

Activity Yachting Holidays

Southview, Boxham Lane, Sidlesham, West Sussex PO20 7QF

Tel: 0044(0)1243 641304

www.activityyachting.com

e mail: Jim@activityyachting.com

Joining instructions for Learn to Sail and Flotilla holidays from Murter Croatia

The following notes provide guidance on all of the holiday types that we offer from Murter. Some information, like flight and transfer guidance, is relevant to all holidays while specific other information is under the relevant heading for your holiday type.

Flight and Transfer Information:

All holidays booked with us can be with or without flights, and most of you will now be arranging your own flights, leaving us to organize the transfers. In all cases, including if you have booked your own flights directly, you should be at the airport two hours before departure. Always check carefully any timings on any tickets or other documentation that you have been sent, as airlines can alter times at the last minute. For on line bookings or e-tickets be sure to check the email address you provided when you booked your tickets, within 48 hours of departure in case of any last minute changes. If the latter happens please ensure that you inform us in the office immediately so that we can reschedule the transfers.

On arrival at Split Airport, or Zadar Airport, please watch out for somebody holding a sign with Activity Yachting Holidays and/or your name on it. They will then guide you to your coach, taxi or minibus as relevant. All transfers unless specifically stated otherwise, are on a shared taxi/minibus/coach basis and may involve people coming from different flights that are scheduled to land at slightly different times, so a short wait at the airport may sometimes be necessary.

Should you have any problems locating anyone at the airport please contact Gary or Mirjana, our base managers on the numbers given below. The transfer will take approximately 50 minutes from Zadar and about 80 from Split. For those customers staying in the apartments in Murter, you will be taken to your accommodation via Marina Betina, which is usually only a five to ten minutes drive away from the main apartments that we use. If driving out or travelling independently to Croatia please make your way directly to the marina office (or the restaurant if it is closed) in Betina Marina, Betina, Murter Island. There is a small shop in the marina, and a good restaurant, which stays open until late in the evening.

Our base and office in Croatia is on Murter Island at the marina in Betina. The telephone & fax number of the marina if required is 00385(0)22) 434497. Our base managers are Gary and Mirjana Conway and they can be contacted on

Office in Betina 00385 (0)22435235
Gary's Mobile 00385 (0)98752508
Mirjana's Mobile 00385 (0)98615084

These numbers should only be used for any problems that you may have while on holiday in Croatia or for any problems travelling out to the resort. For any enquiries that you may have prior to travelling, please contact the UK office.

Minors under 18 years old travelling to Croatia without their parents

Minors under the age of 18 years old travelling to Croatia without their parents are strictly speaking now required to provide a statement to enter the country. We are not aware of any policy of this being regularly checked, but mention it in case families are bringing children's' friends etc. The statement must be signed by the parents of the child involved and contain the relevant child/children's and parent's personal data, the purpose and duration of the trip, the final destination and the express declaration that the parents approve the journey. The official statement is stated below and we would hate anyone to have any problems in this regard, simply because they forgot to get a letter from the child's parents. *"Minors trying to enter Croatia without this statement may be denied entry to Croatia, sent back to the originating country and will be subject to a 48 hours ban on re-entering Croatia. For EU and Swiss citizens, the declaration does not need to be translated into Croatian. However non EU/Swiss citizens will need to produce an official Croatian translation"*.

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Money & Shopping:

The Croatian currency is the Kuna, and you will find that you can obtain it easily in advance in Banks or high street exchanges. The exchange rate seems to follow the Euro and official rates (excluding commissions) at 25/03/11 were £1.00 = 8.39 Kuna, 1€ = 7.38 Kuna and 1\$ = 5.21Kuna. If you do have any difficulty in obtaining Kuna in advance, there are cash dispensing machines and exchange facilities at the airports where you can obtain currency on arrival. If you cannot do this without delaying the transfer excessively, then you can also change any of the major currencies in the marina on your first morning. Cash machines are available in Murter, at about a 15-minute walk from the Marina.

Please do not get confused between the Euro and the Kuna. The Kuna is the official currency and this is what you will need for all normal day-to-day spending. However the practice in Croatia is to quote prices of many items like transfers etc in Euros, as this is used as a base currency, but Euros are not actually used.

To pay any costs quoted in Euros then you can usually pay in Euros if you already have Euros, but if you do not, then there is no need to get Euros, as you can equally pay all cash payments in Kuna, with the exact price being clarified on the day, based on that day's exchange rate.

Murter itself has a number of good supermarkets and there is a small one in the marina that is part of one of the larger chains, so there are no problems getting provisions either for taking on board yachts or for people moving into apartments. Shops and Supermarkets are open on Sunday mornings until 1300hrs, so again no problem for anybody arriving late on the Saturday evening. Generally you should have no problem finding all the normal food items that you need for breakfasts and lunches, with prices being similar to the UK and Ireland and the only food item that we do advise people to bring out with them are t-bags, as the local selection is very limited. Alcohol is cheaper than in the UK or Ireland.

We are often asked how much eating out costs. An evening meal in many of the restaurants will usually cost between 80kn to 140kn per person including drinks (in moderation), while children's meals will be cheaper. A beer will set you back about 10kn. You can however get a very good Pizza for about 35 to 45kn, but you can equally spend 250kn a head if you opt to order the most expensive fish and wine on the menu. Croatia is a very accomplished wine producing country and some of the local wines are excellent. A bottle will cost you anything from 25kn, although you may find cheaper and "interesting" wines in the odd wine cellar where they decant straight from the barrel.

During the flotilla you will find that you can change any of the major currencies in all of the marinas, and most of the bigger towns have cash machines. Please note however that you should not bring any Scottish notes, as although they may be legal tender in the UK, you will find it impossible to exchange them in Croatia. Marinas can be paid for by credit card and the larger restaurants will also accept them, so most people should manage easily on a combination of cash and the use of cash machines and credit cards when available. As always however we do advise that if relying on a combination of credit or debit cards, please ensure that you have more than one you can rely on in case of any problems.

General Information for Yachts:

Most of our ports of call will either be Marinas with full facilities for washing, watering etc, or town quays with fewer facilities. The Marinas charge between 200kn to 350kn per yacht up to about 40ft, and more for larger vessels and so this depends on the yacht size and the number on board. Most of the smaller ports and harbour's also charge mooring fees in season, even though they may not have full facilities, with town quays costing between 120kn to 200kn as a rule. If we sail out to the Kornati or Telascica area, these are local or national parks, where there is either a per head, or a per yacht fee for entering the park area, which is valid for 24hours. This is generally only collected if you are staying overnight. The flotilla crew will advise you on site regarding this.

The fresh water on board the yachts is drinkable, but many people prefer to just use it for washing and boiling and use bottled water for drinking. When you use the heads (ship's toilet), please only put into it what your digestive system has thrown out! We ask people not flush toilet paper down the heads, as this is the only way that we can ensure that you will not have blockages. Please use a plastic bag (you may prefer to buy perfumed nappy sacks and bring them with you for this purpose) for toilet tissue etc. If you insist on putting paper down the loo, and then end up with a blockage, our skippers will be quite happy to give you the instructions of how to unblock it!!

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Please ensure that the holding tank (where fitted) is emptied before entering port each night. The capacity of the holding tanks on board is limited, and therefore should be reserved for overnight use. Where possible, shore facilities should be used in the evenings. This is especially relevant for families and large groups.

Bring plenty of sun block, wide brimmed hat (something that ties under your chin or a baseball cap that can be secured), and loose light clothing to cover arms and legs. You may be used to the sun, and out to get a suntan, but you will be experiencing the combined effect of sun, sea and wind and if you don't take suitable precautions for the first few days you will burn and ruin the rest of your holiday. Also always bring some warmer clothes and some form of waterproof jacket, (a lightweight jacket is fine) although for early and late season bring more warm clothes and if you have a sailing jacket bring it. Most of the time by day, in the main season, you'll be living in shorts, T-shirts, and swimwear, but even in peak season in the evenings out of the sun the temperature can drop quite a bit. You can also get a broken spell of weather at any time of the year. A pair of gloves (ordinary gardening ones are fine) are useful to have to protect your hands when using ropes or doing any anchor work. Finally everybody should have some form of lightweight footwear (no black marking soles please) that you can wear both on deck but are equally happy to get wet. Cheap canvas plimsolls or some form of sandals that dry quickly are ideal. In Croatia when you go in the dinghy you will be stepping ashore onto rocks rather than sand and there are always sea urchins about so you should not do this in bare feet, which is why and it is important to have some form of cheap footwear that you are happy to get wet. If you do not have anything suitable then you can get cheap suitable footwear in the local shops and markets when you arrive.

We do not supply masks, snorkels or flippers, as it is impossible to supply all sizes and maintain them in an acceptable condition. Good quality but inexpensive ones can easily be bought locally, which you can then keep for future holidays. Because of recent international legal trends our First Aid Kits are very basic. We strongly recommend therefore that you bring your own especially if there are certain medications you may have to take. Insect repellent and anti-sting (such as waspeeze) may also come in useful. Many of our customers have also mentioned that it is useful to take a small pack of 'wet ones' and/or some anti-bacterial hand wash that doesn't require any water. These come in handy when staying in the smaller ports without full facilities. All this should be packed into a collapsible bag, for storage on board. Hard suitcases cannot be taken on the yachts, but if required, we can store extra bags that are not required for the sailing week in one of our containers, while you are out on the water.

You will need to take towels, but all bedding will be provided. In April, early May, late September and October the weather can be very changeable, so it is advisable to bring extra warm clothing, and heavier duty waterproofs during these periods. For these periods we provide extra blankets, but some people may want to bring a sleeping bag as well.

Many people contact us to ask about charging camera batteries, mobile phones etc while on the yachts. There are two systems for this. Virtually all yachts in Croatia have a 12v car "cigarette lighter" type socket fitted so you can use any standard 12v car type chargers at any time that the engine is running. The boats are also fitted with 220 volt conventional mains electricity supplies, but these only have power when you are in a marina or port where shore power is provided. This will normally be the first and last nights' while in our base marina and then another two or three nights of the week when you are out an about. For these systems you do need to bring a European style two pin earthed adaptor if you have UK or Irish style three pin plugs fitted to your appliances. The combination of the above is usually enough for everybody's needs, and if you do have mains chargers and get caught out, if you are eating in a local restaurant in the evening, you can always try asking them to put your item on charge while you are having your meal.

For anybody wanting to use an Ipod and play it through the yachts cd player, again there are usually two systems. Some yachts have an input jack that you can plug the Ipod straight into. Those that do not usually have an FM radio with the cd player that can be tuned into receive the output from the Ipod if you have the appropriate transmitter for your Ipod. Not all yachts however have cockpit speakers, as this does vary from model to model.

For internet access, data only sims, and dongles can be bought locally starting from about 150Kuna, and this can often work out much cheaper than international roaming charges, if you have unlocked phones or computers that can use these.

We suggest that you do not participate in any activity holidays whilst wearing expensive watches, jewellery, etc. Getting the local police to fill out loss reports for your insurance company is time consuming and generally impossible to organise if you claim to have lost items overboard. Without a report however you are unlikely to get

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any compensation from your insurance company, so please bear this in mind before bringing jewellery or similar items with you.

Regarding Insurance, please make sure that you bring your travel insurance policy with you and keep it somewhere easily accessible. Either you, or someone having to act on your behalf in the event of an emergency, should be able to find the 24-hour medical hotline telephone number. Only the insurance company can authorise any emergency medical treatment abroad or repatriation. Activity Yachting Holidays accepts no liability or responsibility for anyone joining any of our holidays without adequate travel insurance.

Onsite Cash payments:

When the holiday was booked, you will have been informed about certain onsite cash payments, and you will find the amount noted on your holiday invoice. These amounts will vary from booking to booking and are to cover certain on site costs associated with your particular holiday. They should be paid in cash, and can be paid in Euros, sterling, or the local currency (but not Scottish Notes) on the first morning. Credit cards or cheques cannot be processed on site, so please ensure that you have the correct amount with you.

Flotilla / Bareboat Charter & Skippering Qualifications:

All skippers should bring any proof of competence to skipper a yacht (certificates, logbook, etc.) and a copy of their VHF licence if they have one, as the port police have the right to ask to see these. It is advisable to also bring some photocopies, as in the unfortunate event of any incident involving the authorities they may ask for copies of documentation. If you happen to be on a small island, you do not want to have to waste holiday time trying to find copying facilities so it is easier to have them with you. All skippers taking one of our in house yachts will also be asked to sign a statement declaring that they either have some form of skippers licence or equivalent prior skippering experience, and are therefore qualified to skipper a yacht of the size being chartered in a flotilla environment for the duration of the holiday.

Anybody taking a bareboat will definitely have their qualifications verified at check in. Also, if available, bring any certificates of competence (with photocopies) for any members of the crew. On the subject of a VHF licence, strictly speaking this is a requirement for yacht charter, but rarely enforced. Any skipper that does not have one should however be familiar with the correct procedures for using a VHF, particularly in relation to emergency use, and as more legislation comes in, we recommend that all skippers should consider getting one. It only involves a one-day course, is not particularly expensive, and then you are covered for all eventualities in the future. Any skipper that does not have any formal certification should be aware that the rules on this are getting stricter, and we recommend that you consider doing an ICC. The ICC is being asked for more and more and although it is only a basic level skipper's qualification, it is slowly becoming required as the 'equivalent to a standard European driving licence for yachts'. Anyone taking a bareboat arranged by us must already have some formal skipper's qualification.

Anyone taking a yacht on flotilla, but not having any certification, must have already clarified this with us and will have to have arranged an assessment at the start of the holiday. In all cases we will also have recommended that you avail of the opportunity to do an ICC assessment with us while on holiday. You will find more details on this on our web site, but please note that because of the paperwork and logistics involved, we do need to plan these in advance and you cannot just turn up on the day and hope to have an assessment. If you are interested in this please call us in the office to arrange it before departing on your holiday, and we will send you out the relevant forms, as well as advice on the necessary theory that you may need to brush up on before the assessment.

You can view the Croatia government's list of recognized skippers certificates valid for chartering yachts in Croatia at http://www.mmpi.hr/UserDocsImages/5.5.TABLICA_ENGLISH.pdf

(Please copy and paste into a browser if the link does not work)

Charts and basic navigational instruments will be supplied. All charts are provided in a plastic sleeve so please only use the pens provided when using the charts, as they do have to be re-used throughout the season. Before setting off we will run through the mooring, rigging, and engine procedures, as well as doing an inventory check. The Yacht must be returned with everything stowed as found.

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You will be allowed on the yacht by 1700 hrs on the day of commencement of your charter. All yachts must be back at base by 1800 hrs on the day before disembarking. The yacht must be vacated by 0830 hrs on the last day of your charter.

Luggage can be left at the marina, from where you will be transferred. Anyone taking a boat from another company, either on a bareboat basis, or arranging to join the flotilla, should clarify the exact times for returning the yacht and any other local arrangements when they take over the yacht.

Because of the very nature of this sort of holiday, accidents do happen and in extreme circumstances it could mean that a previous charterer has damaged the yacht making it unavailable for your holiday. If this does happen, we will supply you with an equivalent replacement yacht.

Whilst still on the subject of damage, loss and breakage, should any of these things either happen to you or come to light during your holiday, please, note it on the inventory when you return the yacht. Only by doing this can the faults be rectified before the next charterer arrives.

Learn to Sail Holidays:

On any given week we will have a number of tuition boats going out. These will either consist of a group or family that are filling a particular yacht, or else we will make up the crews from singles and couples. When a group are filling a yacht we will have arranged this with them at the time of booking. They then will take care of all provisioning and mooring and marina fees for the week. In this case there will only be an onsite cash payment for the yacht security insurance, Log books and course completions seals, and this will be as advised on your invoice. Log books and certification are normally included for two people and then extras can be paid for on site if required.

Any clients with IYT Log books from previous holidays with us should bring them with you.

Where we are making up the crew we will have advised you of an amount to be paid on site, and this should be paid in cash on arrival. This amount is to cover your Log book and certification costs, and yacht running costs including mooring and marina expenses, fuel etc for the week. As part of this type of holiday (shared tuition yacht only), the yacht will also have a certain amount of basic provisions on board like tea, coffee etc so that there is something on board when you first arrive. Each crew member will then have to contribute to a small kitty which you manage among yourselves and out of which you can buy whatever you want for simple on board continental breakfasts and picnic style lunches. Shopping is done in local shops and, experience has shown that this is the best system for managing on board meals. This way you get to eat whatever you want while controlling your own budget.

Many people like to go ashore for a bit of a wander before the day's sailing, and often grab a coffee and some local pastries or a cooked breakfast from a local café en route. Main evening meals will then normally be taken ashore and are not included, but you are free to use the kitchen and cooking facilities on board at any time that you wish to prepare something for yourselves.

IYT training books will be given to you by your instructor, and these will be used as an ongoing record of your training and sailing. This training follows a modular structure, and depending on your prior experience, you may start at the beginning, or join in part way along. A number of the modules cover similar topics, but the later ones are in more detail so the skipper will assess the level you are at. Total beginners will aim to get to a crew level in a week, and have module six completed. Those with prior experience will be aiming to get to a flotilla skipper level, and have module 12 completed.

Please remember that for the skipper assessment, it is not sufficient to just cover the relevant modules, as different people will have different aptitudes, so you may have up to module eleven completed, but simply need more practice before getting module twelve signed off. As the course is a practical one, all theory modules will be covered as you go along, with the main emphasis being to get your practical modules stamped off. At the end of the week the skipper will sign off the relevant sections covered, and issue seals on modules six or twelve as appropriate, to denote which level of training you are at. If you then want formal certificates (A5 style of a form that you can put in a frame) these can be obtained from IYT but there is an additional charge for these, and you would need to contact the office in this regard. As you then gain further experience, sailing with friends other training etc you should keep a record of this so it all contributes to your record of experience and training. Anyone that is aiming to get to the Flotilla Skipper level and already has some prior experience that also wishes to obtain an ICC should initially consult our web site for information on the syllabus. We should have no problem covering the

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practical elements of the assessment but we cannot cover the depth of theory required during the training week, so this option is only suitable for those that have studied the theory before they come out. It is particularly suited to those that may have done a navigation and seamanship course at night school but are then coming out to us to gain more practical experience. Again we need to know in advance if you wish to be assessed for the ICC so that it can be scheduled in. Please call us before you commence your holiday for extra information required in this regard, as certain paperwork should be done in advance and you will need to bring two passport photographs out with you.

Accommodation holidays:

If you are having a holiday or part of a holiday staying ashore on Murter in accommodation organised by us, you will usually be staying in self-catering studios or apartments in and around Murter. These apartments are all very comfortable and fully kitted out for self-catering, even though many people still choose to eat out most evenings. On Murter itself, there is a good range of supermarkets and restaurants and local bars that should be sufficient for most people's needs. Various day trips and excursions are available from the local tour offices to the nearby National parks and as Murter is joined to the mainland by a bridge, car hire can be arranged locally by organising cars from Sibenik. There is a regular bus service to Sibenik the nearest big town which is about 25 miles south of us and you can also get to Zadar about 40 miles to the north. If you are taking a Drascombe Lugger for a few days these will usually be moored either in the main town quay or Betina marina and can mean a walk of 10 to 20 minutes depending on where you are staying. Bicycle hire is available locally if anybody wants this, as well as plenty of large speed boats for anybody with an appropriate licence.

Local Health Services:

The Croatian and British Governments have a reciprocal agreement covering emergency health care. Holders of British passports are entitled to free emergency health care, but may have to incur prescription or medicine charges where necessary. If you hold a passport from any other country, it is advisable to check with your relevant health service provider to clarify your particular situation regarding health care.

Weather forecast

The weather fore cast is transmitted at 0700hrs, 1300hrs and 1900hrs in English, Italian, Croatian and German on the following channels

VHF Channel 69 => North Adriatic Sea

VHF Channel 67 => Middle Adriatic Sea

VHF Channel 73 => South Adriatic