

RYA Day Skipper Practical

Pre-course requirements:

- 5 days at sea as a useful and active member of a cruising yacht
- 100 Nautical miles
- RYA Day Skipper Shorebased course or equivalent

What you will learn:

- Preparation for Sea
- Pilotage, entry into/departure from harbour, transits and soundings, leading and clearing lines
- Yacht Handling Under Sail, manoeuvres, bringing a boat to/from a mooring buoy, anchoring, steering and trimming sails effectively on all points of sail
- Yacht Handling Under Sail and Motor, manoeuvres under power, mooring and leaving berth, different types of mooring
- Passage-making, benefits & limitations of chart plotter or GNSS, navigational hazards and limitations
- Night Cruising, leaving and entering harbour, special considerations
- Taking Charge on Deck
- Emergency Situations, distress signals, rescue procedures
- Engines, checks, basic troubleshooting

After this course you can:

- Skipper a yacht bareboat in familiar waters by daytime
- Practice your new skills on our 2-day weekend sailing immediately after your 5-day course
- Gain more practice and miles on one of our tidal or non-tidal milebuilders
- Join our Flotilla sailing on your first charter from us and take advantage of your discount card

Next Steps:

- Take a Day Skipper Plus course
- Charter a yacht bareboat with your friends and family
- Progress to the RYA Yachtmaster/ Coastal Skipper and learn how to skipper a yacht by day and night
- Get your Marine Radio certificate

RYA Day Skipper Practical Course

For who?

This course is for already competent crew sailors who wish to learn being in charge of a sailing yacht.

RYA requirements: minimum 5 days at sea as active crew (100 nautical miles) *Covered in [RYA Competent Crew Course](#)*

If you never followed a structured 5-day course, a couple of sailing weeks can be the equivalent.

Required practical knowledge:

- Steering under power and sail
- Trimming sails on all points of sail
- Handling ropes
- Fenders
- Anchor
- Using suitable knots
- Undertaking normal crew duties

Required theoretical knowledge:

- RYA Day Skipper Shorebased course or equivalent: navigation, chart work, collision regulations, buoyage, etc.

Preparation

Get as much sailing experience as you can to be prepared. Be ready to give instructions to your crew (need to be familiar with crew's tasks) and be a real skipper.

Need more confidence if you have too little experience? We have [refresher weekend courses](#) giving you 26h on a yacht right before your Day Skipper course.

Complete your Day Skipper Shorebased theory course! You have two options:

- Online in your time (40-hour course) via [Urban Truant](#) or [Navathome](#).
- Join our [7days on board](#) course (start the day before at 9am) and follow a mix of theory and practical knowledge to get you to the required level! The only prep to do is a short online course for which we sign you up for.

During the course

Learning goal: after 5 days of practical tuition on board of a yacht, you will be able to skipper a small yacht safely by day, in both tidal and non-tidal waters. You will be taught: practical pilotage, navigation, seamanship, boat handling, and night sailing (4h).

Planning:

17:00 on starting date: meeting your crew at our office. Access the yachts, where you will be given a tour of the space and a chance to settle in your cabin. Discuss with instructor the plans for the week, have a first dinner on shore, and sleep on board.

First morning: Safety briefing, layout of yacht controls, engine start/stop, navigation equipment, sail sheets, etc.

First day: Leaving harbour and start exercises (going about, gybing, trimming, Man Overboard...). The aim is for the instructor to find out what you know, your strengths and what needs to be worked on.

Other days: you will take turns as skipper. You will cover: passage planning, pilot yacht into a bay, being in charge of the yacht, take fixes with hand-bearing compass, use GPS Plotter. You will also practice manoeuvres: navigate in confined spaces, go astern, pick-up buoys, anchors, go alongside quay, and med-moor. You will complete a 4-hour night sail that allow you to practice navigating using light characteristics. You will have a short test about your theory knowledge: calculating depths, tidal stream, and course to steer in tidal area.

You will also have relaxation time: swimming, snorkelling, sight-seeing! You will have dinners ashore in local tavernas and socialise with other crews.

Last day: You will get a debrief of your performance and advice from the instructor. If you achieved all tasks of the syllabus, you will be awarded your RYA Day Skipper Practical certificate. We will all have a feedback moment when getting back to the base before ending the course at 17:00 on the fifth day.

RYA Day Skipper Practical Course

What is provided?

The RYA Day Skipper Practical course book: will help you assimilate the materials learn during the practical.

An RYA Logbook: to record your miles and the details of your experience.

During group course: breakfast and lunches on board, enough water for the trip, coffee&tea, basic seasoning condiments, and extra money for extra groceries.

Yacht comfort: beddings, towels, first aid kit, coffee machine and milk foamer, dish soaps, snorkelling kits, inverter and bluetooth radio.

All our yachts are fully coded for commercial use and meet both the Royal Yachting Association and Hellenic Registry Standards for safety equipment, which are amongst the highest in the world.

Extras

A few weeks before the start of your course we will provide you with a packing list.

Unless your hands are used to physical work, sailing gloves might help protect your hands when using the ropes. We recommend using a pair of sailing gloves with open-ended fingers (available to buy at our office for 20€).

We recommend a budget of 20-30€ a night for dinners and drinks ashore.

Beach towels if you wish to swim (towels provided on board are shower towels).

Please ensure that you are covered by holiday/travel insurance that covers sailing. In case of injury, medical assistance or transportation home might be required. You will not be sailing more than 10miles offshore.

Additional material

If you are an adept of reading and want to know more about what will be expected from you before you course, we have some recommendations for preparatory readings:

- RYA Day Skipper Handbook - Sail, by Sara Hopkinson
- Introduction to Boat Handling for Sail and Power, by Rob Gibson
- Sail Trim Handbook for Cruisers, by Rob Gibson
- Yacht Sailing Techniques, by Jeremy Evans
- RYA Competent Crew booklet CCPCN, available on Amazon for people unfamiliar with English nautical terminology and/or who did not follow a RYA Competent Crew course beforehand.

Contact

We hope that all is clear regarding following a RYA Day Skipper Practical Course at our school. For more course details please refer to the [RYA website](#).

If you would like to proceed with booking a course, get back via email to our proposal!

We hope to see you soon on board.

