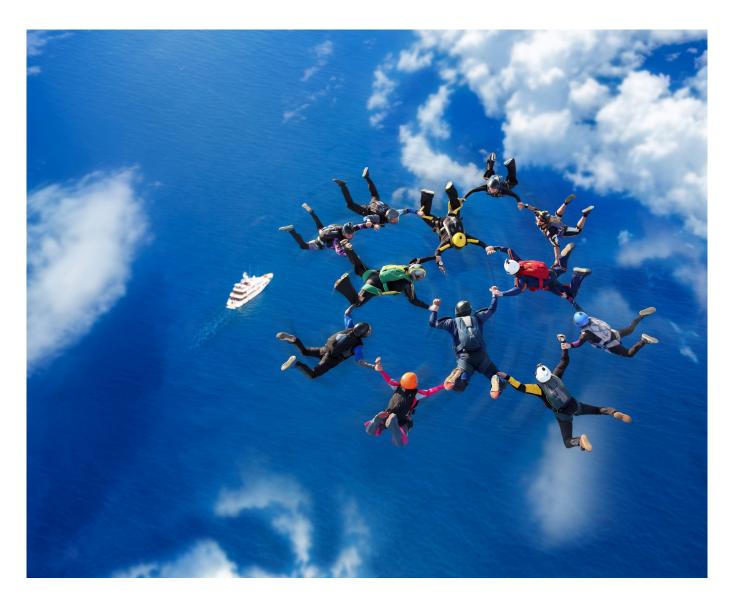
# Get To Know World League Of Agents — Commitment To Exceptional Service

World League of Agents has a clear objective: to provide impeccable service to clients around the world. This new non-profit Network unites yacht agents across the globe who share the same vision of providing exceptional customer service, each with a minimum of ten years of experience in the yachting industry. As the superyacht industry continues to grow, and the world of guest experiences becomes more saturated, there is more pressure than ever on the crew to provide unforgettable cruising experiences for guests — World League of Agents can assist your vessel in this endeavour.



World League of Agents has gathered a group of super agents from all corners of the globe that share the same commitment to providing yachts with the highest degree of assistance. This eliminates the need for yacht owners and captains to spend valuable time seeking out agents wherever they cruise. World League of Agents is now your first port of call.

#### A Global Network

World League of Agents is more than equipped to greet your yacht wherever you might be cruising. Their members are located in all of the popular yachting hubs such as Spain, Greece, France, Monaco, Italy, The UK & Ireland, The US, The

Caribbean, Turkey, Croatia and many more. See below their map of locations around the world:





In addition, each member of the Network is an independent company with no ties to large corporations. Each member has voluntarily joined the group. As each agency has over a decade of experience in the yachting industry, as well as extensive knowledge of the local area and yachting industry, the work has already been accomplished. Moreover, every company operates with a commitment to transparency, promising there will be no hidden costs, commissions, or surprises associated with their services.

Based on their expert knowledge of the locations, each agency will provide the most current information about travel restrictions and regulations within their area. Agents within

the league collaborate to make the best suggestions for their clients. Clients will also be in direct contact with the Managers of each agency. This approach maintains a personalised touch which is critical in an industry that can often feel detached.

The idea to form this community came naturally to the league's founders as each organisation has been recommending one another to clients for many years:

"Clients do frequently ask us for recommendations of other similar agencies that match our standards and that's what we did. We connect yachts with other companies within "The League". Because we all share same values and same work ethics and commitment to the client, we have been already working together for a long time, recommending each other, to ensure our clients receive the best service when they are not in our areas. It just seemed a natural progression that we should formalise this strong alliance." — Belen Martín, Managing Partner at Evolution and founding member of the World League of Agents

We will be writing features on each of the members, so that you can get to know them individually and discover their services. In the meantime, you can find out more about World League of Agents on <a href="their website">their website</a> and watch their video below to discover more:

Keep up to date with the latest Superyacht Content news by signing up to our Newsletter here:

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# Porto Montenegro: Why The Marina Is One Of The Best In Europe For Crew

Porto Montenegro, the Mediterranean's leading luxury yacht homeport and marina village, was awarded a *TYHA* Marina Award in 2017 at the London Boat Show. This year, the port is up for nomination yet again and with a wide range on offer for crew and guests, the port is an excellent location for yacht crew to be based this winter.



With its specific infrastructure, Porto Montenegro caters to the needs of the largest yachts, their owners, guests and crew with state-of-the-art facilities. In addition to 450 berths, the marina has 220 luxury apartments, 60 units of ground-floor retail, 30 restaurants, bars, cafes, shops and amenities, and a five-star Regent Hotel with over 80 luxury suites and apartments.

#### Superyacht Marina Of Distinction

As of 2017, Porto Montenegro holds five 'Gold Anchors' — the highest accolade for service and operational standards available in the industry. Porto Montenegro was voted for by boat owners and berth holders to win the 'Superyacht Marina of Distinction' award for the timeframe of 2015 to 2017. Porto Montenegro was the first marina to win this award.

The *Gold Anchor* award scheme has been auditing marinas throughout the world for over 25 years and is well known as a credible measure of marina quality. Any rated marina will have been subject to a series of rigorous tests including a marina audit, mystery shoppers and customer questionnaires.

Jon White, General Manager of The Yacht Harbour Association says:

"2017 saw the launch of the accolade Marina of Distinction. This honour distinguishes a marina with over three consecutive years of continual customer service excellence, as voted for by its customers in the Marina of the Year competition. To qualify, marinas must rank a category finalist over three consecutive competitions. On the third year, they receive the title of Marina of Distinction. The first ever superyacht marina to receive this honour is Porto Montenegro."

The Marina was also awarded *ACREW*'s prestigious 'World's Best Superyacht Marina' in 2021, part of the annual Superyacht Business Awards.

With this award, ACREW's network of around 15,000 Captains and Crew Members vote for the superyacht businesses that deserve global recognition. As the winner of the Best Superyacht Marina Award, it is recognised that Porto Montenegro consistently provides the highest level of services and facilities to Superyacht Captains & Crew and assists Superyacht guests to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable stay. The marina is up for the award again this year!

Read More: Innovation Center Launched At Palma
Superyacht Village

# An Exciting Calendar Of Activities For Crew



With excellent services for captains and crew, it's no wonder that the marina is considered one of the best in Europe to visit. This year, the marina is offering more parties, more outdoor activities and more weekend getaways for crew. The marina maintains an excellent calendar of activities for crew to get involved in throughout the winter and summer months, including hiking, winery visits, movie nights, pub quizzes and much more. There are also regular social sailing sessions and parties held at the laidback 'Blue Room' cafe bar, a social hub for captains and crew.

Crew can also join The Crew Club for free, membership comes with many benefits such as discounts and special offers across

the port's restaurants and boutiques. Sports Club access is also included in the Crew Club membership, with access to the fully equipped indoor and outdoor gyms and discounts on classes. Porto Montenegro also partnered with Warsash Training Academy to deliver courses at the specially designed base within the port, so yacht crew can complete further training during their stay.

#### Time To Vote!

It is your time to vote for TYHA's Marina of the Year 2023. Any marina with a *Gold Anchor* status is eligible for one of the Five categories in TYHA's Marina of the Year 2023.

Plus — any marina, berth holder or member of the public can nominate a marina employee for TYHA's Marina Employee of the Year.

You can vote below for Porto Montenegro using the search box, and you can nominate your chosen employee from the marina by entering their full name, marina, and reason for choosing them in the comments box.

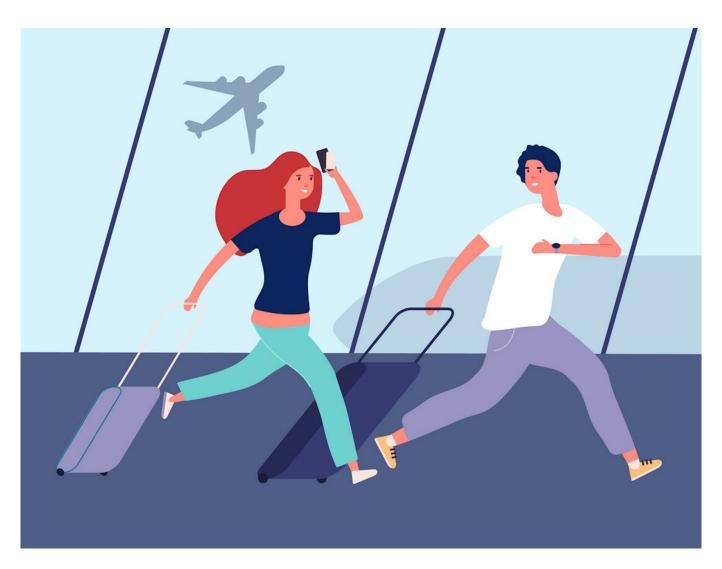
Voting closes midnight on 27th August 2023: www.tyha.co.uk/marina-awards

### Weekly Yacht Crew Travel News

### & Updates

Want to keep up to date with the latest visa regulations, border closures and strike info? Blue Marine Travel provide weekly updates on worldwide travel news so yacht crew can stay in the know.

Blue Marine Travel is dedicated to bringing yacht crew the latest travel updates, for those who are always moving, whether by air or sea.



# Here is this week's roundup of the most recent worldwide travel updates brought to you by Blue Marine Travel

# Travel News For Week Starting Monday 27th February:

### <u>Spain to Abolish Carry-on Liquid Restrictions at Airports From</u> 2024

Authorities in Spain plan to abolish the carry-on liquid rules in 2024, permitting passengers through some countries airports to take over 100 ml liquids in their hand luggage without being subject to restrictions.

According to the announcement of *Aena*, the state-owned company in charge of general interest airports in Spain, from 2024, liquid restrictions will be abolished at Madrid-Bajaras and Barcelona-El Prat airports, <a href="SchengenVisaInfo.com">SchengenVisaInfo.com</a> reports.

After Madrid and Barcelona, the scanners will be introduced at airports of Palma de Mallorca as well as Málaga-Costa del Sol from 2025 and in the year 2026 in Gran Canaria, Tenerife Sur and Fuerteventura, among others, Murcia Today report notes.

The same noted that travellers will also be eligible to leave electronics in their luggage after new 3D X-ray technology is installed. The new rules mean that passengers are also eligible to take their bottles of wine or olive oil in their hand luggage.

Aena said that it would make a significant investment in the Explosive Detection System for Cabin Baggage (EDSCB) projected to generate a 3D image of the content of suitcases. The new project is designed to save travellers time without compromising security in airports.

## UK Issues Travel Warning for Travellers to France as Major Transport Disruptions May Occur

The British authorities have issued a travel warning for its citizens planning to visit France in the following weeks, due to a mass strike action expected to occur on March 7.

More specifically, Unions around France have warned that the mass strike action, might impact tourism and cancel flights, as it is the main target of the action.

"Several unions have called for cross-sector strike action and demonstrations across France on Tuesday, March 7. Industrial action may start the evening before a strike day and run until the morning after" — a statement regarding the action pointed out.

Looking back at previous strikes, many workers from the transport, education and energy sectors walked out, which caused major infrastructures to happen. Last month, the industrial action saw many transport workers walking out, which resulted in flight cancellations by Eurostar, Ryanair, easyJet and British Airways.

#### **EU Postpones Launch of ETIAS to 2024'**

The European Union has once again postponed the launch of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), this time for the year 2024, without giving an exact

date, or even month.

The delay of the ETIAS roll out date has happened without any warning by the EU, by simply, changing the date in the EU Commission's Migration and Home Affairs website to 2024, instead of November 2023, as it has been before. The EU Commission's Migration and Home Affairs website now also lists travel-europe.eu/etias\_en as the official ETIAS website, and <a href="mailto:travel-europe.eu/ees\_en">travel-europe.eu/ees\_en</a> as the official website of <a href="mailto:the thravel-europe.eu/ees\_en">the Entry/Exit System</a>, (EES).

The latter was also supposed to become effective on May 2023, but it has been postponed for the end of the year. The exact date for the EES roll out remains unknown as well.

#### Air New Zealand unveils Economy Stretch product

New Zealand has unveiled a new economy product with additional legroom on its B777 aircraft.

The 'Economy Stretch' seats are located in the first four rows of the cabin, with 42 seats offering up to 39 per cent more legroom than the standard economy seat and 35-inch seat pitch (rather than 31 inches in standard).

Costing an extra NZD\$175 for a one-way trip, the product is a revamp of the current economy seat with 'sculptured upholstery' and a flexible headrest. Passengers will also benefit from upgraded headsets and a pillow designed for long-haul travel, along with free advanced seat selection and early disembarkation.

The product will debut on the Auckland-Los Angeles route, operated by a B777-300, from February 27, though the airline hopes to introduce the product on its Houston route 'as part of phase two'.

Chief customer and sales officer Leanne Geraghty commented:

"Customers have told us they want more room to relax, and at a competitive price. *Economy Stretch* answers this challenge, with some luxury for the legs all while enjoying our renowned in-flight service, Kiwi cuisine and wine, and seat-back entertainment."

"Through innovations such as the *Economy Skycouch* and with *Economy Skynest* launching later next year, *Air New Zealand* continues to push boundaries in Economy travel."

"The Economy cabin welcomes the most diverse group of travellers. The introduction of Economy Stretch means we are providing more choice for customers at an Economy price point that will meet the needs of families, solo travellers, as well as those just looking for that little bit extra of extra comfort."

#### <u>American Airlines Cuts Nearly 50,000 Flights From Summer</u> Schedule

American Airlines has cut almost 50,000 flights from its summer schedule, with June and July being the most affected months. According to the airline, this is standard as it finalises schedules closer to the upcoming season.

As airlines worldwide prepare for a busy summer, many expecting to reach pre-pandemic levels, some must make cuts. Earlier this week, German carrier <u>Lufthansa announced it was cutting more than 30,000 flights</u> from its summer schedule. European airports are also placing daily passenger caps, like the ones imposed at London Heathrow and <u>Amsterdam Schiphol</u> last year.

For any crew who have flights booked with AA in June and July, please keep in regular contact with the airline or your travel provider

For The Latest Superyacht Content Crew Articles, Click Here.

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## MGMT: The Best UK Events For Superyacht Guests In 2023

2022 saw the most Superyachts visiting the UK since the London Olympics in 2012, and 2023 is set to continue attracting more vessels to the British Isles with an exciting itinerary of events on the horizon for guests to attend. MGMT Yacht — The UK's leading Superyacht agency have complied a list of the best UK events For Superyacht Guests in 2023 to ensure you don't miss any opportunity to wow your guests whilst visiting the UK this year.



#### 1. The Elite London Marine Showcase

19th — 20th May Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire



A must-visit for those with a keen interest in water crafts, The Marine Showcase hosts some of the best brands in British boat building and displays carefully selected models with cutting-edge technology. For tickets and further information, contact info@mgmtyacht.com.

#### 2. British Grand Prix

Friday 30th June, Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd July Silverstone Circuit, Towcester, UK



The British Grand Prix is full of exhilarating races, food, drinks, live music, and activities for the whole family, making for an unforgettable day at Silverstone. Silverstone has hosted British Grand Prix since the very first F1 race in 1950. It's the home to the infamous Manswell Mania and past guests have even been witness to Lewis Hamilton's crowd-

#### 3. The Championships, Wimbledon

3rd — 16th July 2023 All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Church Road, London, UK



The most iconic tournament in tennis. At the famous grass courts of All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, lucky attendees can watch tense matches and enjoy Pimms and Strawberries, alongside some celeb spotting. Summertime in Britain could hardly be more idyllic, one of the most desirable UK events for Superyacht guests visiting the UK this year.

#### 4. Goodwood festival of speed

- -13th 16th July 2023
- Goodwood Motor Circuit, Chichester, UK



Goodwood Festival of Speed returns in spectacular style this year with a range of classic and modern racing cars, electric vehicles and futuristic technologies on display. This is the UK's most lavish celebration of car culture, a must for motor car enthusiasts.

#### 5. The Open Championship 2023

- 16th − 23rd July
- Royal Liverpool, Wirral, England



Guests that love golf won't want to miss the 151st Open Championship, returning to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in 2023. The world's oldest and most popular golf event will be played for the 151st time at Hoylake on the west coast of England where world-class players compete for the title of Champion Golfer of the Year.

Guests can soak up the atmosphere with various different options of food and accommodation packages available, contact <a href="MGMT">MGMT</a> for more info.

Read More: The Most Exciting Superyacht Crew
Competition To Date

# 6. Edinburgh International Summer Festival

- August 2023



Edinburgh is one of the world's leading festival cities, hosting an array of different experiences to meet everyones taste. The Edinburgh International Festival brings Edinburgh's theatre venues to life with the very best music, theatre, opera and dance from around the globe.

#### 7. London Fashion Week

- 17th 21st February
- 10th 12th June
- 15th − 19th September



London Fashion week is an iconic event that attracts celebrities and fashion fanatics from across the globe. It's currently run as a digital-first festival, with a limited number of invitation-only and RSVP required in- person events. Although most events are invite- only, there is a full schedule of activities in London during the shows, bringing an atmosphere to the city that is perfect for fashion-focused yacht guests.

To discover the events happening in the capital during Fashion Week, contact <u>MGMT</u>.

#### 8. The Grand National

- 13th April- 15 April 2023
- Liverpool, England



The most famous horse racing event in the world, The Randox Grand National takes place every year at the Aintree Racecourse in Merseyside. The worldwide event is the biggest in horse racing, attracting around 600 million viewers on television with more than 150,000 spectators enjoying the live action over the course of three days. The event consistently delivers exciting spectacles, an amazing atmosphere and an opportunity for friendly competition.

#### 9. UCI Cycling world Championships

- -3rd 13th August 2023
- Glasgow, Scotland



The UCI World Championship in Glasgow is a display of road, track, mountain bikes, BMX racing and more in one event. The Glentress forest will be the home of the event, located in the breathtaking Tweed Valley. This year's event is expected to attract more than a million spectators, and an anticipated global television audience of one billion. In addition, the 2023 UCI Cycling Championships will welcome more than 8,000 amateur and elite cyclists from more than 120 different countries.

#### 10. FA Cup Final

- -3rd June, 2023
- Wembley Stadium, London



The 2023 FA Cup is the 142nd edition of the oldest football tournament in the world. The sporting event brings together the whole of the United Kingdom, with fans gathering to celebrate at world famous Wembley Stadium in London. Sure to create an electric atmosphere, this is one of the unmissable UK events for superyacht guests this year.

#### 11. Round Island Race

- Saturday 1st July 2023
- The Isle of Wight, South coast of England



An annual one-day yacht race, Round the Island Race is steeped in history, organised by the Island Sailing Club. The event attracts around 15,000 sailors each year and around 1500 boats. It is one of the most inclusive and largest sporting events in the UK, with not only professional sailors participating, but families and first time sailors taking place too.

For more information on the best UK events for Superyacht guests in 2023, as well as, information on MGMT's bespoke guest packages, itinerary planning and yacht support services, contact info@mgmtyacht.com

# The Best Superyacht Marinas In New Zealand For Yacht Crew

The island nation of New Zealand — also known by the Maori name Aotearoa — is a major yachting destination in the South Pacific. Read on to discover the best superyacht marinas in New Zealand and what they have on offer for captains and crew...



Cruising grounds feature scenic Sounds, hidden coves and majestic fjords, while the shores are enriched with indigenous cultural sites, volcanic landscapes and a renowned winemaking industry. The country has also become a refit destination for superyachts departing the tropics and looking for a safe haven during cyclone season. Here is our list of the best superyacht marinas in New Zealand for visiting crew.

#### Bay of Islands Marina, Opua

Of the four marinas covered in this report, the Bay of Islands received the most superyachts in the past year. Visitors included 35 metre *Life of Riley*, 33.53 metre *Intrinsic* and 30 metre *Mahalo*, but the marina has a capacity for yachts as large as 120 metres.

Bay of Islands is located in Opua, to the far north of New Zealand, and is a common point of entry for foreign-flagged vessels. "Bay of Islands is a beautiful part of the world" describes the captain of 36.88 metre motor yacht *Dardanella*, which has cruised extensively around the South Pacific. The region is characterised by azure waters and 144 pristine islands, with its cruising grounds playing the designated host of the thrilling New Zealand Millennium Cup regatta held every spring.



#### **Yacht Services**

Refitting services are available at the Opua Marine Hub, offering 50 specialist businesses on-site together with a

couple of well-reputed chandleries. Duthie Lidgard of Catalano Shipping Services notes that there is "plenty" of crew accommodation in the area, ranging from motels and hotels to rental houses. Other amenities alongside the 400 berths include three-phase power, water and pump-out facilities, and waste collection, with security-controlled access to the marina.

#### **Crew Activities & Hotspots**

Opua is quaint, so the main hangouts for crew in the town are the Opua Cruising club and Marina Café. Dardanella's captain advises exploring further afield on days off, visiting places like the "old, traditional town of Russell" with a meal at the historical Duke of Marlborough pub. Another popular crew hangout in the Bay of Islands is Charlotte's Kitchen in Phalia.

Nature and outdoor activities are the main attractions for crew during downtime in the Bay of Islands. Lidgard recommends exploring the "walks, bike tracks, and waterfalls" of the surrounding islands. The New Zealand tourist board has reported sightings of marine wildlife including dolphins and whales, making it a good place for snorkelling, plus culture vultures will have an opportunity to learn about Maori history at the local treaty grounds.

#### <u>Port Nikau, Whangārei</u>

Whangārei is another yachting hotspot on the north island with a strong tradition of boat building and shipping. Port Nikau Wharf opened in the area recently and is still undergoing works for further expansion. Nonetheless, it has already hosted sizeable superyachts including 81 metre Sea Eagle II, 60 metre Odyssey, 54 metre Latitude and 45 metre Imagine.

Karma Butler of local superyacht agents UrbanSea says that "Crew love it here as the city centre is five minutes up the road and there is a very laid back feel, with beaches and forests so close."



#### **Yacht Services**

Superyachts up to 90 metres can be hosted at Port Nikau, with berthage supported by a marine fuel stop, a boat ramp, power and water. The marina also boasts over 5,000 square metres of wharf space for refits and servicing. By 2023, Port Nikau will offer three piers dedicating to hosting 120 recreation vessels in total, serviced by a new 560 tonne travel lift, making it one of the best marinas for superyachts to visit in New Zealand.

Port Nikau is also the headquarters of *UrbanSea*, which will be able to assist crew with airport pickups, accommodation arrangements, provisioning and more. Their most popular serviced crew houses include cottages on 30 First Avenue and

#### **Crew Activities & Hotspots**

For days off or evenings out, "the loop" — a 4km walkway around the town basin — has numerous restaurants and cafes, as well as galleries like the the Hundertwasser Art Centre, on offer. The *UrbanSea* team recommend the waterside eateries of *The Quay Kitchen, Going Loco, The Butter Factory, Kafé, No.8* Whangarei and Split as the top places for crew to hang out.

For taking time off the vessel, the region has tropical beaches, world-class golf courses and lush forest for nature lovers to enjoy. Sporty crew can organise a trip of paint-balling or mountain biking with local company Heads Up Adventures, or for a more relaxed weekend away, *UrbanSea* suggest overnighting at the "Eco-Glamping" Marua Retreat in rural Northland, which happens to be owned by a former captain. Venturing further afield, crew can explore the impressive dive sites of the Poor Knights Islands — followed by a stop at nearby Schnappa Rock restaurant.

Read More: <u>Top Yacht Agencies In The South</u> <u>Pacific, Australia & NZ: Vetted & Approved</u>

#### Orams Marine

Located in the Wynyard Quarter of Auckland, Orams Marine serves as the gateway to the Hauraki Gulf cruising grounds. Regatta-winning vessels like Janice of Wyoming, Ravenger and Miss Silver have all berthed at this marina, which can accommodate superyachts up to 90 metres LOA.



#### **Yacht Services**

The marina provides services like customs clearance, provisioning and logistics. Following a recent renovation, extensive refit facilities on site now include 60 metre boat sheds, a 600 tonne slipway and an 820 tonne travel lift — which is now the largest in the southern hemisphere.

#### Crew Activities & Hotspots

At Orams Marine, the city is right on your doorstep. The captain of *Dardanella* cites the nearby Viaduct Harbour and Ponsonby areas as popular with crew. His favourite hangouts include roof-top bar *Carousel* and craft beer bar *Hoppers*, while Orams Marine recommends that crew sample some of the 60 rums on offer at the aptly named *Captain's Bar* in the Park Hyatt hotel. On a sunny morning, crew can walk 20 minutes from the marina to the *Buoy café* on Westhaven Promenade, popular with both locals and yachties. *Dardanella's* captain notes that AirBnB's organised privately are the most common form of crew accommodation in the city, but visiting crew can obtain an

Orams Crew Card for discounts on restaurants, gyms and more across the city during their stay.

For crew looking to get out of town on days off, *Dardanella's* captain recommends catching waves in Piha, taking a tour around Waiheke Island, indulging in a shopping spree at the Matakana Sunday markets or tackling the three-hour mountain bike trail to geothermal hotspot Rotorua.

#### Picton Marina

The Marlborough Sounds are an extensive network of charming waterways on the northern tip of New Zealand's South Island. Visitors are drawn to the tranquil cruising grounds as well as the vineyards on shore, which are famed for producing the country's top Sauvignon Blanc wines. Here the marinas are often smaller, as *Dardanella's* captain explains that boats passing through are more likely to drop anchor in sheltered bays then heading into a port. "Picton is beautiful. You've got the vineyards, you've got the Sounds. It's really picturesque," he notes.



#### **Yacht Services**

Picton Marina is one of the larger marinas in the Marlborough Sounds. It is only 10 minutes away from the local airport and can accommodate yachts up to and over 35 metres LOA. Services encompass electricity, water, laundry, fuel, waste disposal and 24 hour security. Hotels, motels and rental apartments provide crew accommodation close to the marina. In the last year, superyachts including 34.14 metre *Integrity*, 40.16 metre *Mahoenui* and 32 metre *Duchessa I* all berthed in Picton.

#### **Crew Activities & Hot Spots**

The town's tourist board recommends Seumus' Irish Bar and the Thirsty Pig as two pubs close to the waterfront with a lively atmosphere for crew to enjoy on a night off, complete with live music and sports screenings. A delicacy in the surrounding area is green-lipped mussels, which are best enjoyed at the Mussel Pot Café in nearby Havelock harbour.

For activities on crew days off, the 73.5km Queen Charlotte track is a main attraction in the Marlborough Sounds. This scenic route winds through the native Bush and offers hiking

and biking with stunning vistas of the waters. Fishing, dolphin watching and kayaking in the Queen Charlotte track are other activities recommended by the local tourist boards, making this another one of the great superyacht marinas in New Zealand for crew to visit.

To keep up to date with the latest crew articles from Superyacht Content, sign up to our Newsletter:

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## Marina Port Vell Becomes Preferred Marina For America's Cup 2024

America's Cup and Marina Port Vell Barcelona have signed a partnership that makes Port Vell the preferred marina for Superyachts visiting Barcelona during the regatta in 2024...



# The marina will be the preferred location for superyachts visiting Barcelona during the America's Cup in 2024.

Collaborating in the development of the America's Cup Superyacht Program (ACSY) are ACE Barcelona, the America's Cup official organisers, and BWA Yachting, who are the official Superyacht services partners for the 37th edition of the event.

During the months of the competition, the marina will be act as a hotspot for the event, hosting dozens of superyachts visiting Barcelona for the Cup.

Marina Port Vell will offer front-row enjoyment of the regatta alongside VIP experiences, they state that: "We will be offering a **unique and memorable experience to customers**, appointing a dedicated team solely focused on providing high value-added services and plans to multiply its resources to meet the expected high demand, generating a positive economic impact for the local community and multiple special social occasions for everyone to enjoy."

## Read More: Seahub Announce Yacht Engineering Grant 2023

Grant Dalton, CEO of ACE Barcelona and Emirates Team New Zealand stated:

"From the start of our discussions with Barcelona and Catalunya as the potential host venue for the America's Cup event, we have been very impressed by the extent and quality of marinas, ports and facilities that can be offered to visiting yachts. Marina Port Vell is unique in its position in Port Vell, so close to the City Centre and next to the Team Bases for the America's Cup event so we are very pleased with this partnership. We have no doubt that visiting Superyachts will have an incredible experience at this world class marina."

Marina Port Vell will also sell America's Cup merchandising at its facilities, creating a commercial space for customers to shop. More than 40 boats and superyachts have already reserved moorings to attend the sporting event.

The marina's valuable contribution to the city and its surroundings is highlighted by this agreement, reinforcing Barcelona's international reputation as a superyacht hub in the Mediterranean.

To keep up to date with the latest Superyacht news, sign up to

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## New Guidelines On Piracy Issued & 6 Tips To Prevent Attack

An advisory notice has been issued with new guidelines for yachts regarding piracy and safety abroad. Those considering a passage through the Gulf of Aden, Yemeni and Somali waters should read this update



This is the fifth notice <u>World Sailing</u> (formerly ISAF) has published on this subject and is based on notes from <u>MSCHOA</u> (Maritime Security Centre — Horn of Africa). Read on to discover the most recent guidelines on preventing Pirate attacks when cruising...

# Vessels that are travelling through the relevant areas are advised to read the notes prepared by MSCHOA which are as follows:

- Although the number of successful pirate attacks on merchant shipping in the area greatly reduced, the danger of piracy and consequent loss of life and property in the GoA (Gulf of Aden), Yemeni and Somali waters (up to 750 miles offshore) is high. Yachts are strongly recommended to avoid the area.
- Greater use of firearms in recent months indicates an increase in aggression and risk to all mariners in the area.

## The security assessment of EUNAVFOR, MSCHOA and UKMTO concludes that:

- The threat remains unchanged in terms of the freedom of movement of Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) in the wider Indian The area of high risk remains.
- The reduction in the number of successful attacks is explained by greater deployment of Private Armed Security Contractors (PASCs) on Merchant Shipping and increased disruptions by Naval Forces.
- The greater deployment of PASCs increases the threat to yachts. If ships become harder to capture then the PAG's may well turn to more vulnerable targets such as yachts.

# Danger of Piracy — a guideline for crew and yachts undertaking a passage through the Gulf of Aden, Yemeni and Somali waters.

"These notes are published in co-operation with the MSCHOA (Maritime Security Centre — Horn of Africa) set up by <u>EU NAVFOR ATALANTA</u> and <u>UKMTO</u> (UK Maritime Trade Organization). The notes are for guidance only and a final decision on whether to enter the Gulf of Aden or any waters where pirates operate and how to conduct a vessel in those waters remains entirely the responsibility of the master of each vessel. All vessels entering the area do so at their own risk"

## 1 - Threat

"The danger of piracy and consequent loss of life and property in the GoA (Gulf of Aden), Yemeni and Somali waters (up to 750 miles offshore), is high. Yachts are strongly recommended to avoid the area. The conclusions of current Threat Assessment

reports state that the Somali-based pirate networks and their affiliates retain both the intent and capability to conduct acts of piracy."

"Yachts which are slow and low are extremely vulnerable from opportunistic attacks, hijackings or armed robbery. The general security situation in the High Risk Area (HRA) remains unstable. Many coastal areas of Yemen are subject to maritime military operations conducted by the Saudi led coalition. Vessels that enter Yemeni Territorial Waters can expect to be hailed and challenged by coalition warships."

## 2 - Registration

"MSCHOA liaises with anti-piracy patrols being conducted by warships from several nations in the area, and UKMTO coordinates the management of all merchant ship and yachts in the area. The patrols operate mainly in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin but may operate anywhere within the area and will provide surveillance and support as far as possible to yachts. However no guarantee whatever can be offered as to the safe transit of any yacht through these waters, and no dedicated escort can be expected."

"A yacht which, despite the risks described, decides to make a passage should advise her plans with as much notice as possible1 to UKMTO and MSCHOA and provide the information set out in the attached Yacht Vessel Movement Form, preferably by email but alternatively by telephone"

- UKMTO (UK Maritime Trade Organization) (Royal Navy) email: info@ukmto.org. Tel: +44 2392 222065 (General Enquiries)
- MSCHOA (EUNAVFOR Maritime Security Center Horn of Africa) email: postmaster@mschoa.org. Tel: +33 298 220 220 / + 33 298 220 170

• US-flagged vessels may wish to contact NCAGS (Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping) (US Navy) Bahrain email: ncags\_bw@me.navy.mil. Tel+ 973 1785 1023 (Helplines)

Read More: Weekly Yacht Crew Travel News & Updates

## 3 - Attack patterns

"Pirates operate from very small craft, which limits their operation to moderate weather conditions. While no statistics exist, it is likely to be difficult to operate these small craft in sea states 3 and above, though operation in higher sea states cannot be ruled out. Pirates are less likely to launch attacks in the dark, and merchant ships try to pass through the area between 47E and 49E in the IRTC during the hours of darkness for this reason."

"In a typical pirate attack small, high speed (up to 25knot) open boats deploy from a mother ship, often a pirated fishing vessel, or commonly two or more of these small high speed open boats are used in attacks, often approaching from either quarter of the intended target."

## 4 - Preparations

"A vessel considering entering the area is recommended to carry UK Admiralty Anti-Piracy Planning Chart — Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea.During her passage a yacht should monitor VHF 16 and VHF 8 and report by the means and at the intervals advised by UKMTO, or by a patrolling warship."

"Carriage of arms is not advised. There is a serious risk of escalation of the levels of violence."

"In the Somali Basin or further afield where there are fewer warships, an AIS transponder should be switched off unless the yacht is either aware of military forces in their vicinity or is under attack."

"Ensure that all systems (in particular the engine) are in good shape, radios and sat phones are working properly, that you have plenty of fuel and the ship's batteries are in good shape. Be prepared to motor or motor-sail at your maximum speed for the entire transit of the IRTC. Carry additional supplies (particularly water purification, medical supplies and vitamin supplements) in the event that you are unfortunate enough to be pirated."

#### Bear in mind:

- Split up money into different caches.
- Keep electronic copies of your passport etc. on yahooor google-type accounts with spurious names — if your original papers are lost you can access the copies from any police station or internet café.
- Consider carrying only copies (not originals) of essential documents on the boat.
- Consider having two passports (a legitimate exercise for e.g. business travellers).
- Wear a cheap watch.
- Have an old mobile phone.
- Keep only old (out of date) credit cards in your wallet.
- (If ashore) wear only such clothing that you can afford to lose.
- Advise your next of kin if you are going into a dangerous area so they are prepared to deal with matters if the worst happens — they should know in advance which authorities to talk to.
- Thorough mental preparation is essential think through

all the scenarios. Continuous vigilance and an early call to the authorities if in doubt, is recommended as the arrival of military units (by sea or air) or a VHF call to a warship (even if you cannot see a warship) may cause an impending attack to be called If you can delay the pirates from boarding by even 15 minutes, it may give the warships time to react.

#### 5 - Under Attack

"If under attack a 'mayday' call should be made using VHF or HF DSC, VHF 16 or VHF 8, Sat-C or any other means. Also, please contact UKMTO by telephone and pass your last known position."

"Report immediately to UKMTO by telephone if possible on +44 (0) 2392 222060 (24 hours watch) — please make sure you know your position. If possible, the call to UKMTO should be followed by a call to MSCHOA, and NCAGS Bahrain (who focus on US-flagged vessels)."

## 6 - Pirates On Board

"Stay calm — attackers are likely to be excitable and nervous — you will think more clearly and your conduct may also calm them — do not make sudden movements. Stay together as far as it is practicable to do so. Offer no resistance. Cooperate with the pirates."

"Do not use firearms, even if available — the risk of escalation is significant. Do not use flares or other pyrotechnics as weapons against pirates."

"Do not use flash photography, which may be mistaken for

muzzle flashes by the pirates or by any military force sent to assist."

"In the event that military personnel take action on board the vessel, unless otherwise directed all crew members should keep low to the deck, cover their head with both hands (always ensuring that both hands are empty and visible). Be prepared to answer questions on identity and status as military personnel will need to differentiate quickly between crew and pirates."

## Summary

In the High Risk Area, international naval forces continue to suppress piracy activity. In spite of this, recent incidents remind us that piracy still persists. Maritime criminals target yacht crews very often. In the event that the crew is captured, they may be subjected to brutal treatment as captives, therefore guidelines must be followed carefully. To read more on this subject, visit

Keep up to date with the most recent Superyacht Content News by signing up to our Newsletter...

## **Newsletter Signup**

•	Your	Name		
			First	Last
•	Your	Email	*	

# Top Yacht Agents In The Caribbean

It might be a life-altering experience to travel to the world's best ports by Superyacht, but it takes a truly excellent yacht agent to make it a trip you'll never forget. With this in mind, we thought it worth taking a deep dive into the top yacht agents in the Caribbean — all managed by the highly-dependable Association of Yacht Support Services (AYSS).

With offices spread across the globe, AYSS has been providing yacht services to captains and crew ever since 1991, and with 71 dedicated Superyacht agents spread across the world, they can make sure that you are linked seamlessly from one destination to another, meaning you'll never be far from professional help and a friendly face.

Recognising how important it is that support is in place at each of its destinations, AYSS agents offer vessels and crew the guidance and support needed to take advantage of everything that a country has to offer. Whether you need help with the essential day-to-day requirements of your Superyacht, assistance with visas, cruising permits, and port control requirements; suggestions for wonderful sights and places to discover; or even recommendations for the best local culinary delights — AYSS yacht agents cover it all!

# Discover The Top Yacht Agents In The Caribbean

# 1. BVI — SHORE SIDE YACHT SERVICES LTD



Located behind Village Cay Marina in Road Town, Tortola, close to the shops, marine services, and banks, Shoreside Yacht Services are specialists in assisting charter and private yachts during their visits to the British Virgin Islands. Shoreside Yacht Support Services was founded in 2003 by Francis David, who has lived and worked in the BVI for 36 years. They are a member of the AYSS association and qualify as one of the top yacht agents in the Caribbean.

- Clearance Procedures
- BVT Visas
- Duty-Free Fuel
- Yacht Food Provisioning
- Banking Services

## 2. ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES — ERIKAS YACHT SERVICES



Erika's Yacht Agents is the premier yacht agent in St Vincent & the Grenadines. With years of experience in the yachting industry, Heather Grant & her team will look after all your needs — even before you arrive you will benefit from their itinerary and clearance advice. As a yacht agent in the Caribbean specialising in larger, crewed yachts, both private and charter, they offer a fully comprehensive range of services, handled by a well-trained and experienced team.

- Yacht Agency Services
- Yacht Provisioning
- Concierge Services
- Travel Services
- Day Sails

## 3. ST MAARTEN — DOCKSIDE MANAGEMENT



Dockside Management was founded in 1990 and has since become one of the world's most reputable yacht support agencies. They are well known for providing prompt, dependable service, attention to detail, integrity, and 24-hour availability to many private yachts and charter yachts in the Caribbean.

"I have been using Dockside Management in St Maarten for over 20 years and they continue to provide exceptional service and 'make things happen' — the benchmark against which I judge others, worldwide" — Captain of a 97m megayacht.

- Immigration and customs clearance
- Banking
- Berthing
- Fuel bunkering parts procurement
- Inbound and outbound shipping and container movements

READ MORE: AYSS Membership: What's The Benefits

For Superyacht Agents?

## 4. ST MAARTEN — BWA YACHTING



The headquarters for BWA Caribbean is also located in St. Maarten, where <u>BWA Yachting St Maarten</u> was established in 2009. Located right on the water in Simpson Bay, BWA yacht agents are in the ideal spot for easy provisions collection by tender. However, BWA can also deliver anywhere in St Maarten, St Barths, or Anguilla.

- Immigration and clearances (including electronic clearances in St Barths and Anguilla)
- Secured APA delivery
- Bunkering,

- Freight handling
- Part sourcing and all concierge and VIP services

# 5. DOMINICA— COBRA TOURS & YACHT SERVICES



<u>Cobra yacht agency</u> services have been providing award-winning support to vessels making a stop at "The Nature Island,"...Dominica since 1989. Cobra Tours, an established AYSS member, can proudly say that they have been providing vessels with Superyacht agency services for 33 years.

- Port clearances
- Fuel bunkering
- Provisioning
- Entertainment
- Yacht registration (Saint Lucia and Dominica jurisdictions)

## 6. ANTIGUA — ANCHOR CONCIERGE



Anchor Concierge is a one-stop agency catering to all the needs of today's high-pressure yachting industry with offices at both Falmouth Harbour Marina and Antigua Yacht Club Marina. Being one of the top yacht agents in the Caribbean, they've built an excellent reputation for delivering exceptional yacht support services for vessels of all sizes.

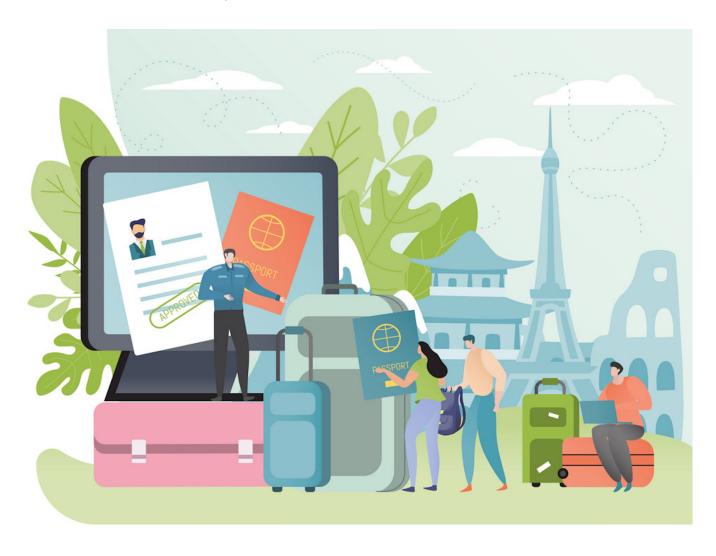
## Yacht support services include:

- Pre-arrival notifications and meet and greet assistance with dockage 24/7
- Full arrival and departure procedures, Customs,
   Immigration and Port Authority
- Agents for National Marine Suppliers, Complete Marine Freight, Deckers Uniforms, Neko Yacht Supply, DHL, Digicel, Roaming Expert, Peters and May.
- Full Concierge Services including VIP airport transfers, limousine service, taxi service, and car rentals
- Berth reservation and duty-free bunkering

For more information on the top yacht agents in the Caribbean contact AYSS by <a href="clicking here">clicking here</a>.

# What Visas Do I Need To Work On A Yacht?

Depending on where you plan to look for your first job in yachting and your nationality, you may need to look into what travel visas are required for you to legally enter countries and work onboard. The Seaworthy Stew talks us through all of the current visa requirements...



# What Visas Do I Need To Work On A Yacht?

## B1/B2 Visa - Caribbean and US Season

This is a multi-entry travel visa for yacht crew to work onboard superyachts cruising the US. For the Caribbean yachting season, most yachts cruise in US waters so if you're not a US Citizen you'll most likely need a B1/B2 visa. This visa is notoriously hard for greener crew to obtain without boat papers, for more information on how to obtain this visa check out my blog article The B1/B2 Visa To Work on Boats In The US & Caribbean, or for more information check the US Embassy website.

## Schengen Visa - Mediterranean Season

Schengen refers to the EU passport-free zone that covers most European countries. According to Schengen Visa Info, the Schengen visa is a short-stay visa that allows a person to freely travel to any country in the <u>Schengen Area</u>, stays can be up to 90 days for tourism or business purposes.

There are three classifications for crew using the Schengen visa;

- Transit
- Short stay
- Long stay

As a green crew member, you will usually enter on this visa for travel purposes allowing you 90 days within the EU. Some advice here: do not mention anything about work to the embassy, I would also recommend having proof of funds to support your stay and a flight or train out of the EU region,

or at least a 'plan' to leave the EU after 90 days, this is in case of the embassy questioning you upon entry.

For specific information on your nationality, I recommend having a look at the Schengen Info Website. Here are some links for <u>US Citizens</u>, <u>South Africans</u>, <u>British</u> and the new rules for <u>Australians</u> and <u>New Zealand</u> citizens starting January 1, 2023, where they can apply for a visa waiver prior to their travel to Europe.

According to <u>The European Commission</u> website, <u>from November 2023</u>, visitors that do <u>not need a visa to enter Europe</u> will be able to register with **European Travel Information and Authorisation System** (ETIAS). ETIAS will become a mandatory entry requirement.

Once the EU ETIAS travel authorization becomes operational, all citizens from the <u>current visa-free countries</u> will be required to submit an application before their trip. However, for the time being, they can continue to travel to Europe using the Schengen system without applying online for travel authorization. As always please do some research into this on an official government website as information can change according to different nationalities.

Read More: <u>CrewMate By Oceanskies, The Crew</u>
<u>Employment And Payroll App</u>

## Australian Superyacht Crew Visa

According to the <u>Australian Government</u>, to be eligible for a Superyacht Crew visa, you must have one of several things. This can be a contract to work, a letter from the owner of the superyacht confirming employment, or a supporter or a sponsor,

depending on your circumstances. You can gain a 3, 6 or 12-month visa for crew and you must meet certain requirements, for more details on this check out this Superyacht Australia article and current pricing for the visa on the Australian Government website.

## Seaman's Discharge Book

Once you are employed on a yacht you may apply for a Seaman's Discharge Book from the flag state of the vessel. This may be useful for tax purposes and in certain circumstances, it may even act as a passport if you do not have the necessary visa for a certain area. Usually, the boat will be able to help you with your application and will sign off on the documentation.



## Places That Do Not Require Travel Visas To Work On Yachts

The UAE, Maldives, Seychelles, and most of the South Pacific are destinations that DO NOT require yacht crew to have specific types of travel visas to join. So there is the potential to land a job at the end of the Med season on a yacht that is destined for these places in the winter period. I recommend getting to a med yachting destination by September if you're planning to jump on the tail end of the Med season to snap up one of these job opportunities.

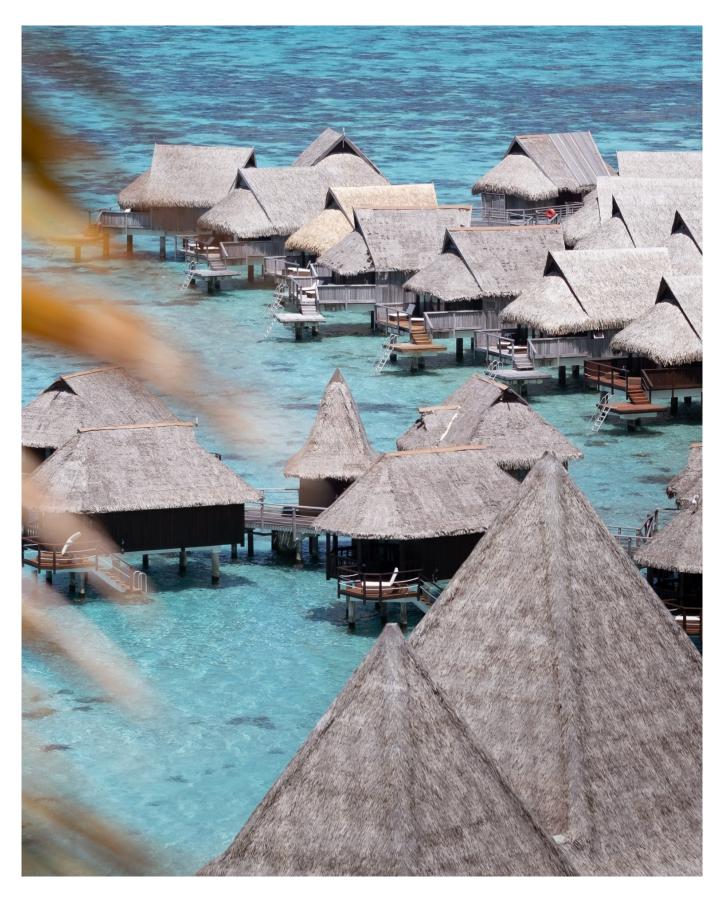
By the end of October, Antibes can be a ghost town with few yachts in sight — not so good for job-hunting prospects.

Now is also a good time to upskill and <u>perfect that yachting</u> <a href="CV">CV</a> because (let's be real) it's fierce out there!

For The Latest Superyacht Content Crew Articles <a href="Click Here">Click Here</a>

## Visit The Stunning French Polynesia With Le Sur Mesure

<u>Le Sur Mesure</u> are experts in the destination of French Polynesia, a location that offers 118 islands to explore during a yacht charter — offering total freedom, discretion and exclusivity during trips.



Visiting French Polynesia can be an opportunity for yacht crew to be able to take advantage of various activities during downtime and off-charter days. Underwater exploration is rich in life and will leave adventure-seeking visitors speechless.

## **Stunning Locations**

Spread over a large area like Europe, French Polynesia is a vast territory, divided between 5 archipelagos. The Society Islands are home to the popular destinations of Tahiti, Bora Bora and Moorea. Experienced divers will be seduced by the different atolls that make up the Tuamotu Archipelago, and its many lagoons rich in corals and fish.

While in the North of Polynesia, the Marquesas Islands are rich in authenticity and culture. A little further away, the Australs and the Gambier represent traditions and a wild and preserved nature. The infrastructures and equipment established on some of these islands are adapted to the reception of Yachts and SuperYachts. The concierge of Le Sur Mesure has the role of connecting captains and yacht crew with qualified professionals in Polynesia to meet the various technical and logistical needs.

## Stress Free Entry Into French Polynesia

To follow up on the Covid 19 pandemic, some new features have been set up for common health protection. In addition to the obligation of a complete vaccination schedule, Polynesia remains easy to access and requires few entry criteria.

No Covid 19 test is required during entry or exit from the territory, and also no quarantine is required. Depending on the country of origin of the visitors, it's recommended to inquire about the entry requirements such as VISA and Covid 19 documents. Commercial flights to Tahiti operate regularly from Auckland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. Chartering a private jet is also possible.

## Read More: Top Yacht Agencies In The South Pacific, Australia & NZ

## Unforgettable Activities For Yacht Crew

Many activities are available for yacht crew members wishing to enjoy French Polynesia during their downtime. The Society Islands are the most developed. On the main island of Tahiti, there are many exciting activities, between a mix of Land, Sea and Air.

Whether it's a helicopter ride, a 4×4 guided island tour, or practising water sports on the lagoons, there is something to do for everyone. Tahiti also offers several friendly restaurants, where you can find local specialities, and also European, American and Asian cuisines. A selection of bars and a few nightclubs will seduce nightlife lovers.

Other more common or specific services are also available such as supermarkets, shopping, tattoo parlours and medical services. The other Society Islands also offer some of these services, although fewer.

#### About Le Sur Mesure

The role of Le Sur Mesure is to organise tailor-made stays for people wishing to visit Polynesia for leisure or business. Packages include business aviation, Polynesian itineraries, and concierge services. The concierge team are dedicated to assisting clients and crew during their trip with the aim of connecting its network of the best professionals in Polynesia

to meet specific needs. The concierge is at the disposal of captains and clients to answer all requests for reservations, activities, and provision of rental cars or transfers.

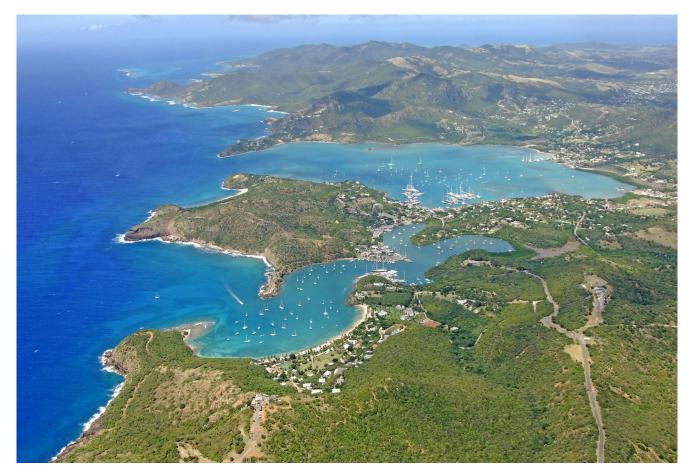
Planning a trip and want to know more about French Polynesia?

Or want to know more about the services of Le Sur Mesure?

Visit: Lesurmesure.com

## Caribbean Season Vs Med Season: What's The Difference?

<u>Wilsonhalligan</u> discusses the difference between the two main yachting seasons and provide tips on what to expect during the Caribbean season, including how to remain safe in your downtime and how provisioning works in more secluded areas.



English Harbour Antigua

As the Caribbean season begins, many yachts will start making their way across the Atlantic. Wilsonhalligan recruits all year round for both the Mediterranean season (May-October) and the Caribbean season (November-April) — so this time of year is busy. For many yachties, the Caribbean season is something they look forward to, but what are the differences between the Med and Caribbean seasons, and what can yacht crew expect when they get there?

#### More Time At Anchor

Caribbean islands are picturesque and varied, so there's no shortage of exciting itinerary locations. The 'milk run' between Monaco and St Tropez can often be a pleasant change; however, there are fewer ports with berths for larger yachts, so you may spend much more time at anchor than you would in

#### A Busy Festive Period

Yachts are often quieter during the Caribbean season, with the busiest charter period being over Christmas and New Year. This means yacht crew can expect to be super busy over the festive period, with little chance of time at home with your own family and friends during the holiday period.

## More Water-sports And Beach Setups

Deck crew will likely be busy with lots of water sports activities when their guests are onboard. The guests are usually keen to take full advantage of the Caribbean's warmer waters, utilising all of the toys the yacht has to offer as well as some of the world's most stunning dive sites. Crew are likely to spend time on the beach, but mostly for setting up Beach set ups for guests. These often consist of a fun day for children or maybe a romantic dinner for the owner in a private bay.

### **Provisioning Differences**

Chefs may find provisioning slightly trickier in the Caribbean than they've experienced in the Med. On the larger islands of Antigua and St Maarten, it's easier to have regular deliveries flown in from the US and Europe. When crossing from the Med, it's definitely worth being well prepared and having specific European luxuries in good stock onboard. Visiting the local markets however is a great experience if chef's are able. An abundance of tropical fruit can be found and the fresh fish

and lobster caught every morning by local fisherman is unbeatable.

## Read More: Full Schedule Of Events For The 2022 Antigua Charter Show

#### More Dinners On Board

As there isn't a huge choice of restaurant, interior crew may find that guests spend more time dining on board, many preferring to be at anchor and enjoy their vessel. On the bright side, this means interior crew are able to get creative with their table decorations, or collaborate with the chef to create an unforgettable dinner on a secluded beach.

#### Caribbean Work Hours

Although the sun is usually shining and the weather is warm, there are frequent rain showers and squalls so deck crew should prepare to be out chamois-ing and likely will spend a lot of time covering and uncovering cushions. In order to avoid the hottest part of the day, many yachts tend to finish earlier or maybe take a longer lunch break, unlike the usual working hours of 08:00-17:00 of the Med.

#### Staying safe

Yacht crew are able to catch up and unwind with friends on other yachts on the islands of Antigua and St Maarten, as these are considered to be the main yachting hubs, where yachts head between guest trips and charters. The warm and welcoming nature of the Caribbean people are what sets the islands apart from other destinations. Although Caribbean locals have an easy-going and friendly nature, it is important to remember that like in other locations, some of the ports and islands can be dangerous for crew. Crew should maintain awareness of their surroundings, avoid carrying excess amounts of money or showing off expensive possessions and jewellery. It's important to take care of fellow crew members and ensure you all return safely to your yacht after a night out.

We are sure that the experiences you have onboard, during either season, will be
unforgettable. Whether this is your first
Caribbean season or your tenth, if you are looking
for a new role then please get in touch with
Wilsonhalligan today to find your dream job!

## Winter Superyacht Destinations: A Guide To Spending Christmas In London

Everything you and your guests need to know about spending Christmas in

# London, from where to go to what to do.



Christmas On London's Oxford Street

Christmas in London is an experience everyone should have. There was a time, not long ago, when London might have seemed a peculiar choice for a Christmas Superyacht destination, but those are days of the past. With all its celebrated landmarks, culture and not to mention the berth options right in the heart of the city, London is one of the best places to berth around Christmas and take in the fantastic festive atmosphere.

A surge in popularity in recent years has seen London become an all-year-round Superyacht hot spot, with November and December being the best times to take in the festive atmosphere. When you look at the wide range of iconic shows, world-class restaurants, and, of course, the magical Christmas markets, it isn't hard to see why...

## Where to stay:

Depending on the size of your vessel, there's no denying that St Katharine's Dock is a magical place to be at Christmas time. This quaint little marina was renovated in 2017 and evolved into a thriving waterside community featuring 185 berths for vessels up to 40m. If your vessel is above 40 meters, then there are several options out on the Thames that will keep your guests occupied in the thick of London's Christmas hustle. With Tower Bridge just a stone's throw away from all of these berths, MGMT can even arrange a commemorative photoshoot for your Superyacht to be captured in front of this iconic backdrop, which is even more spectacular in the winter.

Elsewhere, you can't go wrong with Central London, where you will find the best Christmas light displays (Oxford Street, Regent Street and Carnaby Street, to name a few!); unbeatable shopping at landmarks such as Harrods and beloved toy shop Hamleys; and then there are the Christmas markets, all of which are a veritable treasure trove of Christmas spirit.

# Which London Christmas Markets to visit:

Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park



Winter Wonderland In Hyde Park

Winter Wonderland is widely considered the all-singing, all-dancing leader when it comes to London's Christmas markets. From fairy-tale ice kingdoms to Bavarian beer houses, all of the festive boxes can be ticked in this magical setting.

## Southbank Centre Winter Market



Southbank Christmas Market

One of best places to walk along the banks of the Thames, the Southbank offers a true taste of London atmosphere; never more so than at Christmas time, when it is adorned with a plethora of Christmas lights and market stalls.

## Borough Market, London Bridge



Borough Market

Definitely one for culinary connoisseurs, Borough Market is already known as a foodie haven amongst Londoners, and this only gets more prevalent at Christmas.

# Christmas activities for all the family:

<u>'Hogwarts in the Snow', Warner Bros Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter</u>



Hogwarts In The Snow

If you want to be the most popular member of the family this Christmas, then tickets to the ever-popular, ever-enchanting 'Hogwarts in the Snow' is a guarantee. MGMT can even arrange a private experience, if budget and time allow!

'Home Alone' in Concert, Royal Albert Hall



Home Alone In Concert

If you didn't think one of the world's best Christmas movies could get any better, then how about watching it in one of the most striking concert halls in the world, with the backing of a live orchestra?!

Ice Skating at the Natural History Museum



Natural History Museum Ice Rink

Not only will you get to witness one of London's most stunning feats of architecture while skating with your family, but you will also be able to take in some culture beforehand.

## Read More: Four Ski Destinations Off The Beaten Track

# Where to eat this Christmas in London:

## 'Miracle at 34' @ 34 Mayfair



Miracle @ 34 Street

The ultimate Christmas dining experience, 34 Mayfair made a name for itself back in 2020 when it installed 14,000 decorations, including 8,400 glittering baubles, for guests to immerse themselves in while enjoying the exquisite cuisine.

## **Claridge's**



Claridge's Christmas Entrance

If it's fine dining you're after, you needn't look any further than the quintessential British cuisine at Claridge's. While you're there, you can also visit their world-famous Christmas tree, which takes on a different guise each year, courtesy of the world's best fashion houses.

## Coppa Club, Tower Bridge



#### Coppa Club Christmas Igloos

What started as a niche idea, seeing guests dine in beautiful (extremely Instagram-worthy) private igloos, has now evolved into one of London's most popular dining experiences, all set in front of the magnificent Southbank skyline.

## Which Christmas shows to see:

The Nutcracker, London Coliseum



The Nutcracker At The London Coliseum

Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, brought to life by the English National Ballet, continues to be a festive treat for all the family, attracting thousands of theatre-goers every year.

## Elf the Musical, Dominion Theatre



Elf The Musical

Based on the hit Christmas movie, 'Elf the Musical' has proven itself a favourite for children and adults alike, following the charming tale of Buddy the Elf as he makes his way on a journey across New York.

## Carols at the Royal Albert Hall



Royal Albert Hall Carols

It doesn't get more festive than taking part in one of the most popular sing-along carol concerts in the country. You can also marvel at the beautiful setting, finished off with the finest modern decorations.

<u>MGMT</u> have we've made a fine art of helping their Superyacht clients to make the most of their London experience, so if you've seen anything in this article that takes your fancy, be sure to <u>get in touch</u> with the UK's leading yacht agent today.