

Activity Yachting Holidays

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

If you have any issues or delays relating to arrival times, that happen on the day of travel, you must contact the base directly and not the UK office.

Please also call Mirjana in case of a problem in locating any transfer we have organized for you.

Base Address and Contact details

Flotilla Base Address	Marina Betina Nikole Skevina 15 22244 Betina Murter Island, Croatia.
Contact Details:	Gary Conway Tel: 0038598752508 Mirjana Jerkovic Conway: Tel:0038522435585
Email:	obala@si.t-com.hr

Flight and Transfer Information:

In all cases you will have booked your own flights, but many of you will have asked us to arrange transfers from the airport. In this case, on arrival at Split or Zadar Airport's, please look for somebody holding a sign with Activity Yachting Holidays and/or your name on it. 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 above. The transfer will take approximately 50 minutes from Zadar and about 80 from Split and will take you to the marina the yacht is based in.

Driving or Independent Travel

If driving out or travelling independently to the base, please make your way to the marina address shown above. Our yachts are moored directly in front of the restaurant in Betina marina and during the day you should see our staff working on the yachts. If you do not or you are arriving late please call Mirjana in advance to advise her of your estimated time of arrival.

For very late arrivals you will be given instructions on which yacht to let yourself on board for the night, and which cabin to use if going onto a shared yacht.

If you are driving then there is secure parking at the marina. You cannot pre book this, but you will always find space. Parking is charged for on exiting the car park, and it costs from about 10kuna for an hour up to about 350kuna for a week. You may also find cheaper parking offered by local houses on the road outside of the marina and you will see signs for this. Do not try to chance just parking on the street as all the area around the marina has controlled parking and vehicles will be impounded and carried away.

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 12/05/17 were £1.00 = 8.77 Kuna, 1€ = 7.42 Kuna and 1\$ = 6.83 Kuna. There are cash dispensing machines and exchange facilities at the airports, and you can change any major currency in the marina on your first morning. Cash machines are available in Murter, both in the marinas and the village centres as well as in many ports we will visit.

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 has a number of supermarkets including a small one in the marina so there are no problems getting provisions. Shops and Supermarkets are open on Sunday mornings until 1300hrs, so again no problem for anybody arriving late on the Saturday evening. You will find 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 200kn per person including drinks in moderation. A beer will set you back about 15kn. You can get a good Pizza for about 50kn, and many main courses for under 100kn, but you can equally spend 300kn or more, if you opt to order expensive fish or wine. Croatia is an accomplished wine producing country and some of the local wines are excellent, with a small carafe of house wine costing from 40kn.

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 do not bring any Scottish notes, as although they may be legal tender in the UK, you may 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:

You will always start and finish a charter in a marina with full toilet and shower facilities. During the week then you should be in a marina with full facilities on about two evenings of the week, while on other nights you may be in ports with fewer, or no facilities, when you will need to rely on those on the yacht. All yachts have on board toilets and a shower, although for showering we recommend using the deck shower after swimming, as a better option.

Marinas and Town quays in Croatia will always charge and these can be expensive, Most marinas charge between 250kn to 450kn per yacht up to about 40ft, and more for larger vessels. Town quays and local ports usually charge between 150kn to 350kn, and most have lazy lines, shore power, and water, but may not have toilet and shower facilities. There is also someone to assist with mooring when you arrive. 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 anchoring and staying overnight and there is no fee to sail through these areas if you do not stop. 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!!

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 may 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 that you can wear both on deck but are equally happy to get wet. 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 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. All yachts only have basic First Aid Kits, so we recommend that you bring any items you may like to have, like insect repellent, anti-sting, or any personal medications

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/iPhone/MP3 and play it through the yachts cd player, again there are usually two systems. Some yachts have an input jack that you can plug 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 100Kuna, and there is very good 3/4G connections in most of the flotilla area, 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 any compensation from your insurance company, so please bear this in mind before bringing items of this nature 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:

Some holidays have direct additional onsite cash payments, which are effectively part of the holiday cost and these are stated on your holiday check list at step 3. These amounts will vary from booking to booking and if stage 3 does not have any charges, then your holiday does not have any. These should be paid in cash, and can be paid in Euros, sterling, or the local currency 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 & Skippers 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. Any skipper taking one of our in house yachts may 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.

Anyone taking a yacht on flotilla, but not having any certification, must have already clarified this with us and will have to have arranged a skipper assessment at the start of the holiday.

You can view the Croatia government's list of recognized skippers certificates valid for chartering yachts in Croatia at http://www.mppi.hr/UserDocsImages/TABLICA%20MoU_ENG%2015-12_15.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.

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. 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, while those with prior experience will be aiming to get to the ICC and /or Flotilla skipper level.

Please note that the training we follow is that laid down by International Yacht Training, and final certificates are issued by them. For the issuing of ICC's, IYT is approved by the UK government to issue ICCs to UK citizens and residents as well as nationals of other countries that have **not** adopted UN Resolution 40, only. This means that IYT cannot issue ICC's to nationals of many European countries (including people from Ireland) as citizens of these countries can only get an ICC from an organization approved in their own country. This restriction is new for 2017 and you will find further details on this at <https://www.iytworld.com/courses/international-certificate-of-competency-icc/>

In practice then anyone that is not eligible to be awarded an ICC can still follow the same training but then in their case they will get the IYT Flotilla Skipper certificate instead. This is also recognized to allow you to charter a yacht and is the first step towards moving on to the more advanced Bareboat Skipper qualification.

In either case for anyone wanting to get to the skipper level there is additional theory course which must now be completed before any skipper's certification can be issued. This is operated by IYT and full details are available at http://www.activityyachting.com/Croatia_Learn_to_Sail/ICC_E_learning.htm

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