

# New Fiji yacht charter regulations – See here

It's now easier to charter foreign-flagged vessels in Fijian waters after the Fijian government announce new Fiji yacht charter regulations.



Image by Seal Superyacht – Fiji

As of 15 July, changes to the Superyacht Charter Act mean a foreign-flagged vessel chartering in Fiji should be a minimum of 18 metres long – a reduction from 24 metres. There is now a US\$30,000 minimum gross charter fee per week for charter yachts, which has been reduced from USD\$55,000.

## Fiji Yacht charter regulations:

1. Yachts must be over 18m and must have a minimum weekly gross charter rate of US\$30,000.
2. Yachts must have a valid Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) certification. Or, an equivalent internationally recognised commercial survey for the purpose of carrying passengers.
3. A fee of FJ\$3,600 (US\$1,800) will be levied on each yacht for a short-term charter permit (STCP) that will cover six months and multiple charters. STCPs can be renewed multiple times for a maximum stay of 18 months.
4. Marine Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) will survey the yacht and issue a coastal trading permit (CTP) required for each charter. Cost FJ\$3450 (US\$1725).
5. A Superyacht charter fee of five per cent is levied on the stated gross charter fee (as disclosed on the

charter contract.)

6. Charter contracts must be industry standard. Either Mediterranean Yacht Brokers Association, American Yacht Charter Association, or other legally recognised charter contract.
7. All applications for the Superyacht charter permit must be made through a recognised Superyacht agent.
8. Applications take 15 working days to process.

Fiji has gradually been embracing yacht tourism in recent years. The increase in nautical visitors has made a significant contribution to the Fijian economy. A 2019 report shows that 4,473 yacht guests arrived in 2018, spending FJ\$34.9m (US\$15.8m) on maintenance, docking, and tourism.

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