diver's dream.



### Your Windward Islands Yacht Charter

On your luxury yacht charter in the Windward Islands, float between the peaks of sunken volcanoes and walk along blinding white sand beaches where the clear waters lap at your feet and glimmer with reflected light. Wander through white-painted villages, red roofs and church spires clustered in the jungle by a startlingly blue sea, and shop at local markets and designer boutiques. Whether you seek the glamour of Mustique, the awe inspiring beauty of St Lucia or the vibrant culture of Trinidad, a Windward Islands yacht charter is a life-changing experience where the colour and light will never be forgotten.



## THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

On a luxury yacht charter in the Leeward Islands, sophisticated island glamour blends effortlessly with Caribbean island culture. As your yacht floats through clear sapphire waters from exclusive Saint Barths down to wild Dominica, you'll find that each Leeward island has its individual character, from action-adventure to indulgent bliss... and everything in between.

### Saint Barths

On the ultra-chic French island of St Barthelemy, an old donkey wanders past the window of a Hermes store, and a celebrity wearing a flowing white kaftan and gold sunglasses emerges from a boutique loaded down with shopping bags. Down at the port, opulent superyachts shine in the sun and champagne flows freely at nearby beach clubs and bars just dripping in laid-back glamour. Over the hill, down through the cool jungle, all is quiet as you come out on a beach straight out of a dream, where sapphire waters meet silky soft sands and coconuts wash up on the shore.

**Verdict:** *Saint Barths is certainly a champagne-and-caviar island, spiritual home of the partying jet-set, but it is also a peaceful island of great beauty, of coral reefs and jungle and volcanic hills rising from a turquoise sea. On your yacht charter, explore, dive, windsurf, hike, party till dawn...or just bliss out completely in one of the planet's ultimate luxury destinations.*



### Anguilla

Anguilla is the new darling of the jet-set in the Caribbean, and she knows it. Colourful clapboard shacks sit amongst the lavish spa resorts, and palm trees line quiet beaches of sugar white sand and waters of a dazzling blue. Whales and dolphins play in the crystal clear sea, dive wrecks sit on the sea floor and superyachts come to drop anchor off her perfect shores.

**Verdict:** *Anguilla is a smaller, more tranquil version of Saint Barths, but make no mistake, it's an exclusive retreat-and sheer bliss for fine dining, watersports, indulgent spas and relaxing in a hammock by the water's edge.*

### Barbuda

On Barbuda, frigate birds soar over deserted pink and white sand beaches and quiet lagoons, and a ruined castle tower sits atop the hill. Eerie shipwrecks from days of pirates and warring navies lie on the sea floor, pulled to their watery graves by the stunning coral reefs that encircle this tropical island.

**Verdict:** Part of the country of Antigua, the island of Barbuda is a place for long walks, beachcombing and luxury picnics set upon white cloth tables on the sand. Barely developed and truly tranquil, this is a place to anchor your yacht, dive over the side and swim in the crystal clear waters.

### St Kitts and Nevis

On Nevis, a furry-faced monkey jumps down from the jungle canopy and scampers



cheekily along the beach, past cocktail bars with thatched roofs and tables resting on the sand. Nevis Mountain towers above, its peak swathed in clouds, sloping down to where coconut groves meet golden beaches. Across the water the fertile peaks and valleys of Saint Kitts rise above the clear blue sea and magical coral grottos lie beneath the surface.

**Verdict:** *Saint Kitts & Nevis is rising. With a new luxury yacht marina putting these islands firmly on the superyacht map, this 'Secret Caribbean' of rainforest, volcanic mountains and golden and black sand beaches will soon be a lot busier. For now, this is a place for hiking, swimming and snorkelling the coral reefs, and watching that a monkey doesn't steal your cocktail.*

## Montserrat

On the lush mountainous island of Montserrat, the vengeful volcano still bubbles and steams. In its shadow lies the ruined city of Plymouth, the buildings buried in a thick crust of lava from the 1995 eruption. Deserted houses up the hill are slowly being claimed back by jungle, vines and roots cracking the bricks and mortar and pulling off corrugated roofs, and where plates still rest on kitchen tables from where they were abandoned in the rush to escape the burning red flow. There's an apocalyptic eeriness to Montserrat, although life carries on in the pretty villages and resorts along the coast, where black sand beaches are vivid against green jungle and rocky cliffs fall away into deep blue sea.

**Verdict:** *Visitors to the 'Emerald Isle' of Montserrat generally come to see the volcano*



*that wreaked havoc, and no wonder, it is an extraordinary sight. Because the volcano is still active, there is an exclusion zone covering much of the island. Hike up through the verdant rainforest to spectacular lookouts or the Volcano Observatory, or take a helicopter ride above the volcano, finishing the day watching the sunset from your yacht.*

### Guadeloupe

On Grande Terre Island, chic French eateries and bungalow resorts hide under the palms on desperately pretty beaches. Tropical fruit stands sell coconuts and pineapples under makeshift awnings, and painted fishing boats are pulled up on the shore, piled high with nets and coloured plastic baubles. So far, so relaxed. Yet Guadeloupe has a split personality: on Basse Terre, the mountainous western island in the Guadeloupe chain, you'll find rocky cliffs and exhilarating dives, and challenging hikes up into dense rainforest and up into the clouds.

**Verdict:** *Guadeloupe is a fantastic place to visit on a yacht due to its white sand beaches yet epic potential for action and adventure. Its French-Caribbean way of life is full of charm, and you feel the stress just melting away...*

### Dominica

In 'Nature Island' Dominica, a huge crater lake boils on the top of a mountain, and plumes of sulphur and steam wind their ways through the jungle from the apocalyptic 'Valley of Desolation.' Sparkling waterfalls thunder through the rainforest into cool deep pools, and hot springs create natural baths where you can lie at night drinking spiced rum and watching the fireflies. On the coast, an old man walks along the sandy beach



selling coconuts, slashing the top off with a machete to get to the cool water inside. All around, the volcanic cliffs fall away into deep blue waters that teem with large marine life, and hot bubbles fizz from the ocean floor, creating the famous Champagne Pools. In the north, a boat ride through the forest takes you back to a time of the Carib Indians, poling along the quiet river and deep into the interior.

**Verdict:** *When it comes to nature, the Commonwealth of Dominica is hard to beat. This is a fairly undeveloped island with a strong focus on eco-resorts and adventure activities; hike, kayak, dive...or just relax under a waterfall in the jungle.*

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FROM MOUNTAINS AND JUNGLES TO CORAL ATOLLS AND GLAMOROUS BEACH CLUBS, THE LEEWARD ISLAND CHAIN OFFERS AN ALMOST BEWILDERING ARRAY OF BEAUTY, CULTURE AND EXCITEMENT. ON YOUR LUXURY YACHT CHARTER, YOU CAN SET THE PROGRAM AS YOU CRUISE BETWEEN SOME TRULY HEAVENLY SCENERY. **HOWEVER, WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO, IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO COME BACK MORE THAN ONCE.**



## THE GRENADINES

Deep in the south of the Caribbean Sea you will find a quiet paradise under the waving coconut palms as you cruise between the glorious islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on your luxury yacht charter.

In the Grenadines you'll find brightly painted shacks selling curried conch and local spiced rum, and steel bands playing on the beach in the moonlight. It's a place of violent red sunsets and anchorages so crystal clear that you can see the pink coral and the conch shells sitting on the sea floor far below.

As you cruise on your yacht through the Grenadines, rocky volcanic islands rise from the water, covered in thick rainforest. Waterfalls thunder deep in the interior and plantations of banana and spice line the lush green hills. The beaches go on and on in this perfect paradise, the jungle meeting the sea in a blinding stretch of sugar white sand and coconut palms bending low over sapphire waters.

In Grenada you'll find open air markets selling exotic fruits and hessian bags of fragrant spices and tropical flowers dripping in the sunshine after a sudden Caribbean downpour. Children run in the streets with big white smiles, and painted fishing boats bob in pretty harbours, coconuts washing up on the shores.



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You'll find uninhabited islands protected by a horseshoe reef in the Tobago Cays, where you can swim with turtles or kayak through the gorgeous scenery made famous in the films *The Pirates of the Caribbean*. Dive among the coral and conch shells, and ride horses along the beach, their hooves kicking spray in the air as they gallop through the surf. Spend your days lying on a deckchair reading, wakeboard across wide empty bays or hike to the top of forested mountains to enjoy the view.

Visit the old whaling island of Bequia and cruise past the beautiful celebrity homes of Mustique. Be sure to spend some time on Salt Whistle Beach, visit the waterfalls on Grenada and dive at Isle de Ronde, where you'll find an underwater volcano, giant drop-offs and caverns that glisten with quartz and giant stalactites.

Back on land, while away an afternoon sitting on a cane chair on the shaded verandah of an old colonial hotel, enjoying the afternoon breeze rising off the water and looking across the green lawn where old black cannons point out to sea, a reminder of the days when pirates and French and British navies battled over these islands.

Set sail to find a deserted beach where your yacht chef will roast fresh-caught lobster on the coals, served with lashings of melted butter and lemon juice and a crisp glass of white wine at an elegant white cloth table on the sand. Or you can head to one of the luxury resorts for some pampering, fine dining and some world class golfing.

On your yacht charter, you can spend long lazy nights sitting on deck in the warm night air, looking up at the stars from the bubbling Jacuzzi, or playing cards at the table by candlelight as the yacht powers quietly through the night to the next beautiful destination.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES IS WONDERFULLY UNSPOILT AND **PERFECT FOR THE LUXURY YACHT CHARTERER WHO WANTS TO RETURN TO NATURE IN A TRANQUIL ISLAND PARADISE.**



## PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is rising as a yacht charter destination. Not only does this sunny Caribbean island offer a vibrant art and food scene, beautiful colonial architecture, and stunning beaches fringed by coral reefs and rainforest, but Puerto Rico's outlying Spanish Virgin Islands also offer pristine cruising through an undeveloped archipelago often likened to the BVI's of 40 years ago.

Whether bathing in a deep pool under a waterfall, learning to surf along the wild beaches of Ricon, or kayaking through waters so rich in bioluminescence that it looks like it contains all the stars in the universe, Puerto Rico is an astonishing discovery.

This is a country enjoying a cultural renaissance, with a huge amount to offer to the elite traveller. On a yacht charter in Puerto Rico you'll discover a place of rich colour and life, of quiet islands and sunlit seas, of rainforest and magical caves, and of course, that deep salsa beat that gets your foot tapping under the Caribbean sun.

Go to Puerto Rico, go now. For everyone will be going before long; these islands are called the islands of enchantment for a reason.

### Mainland Puerto Rico

**Culture, shopping and history in San Juan:** Wander the cobbled streets of San Juan, past colourful houses and cool dark bars where old men in Panama hats

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and crisp white shirts sit puffing away at cigars and playing dominoes at Formica-topped tables. San Juan is extremely well set-up for foreign visitors, with designer boutiques sitting side by side with stylish restaurants and trendy new design shops popping up in gentrified warehouse districts. History lovers will enjoy the El Morro fort on the headland at Old San Juan, the oldest Spanish colonial outpost in the world. At night, this is a city with a salsa beat: you'll find speakeasies and cocktail bars and dancing in the streets, or you can install yourself in a glamorous beach club with a sunset view over the ocean.

**El Yunque Rainforest:** This national park is so extraordinary that it competed alongside the Grand Canyon for the title of New Seven Wonders of the World. Take a short drive inland through coffee plantations and local villages and you'll soon come to a spectacular place of thundering waterfalls, jungle vines, rare orchids and dripping ferns. Further inland you'll find Spanish hill towns and ranches that breed the famous Paso Fino Horses.

**Cave Network:** Visit the Rio Camuy Cave Park, the third largest river cave system in the world. Take a tour through tunnels, sinkholes and underground rivers, marvelling at the forest of huge stalactites and stalagmites all around you.

Golf, shopping, luxury resorts, deep sea fishing: With world-class golf courses, incredible sportfishing, the largest shopping mall in the Caribbean, and high end spa resorts, the Puerto Rico mainland has something for everyone.





## THE SPANISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Technically called the Passage Islands, this small cluster of tropical islands and cays lies just off the coast of Puerto Rico, within a very short cruise of the US and British Virgin Islands. Long cut off from the world and used as a US military testing ground, the Spanish Virgin Islands were closed to visitors until 2003. As such, development is extremely minimal, with lush nature reserves and pristine beaches and coral reefs. This relative lack of development has led many people to liken these beautiful, quiet islands to the BVI's of the 1970's. This is 'yacht charter as time travel' territory.

That's not to say that there hasn't been change. A couple of swanky resorts now grace the islands' pretty coves, and while the locals still ride their horses bareback along village streets dusted with a fine layer of beach sand, there's every chance they'll be talking on their mobile phones while they do it. This is a place that wears its history well, with spectacular contrasts around every corner. On a deserted beach, a hulk of a military tank rusts slowly into the sand: an amazing contrast to the tropical surroundings of palm trees, blinding white sand and turquoise sea.

### Spanish Virgin Island Highlights:

**Playa Flamenco Beach, Culebra:** With soft white sand that feels like the finest cornflour under your feet, this beach is so perfect it almost hurts. Take a moment to drink it all in before running through the soft sand to splash into the sapphire, sunlit sea. This beach was voted the second most beautiful in the entire world

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by Discovery Channel, and you can easily see why: it is breathtaking. A yacht charter could hang around here for a very long time and never get sick of the view. Afterward, why not head to a rustic café for lobster and fish empanadas washed down with an ice cold local beer.

**Bioluminescence Bay, Vieques:** There's a scene in the movie of Life of Pi where the boat floats through a sea full of lights, a bioluminescence so extraordinary that it's put down to being fantastically unreal, a product of CGI. Surely nothing like it could be found on earth, yet you can find something much like it in Puerto Rico. Mosquito Bay in Vieques has the brightest bioluminescence in the world, where you can go for a night kayak and watch the oars and fish below stir up the most extraordinary glowing light show. You'll return to your yacht completely awestruck by the experience.

**Esperanza, Vieques:** For those craving a bit of civilization and fun, head to Esperanza, which has a strip of funky boutiques, bars and restaurants.

**Jacuzzi Pools and Turtles, Bahia Tortuga, Culebrita:** Another island, another painfully beautiful beach. Your only company here on weekdays may well be the turtles that nest on the beaches and swim through the crystal clear waters. This little island off Calubra is home to a stretch of beautiful blue-green rockpools which bubble like Jacuzzis. A more special spot for a luxury beach barbeque would be hard to find than Bahia Tortuga.

From here, you can easily carry on to the more crowded anchorages of St Thomas, or the BVIs, you can actually see St Thomas from Bahia Tortuga. But personally, I would quite happily just stay here, floating about in the Spanish islands of enchantment.





## MEXICO

On a Mexican yacht charter, your eyes will be opened to an extraordinary land. Explore ancient Mayan pyramids hidden deep in the jungle, or dive subterranean caves of ethereal blue. Follow pods of grey whales and dolphins through crystal clear waters, or relax at the sophisticated spa resorts that dot the stunning coastlines. Dance in the street during a Mexican fiesta, or find seclusion in a desert cove of arid, searing beauty.

From red deserts and soaring mountain ranges to coral reefs and rainforest, this spectacularly beautiful country just begs to be explored on a luxury yacht. There are two major cruising grounds in Mexico: Baja California and the Yucatan Peninsula.

### **Baja California & the Sea of Cortez:** The world's aquarium

It's late afternoon, and a yacht sits at anchor in an empty bay on the Baja Peninsula. Around it, limestone cliffs rise rugged from the sapphire waters to the desert plains. This is a red, moonscape land of cactus and seabirds, where the wild, quiet beauty contrasts starkly with the clear blue sea.

Around the yacht, baby sea lions play in the shallow, sunlit waters. That morning not long after sunrise, an inquisitive baby grey whale came up to the boat, your kids reaching out to touch its barnacled head. After a sun-filled morning of snorkelling with graceful manta rays and huge, gentle whale sharks, you hit the beach for a luxury barbeque set

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up by the crew in the shade of the cliffs, wavelets lapping at the golden sands. Jacques Cousteau called the Sea of Cortez 'the world's aquarium' and as you head in the tender back to the yacht you can certainly believe it, as a pod of dolphin streak along the water beside you and you spot a giant sea turtle floating near the surface.

Tonight, you'll stay here in this awe-inspiring place, sitting in the Jacuzzi watching the sunset make the red mountains and earth glow like fire. Afterwards, you'll eat dinner on deck under the stars, candles flickering all around, before retiring for a great night's sleep in your luxurious cabin. You probably won't even hear the hum of the yacht's engines in the morning when the captain gets underway to your next destination: the powdery white sand beaches and chic resorts of Cabo.

## **The Yucatan Peninsula:** Mayan Ruins on the Caribbean Coast

You rise early to watch the sun rise over the Mayan ruins at Tulum, one of the few major seaside ruins in the world. Taking a tender ashore, you climb up to the ruins from the beach, taking a walk around the huge pyramids in the early morning quiet. In the jungle further inland, you find more ruins, slowly being claimed by strangling tree roots and the salty coastal air.

After lunch, you go scuba-diving- but not on one of the region's many stunning coral reefs or shipwrecks. Instead, you explore a nearby sunken cave system at Cenote dos Ojos, just one of the network of underground pools and caverns that riddle the peninsula. Further inland, you'll find one of the most magnificent swimming spots on earth: the Ik Kill Cenote, a rainforest cave pool that drips with jungle vines.

The rest of the days of your Yucatan yacht charter pass in a haze of wonder, as you cruise around the islands off the coast, walking through sleepy coastal villages where brightly painted houses line streets which are covered in sand. You eat in little cantinas before the sea, the heat and life of Mexico on the plate before you. You dive the immense Mayan reef and find shipwrecks lying on the sea floor, and pile in a golf buggy with the kids and drive along a white sand beach, the sea every colour of blue imaginable.

**WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO CRUISE THE EAST OR WEST COAST, MEXICO WILL DAZZLE YOU WITH ITS LIGHT, ITS COLOUR, AND ITS UNFORGETTABLE BEAUTY.**



# AUSTRALIA

## Main ports:

Take your pick of Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Cairns, or Brisbane, all with connecting flights to a broad range of international destinations. If your idea of a break is fly-in, fly-out, use Australia's cosmopolitan cities as a jumping off point and jet to meet the yacht in the Whitsundays, Australia's tropical north or in the wilds of the Kimberleys.

Airports are well-equipped and modern with plenty of charter jet providers available and the tone for your Aussie experience is set here; friendly people, easy connections and efficient service.

## Unmissable sights:

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is a riot of colour and life which needs to be experienced to be believed. Kids and adults alike will love discovering the underwater natural city thriving on the reef. An experienced charter crew is a must as there are strict cruising laws in place to protect this precious environment.

While you're in the region, don't miss Whitehaven beach; Australia's most-photographed beach and consistently voted one of the world's top beaches. While most people daytrip to this special spot, your crew will be happy to drop anchor just offshore, giving you an up close and personal taste of this paradisaical spot when other explorers have headed home for the day.



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## World famous beaches

Three times the size of the UK, the Kimberley region is unmissable.

Explore this ancient wilderness boiling with thundering waterfalls, wildlife, secluded beaches and exceptional fishing from the yacht; easily accommodated in the Kimberley's upper reaches by the world's largest tidal range.

Sydney's harbour, nestled within Port Jackson, is an inlet of the South Pacific Ocean and is considered one of the world's finest harbours. Lucky for you then, your yacht puts you in the best seats in the house to witness it.

Your crew will take you on a lazy afternoon cruise past the iconic Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge while they top up your glass with the award-winning local wines, before dropping you off to explore Sydney's vibrant nightlife.

## Tastes like:

Seafood, wine, fresh produce and an innovative culinary scene; it's safe to say you'll be well fed on Australian shores. Melbourne is considered one of the most innovative and leading culinary cities globally, and this attitude of placing importance on food is reflected throughout Australian society with an emphasis on high quality ingredients prepared in a way that reflects elements of Australia's multi-cultural society.

Expect modern Australian menus to feature dishes like Wagyu oyster blade, caramelized Angasi oysters, bar cod with chili and sesame dressing, and of course, salt and pepper squid. And don't forget all those world famous wines.

## Culture

Indigenous Australian culture is fascinating, having developed in this isolated island nation for around 50,000 years. Don't miss the chance to immerse yourself in local cultures; with great diversity among indigenous societies and communities, exploring different customs, languages and cultures will become a fascinating part of your Australian trip.

Australians are known for being friendly, open and happy to stop for a chat. Just don't ask them to throw another shrimp on the barbie; they're called prawns around these parts!



# FRENCH POLYNESIA

## Main ports:

With many spots to drop anchor among the 118 islands of French Polynesia, which are clustered into five groups, you'll most likely start your Polynesian adventure on one of the main islands of Tahiti or Moorea.

A combination of high islands and atolls make for beguiling cruising in French Polynesia. Jagged, lush peaks soar to over one thousand metres on the high islands, while lower atolls pass in the yacht's wake, looking every bit the South Pacific idyll. A sophisticated infrastructure makes for easy cruising around the nation, with island hopping, lagoon exploration and blue water cruising, all part of your Pacific adventure.

## Riviera of the South Pacific

Papeete has the flavour of a French Riviera city, an extensive port to pull in and jostle with other pleasure craft on voyages of discovery and Le Marche, one of the best-known markets in the South Pacific. Moorea, only a 17 kilometre cruise away, with two enormous bays, carving deep indents into the towering mountainous landscape, quickly transports you to a slower pace. Find a quiet spot to drop anchor and marvel at the sharp contrast between turquoise water and heights of verdant, lush growth.

- 
- DON'T MISS**
- Watching the world go by at the waterfront; a popular gathering spot with plenty of restaurants, craft stalls, music and cultural shows.
  - Choosing a luminous local black pearl to take home with you.
  - Tee off for a round of golf in the lush setting of Tahiti.
  - Take the peaceful circle road around Moorea, stopping to explore plantations and sample the sweet locally-grown pineapple as you go.
  - Visit the historic octagonal church at Papetoai Village
  - Take part in shark or ray feeding for a hit of adventure.
  - Laze the day away on one of Moorea's squeaky-white sand beaches.

## The Leeward Islands

These islands, part of the Society Group and made up of Huahine, Raiatea, Tahaa, Maupiti and Bora Bora, sit about 200 kilometres to the northwest of Tahiti, and are an easy half day's sail apart.

- 
- DON'T MISS**
- Watching the sun sink into the Pacific over Raiatea and Tahaa.
  - Transiting the deep passes in the islands' corral reefs to reach sheltered, extensive lagoons.
  - Crystal clear snorkelling, swimming and diving.
  - Exploring the sleepy ambience of the Leeward Islands' towns.
  - Huahine Island's main town of Fare, with one main street, and a constantly rotating cast of inter-island trading vessels and yachts; it's the quintessential south seas port.
  - Anchor off Raiatea, grab a cold drink and watch the sun set behind Bora Bora.
  - Visit the blinding blue shades of Bora Bora's infamous lagoon.

## The Tuamotus and Marquesas

If a slow pace of life and forging your own path sounds like your sort of holiday, head to French Polynesia's outer islands. These atolls sit a scanty one to two metres above sea level which, combined with an incredibly high underwater visibility, makes them perfect dive sites. Deep passages in the motus' reefs mean safe anchorages can be found throughout the island chain, and don't miss Rangiroa's Tiputa Pass with its world-renowned shark wall of up to 300 sharks, gathering to feed.

The Marquesas are further from a continental land mass than any other island chain in the world and the wildly-rugged group of twelve islands can't be missed for those who are adventurous of heart. Though there are no coral reefs here, sheltered bays make for safe anchorages and are widely considered to be some of the most beautiful places to drop anchor in the world. Don't miss the ancient religious sites, enormous stone tiki, plummeting waterfalls and secretive, lush valleys.



# EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN BALEARICS

When you anchor your yacht in a rocky cove in the Balearics, the turquoise water is so clear that you can see the yacht's deep shadow cast on the sea floor far below. Each morning on a Spanish yacht charter you wake up to dive from the swim platform into the blue depths, perhaps swimming ashore to walk along powder-white beaches or snorkelling along the rocky limestone cliffs. The Spanish sun shines high overhead, and the sparkling sea gives way to towering mountains, medieval monasteries high on their peaks.

The Balearic Islands are a yachting heaven, where your busy schedule and stresses are instantly surrendered to the heat and languor of Mediterranean life. The smell of pine forest and citrus groves is rich in the air, the skins of oranges releasing their



scent in the midday heat. Wild herbs grow in the hills and wildflowers line coastal dune paths, and all you hear is the sound of water lapping at the hull and the cry of birds as they wheel above your yacht under clear blue skies. Time here is measured by leisurely swims and exquisite meals; as soon as you step aboard you are on yacht time, and the rest of the world just drops away.

Yet it's not all quiet beauty. The diversity of the Balearic Islands is part of what makes them such an ideal charter destination and all are an easy sail from each other. On Mallorca, the cosmopolitan city of Palma just begs to be explored, with its immense Gothic cathedral famous throughout Europe, its narrow cobbled streets and glamorous boutiques. Palma is an all-night city, with late night tapas bars spilling out into the squares, and clubs filled with people dancing under the tall palms that line the Paseo Marítimo.

Away from the city you can descend into immense caves, where stalactites and stalagmites have grown into fantastical shapes over the centuries. Perhaps you want to golf the day away on a green golf course with spectacular views across the Mediterranean, or eat fresh caught seafood in a village taverna, colourful fishing boats bobbing outside in the port. For rustic Spanish food, head high into the mountains to the monastery, where the restaurant serves local lamb cooked to juicy perfection at bustling communal tables with sweeping views across the coast. If fine dining is more your style, the innovative Spanish cuisine is sure to impress, although most nights you'll find it hard to drag yourself away from the sophisticated food being served on your yacht, as you dine on the sundeck by candlelight in the soft night air.





If nightlife is what you're looking for, then Ibiza calls your name, and calls it loudly. With glamorous beach clubs and global DJ's, this is a global partying mecca. But if dance music until dawn is not your thing, Ibiza also has a hidden side, with blinding white sand beaches and medieval villages, with their jumble of terracotta roofs looking over the glittering sea. Ibiza is rebranding in an attempt to attract more of the jetset, so expect good marinas and excellent restaurants. Eat late, drink late, sleep late, as is the Spanish way, and you can always cure a fuzzy head with a morning swim around the hull!

On the island of Formentera, walk on soft white sand beaches by the sapphire sea, and enjoy a luxury beach picnic at white linen tables set up by your crew on soft sands. Dive and snorkel your days away, and visit the nearby nature reserve on Cabrera, walking through the island's low forested hills and visiting the 14th century castle. Menorca is another quiet gem where time appears to have stood still, and where olive groves climb up the gentle terraces behind sleepy towns.

The Balearics are a stunning yacht charter destination where the mountains rise majestic from the deep blue sea, and the old world and new blend together under the Mediterranean sun. If you're in the mood for restaurants and glamour, the Balearics have it. If you want solitude and staggering natural beauty, the Balearics have that too. Most of us, of course, tend to like a bit of both, and that's where the Balearics truly come into their own as a luxury yacht destination.



## THE FRENCH RIVIERA

If there is anything on earth more glamorous than chartering a yacht along the French Riviera in the summertime, then we'd like to know what it is. The Cote d'Azur has been a glittering playground for kings and queens, film stars and oligarchs for well over a century now, since Queen Victoria first visited in the late 1800's and completely fell in love with the sleepy backwater, calling it the 'sunny, flowery south'.

With the Queen of England's blessing, the French Riviera was a sleepy backwater no more. The beautiful rocky coastline, previously used for little more than sheep grazing, was soon transformed into a place of grand white villas of marble and gold and exotic gardens under the Mediterranean sun. The Rothschilds would come of course, as would Somerset Maugham, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Winston Churchill, Robert Louis Stevenson and endless more.

Grace Kelly would soon put Monaco on the map by marrying the Prince, Isadora Duncan would famously die when her long headscarf got tangled in an automobile in Nice, and the French starlet Brigitte Bardot would make Saint Tropez the byword for celebrity when she posed in a skimpy bikini on Pampelonne Beach. The great artists of Europe would come too, craving that extraordinary light – Picasso, Matisse and Signac to name just a few.

From the kings to the Kennedys, everyone who was anyone did a season on the Riviera, attending endless society parties in columned mansions and lazing their days away playing tennis under the tall pines. The coastline between Menton and Marseilles was



quickly brought to life with the lights and music and wild shenanigans of the gambling casinos and art deco hotels that rose along the palm-lined boulevards.

And the yachts began to come and anchor off in the crystal clear coves, first the beautiful wooden sailboats and then the grand yacht of Aristotle Onassis, Christina O, the first real superyacht of our time and the one that would change the game forever. Luxury yachting soon became de rigueur on the French Riviera: the true spiritual home of superyachts.

You don't tend to speak of famous people when describing a yachting destination, but the French Riviera is the exception to all such rules. For it is as if the glamour has somehow soaked into the earth and the air and the sparkling sea.

This summer, you can be part of the superyacht set on the Riviera, and for much the same cost as staying in a luxury hotel.

As your luxury yacht cruises from the moneyed cliffs of Monaco to the champagne and caviar beach clubs of Saint Tropez, it's hard not to feel it, that heady magic of hot nights and elegant parties under the palms, fireworks lighting up the sea and helicopters buzzing above spectacular yachts.

You feel it in the electric atmosphere of the Cannes Film festival as silver screen royalty walk the red carpet, or at Monaco Grand Prix, where the whine and roar of the F1 cars hammer through your body as the low sleek cars race around the winding city track.



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You feel that hedonistic buzz as you drink cocktails in plush piano bars where Sinatra once played, and dine in Michelin starred restaurants so ornate they are likened to the Palace of Versailles. As you party with celebrities and tycoons in the infamous clubs of Saint Tropez, where champagne flows and sprays about the room in true Riviera style. You feel the thrill up your spine as you race in the yacht's tender towards Monte Carlo at night, palace lit up golden on the hill, warm wind streaming through your hair and across bare shoulders.

And yet, for all that undeniable glamour, something of the quiet sleepy backwater remains, in the quiet forests of the Porquerolles, the towering empty cliffs of the Calanques, the crystal clear coves and the cicadas buzzing in the midday heat. The light, that stunning, famous light, the Gulf of Saint Tropez shining a burnished sapphire under a pale pink sky, the Alps a hazy blue in the last moments of a summer's day.

The quiet, Provençal South remains as you wander through local markets selling lavender and giant wheels of cheese, or eat a slice of socca, a woodfired peasant's crepe made of chickpea flour and served all oily and peppery in a sheet of tin foil.

You can feel the old way of life in the rustic restaurants, where vines grow across overhead tresses in cool paved courtyards, as you dine on whole fish baked with lemons, tomatoes and olives, or crispy duck with crunchy confit potatoes, all washed down with a drop of crisp local rosé, bien sur. You walk back in time in old Roman fortresses, along high ramparts overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, through cobblestone streets lined with boutiques, people dripping trails of ice cream in the heat. The old ways live on here, in this place where glamour and history and culture combine in a most magical way.

**THIS SUMMER, FEEL THE GLAMOUR,** THE HEAT, THE LIGHT,  
THE LANGUOR, THE HEADY EXCITEMENT OF BEING ALIVE IN  
SUCH A SPLENDID PLACE, AS YOU FLOAT ON A LUXURY YACHT  
DOWN THE COASTLINE OF THE SUNNY, FLOWERY SOUTH.



# CROATIA AND MONTENEGRO

## Main ports:

The picture perfect island of Hvar is essential for any Croatian trip. Pull in and drop anchor among the other superyachts, then settle in to watch the parade of beautifully bronzed party people as they thread through Hvar's old town.

As the sun heads towards the horizon, every available sun lounger, bar leaner and rocky outcrop fills as tourists and locals alike gather to drink a farewell to the day and watch one of Europe's most beautiful sunsets over the Adriatic.

From Hvar, sail down the coast, threading between a spread of picturesque islands, dropping anchor as you go. Croatia's small island towns are charmingly quaint, with plenty of mom and pop restaurants perched above the deep green bays. Your crew will deliver you to shore to try them for yourself; just beware the homemade wine!

Deeper down the Adriatic you'll reach Montenegro; Europe's newest superyacht hotspot. With the same crystalline sea as further up the coast, as you head into Montenegrin waters you move out of the EU, another factor which makes Montenegro a favourite with superyachts. The country is outside of EU tax and import regulations

## Unmissable sights:

In this part of the world, it's inevitable you'll spend a lot of your time staring down into that green, green water. The clarity here is renowned and it's easy to pass a lazy hour with an unopened book in hand, looking down on the busy sea life below from the aft deck.

Once you do manage to stop looking at that impossibly clear sea, Sveti Stefan is a village to watch for along the Montenegrin coast. This tiny former fortress is located on an islet, joined to the mainland by a narrow isthmus. Often described as the most picturesque sight along the Adriatic, the entire island is now a private resort, so it's been beautifully restored.

And the best way to see it? Circling it by superyacht of course.

## Ancient Sights, Modern Lives

Right in the heart of Croatia's Split lies something very special.

Diocletian's Palace is one of the most striking Roman ruins in existence and, far from keeping the relics behind barriers in a museum, the locals live within its crumbling glory. Expect washing flapping overhead as you wind through the ancient rooms and dodge soccer balls kicked by local boys. Bars and cafes pop out of frescoed nooks when you least expect them, and the whole sun-bleached structure is offset by violent purple bursts of bougainvillea tackling the palace's framework. It's spectacular.

## Tastes like:

Gourmands will have a field day in Croatia and Montenegro as each region within each country has its own distinct culinary traditions. For your meals both on and off the yacht, you'll have your pick of line-fresh seafood and locally-grown fruits and vegetables, while trying a Muscat produced in the region is a must for any trip.

Don't miss the famous cuttlefish risotto. This risotto nero is striking for its deep, inky colour, and it's a taste which will have you dreaming of Croatia long after your holiday

Montenegro's cuisine shows strong traces of the many nations which surround it. The hearty breads, cured meat, polenta, plethora of cheeses and stuffed peppers are all Italian, while the kebabs, baklava and musaka come courtesy of Turkey, via Serbia.

Croatian desserts round off meals with the trademark sweet pastry of Montenegro's northern neighbour, and along all coastal regions, seafood is a staple.



## GREECE

The English writer Lawrence Durrell wrote long ago, 'You should see the landscape of Greece. It would break your heart.' It is as true now as when he wrote it. It is also true that the only way to properly travel the extraordinary archipelagos of Greece is by chartering a private yacht.

Greece is a land of timeless myth and beauty, of whitewashed villages and quiet olive groves, of ancient temples crumbling into the dust above clear emerald seas. Of shipwrecks rusting on powdery white beaches crowded by immense limestone cliffs, and glamorous ports where the superyachts cluster, shining white against the night. Of rustic tavernas in fishing villages, blue and white boats bobbing in the port and the day's catch of octopus hanging to dry in the morning sun above the cobblestones.

The past has a hold on Greece that you feel as you cruise through a landscape touched by legend, where vengeful gods were thought to play their merry havoc on the lives of the humans far below. You feel it in the bays where the ships of Sparta and Troy once gathered, and as you walk across ancient battlefields, the deeds of heroes echoing down through the ages. Greece towers in our imaginations with its epics and its odysseys, and as the birthplace of democracy and the grand hubris that would bring the Hellenic empire to its knees.

Made up of more than 2000 islands, each with its own history and character, the archipelagos of Greece: the famed Cyclades, the Ionian, the Dodecanese, the Aegean Islands and Sporades, provide a lifetime of cruising opportunities.

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The difficulty arises, of course, when you try to decide where to go first on your luxury yacht charter. Happily you can't really go wrong, but here are some pointers on some of the greatest highlights of each.

## The Cyclades

I'm not sure if life is complete without a visit to Santorini. Anchor your yacht beneath the awe-inspiring cliffs of this volcanic caldera, and take the cable car up to the white-washed village perched high above. Take a donkey trail to a deserted beach cove, or spend the afternoon in a plush spa hotel with a dizzying view of the Aegean Sea, infinity pool running off the edge to nowhere. The Cyclades also offer the jet set mecca of windmills, sandy beaches, boutiques and nightclubs that is Mykonos, and the sacred island of Delios, where no-one has ever been allowed to be born, or to die.

## The Ionian Islands

The Ionian islands are greener than the Cyclades and the beaches and coves are some of the most splendid in Greece. Here you will find the famed Shipwreck Beach on Kryathis, as well as one of the world's best windsurfing spots on Lefkada. This coastline has spectacular limestone cliffs riddled with caves and grottos just perfect for exploration by kayak, or you can watch an opera performance in a cave on Kefalonia, the sound dancing through the forest of stalagmites growing from the cave walls. Explore the Venetian and Byzantine palaces of Corfu or search for the birthplace of Homer's hero Odysseus among the vineyards and olive groves of Ithaca.

## The Dodecanese

The Dodecanese are a breathtaking place for a yacht charter: quiet, wild and free. The islands are quite varied in appearance, with rugged forested mountains on some and others with a more rocky arid landscape. The archaeological delights of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, cannot be missed, or you can exert some energy and climb to the volcanic crater on the spectacular island of Nisyros. The Dodecanese are tranquil and beautiful, with deserted beaches and crystal clear waters for long summer days spent swimming and picnicking.

## The Aegean Islands

These stunning islands are less visited than the Ionian or Cyclades, meaning they are perfect for those who are craving true relaxation far from the crowds. With lush mountains, deep pine forests and a history that seeps out of the very rocks, this is a magnificent yacht charter destination off the beaten track. The wild island of Somotraki



is deservedly popular with hikers, Samos is famous for its forested mountains, and nearby Lesvos is an ancient birthplace of art and philosophy.

### The Northern Sporades

These outrageously pretty islands are busier than their other Aegean neighbours, with the fantastic beaches and deep forests bringing crowded anchorages in the summer months. Skiathos is considered the Mykynos of the Sporades, with a vibrant nightlife and an air of excitement, and Skopelos is increasingly busy as well. Alonnisos, meanwhile, is a tranquil green island to escape to, it's set in a marine park with startlingly clear and fresh waters.

2000 islands and just one lifetime. This year, why not set your own course to discover the heartbreaking beauty of Greece?

### Rhodes

Although not part of Turkey, Rhodes is geographically connected to its southwest coastline region. You should not miss the chance of visiting this island, probably the most disputed piece of land in the entire Mediterranean Sea. The main attraction is represented by the fortifications of the city of Rhodes, built by the Knights Hospitaller of Saint John. The island is now a territory of Greece.

If you have the possibility of extending your vacation, more Greek islands await you just across the Aegean Sea. Linking your cruise down the Turkish Riviera with a tour of Greece can make you forget about home.



## ITALY

As you journey down the coast of Italy on a yacht during the long days of summer, the Mediterranean light gets into your soul. It stays there forever, like the memories in a dream: images of sun-soaked villages and piazzas, of the happy screams of kids jumping off the yacht into a deep blue sea.

It's not just the sunshine that warms the rocks and the citrus groves, and slowly turns your skin a soft golden brown. Or the pretty fishing harbours along the Ligurian Coast, with the coloured boats pulled up and their nets with baubles stretched out drying on the cobbles.

It's not just that sapphire lagoon in Sardinia, where you can snorkel among giant granite boulders, or the afternoon soaking in thermal springs on the cliffs of Ischia, explosions of pink bougainvillea clambering down to the glittering sea.

It's not just the medieval fortresses on distant hills, the spires and pensive bridges of Venice or the eerie catacombs under the city of Palermo. It's not even the fresh-caught sea bass baking over hot coals on secluded moonlit cove, white tablecloths set up on the sand by the yacht's crew, lanterns burning all around.

It's the weight of history that has soaked into this land that you'll remember, the ancient civilizations that have crumbled into the dust. It's the deep red tomatoes that taste like they did when you were young, grown on vines under the sun and ripe to almost

bursting, crushed onto crunchy bruschetta with fresh basil and olive oil. It's the sound of church bells carrying across the water on a Sunday morning, and gossiping Italian matrons dressed in mourning black.

When your Italian yacht charter is over you will remember many things.

Perhaps you'll remember being anchored in a crystal clear bay surrounded by deep pine forest, an afternoon breeze picking up off the water and fluttering the pages of your book where you lie on a deckchair, champagne fizzing softly.

Or dressing up for a party on the sundeck, watching Stromboli volcano glowing red in the night, the boulders tumbling down from the crater into the sea with a splash of white in the darkness. You'll remember sitting in the Jacuzzi under the stars as the yacht carves a white fizzing path through the dark sea, Café del Mar drifting softly from the speakers.

Memories from the day you visited the famous Blue Grotto in Capri, where sunlight streams onto a captured lake and turns the cave walls into a glimmering light show of ethereal blues.

You'll certainly remember a nightclub set in a sea cave in Sardinia, dancing on a glass floor with the beautiful people and watching the waves crash and swirl beneath your feet. Shopping in the glamorous boutiques of Positano, or the walks along quiet coastal paths lined with wildflowers.

There's something extraordinarily special about chartering a yacht, no matter where you do it, but a yacht charter in Italy is a journey through a timeless land, where vengeful gods and volcanoes once ruled and the past is everywhere you look.

**WILL YOU REMEMBER YOUR YACHT CHARTER IN ITALY? OF COURSE YOU WILL. THE LIGHT GOT INTO YOUR SOUL.**





## TURKEY

There are many reasons to choose Turkey as your next destination for a cruise, but probably nothing beats the irresistible charm of a place where two worlds collide. Turkey has been an interface between Europe and Asia through the ages, witnessing waves of continuous movement on the east-west axis. Even today, Turkey presents itself as a curious case of an Asian nation with European aspirations, making it the most liberal Muslim state in the world.

Although Turkey has a shoreline extending to over 7000 kilometres, you should choose to focus your yacht trip on only a certain length of it. The southwest coast, also called the Turkish Riviera (or Turquoise Coast), holds the combination of a favourable climate, a warm sea, and abundant natural and archeological sites. This is truly a world-class destination for your free time. History is a major component of the places you will visit, so asking the Internet about Greek colonies, the Persian Empire and the Ottoman Empire beforehand is a good way to benefit as much as possible from your experience.

Before heading for Turkey, you should keep in mind that venturing outside areas dedicated to large-scale tourism can be dangerous. Turkey recently experienced some political disturbance and is not quite a consolidated and fully functional democracy. With conflict zones at its borders and some ethnic disturbances, it is safer to forget about venturing to its inner eastern and northern territories.



### Bodrum

Bodrum is the perfect place to start your cruise along the Turkish Riviera. The city is famous for being home of one of the seven wonders of antiquity, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (Bodrum's ancient name). Although today, at the site of the Mausoleum, only the foundation remains, together with a small museum, the place still deserves your full attention. It is said that the beauty of the mausoleum was not only in the structure itself, but in the decorations and statues created by four important Greek sculptors of that time: Bryaxis, Leochares, Scopas and Timotheus. Each one of them was assigned to one side of the mausoleum, and constant throughout their representations could be found statues of normal people and animals. The mausoleum was not dedicated to the gods of Greek mythology, which was very uncommon for that time.

If you arrive in Bodrum in May, you can witness the spectacular and colorful dance festival held here each year and included by UNESCO on its list of international events. Dance competitions, street shows and performances, a festival parade and dance parties everywhere welcome you to share the enthusiasm of artists and tourists coming from all over the world. All events are free of charge and everyone can attend them.

### Antalya

Antalya is definitely the most famous sea resort on the Turkish Riviera and one of the most visited cities in the world by number of international arrivals. Shielded by the Taurus Mountain to the north, the city has a very pleasant climate, with hot and



dry summers. Even in the winter, the average temperature of 16°C (61°F) makes it quite enjoyable. The old town of Antalya (Kaleici) is a good place to cool off and have a drink after a long day at the beach. With its numerous charming small hotels, inns and inexpensive hostels, it offers comfortable, even luxurious accommodations and fine dining, all in a preserved old-time atmosphere. If you feel nostalgia for the past, you might prefer the old town over the large modern hotels that populate the beaches. Landmarks you should search for in Antalya are Hadrian's Gate and Hidirlik Tower, both constructions dating back to the Roman era. Architecture from the later Ottoman period can be found in the form of the Clock Tower and Tekeli Mehmet Paa Mosque, one of the most important mosques in the city. Today, Kaleiçi is a protected district, with strict regulations directed at preserving historic buildings and limiting new constructions of all kinds.

## Marmaris

Protected by a large gulf, Marmaris is another stop along your way. There are several great marinas to choose from in Marmaris Bay, making it a hub for yachts in the east Mediterranean Sea. You can spend your time here enjoying some of the water sports available or simply by renting a car and driving around the shores. The sight of so many cruise ships entering and leaving Marmaris Bay can entertain you for an entire day. If you want to have an overview of the whole Marmaris city and its bay, climbing one of the many hills surrounding it can offer the perfect vantage point. There are many claims made by tourists that the beaches of Marmaris are not so great and that going to the neighbouring Icmeler is actually better, but you will have to see for yourself.



### Ephesus

Ephesus is another gold mine for those wanting to take large in doses of Turkey's ancient times. Founded by Greek colonists and one of the twelve cities of the Ionian League, the city rose to power under Roman control in the second century AD. The city is largely known for being the home of another Wonder of the Ancient World – the Temple of Artemis. Although there is little left of that magnificent structure, Ephesus has other ancient ruins to make you wonder. The Library of Celsus, the Gate of Augustus and Temple of Hadrian have survived to the present day and have been restored. Ephesus was also an important centre for early Christianity, with two Ecumenical Councils being held here.



A TASTE OF SUPERYACHTING





## A TASTE OF SUPER- YACHTING

Without a doubt, one of the truly special parts of a superyacht vacation is having access to your own personal chef while you are onboard. If you haven't had the chance to enjoy such a privilege yet, it really is an experience that everyone should enjoy at least once in their lifetime.

We're very fortunate to have four wonderful chefs who have contributed some of their favourite recipes for you to try for yourself, to 'wow' your dinner guests sometime in the near future.

*Enjoy!*



*contributed  
by Chef  
Mark  
Godbeer*

## New York strip with a mixed melon salad

Feeds eight to twelve guests depending on desired portion size.

### INGREDIENTS:

- Strip and marinade rub
- 4x 16oz New York strip
- 4 x tbsp smoked paprika
- 2 x tbsp garlic powder
- 2 x tbsp crushed pepper
- 2 x tbsp cumin
- 2 x tbsp kosher salt
- 6 x tbsp sweet chili

### SALAD

- 1/4 x cantaloupe melon
  - 1/4 x honeydew melon
  - 1 x red pepper
  - 3 x green onion
  - 4 x tbsp e.v.o.o
  - 1 x lemon squeezed
- Salt and pepper to taste

### GARNISH

- edible flowers
- Micro chives (or regular chives cut in 1/2 inch)
- Kecap manis (reduced sweet soy) in small squeeze bottle for easier application.
- chive oil (1x bunch chives+1 x clove garlic+1 x cup e.v.o.o blended and strained)



## Directions

First the steak. If you are planning on serving this for your dinner's beginning course, it's best if you prep it on the morning of the meal. I usually prep and marinate my meats first thing when I am making croissants, muffins, or a fruit platter. The salad can be completed whenever you have an opportunity.

## The strip and marinade rub

Cut the fat off the strip. After doing so, cut the tip and toe of the strip at right angles, so the steak starts to resemble a rectangular block.

Cut the sides of the strip in the same fashion as you did the ends so you have nice right angles.

In a bowl, add remaining rub ingredients. Mix well.

Apply the rub to each steak vigorously, leaving no surface untouched.

Place on baking pan, wrap tight and refrigerate up until one hour before service.

## Salad

Deseed and remove skin of melons. Apply a brunoise dice (fine small dice) to both melons and set in a bowl.

Deseed pepper. Remove any remaining pith and also apply a brunoise dice. Keeping it the same size as the melon. Add to bowl.

Split the green onions length way and then split again. Chop finely and add to bowl.

Add oil, e.v.o.o and salt and pepper to taste, and mix.

Set aside, cover and refrigerate until plating.

## Execution

Heat a non stick pan to med-high.

Spray strip with Pam cooking spray

Add two tbsp olive oil to pan and start cooking the steaks.

Cook the strip for 45 seconds to a minute on each of the four sides obtaining a nice sear on each side.

Sear the tips and toes of the steaks and place in a oven @400'f for 10 minutes. (For medium rare). All ovens are different, so keep an eye on it.

Remove steak and set aside to rest on chopping board.

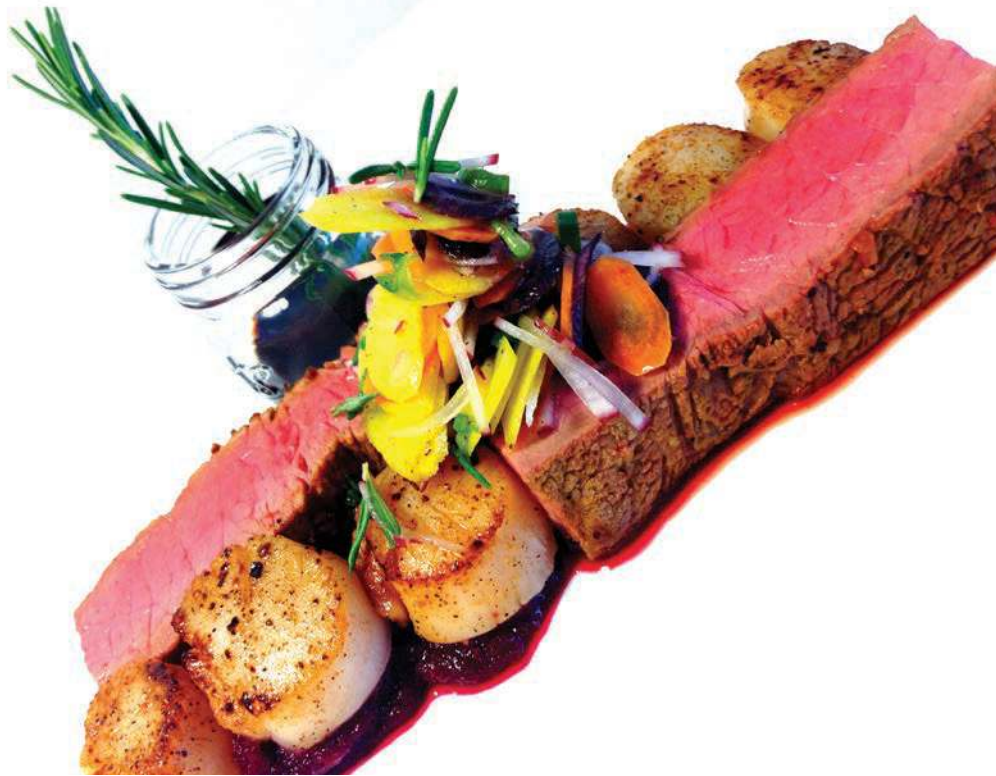
## Assembly

Whilst the steak rests (three to five minutes), spoon the salad on to the plate. Be creative; I generally design a long line for the steak to rest on in the middle of a rectangular white or black slate plate.

Slice 1/4" slices of the strip and place atop the salad. (Steaks will be nicely rested and have retained its juices, so bleeding won't be an issue.)

Place some micro chives and flowers sporadically around the dish with some drizzle of reduced soy and chive oil.

Serve immediately.



*contributed  
by Chef  
Mark  
Godbeer*

## “Surf and Turf”

Grilled New York Strip; Pan seared Scallops; Smoked Beetroot Puree; Heirloom Carrot Salad; and Balsamic Pan Jus

### INGREDIENTS:

#### NY STRIP:

- 10 x 16 oz NY strip steaks (Fat trimmed)
- 1/2 Stick butter (cut into 10 pieces)
- Olive oil to cook
- Salt & pepper to taste

#### SCALLOPS:

- 50 x bay scallops
- Olive oil to cook
- Salt & pepper to taste

#### SMOKED BEETROOT

##### PUREE:

- 4 Large beetroots
- 3 Tsp Lemon grass puree (found in grocery store by the fresh herbs)
- 1 Cup chicken stock
- 1 Tsp Liquid smoke (found in grocery store by BBQ sauces)
- Salt & pepper to taste

#### HEIRLOOM CARROT

##### SALAD:

- 20 Heirloom baby carrots thinly sliced (assorted colours)

- 1 sprig fresh rosemary (finely chopped)
- 1 Bunch fresh dill
- 1/4 cup E.V.O.O
- 1 Bunch green onion (finely chopped)
- 10 x radish
- Salt & pepper to taste.

#### PAN JUS:

- 2 Cup good quality & aged balsamic
- 1 Cube beef bouillon
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 2 Tbsp All purpose flour
- Salt & pepper to taste

---

This next recipe was created with the mindset us as crew use to achieve the guests satisfaction - 'less is more and more is less, but yachting is everything!'. This surf and turf is a great match, with the rich earthiness of the beets, accenting the buttery taste of the scallops paired off with the robustness of the Strip, all to be tied together with the freshness of the salad and acid from the rich jus...again, yachting is everything. Enjoy.

Feeds ten guests.

---

## Directions

### **BEETROOT PUREE:**

Wrap the beetroot in tinfoil 2 at a time. Place in a pre heated oven @ 375 degrees F and cook for 3 hours (or until a knife inserts with no resistance).

Once the beetroot is cooked, peel them (I wear rubber gloves when doing this and I peel them under running cold water) and roughly chop them, placing in a Vitamix (or any food processor you have available).

Add the chicken stock, lemon grass & liquid smoke and blend for 1 minute.

Season to taste and place in a sauce pan ready for heating and plating.

### **HEIRLOOM CARROT SALAD:**

Thinly slice the carrots and place in a large mixing bowl.

Finely cut the radish into ribbons and add to carrots.

Chop the herbs and green onion finely and add to the bowl.

Add the olive oil and season the salad and mix.

### **NY STRIP:**

Having trimmed the Steak of most of its fat, season the steaks whilst you pre heat a heavy bottomed skillet on the stove to high.

Brush each steak with a little Olive oil and sear ALL the sides for 30 seconds / side.

Once the steaks are seared, place them on a baking sheet and continue with the rest until all steaks have been seared.

Place a slice of butter on each Strip, let steaks sit for 5 minutes whilst you prepare scallops then put the steaks in an oven preheated to 375 degrees F. I prefer my Strip Med-Rare, for this I cook the steaks for 6 - 8 minutes (with convection fan assist).

When steak has reached desired doneness, pull from the oven and set aside to rest for 4 - 5 minutes.

When the steaks have rested, slice each steak right down the centre and prepare for plating.

Reserve skillet pan for Jus.

## **SCALLOPS:**

Line scallops up on a baking sheet and brush each one with olive oil and season with salt & pepper. In a heavy bottomed pan @ med - high place scallops 10 at a time and sear each one giving it a nice golden color on both sides. Repeat this with all scallops, returning seared scallops back to the baking sheet.

Once the steaks have been in the oven for 5 minutes, place the scallops as they only take 4 -5 minutes. Once they are done, pull and set aside for plating.

## **PAN JUS:**

Once the steaks are ready to go in the oven and you are finishing up on your scallops, reheat the skillet used for cooking the steaks to a high heat.

Deglaze the pan with the balsamic and add the beef cube, whisking continuously.

Once the bouillon has dissolved reduce heat to low.

In a separate pan, set at medium, melt the butter.

Add the flour (we are making a roux (sauce thickener)), whisk for 30 seconds then continue to whisk as you slowly pour the balsamic mixture into the pan. Continue whisking until the sauce begins to thicken.

Reduce heat to warm, waiting for plating.

## **TO PLATE:**

To start, place the Strip pieces down on a plate so that they are parallel but off set. find pictures

Opposite each piece of steak place the beetroot and place 3 x scallops on top.

Top the centre of the dish with a small handful of carrot salad.

In a small vessel, be it a mini mason jar or gravy container, pour the pan jus.

Serve immediately with a hearty Cab Sauv or Light lager.



*contributed  
by Chef  
**Mark  
Godbeer***

## Duck Confit

Feeds eight guests

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 8 x uncooked duck legs
- 4 tbsp kosher salt
- 4 x lemons zested and thinly sliced
- 9 x cloves garlic crushed
- 10 x sprigs fresh rosemary
- 10 x sprigs fresh thyme
- 10 x grapefruits peeled and segmented
- 2 x cups rendered duck fat
- 5 x oranges peeled and segmented
- 5 x blood oranges peeled and segmented
- 2 x cucumbers deseeded and peeled into strips
- 1 x red onion thinly sliced
- 1 x bunch micro chives

### **Directions**

Season the duck legs with kosher salt on both sides. Place them in a large, resealable bag. Add the lemon zest and slices, garlic, rosemary and fresh thyme. Seal, and massage the duck legs through the bag until all of the ingredients are evenly dispersed. Refrigerate for 24 hours to marinate.

Preheat the oven to 93 degrees C.

Remove the duck legs from the marinade. Rinse them off and pat dry. Place the rest of the contents of the bag into the bottom of an oven safe dish just large enough to hold the legs in a single layer, preferably enamelled cast-iron or glass. Arrange the duck legs skin side down in the dish. Pour the duck fat into a small saucepan and warm over low heat until liquid. Pour over the duck legs until they are completely covered. If the legs are not covered, you can top it off with some olive oil. As the legs cook, more fat will be rendered from the skin. Cover the dish with a lid.

Bake for six to seven hours in the preheated oven, until the meat pulls easily from the bone.

Remove the duck legs from the fat and place on a baking sheet.

Preheat oven to 140 degrees c and cook duck legs for three hours.

Raise oven temp to 180 degrees c and bake further for one hour until legs are crispy.

Arrange citrus segments, cucumber ribbons, red onions on a plate. Place confit on top, garnish with micro chives and serve.



contributed  
by Chef  
**Mark  
Godbeer**

## Vanilla Bean and Greek Yogurt Panna Cotta

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 envelope unflavoured gelatin (2 1/4 teaspoons)
- 4 tablespoons cold water
- 2 cups Greek yogurt
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 vanilla bean, split

“ To me, a meal has to be balanced, it’s that feeling when you get up from the table, after having devoured endless amounts of flavours, perfect satisfaction sates your body and you don’t have to be rolled away from the table. That being said, this little number I am about to share with you is perfect in your arsenal. It is so light and refreshing, it could even be used as a palate cleanser. It is a staple on every one to two week menu I plan, not because of the pure flavour and simplicity or the minimal prep time required to pull it off, but because of how it allows me to push the flavour boundaries for my starter, amuse and main meal with no concern that the last dish served - the Pièce de résistance - will tie everything together and set the balance .” **Chef Mark**

### Directions

Pour the cold water in a small bowl and sprinkle the gelatin evenly over, let this sit without mixing for five to ten minutes. The gelatin will absorb the water and bloom, becoming a solid sponge like texture. Pour the Greek yogurt in a large bowl and whisk for 30 seconds (to smooth out the consistency and make incorporation easier later on in the recipe), set aside until needed.

Slice the vanilla bean lengthways from top to bottom and using the blade of your knife, scrape the seeds (flavour central!) off the stalk. Place the scraped beans, pod, cream and sugar in a small pot or saucepan and gradually bring to the boil. Keep an eye on the cream to avoid scalding and stir often as this also helps the vanilla flavour intensify.

Once the cream has come to a boil, turn off heat and add the bloomed gelatin. Whisk until the gelatin has completely dissolved.

Strain the cream mixture through a sieve into a measuring jug (or any heat resilient jug that is easy for pouring) Slowly pour the strained cream mixture into the smooth yogurt whilst whisking. Continue whisking until all the cream has been poured and the mixture is smooth.

Spray eight to twelve (depending on desired panna cotta size, number of guests) silicone moulds with Pam (I use a three inch half dome silicone mould, like in the picture), if you don't have silicone moulds, ramekins will work. The reason I prefer silicone, is so the removing process is easier, and the shape is awesome.

Pour the mixture into the moulds, allow to cool, then cover and put in the fridge for no less than three and a half hours, so they are firm to touch.

When you are ready to serve dessert, gently pull the silicone away from the panna cotta and apply pressure on the opposite end of the mould to remove with relative ease. If using a ramekin, separate the edge of the panna cotta from the ramekin by running a knife in between the two surfaces. Tap the panna cotta into the palm of your hand and place on plate.

## Garnish

I use multiple garnishes and accompaniments for this dessert, depending on the previous courses and how heavy I wish the dessert to be. However, this dessert battles to be heavy, and the simplicity of the vanilla and yogurt creates an almost endless list of flavour pairings.

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### Cactus pear coulis

To a blender add:

- 2 x cactus pear, peeled and chopped.
- 1/2 cup castor sugar
- 1/2 cup agave honey.

Blend for two minutes and strain through a sieve.

Funnel into a squeeze bottle and place in fridge until required.

### Pansy coulis

To a blender add:

- 1 x cup pansies
- 2 x tbsp lemon juice
- 4 x tbsp light agave honey
- 4 x tbsp room temp. water

Blend for one minute and strain through a sieve.

Funnel into a small squeeze bottle and can be kept at room temperature until use.

### Chocolate Tuiles

250g x semi sweet chocolate nibs

75ml x chopped nuts (your preference, I used salted almonds)

In a double boiler (a pot half filled with water, with a bowl placed on top creating a bain marie) on medium heat place the chocolate nibs and gradually melt, stirring occasionally.

When three quarters melted, remove bowl from boiler and stir with a wooden spoon until the chocolate is completely smooth and melted. Add nuts and stir until evenly incorporated.

Wrap a rolling pin in parchment paper and evenly pour disk shapes (or any shape you desire) of chocolate "tuiles" onto the pin, set in fridge. Remove from pin when set, leave set "tuiles" in fridge and repeat if necessary.



*contributed  
by Chef  
**Mark  
Godbeer***

## Seared Tuna Loin served with a Sesame Bean Salad and Lemon Parsley Foam

### **INGREDIENTS:**

Lemon & Parsley foam:

- 1 Tbsp Soy Lecithin powder
- 2/3 Cup cold water
- 2/3 Cup lemon juice
- 2 Sprigs flat leaf parsley

### **TUNA:**

- 10 x 4oz tuna filets  
(uniform in size & cut)
- 1/4 Cup cajun spice
- 1/4 Cup dried roasted garlic  
spice (found in almost all  
grocery stores)
- 1/4 Cup all purpose flour
- 5 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tsp Salt & pepper

### **BEAN SALAD:**

- 2 Cans butter beans  
(drained and rinsed)
- 1/4 Cup toasted sesame oil
- 2 Plum tomatoes  
(deseeded & finely chopped)
- 2 Sprigs dill (finely chopped)
- 4 Nectarines (peeled & diced)
- 1 Handful snow peas  
(finely sliced)
- 3 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- Salt & Pepper to taste



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This is a light user friendly dish, the preparation is the key to execution. The great thing about this dish is that it is so very versatile. The Tuna can be substituted with Wahoo or Hamachi, the beans can be substituted with chickpeas, edamame or any other legume, and the foam can be orange or even grapefruit. From start to finish this recipe only requires 20 minutes of your time. This is a light and healthy meal and is perfect for a beginning course on a beautiful summers evening, on the aft deck, on a superyacht. Feeds ten guests.

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## Directions

### **FOAM:**

Combine all ingredients and place them in a high sided container and blend with an immersion blender on high for 1 minute.

Foam should start to form almost immediately. Set aside until needed for plating. (only make this after the bean salad)

### **BEAN SALAD:**

Mix all the ingredients in a large mixing bowl until the sesame oil has coated all the ingredients. Adjust the seasoning to taste.

### **TUNA:**

In a large bowl combine all the dry ingredients and mix well.

1 by 1 place the tuna in the spice mix and evenly coat all the sides.

\*leave the ends uncoated so you can monitor the cooking progress and achieve even sears on all sides when the Tuna is in the pan.\*

In a non stick pan @ a medium-high heat place 1 Tsp of olive oil and allow oil to heat for 30 seconds. Sear the Tuna filets 2 at a time. I seared each side for approximately 45 seconds as I wanted mine on the rarer side. By monitoring the uncoated ends you can achieve your desired doneness.

Thinly slice the Tuna and proceed to plating.

### **PLATING:**

Place the bean salad on the plate in a uniform line.

Place the sliced Tuna on top.

Spoon the foam around the plate.

Enjoy with a chilled glass of rosé!

# Crystal Clear Gazpacho with Cucumber Blossoms and Gold Memo Chives

contributed  
by Chef  
**Brandon  
Weiler**

### INGREDIENTS:

- 15 large ripe tomatoes
- 1 packet gold memo chives
- 1 bunch citrus coriander buds
- 2 packs (approximately 40) cucumber blossoms
- 1 ripe avocado diced and nailed with lime juice to prevent browning
- 2 packs heirloom grape tomatoes halved
- 5 Persian cucumbers diced
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 tsp. toasted whole cumin seed
- Salt and pepper

**Directions** At the time I first served this dish it was inspired by Charley Trotter, it seems to work well in the warm climates we constantly find ourselves in. The secret is all in the tomato water, if you can get all that red out you are left with the pure flavour of the tomato, lightly seasoned from the salt.

I often add shaved slices of conch to this dish while in the Bahamas. This was served in Compass Cay. The specialty vegetables in this dish are from The Chefs' Garden in Huron OH, they were picked and flown to me in Eleuthera Bahamas within 24 hours of being in the ground. One of the many perks of our job! They will ship anywhere and the facility and website are amazing, just tell Michele I sent you.

**Tomato Water:** This is a simple and at the same time long process. Place rough-chopped tomatoes in a Cuisinart with a nice pinch of sea salt and pulse only until it is chunky, not completely pureed (about six to seven blasts). You'll need to do this in three to four batches. Next, pour the tomato into a cheesecloth-lined fine strainer. Gently fold the corners of the cloth inward to form a ball with the tomato 'sauce'.

Do this very gently and allow the clear liquid to slowly come through into a saucepan. This can take a while but it's worth it. When you finish you will have a pot with mostly clear liquid and inevitably some red fibrous tomato. Put it on a gentle heat and add the toasted cumin - simmer until all those impurities rise to the surface - skim it and strain it through cloth one more time. Keep in the fridge nice and cold until ready to serve. This can be made ahead of time.

**Presentation:** Line up as many bowls as you have guests, glass is great for this. Pre-place the tomato, avocado, cucumber blossoms, cilantro buds, and conch if you've got it. When ready to serve, simply pour tomato water over the bowls and top with gold memo chives or garnish with lime wedges. Bon appétit!



# Arancini

Serves six guests

*contributed*

*by Chef*

**Hillary**

**Chell**

## INGREDIENTS:

- 4 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 tablespoon butter
- 1 large onion (diced)
- Handful mushrooms diced
- 1 1/2 cups arborio rice
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 5 cups hot chicken stock
- 3/4 cup reggiano parmigiano
- 1 x mozzarella ball into small cubes
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1 cup flour
- 2 x eggs beaten
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil

## Directions

**To start the risotto:** In a heavy bottomed saucepan melt two tablespoons of olive oil and two tablespoons of butter together. Add the onions, cooking them for three to four minutes until translucent, then the garlic for another minute, (at this point you can add bacon or chorizo too if you like or whatever you like) then add the chopped mushrooms, sweat off until softened. Stir in the rice. Add the white wine and let cook out until it starts to absorb and then add 1/2 cup of chicken stock

**To cook the risotto:** While continuing to stir, add half a cup of stock at a time. Let the rice absorb most of the stock before adding the next half cup. Repeat until all the stock is added. Adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper. Finally add the remaining cold chopped butter and reggiano parmigiano stirring to incorporate all the ingredients well. Keep stirring and tasting until cooked.

Once the risotto is cooked lay flat on a baking tray and dot ice cubes in it, put immediately in fridge and cool. (This is to help cool it down quickly and prevent bacteria forming). Don't just leave it to cool in the pan, it will carry on cooking and become mushy.

**To prepare the arancini:** Form small balls of risotto, rolling in the palm of your hand. Stuff a cube of mozzarella in the middle of each one. Pane in the flour, then egg, then seasoned bread-crumbs to coat. Deep fry until warm all the way through or warm one cup of the extra virgin olive oil in shallow pan until hot. Fry the arancini in batches until golden brown.

Serve with an arrabiata sauce (I'm not sharing my recipe sorry!)



## Bananas Foster on the Beach with Nutella 'Sand'

contributed  
by Chef  
**Brandon  
Weiler**

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 jar Nutella
- About 3 cups tapioca maltodextrin powder. This can be ordered online, it's cheap. You can also make olive oil powder to the same effect.

### NUTELLA SAND:

Work the Nutella in a bowl a bit and begin adding maltodextrin one cup at a time while mashing it with a whisk. You will know when to stop when it looks like sand, probably more maltodextrin than you think. When placed on the tongue it dissolves back into Nutella instantly. Use this creatively for anything; it's that easy.

### BANANAS FOSTER:

- 6 under-ripe bananas
- 1/2 stick butter
- 2/3 cup brown sugar  
pinch salt
- 1/4 cup Myers or other dark rum
- Fresh-grated Nutmeg in a bowl with a spoon
- Vanilla ice cream for service

This dish was made famous back in the '50s at Commanders Palace in New Orleans. I have served many versions of it in the past and this is as fitting on a cruise as it gets, the sand is easy and clever and no one will know what it is!

### Directions

Start with a pan on high heat and throw in your butter and brown sugar. When it's melted and the sugar starts to break down, add your sliced bananas and toss in the pan for about a minute.

Now the fun part. Walk to your table (or can be done in the kitchen) and pour rum over bananas. Ignite with a lighter being very careful not to burn you or the vessel!

OPA! Sprinkle the nutmeg over while lit and it will toast and sparkle its way to the pan. Return to heat until a nice caramel forms, about two to three minutes. If you plate on a saucer just spread the sand on the bottom to form a layer, place ice cream over, top with bananas and caramel and run them to your guests. Enjoy!



# Trio of Raspberry: Mini Brûlée, Sorbet and Jello

contributed  
by Chef  
**Perry  
Schermuly**

## INGREDIENTS AND DIRECTIONS

- 1 kg frozen raspberries (defrost overnight, saving the resulting juice). Puree the mass and pass through a fine sieve.

### BRÛLÉE:

- 125g raspberry puree
- 125ml cream
- 75g bakers sugar
- 5 egg yolks
- 3 whole eggs

Place all ingredients in a thermomix. Cook slowly to 90 degrees Celsius, blitz speed 6 for 20 seconds.

Pour into small chilled moulds, set in fridge overnight.

### RASPBERRY JELLO:

- 500ml raspberry juice. Use the strained juice, add your favourite fizzy water to make 500 mls if there isn't enough!
- 4 leaves gold gelatin
- 50g bakers sugar

Soak gelatin in cold water, drain and dissolve with all other ingredients, pour into small moulds and set overnight in your fridge

### RASPBERRY SORBET:

- 250 ml sugar syrup (equal amounts of sugar and water boiled together)
- 250g raspberry puree
- Pinch of sea salt
- Juice of two Persian limes.

Blitz the syrup and puree together and churn in an ice cream machine until smooth and softly frozen.

Season with sea salt and lime juice.

### To serve:

Unmould jellos using a hot water bath and place directly onto a chilled plate.

Scoop a ball of sorbet and place next to the jello. Place a little sugar on the mini brûlée and caramelize with a gas torch. Garnish with a selection of raspberries, mint, sugar crisps or fine tuille biscuits.

This eats really well with a chilled limoncello.

Enjoy!



# Wild Trout with Crushed Spring Peas and Mint Vierge

*contributed  
by Chef  
**Hillary  
Chell***

## INGREDIENTS:

- 600g wild trout  
(in 150g portions)
- 300g fresh peas podded
- 25g butter
- 100ml cream
- Mint
- Olive oil
- 1 x tomato concasse
- 1 tsp capers
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Half onion finely chopped
- Fingerling potatoes  
2 per person
- Fresh thyme

## Directions

Heat a little oil in a non-stick frying pan, season the trout with salt and pepper, place the trout skin side down in the pan. Once looking slightly browned and crisp flip over and then quickly take out of the pan and put on baking tray.

Slice fingerling potatoes in two lengthways, heat olive oil in pan, place in potatoes, salt and pepper, once starting to get brown, add cold butter and chopped thyme, then place on baking tray with fish.

Place peas in salted boiling water and leave them for three minutes without heat, drain peas, put back in pan, add butter and cream and with a hand blender crush slightly. Season with salt and pepper.

## For sauce vierge:

Warm olive oil in pan (just warm) add mint and blitz with a hand blender.

Sauté finely chopped onions and garlic and once cooled add tomato concasse, and capers, lemon juice and mix with warmed oil/mint mixture.

Once you are almost ready to serve place tray in oven for approximately ten minutes, reheat peas, and serve.



# Trio of Sharked Yellowfin Tuna; Toro Sashimi, Citrus Grilled with Fresh Fava Beans and Blossoms; Ponzu Marinated Sesame Seared with Kimchi and Sambol

contributed  
by Chef  
**Brandon  
Weiler**

## INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pieces fresh tuna belly (otora)
- 16 3 oz. portions tuna steaks
- Fresh, blanched and hulled fava beans (about a lb. for 8 people)
- Grapefruit supremes or segments 16
- 1 packet fava blossoms optional
- Sambal oleek, enough for the small dots. It is a fermented chili paste very similar to Sriracha but in whole, not ground, form. Look for the jar with a green top.

## CITRUS MARINADE:

- 1 small shallot finely diced
- juice of 1 lemon and 1 lime
- 1 tbsp garlic chopped
- salt and pepper

Combine all ingredients and pour over eight of your fish steaks and marinate in a ziplock bag for up to three hours.

## PONZU MARINADE:

- Juice of 1 lemon and 1 lime
- 1 tbsp chopped garlic
- 1 tsp chopped ginger
- 1 tbsp Sambal
- 1 tsp toasted sesame oil
- 4 spring onions, finely sliced

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and pour over remaining eight fillets, marinate up to three hours.

## Directions

The first thing to do with your plates is line them up and cut the sashimi, which should be at room temperature when you serve. Place four slices on the plate and garnish with wasabi and soy on the side.

Next move is to pre-grill one side of our marinated tuna and place on a sheet pan for a quick pop in the oven, since our grill is three decks up! Coat the Asian-marinated tuna in black sesame seeds and sear it in a scorching pan with a high heat oil such as grapeseed. Place with your citrus grilled on the sheet pan.

Our favas are resting in a saucepan on the stove in a bath of chicken stock, butter, salt and pepper. Heat over moderate heat when ready, for about four minutes.

Finish the tuna in a 400 degree oven for about two to three minutes. You do not want this over medium rare. Place both on plate.

Garnish with fava blossoms, citrus segments, kimchi, and sambol.





*contributed  
by Chef  
Hillary Chell*

## Lemon Posset

### INGREDIENTS:

- 600ml cream
- 150g sugar
- 2 x lemons zested and juiced

### DIRECTIONS:

Boil cream and sugar slowly for three minutes Whisk in zest and juice. Pour into serving dishes and chill for three hours. and chill for three hours.

## Madeleines

### INGREDIENTS:

- 150g butter
- 3 x eggs
- 150g sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- Zest of 1 lemon

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 200 degrees Celsius.  
Grease madeleine tray and dust with a little flour.  
Melt butter, and allow to cool slightly. Whisk eggs and sugar until pale and thick, sift in the flour, and lemon zest and fold gently.  
Pour in the melted butter and gently mix in.  
Spoon into tray and bake for around eight to ten minutes until springy to touch.





*contributed  
by Chef  
**Chef Perry  
Schermuly***

## Prawn and Serrano Jamon Terrine

*Feeds four guests*

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 500g prawns de soller (Mallorca)
- 12 slices Jamon de serrano
- 2 avocado
- Mixed baby lettuce leaf
- 2 sticks of rhubarb
- 1 granny smith apple
- 250 ml double cream

### **Directions**

Peel and puree two thirds of the Prawns, add cream, season and blitz to a fine mousse in a robo coupe. Add the remaining peeled whole prawns, fill a serrano-lined terrine with the mixture. Roll in film and steam until barely cooked. Chill but remember to serve at room temperature.

Slice and serve with poached rhubarb, avocado and apple slices, mixed dressed leaves and crispy serrano ham slices, previously dried overnight in a cool oven. Serve with warm crusty bread and a very crisp white wine. Spanish Albarino is perfect.



contributed  
by Chef  
**Perry  
Schermuly**

## Lobster Ravioli

*Feeds four guests*

### **INGREDIENTS:**

- 3 Maine lobsters
- 12 baby pak choy
- 12 peeled cherry tomatoes
- 4 large super fresh scallops (no roe).
- Cleaned and sliced into thirds.
- 500g fresh pasta. Use 1 egg for every 100g of flour
- 1 bunch asparagus (peeled and trimmed)
- Low acidity olive oil (cold pressed)
- Lemongrass, ginger, chervil

### **Directions**

Blanch the lobster in rapidly boiling water for one minute. Chill back (refresh) in iced water. Carefully remove tail and meat from claws. Chop the meat finely, season well, then add lemon grass, grated ginger and chopped chervil. Save the claw meat for garnish.

Using an ice cream scoop, ball 12 equal mounds of lobster mixture. Set in fridge for an hour.

Using a large pasta machine roll the fresh pasta thinly enough to make 12 raviolis; 12 top rounds and 12 bottoms. Place one ball of lobster in each ravioli, secure the slightly larger ravioli top down with egg white (exclude all trapped air before sealing).

Cook rapidly the tomatoes, asparagus and baby pak choy in a little olive oil and lobster poaching water.

Poach the ravioli in the simmering lobster stock for five to six minutes. Remove and drain.

Sauté the seasoned scallop discs on one side for 30 seconds.

Place three ravioli on the plate, arrange the garnish around using asparagus, scallop, tomatoes and pak choy, drizzle a little olive oil over the dish and finish with sprigs of chervil.

Serve with a good brut champagne.



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*Celebrate with a couple as they spend their anniversary swimming in grottos, interacting with wildlife, and remarrying at sea. Travel with a young family as they explore underwater rock formations, picnic on sandbars, and tear about on jetskis. And meet a retired couple who enjoy their golden years travelling from port to port visiting art galleries, ruined cities, and medieval villages.*

Then discover how these adventures can all be YOURS!

*OceanScape Yachts is the world's first vacation club dedicated to bringing the unparalleled experience of yachting to travellers just like you. This unique community combines concierge travel planning with traveller camaraderie to make planning your next holiday completely worry free.*

#### **Picture yourself:**

- *snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef in Australia*
- *climbing the Mayan ruins in Mexico*
- *diving with whales off the Galapagos*
- *or visiting any of the amazing destinations described in this book!*

*And it's all far more affordable than you probably realize. In fact, we can help show you how to take a luxury yacht vacation for the same price as other travel options you've considered in the past.*

But don't take our word for it

*You're invited to join the OceanScape Club and talk to members – people just like you – to share ideas about your next vacation: where to go, what to do, and what to pack. Let their experiences take the stress of the unknown out of your vacation planning.*

Visit **[www.oceanscpeyachts.com](http://www.oceanscpeyachts.com)** to join our community and see what yachting has in store for you.

*And for a taste of of the sea without ever leaving home, try the recipe on page 143!*

**Welcome Aboard!**