

BOAT SKIPPER INFO PACK

Dear guests,

Welcome aboard! If you have booked skipper service on your sailing or boating trip, this leaflet is here to help you understand their duties, obligations and scope of their services. Also, if this is your first time having a crewed charter, this might help you to get an idea what to expect of your crew members.

Duties of your skipper begin even before you arrive to the boat. Usually, the skipper will do a **technical check-in** before your arrival. A technical check-in is a procedure of taking over a boat from the charter and making sure that everything on the vessel is working properly. Also, skippers work on many different types of boats, so there might be a lot of details for them to remember.

If the boat was not ready for you at the time of your arrival, charter will give you a permission to board as soon as the boat is ready. In this case, please give your skipper a little bit of time to complete the check-in procedure and make sure everything is ready.

Charter companies usually have many boats to clean and fix many damages before the next guests arrive, so it might happen that some things are missed. If you notice that something on the boat is not working properly, **inform your skipper right away**. If the issue is something that a skipper can fix, he/she will fix it as soon as possible, and if not, they will do their best to organise repairs in the shortest amount of time and with respect for your precious vacation time.

Following the check-in, skipper's duty is giving you a **detailed safety briefing**. Safety briefing includes information on boat rules and codes of conduct, how to use appliances and amenities on the boat, where to find life vests and fire extinguishers, and general information about your safety and comfort. Also, he/she will ask you whether you have any health issues that they need to know about in case something goes wrong (for example, food or medication allergies, asthma, heart issues, epilepsy etc).

Safety briefing is usually followed by **route planning**. Skippers never plan the route without your input. Every guest is different and have different preferences. It is skipper's job to know places that will suit your interest, how long it takes to get there, how and where to moor the boat and prices of mooring fees. If you made your research and have an idea what you would like to see, make sure you tell your skipper about it. The only limitation to your route is weather forecast and distances between destinations, and your skipper will tell what destinations are reachable, and what might be too far away given the weather forecast.

During the trip, the **skipper's main concern is your safety**, safety of the crew and other people around you. Your skipper is not there to sail in any conditions, but to make the decision when the conditions are not safe to sail. Please, trust your skipper's judgment. If the weather forecast is showing bad weather for the day, you can always ask your skipper to give you a recommendation of alternative activities until the weather calms. A wine tasting or an adventure island hopping are always better than being beaten by wind and waves. In case of some manoeuvres and operations on the boat, the skipper might ask you to give him/her room to do her work and to lower the music volume so they could focus on some sensitive work. This is for your safety and

Provisioning for the skipper is always a part of the guests' expense. In practice, that means that the crew usually shares the food that is on the boat. When making lunch or dinner on the boat, please consider your skipper as well. If you have a stewardess or a cook, they will make sure to make enough food for you as well as the crew. It is also very common for guests to invite skippers or crew for a meal at the restaurants. If you would like to enjoy some private time during dinner, the skipper will have a dinner elsewhere and provide you with a receipt afterwards. In general, each crew member has an allowance of around 30 euro per day for their provisioning. Also, please note that skippers have a **non-drinking policy** during work, so don't offer them alcoholic beverages while underway.

Skippers usually work for many weeks in a row, so a **good nights' sleep** is essential for their working ability. If you can arrange it, please provide a skipper with their cabin/private space. If not, make sure to reduce the noise in late hours to allow your skipper and crew their needed rest. Skippers have to stand watch during anchoring, so don't insist on anchoring too often or two nights in a row. Night sailing is not allowed due to limitations posed by insurance companies. Also, designate one **restroom/bathroom** on the boat that is available for the crew to use.

Good communication with your skipper is the key to a successful trip, so if there is anything wrong during the week, inform your skipper right away. If the skipper doesn't know something is off, he/she cannot try to change it for the better. Also, if you are for some reason not satisfied with how your skipper is doing her/his work, you can always contact our office and tell us what the matter is.

Duties of skippers are:

- Safe and minimum risk sailing and mooring
- Help you to plan your route and moorings
- Help you with restaurants and extra activities
- Watching over the safety of guests while aboard
- Returning the boat to base on time
- Reporting any issues to charter
- Making decisions in bad weather or with any other risk
- Maintaining boat deck and exterior
- Tender operations

Duties of skippers are **not**:

- Taking unnecessary risks
- Plan your route for you
- Cooking for guests
- Watching over the safety of guests while ashore
- Covering for damages done by guests
- Sailing in bad or dangerous weather
- Cleaning boat interior
- Babysitting
- Drinking/partying with guests
- Taxiing guests after hours