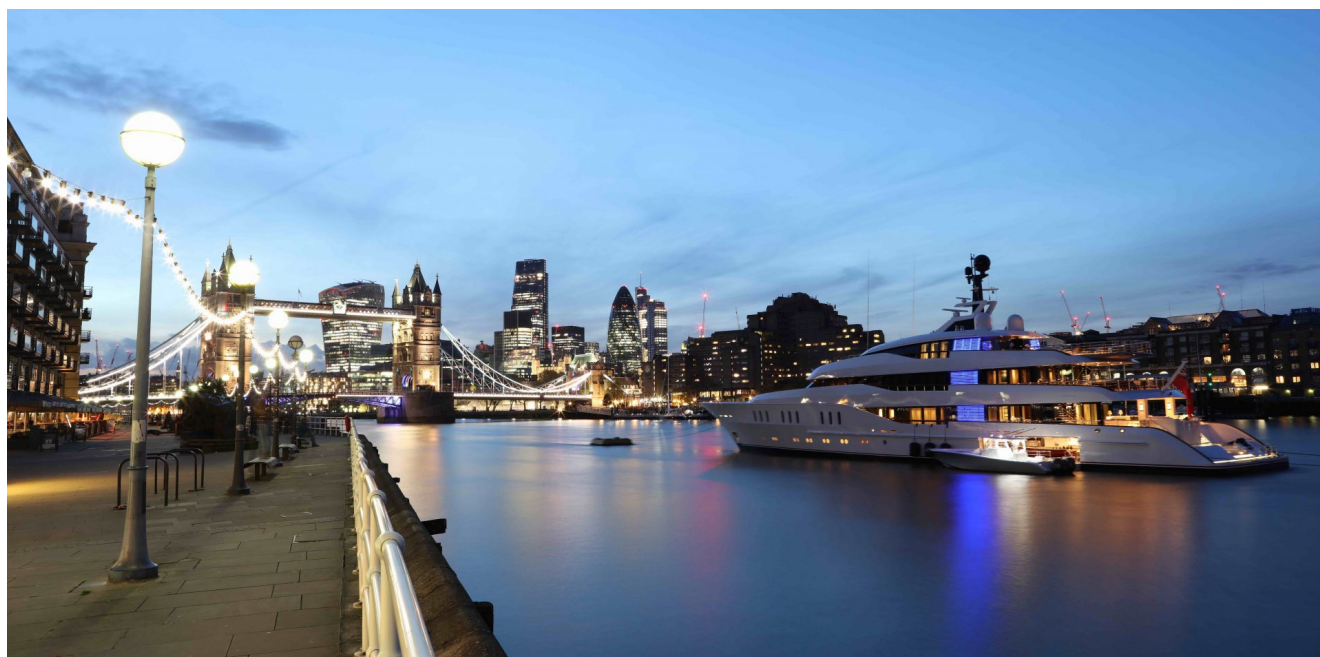


Is 2021 the year to visit the UK?

UK Superyacht visits have become more and more popular since the 2012 Olympics. That summer in particular saw more Superyachts in the UK than ever before. BUT, since then they just keep coming back!

Why?

Well, you and I know that the popular destinations for Superyachts have always been the Med and Caribbean. But, as more and more yachts crowd anchorages, berths become more valuable than gold and anonymity goes out of the window, what next? Superyacht owners, guests, Captains and crew are looking for new places to get excited about. Nobody wants to be 1 of 100 yachts in an anchorage and it's always nice for people to make a bit of a fuss when you arrive and are "the only show in town".



M/Y Vanish in Central London

So where do you go?

A few years back, Croatia and Montenegro became the place to

take your Superyacht but, just like a few years earlier when yachts cruised the Greek isles they became popular, then busy, then too busy. So everyone moved on to the next big destination.

As we all know, the world has been a strange place the last year and lots of yachts did nothing at all in 2020. Owners, charter brokers and managers are looking for opportunities and destinations that Superyachts can visit.

Why the UK?

The UK is a very different destination for Superyachts and somewhere most people don't consider because it's not hot and sunny is it? It may not be the South of France but definitely isn't the frozen North! Tastes have changed the last few years and people want to add some variety to their summer cruise. So, how about this?

London:

Yes we are biased but London is one of the greatest cities on earth. And you can bring a yacht all the way into the centre of the city. Want to make a statement? It is very rare that another yacht will arrive and block your view! In fact, berths in London are well spaced out so, even if another yacht did turn up, the chances are you won't see them. Great sight seeing, restaurants and shops. What more could you ask for?

The South Coast:

Portsmouth, Dartmouth, Salcombe, Falmouth. Fowey and others offer not only stunning coastal scenery but some activity, culture and history unique to each area.



Mayan Queen in Dartmouth

Islands and Highlands:

Let's not forget Scotland! Over the last few years more than 60% of UK Superyacht visits either started or finished in Scotland. Now this is an opportunity for guests and charterers to really get back to nature. Scotland offers some of the most dramatic scenery on earth. It is not only stunning but supported by good infrastructure. And you are never far from a decent airport.



A busy day! Greenock

Do the locals know how to look after Superyachts?

Funnily enough, yes they do. We talked to one of the most popular Superyacht Agents in the UK, [MGMT](#) who are not only owned and run by ex Superyacht Crew but also cover the entire country. [MGMT](#) started out in 2011 and were responsible for attracting and looking after most of the Superyachts that came to the 2012 Olympics. Ever since then they have seen the number of UK Superyacht visits increase year on year with particular interest in London and the Western Isles of Scotland. MGMT is extremely experienced when it comes to all the usual agency services but are also keen to point out that there is so much more on offer. "Itineraries, special events, private tours are what we do most of in addition to the usual services. But it's the special touches we like to add to a Superyacht visit to ensure the guests have a memorable experience. After all the UK is not like most other Superyacht

destinations. It offers something for everyone, we have even had really warm summers the last few years” Says Craig Latimer of [MGMT](#).

What about BREXIT?

Funnily enough Brexit has had a hugely positive effect on the Superyacht industry when it comes to visiting yachts. Now the **UK is no longer part of Europe** there are lots of potential benefits for Superyachts.

Refit for example: Yachts leaving refit in Northern Europe have traditionally made a trip north to Norway in order to clear out of Europe before re-entering. This can now be done in the UK as yachts head south rather than make an unnecessary trip north. They can also buy fuel much cheaper, stock up on provisions and tie in a guest trip in London at the same time.

This is a huge benefit and potentially massive cost saving for many Superyachts. It's also one more reason for Superyachts to add the UK to their summer itineraries. And, you are unlikely to be anchored within sight of another Superyacht. Just like the good old days!

Life After Yachting: How I

Became President of Edmiston America

Continuing with our 'Life after yachting' series, we're talking to Robert Shepard, former yacht crew and current president of Edmiston Americas.



- **Role on Yachts:** Chef
- **Time on yachts:** 22 years
- **Current Role:** President of [Edmiston](#) Americas

How and when did you start out in the Superyacht industry?

RS: Back in 1982 I was working as a chef in a restaurant in Stamford Connecticut. The restaurant was next to the marina and one Friday a lady came in from one of the yachts in the marina. Her chef had just walked out and she asked if we could help prepare the food for her weekend cruise. One thing led to another and in the end I asked my boss if it would be easier for me to just go and cook on board for the weekend. He agreed and, following a successful weekend the owner offered me a job. How could I say no?

What sort of yacht did you work on and what did you do after yachting?

RS: It was a 72' Broward which I ended up working on for a year. After that, I was lucky enough to work for some very experienced and well known yacht owners over my time. I built up great experience and worked my way up to a 60m Feadship which resulted in me being able to be involved in the build of this yacht. As well as a hand in the interior and galley design.

Why did you leave?

RS: The time comes for everyone doesn't it? I had been doing it for over 20 years by this point and my knees and back couldn't take it anymore. Too much time on my feet. So, it was time for a change!

When you left your last yacht did you have a job to go to? Did you have a life after yachting plan?

RS: Not at all. I hadn't really thought about it. One day I was one of the best paid chefs in the industry and the next, no job! I had no idea what to do.

I ended up having a chat with owner of the yacht I had just left. He suggested I should have a try at being a yacht broker. In his words "You have good contacts, you are well connected and you work hard. Find a company and offer to work for nothing + commission". So I did. This was back in 2004 and, at the time Y.CO was just starting out and I happened to know one of the founders through my time on yachts. I gave them a call and the next thing I know I was a yacht broker!

So in 2008 you moved from Y.co to Edmiston and you are now in the enviable position of President of Edmiston Americas?

RS: That's right. A lot of time and effort later and I find myself in one of the best jobs in the world – The president of Edmiston Americas

Name two things you would do differently if you had your time in yachting again:

RS: That's actually easy.

1. Save more money from an earlier age. I spent too much time living like the owner and not enough time thinking about my future.
2. Keep a more detailed journal of my time on yachts. It is so easy to think you will remember it all when you are young.

We still hear the same from crew leaving yachts now – “I wish I had saved more” or “I should have planned more for my future”. What's your thoughts on this?

RS: It's too easy to get caught up in the lifestyle, probably even more these days. But that would be my advice to the 21 year old me. Save more and record your memories.

Check out former chief stew, Gemma Heyns went from yachts to

becoming the ceo of a luxury south african safari agency by [clicking here.](#)

Brand New Feadship!! Project 816

On the 19th of December [Feadship](#) launched their latest offering Project 816.

The Feadship Yard in Amsterdam has reached the final stage in the build as Project 816 prepares for sea trials. This 88 meter project was designed in house by Feadships own Studio De Voog with interior by [Nauta Design](#) and [FM Architettura](#). The yacht has accommodation for 25 crew with capacity for 16 guests.

She will be officially named launched and Delivered in early 2021.





What a great start to the new year and we cant wait to see more pictures of her.

Check out our top 5 yachts of 2020 [here...](#)

Top 5 Superyachts of 2020

Superyacht Content's Top 5 of 2020

Let's be honest 2020 has not been the best year. Added to the lack of a Monaco Yacht show it's been a bit grim. But let's try to look on the bright side as we review our top 5 Superyachts launched in 2020.

La Datcha, 77 Meters, Built by [Damen Yachting](#)



Photo: Damen Yachting[/caption]

One of the most anticipated yachts of 2020, La Datcha, the first SeaXplorer 77 from [Damen Yachting](#). We love her rugged looks and fact she has not one, but 2 helicopters with the hanger space for both. Also on board is a custom painted Triton Submersible, jet skis and snowmobiles. All that plus the Ice class certification means she is good for exploring in the high latitudes or making your way through the pacific islands.

Nord, 142 Meters, Built by [Lurssen](#)



Photo: Superyacht Times

Just Wow... was the first thing that sprang to mind when I first saw this yacht. The scale and presence is unbelievable. Room for 36 guests in 20 cabins with all design all round by Nuvolari Lenard. She has a large swimming pool on the main deck, a diving centre, 2 helipads and retractable hanger to keep the chopper warm at night. She also has some pretty fancy exterior lighting effects which hopefully we will get to see some more of.

Soaring, 68 Meters, Abeking & Rasmussen



Photo: Tom Van Oossanen for Abeking & Rasmussen

Another great build by [Abeking & Rasmussen](#) with design by Focus Yacht Design. She looks a lot smaller than her 68 meters but that only adds to the great look of this yacht. It's your pretty standard 12 guests in 6 cabins with an owners suite on upper deck aft, Tender garages up forward and nice sized beach club aft with gym, steam room, spa and access to all the water toys at the swim platform.

Totally Nuts, 49.65 Meters, [Feadship](#)



Photo: Tom Van Oossanen

Well I had to put this in if only for the name, but just look at it... Take note people "your yacht doesn't need to be 500 meters long to be cool". Mooted to be the fastest Feadship built thanks to her Wartsila Jet Propulsion system, with speeds of up to 48 knots+ being touted but wont be confirmed until after sea trial data has been made public. Designed by [Sinot Yacht Architecture and Design](#) and isn't she a little beauty!

Ragnar, 68 Meters, [Icon Yachts](#)



Photo: Burgess

This yacht is a **beast**. At only 68 meters she is the same length as Soaring that we looked at earlier. But with a 14 meter beam and the 6 decks this is one imposing vessel. Classed as a true Icebreaker this really is a go anywhere yacht. Pictured here during her maiden voyage in Greenland we expect this yacht to spend a lot of time in the high latitudes. Available for charter with [Burgess](#) she has room for 12 guests along with 4 tenders, 4 jet skis, 4 Snow Mobiles and what can only be described as a tank (see below) which by the way also floats and propels itself in the water using its tyres.



Photo: Burgess

Converted from an Ice breaking supply ship by Icon yachts in a little over 2 years this yacht will get you where you need to go and in the comfort and style you would expect from a superyacht.

Well that's our 5 for 2020. Do you have a different top 5? If so send it to editor@superyachtcontent.com and we may publish yours.

Check out our other yacht related news [here](#):

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