

# Four Ski Destinations Off The Beaten Track!

For those of you who have had the joy of a trip to the Alps, you know how addictive winter sports can be. Chances are, you are now hooked on [skiing or snowboarding](#)! This has likely led you to endlessly searching for the ultimate ski destinations to add to your bucket list.

We can all agree on the pros of the more traditional [ski destinations](#) like Austria, France, Switzerland, and Canada. But there is something alluring about the unknown ski areas, maybe for a unique take on Après-ski or a local twist on a Vin Schaud/Glühwein. So, we put our heads together and used all our contacts to think of some unique ski destinations and the things that make them special.



Portillo Ski Resort

## 1. Country – Chile, Resort – Ski Portillo

The first ski destination that came to mind will forever last in your memory if you get the chance to visit. It is a grand old yellow hotel! [Portillo](#) in Chile is the home of skiing in South America and still has some of the best off-piste skiing in the world!

The hotel's interior is reminiscent of the Titanic and other grand ocean-going liners blending the best South American hospitality with classic Chilean wines or, even better, a Pisco Sour.

As a resort, it is very small, with only 450 hotel beds available for guests. This means you will have undisturbed skiing even on the best powder day. There really are some great days to be had with the off-piste terrain easily accessed by lifts or if you're really splashing out by helicopter.

Skiing when your skis are normally tucked away in the garage for summer, that's a yes from us!

## **Ski Resort Run Down:**

- **Best time to go – July or August**
- **Size – medium pistes but almost unlimited off-piste**
- **2 hours drive from Santiago**
- **Pricing – comparable to the main European resorts**



La Datcha

## **2. Country – Iran, Resort – [Dizin](#)**

Whilst Iran may invoke images of dusty desert plains and bustling market souks. It also has some remarkable mountains that reach up to 5,000 metres and catch their fair share of

snow every winter! Of course, there are international politics and potential visa problems in getting access, but Iran is a ski destination worth the effort!

Skiing in Iran is at a high altitude but also offers excellent potential powder options. As there are minimal tourists and Iranians don't ski off-piste, you won't have any competition for fresh powder! Dizin is the largest Iranian resort, with 15 lifts and offering a wide range of skiing for all abilities.

The locals are incredibly welcoming and keen to show off their country and mountains for those who make the trip.

### **Ski Resort Run Down:**

- **Best time to go – February**
- **Size – medium-sized**
- **An exotic and enchanting ski destination**
- **Pricing – 10 euros for a day ski pass and everything else priced similarly**



Image by [Climbing Georgia](#)

### **3. Country – [Georgia](#), Resort – Mestia**

No, not the US state, but the country nestled on the edge of the black sea and Caucasus mountain range. A range of mountains covers nearly 60% of the country, making this a ski destination with many different opportunities. Our pick would be for the remote village of Mestia in the historical region of Svaneti! Although it only has two small ski areas, this ski resort will give you a real authentic Georgian experience from the millenia old tower house used to guard against invading enemies to the renowned Georgian hospitality with Chacha (Georgian brandy).

To access the village, you will need a bit of luck and a 4×4!

The cuisine alone is a reason to visit the country with a winemaking history to rival any country and food inspired from the Mediterranean and the middle east!

#### **Ski Resort Run Down:**

- **Best time to go – February and March (similar season to the Alps)**
- **Size – small resorts but plenty of backcountry options**
- **A look back to what mountain life used to be in the Alps before it became developed!**
- **Pricing – live like a king on 50 euros a day!**





Image by [welove2ski](#)

## 4. Country – [Scotland](#), Resort – Get the touring skis out!

What Scotland lacks in predictability, it makes up for in striking scenery and all relatively accessible from the major cities! As ski destinations go, Scotland is compact, and you can just as likely have whiteout conditions in May with no snow coverage in February, so your trip might be a bit of a lottery.

But when it's at its best, Scotland offers some stunning scenery that is easily accessible from the road and normally only an hour or 2 away from Glasgow or Edinburgh. Touring offers the best option to explore the varied terrain of Scotland, be that the plateau at the Cairngorm National Park to the steep slopes around Ben Nevis.

And what better way to finish a hard day of ski touring than a dram of whisky in front of a roaring fire and a cosy pub. For expert itinerary planners for superyachts heading to the UK,

go [here](#).

## **Ski Resort Run Down:**

- **Best time to go – April (long days and often the best snow)**
- **Size – small but plenty of ski touring options**
- **From rain in February to powder skiing in May, be prepared for everything at this ski destination**
- **Pricing – cheap and cheerful**

Hopefully, we have given you some inspiration for your next ski destination beyond the traditional ski resorts. Although wherever you end up, we know you will have fun!

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For our latest Superyacht Content travel articles, click [here](#).

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## **Seven Sinister Costumes for Halloween 2022**

Halloween 2022 is around the corner, and after a year of themed parties over zoom calls, we are sure this year will be one to remember! Are you struggling to conjure up some unique outfit ideas?

**We've put together a list of seven sinister costumes for Halloween to scare the socks off of your guests or crew on board. Whether you're searching for group costumes for the nearest yacht crew Halloween party or hopping on the latest Halloween trends, there's something on this list for everyone:**

## **Sinister Halloween Costume No 1 – Creepy Mermaid**

Kicking it off with a marine-themed must! This take on a quintessential mythical mermaid will have you standing out from the crowd! Why not jump on board with the wet hair trend to achieve the ultimate look, or how about opting for a simple but effective fishtail plait? Think outside of the box and utilize the surrounding objects! For example, seashells and fishing nets are low-cost but critical accessories to make your mermaid outfit pop. Don't worry if you're a beginner at makeup. Just reach for a pair of fishnet tights and use them as a stencil to create the illusion of scaley skin.

## **Sinister Halloween Costume No 2 – IT**



I don't know about you, but when I think sinister, I think "I.T.". A modern take on the classic clown costume will have your guests and fellow crew's spines shivering. The beauty of the clown is that you can tailor your makeup and outfit in several ways without having to splash the cash. Grab yourselves some white and red face paint, a red wig, and you're ready to go...

## **Sinister Halloween Costume No 3 – Candyman**

Speaking of sinister looks, the iconic character "Candyman" will do the trick. Continuing the theme of cost-effective costumes, all that you will require for this outfit is a fleece-lined jacket, a hook, some fake blood, and there you have it, the Candyman!



## Sinister Halloween Costume No 4 – Cruella



Cruella was adapted from the classic movie “101 Dalmatians” and premiered in May 2021. We predict this stylish villain will be iconic this Halloween. You might not be able to ignite your costume the way Cruella does, but you can certainly wow your guests by recreating her style with a blood-red maxi dress, paired with elbow-length gloves, a glamorous mask, and the classic black and white wig. Or, to recreate her chilling all-black style, reach for a black-draped coat styled with a choker and some elbow-length gloves. The choice is all yours, but make sure to let us know which you opt for!

## Sinister Halloween Costume No 5 – The Addams Family

It’s the 31st anniversary of the 1991 feature film “The Addams Family”. With their comedy sequel in cinemas only last year,

it is the perfect choice for this year's crew party! They're sinister, they're spooky, and they're the ideal costumes to get the entire crew on board with. Get creative, tailor each outfit to the most suited crew member, and have a laugh.

## **Sinister Halloween Costume No 6 – Money Heist**



If you haven't already sat down and watched your way through the popular Netflix series "Money Heist", then we recommend doing so right away!

They make for the perfect group costumes, and although they're all very similar, there's something sinister about not knowing who's behind the mask! So what are you waiting for? Gather the crew together, put on your red jumpsuits with a Salvador Dali mask and throw your guests the Halloween extravaganza they'd have wished they never asked for!

## Sinister Halloween Costume No 7 – The Nun

Finally, we have The Nun aka, one of the most sinister and demonic outfits to date! On the back of the horror movie “Annabelles” success, the Nun from The Conjuring is another Halloween movie character that deserves to be recreated this year. It’s simple, iconic, and all that is required is a black long-sleeved dress, a traditional headpiece, paired with a cross necklace. Perfected with a face of dark makeup or, to make life even easier, a mask.

Start planning your costumes. Halloween is just three weeks away!

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P.S. Don’t forget to tag [@superyachtcontent](#) in your Halloween posts this year. We look forward to seeing them!

For more Superyacht Content crewmess articles, click [here](#).

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## Top Tips for Superyacht Crew Needing Sleep

Oh, sleep... sometimes that feels like a forgotten concept in the midst of a busy season. With back to back charters, the idea of 8 consecutive hours of rest is sometimes an unachievable “dream”. Today we give out Top Tips for superyacht crew needing sleep:

# 1. Supplements

Taking a melatonin supplement half an hour before bedtime can help you wind down and improve the quality of your sleep. Melatonin is a key hormone that signals to your brain that it is time to unwind and sleep. Usually, your body releases this hormone naturally towards the end of the day as you begin to wind down. However, when on a yacht charter, an evening is usually spent serving drinks, cleaning cabins or washing down right until you get the chance to go to bed. This means your body is unable to relax at the time it naturally would. Taking supplements before you go to bed is a simple and easy way to remedy this issue. Other helpful supplements are valerian (for better sleep quality) and magnesium (for muscle recovery and relaxation). You should check with your doctor before taking any new supplements or medication.





## 2. Limit Screen Time and Blue Light

We've all been there: after a long day, all we want to do is curl up in bed and binge-watch Netflix or scroll through all the social media apps that have been calling our names all day. While this is a good way to relax, it should be done so in moderation. Setting a time limit for yourself is a good way to ensure you get enough sleep while also allowing yourself some time to chill after work. I also advise wearing blue light blocking glasses or installing an app that blocks blue light onto your devices.

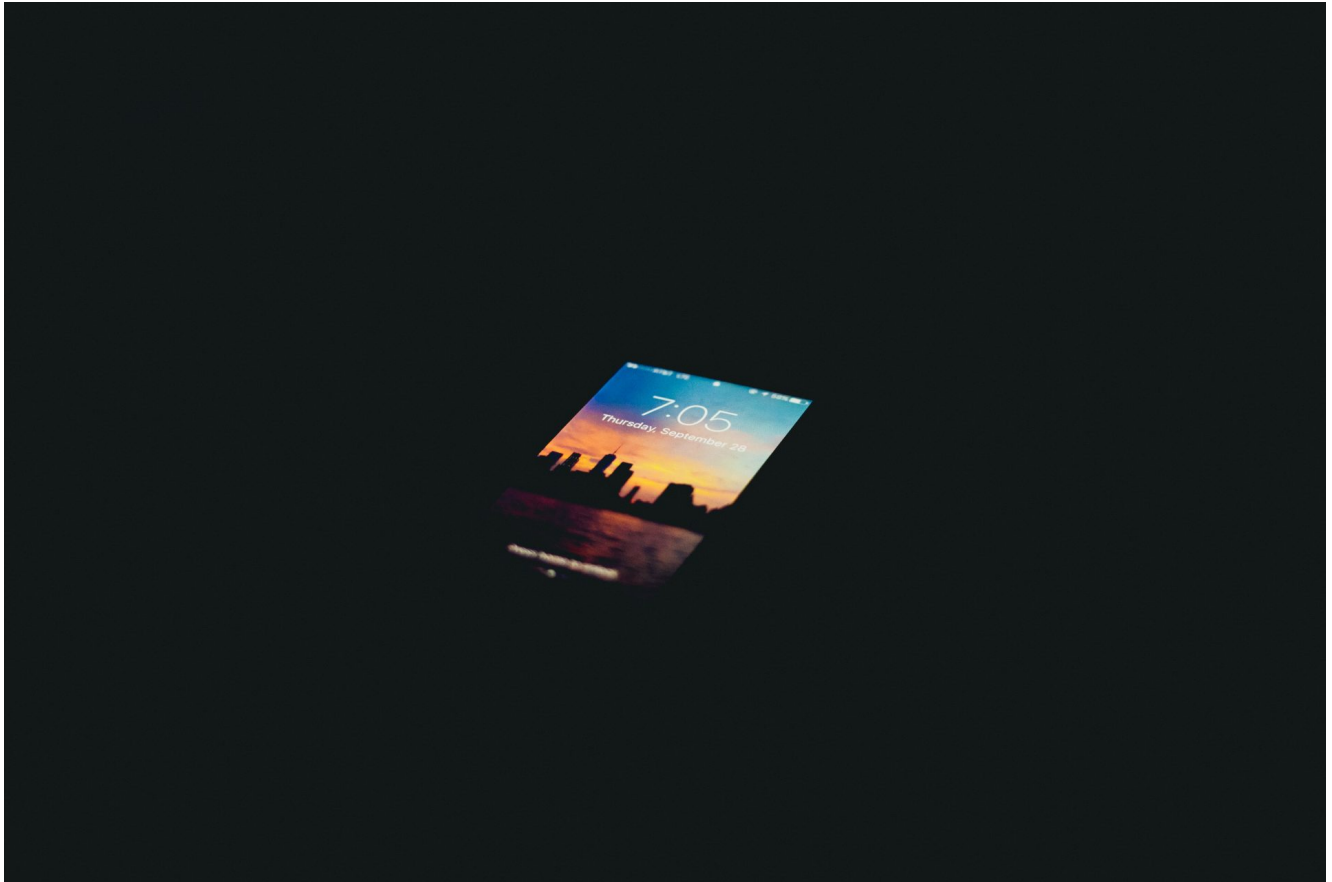


Photo by [Dan Gold](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### 3. No Caffeine

Stick to decaf after lunchtime. Don't drink caffeine for at least 6 hours before bedtime if you want a good night's rest. While you may not feel its effects, caffeine can stay in your bloodstream for 6-8 hours after consumption. This will stimulate your nervous system, and it will prevent your body from relaxing towards the end of the day, hence ruining your chances of an early (ish) night.



Photo by [Fahmi Fakhruudin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 4. Consistency of Sleep

Try to sleep and wake up at consistent times every day to keep your body's circadian rhythm. As superyacht crew, this may be impossible at times, making it all the more important to focus on during your break between charters.



Photo by [Meho Mojapelo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 5. Exercise

[Exercise](#) is incredibly beneficial for your physical and mental health. However, exercise releases hormones such as adrenaline and epinephrine, which have a stimulatory effect on the body. This can make it difficult for you to fall asleep and can affect your sleep quality. Therefore, you should aim to leave at least 3 hours between finishing physical exercise and getting ready to sleep.





Gaby – [@healthandfitnessretreat](https://www.instagram.com/healthandfitnessretreat)

## 6. Limit Liquid Before Bed

Everyone knows hydration is key to good health and that drinking throughout the day is necessary. However, if you want to sleep through the night, you should aim to reduce your liquid intake at least an hour before bedtime and try to use the bathroom just before you go to sleep.



Photo by [Giorgio Trovato](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 7. Meals

Eating large meals before bed can lead to hormone disruption and poor sleep quality, so choose a smaller snack instead. Some [studies](#) have shown that a carb-based snack is best for helping you fall asleep.



Photo by [Anastasia Eremina](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 8. Optimise Your Bedroom Environment

My final tip for getting good sleep on board is this: your bedroom environment should be optimised for sleep. Try eliminating light from outside with a blackout screen over your porthole or by drawing your curtains. Get rid of disruptive noise by investing in some earplugs or a white noise machine. Small changes like these can make all the difference.





Sleep plays such a key role in one's overall health. Where possible, prioritise good quality sleep, even if the hours may not be as long as you hope for.

*To read Gaby's previous article, click [here](#), or for tips and tricks for staying healthy onboard follow [@healthandfitnessretreat](#).*

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Did you enjoy reading out top tips for Superyacht Crew needing sleep? If so, you can further learn how to sleep better by [clicking here](#).

For more Superyacht Content health and wellbeing articles, click [here](#).

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# Y.CO Yacht Management With Alan Downs

## Life after yachting with Alan Downs

[Y.CO](#) is a global leading company providing services in luxury yacht charter, sales, purchase, management, new build, and project coordination in the Superyacht industry. Founded by previous Superyacht Captains – Gary Wright and Charlie Birkett, Y.CO is now recognised as one of the most successful yachting companies in the world, with the intention to continue improving what they already do well.

In today's interview, we speak to an employee at the yachting firm – Alan Downs, the Head of [Y.CO](#) Yacht Management for the USA. Alan discusses with us his transition from his career path as a yachting, to working as head of yacht management.



## **Tell us a bit about yourself:**

My name is Alan Downs, originally from Scotland, but currently residing in Fort Lauderdale. I have been in the maritime industry for 34 years now, with at least half of that time working on/with Superyachts. My current position is as Head of Yacht Management, USA for Y.CO, an organization I've been with for coming up to 14 years.

Prior to transferring to head up our Fort Lauderdale office, I previously spent 7 years in our Monaco office and have also been in the positions of DPA, and Technical Manager for Y.CO. Aside from the UK and US, I've lived in France, Spain, Peru, and Panama. It goes without saying, I have a constant travel itch!

## **My hobbies are:**

- Sports
- Music
- Surfing
- Snowboarding
- Reading
- I also play the drums (or should say played as it's been a while).

## **Talk us through your time as yacht crew**

I got my first job on a yacht in the south of France, around 1990 after day-working for about three months. It was certainly a lot easier to get first-time experience in those days! So, I was interviewed and subsequently joined a 60m Feadship in Cannes as a deckhand, and immediately left for Palma to the shipyard, and then to the Caribbean.

After about two years, I left and went to work on a friend's yacht as a bosun. From there, I worked through the ranks on

other yachts and for deliveries, etc. I worked on both charter and private yachts, managing to get involved in every aspect of the yacht's operations. This included day-to-day maintenance, dealing with guests/owners, and planning for yard periods.

I look back on my time as yacht crew with very fond memories, probably the best time of my youth. Luckily, I'm fortunate to have learned a great deal, travelled, and made lifelong friends out of my early years onboard.

## **How did you land a job with Y.CO?**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CX6dd7UNbYo/>

I had been working in Brighton for another yacht company as a Yacht Manager for a couple of years. However, the job was UK-based and I had always been looking for a move back to France. At the Cannes boat show one year I bumped into a very good friend of mine, who was then a broker for Y.CO and he introduced me to the directors: Charlie Birkett and Gary Wright. Their attitude to yachting, and to client relationships was so refreshing! We just clicked, and so when they offered me the job, it was a very easy decision. What a good decision it was. as Thirteen and half years down the line and I remain with the YCO team.

## **After yachting, did you have any other jobs?**

When I left yachting, I went back to study at the Glasgow Nautical college and started an HND in Nautical Studies. Afterward, I did a few deliveries on yachts. Eventually, I ended up living in Peru and working for an English Captain who

oversaw a large fleet of mainly fishing vessels, and smaller commercial ships for a Lloyd's Syndicate of underwriters in London.

During that time, we dealt with large hull and machinery claims, inspections, and quite frankly a whole lot of cultural and safety challenges. So it was an enormous learning curve, but very valuable in terms of overall experience and decision making.

I then liaised with a marine survey company in Peru and later in Panama. So all in all, I spent 7 years heavily involved in technical operations. As well as risk surveys on ports and terminals. A very varied job with a lot of travel and again, valuable life and work experiences.

## **Y.C0 is renowned for its drive and passion as a company. What do you believe the 3 key components are to becoming a successful yacht manager?**

At YC.0 we talk about yachting being more of a *lifestyle* than a job. And, I do feel that this is true. To become a successful yacht manager, you must be passionate about the industry first and foremost. It's not a 9-5 job, so it really helps if you love what you do. No two days are the same and you must prepare to be challenged on a regular basis.

- **Knowledge** – Listen and learn as much as you can about every part of the vessel's operation, how and where it was built, refit history, the owners' wishes/ dislikes, the crew dynamics, the budget, etc. It is very easy to speak to just one or two parts of the operation in a meeting, but both the owners and crew alike will

appreciate the time spent to discuss and debate all the other key elements that go into a successful vessel operation. As well as, showing interest in their vessel and crew will pay dividends.

- **Availability and visibility** – The yacht captains, yacht crew and yacht owners need to know you are part of their team. Whether that is just a simple check-in with stakeholders, or getting onboard to carry out an audit. It's a 24/7 business and the crew doesn't switch off, so why should we?
- **Identify where your role as yacht manager fits into the overall operation** – Know the role and the goals– we should never be micro-managers; the role of a yacht management company is to provide support and expertise in certain key areas to the Captain and crew. All while delivering to the owner the services that they are relying on Y.CO to provide. Never guess the answer to a question – do the research, and make industry contacts that are reliable, and can provide support to you at short notice.

## **What does your role as head of Y.CO Yacht Management USA require you to do?**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CViH0krIJ2e/>

My role as the head of Y.CO yacht management, USA is very varied. I am still managing several yachts with our Fort Lauderdale team here, but I am responsible for the US-managed fleet, with a team of 12 staff here. I am the executive lead for several *UHNW* clients, and so part of the role is maintaining those relationships with family offices and the owners themselves. Prospecting new clients, and managing the proposals is another key aspect of the job. And then to pitch Y.CO's services.



My main focal point is existing client relations and prospecting for growth business strategies. I am part of the decision-making team of the company and am heavily involved in the development of our teams both in Monaco, and Fort Lauderdale.

## **Are there any similarities between your career as yacht crew and your current position as Y.CO yacht management?**

There are some similarities between my Y.CO yacht management role and my time spent on board. Going onboard yachts for visits, audits, and surveys – It just feels like going home to me. I'm very comfortable being onboard with crew, and I think it has helped me to integrate more easily with them.

We often travel at very short notice to pitch to clients or to try and resolve issues onboard, so it's something I am very used to...

*"carry-on luggage only...the golden rule!"*

## **In what ways do the skills you gained from your time onboard help you now?**

Onboard life helped me to follow specific routines; Teamwork, resilience, and the ability to live and understand others. They all certainly help when working in a team environment, such as Y.CO.

Starting onboard as a junior deckhand, you have the opportunity of listening and learning from others, and I think it stood me in good stead in my career. I would say that I think I know my place and time to speak, but also when to sit back and absorb the conversation. When dealing with so many

different stakeholders and mind settings, that's definitely something that has been helpful.

## **What do you like best about your current job?**

I enjoy multitasking and the varied aspect of my current job. We're often asked to solve complex issues, and so on any given day you could be speaking with the internal team, coastguard, flag state, shipyards, class societies, and then a crew member's mum... all in the same day!

Y.CO has a very strong company culture. It encourages creativity and empowers team members to think beyond what's standard in the industry. This is to find new and better ways to support our clients, captains, and crew. We work hard, but there's a lot of fun and laughter too. The fact that we cover every aspect of yachting too – from sales and new build to charter, means that there are always interesting conversations to be had. You'll often find yourself working on projects with other departments.

## **Have you got any advice for crew looking to leave yachting, who may be interested in following a similar career path to yours?**

I think that there's a lot of crew who think they may like to try yacht management one day but are perhaps not too sure what the position entails. Our staff comes from all different types of backgrounds, some have come directly from working on yachts and others have never worked at sea at all previously.

I would recommend speaking to as many people as you can in the industry about their positions, and different facets of the industry before deciding on a specific role.

## **Can you define what you believe is the difference between an average and a great yacht management company?**

Yachting is a fast-moving world and it's constantly evolving! So, I suppose staying agile and able to move with the times is an important part of it. Y.CO is 100% founder-owned and founder-led, which means that we're able to:

*"Stay agile, make decisions quickly and hold personal, meaningful relationships with all of our Clients, ultimately providing a better service to them."*

Our co-founders and directors work as hard as anyone else in the business, which filters down through all our staff and defines how we work internally, and how we are perceived in the industry.

I think a lot of what defines the difference between an average and great yacht management company, is not just the experience of the Yacht Owner, but of the other end users. In this case, our Owners' teams, our Captains, and our crew. And I'd like to think that ours feel respected, motivated, and empowered; Rather than dictated to, or micromanaged.

I think if the relationship between the yacht management company and the captain and crew is strong, then it benefits the owner as everyone is working together to bring about positive changes on board.

Of course, to be able to build these relationships, you need to have the expertise on the team. We are fortunate to have a team who have experience working on board, within shipyards,

or who have specialist degrees in varied disciplines. We're a company that was born on board. Our co-founders were captains before they became yacht managers. So we try to apply this innate knowledge of on-board life to everything that we do.

- Employ enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff
- Answer all emails and phone calls as promptly as possible
- Don't guess or second guess, work with the *facts*.

For inquiries about Y.CO Yacht Management, contact Alan Down at – Ad@y.co

For the latest superyacht news, click [here](#).

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## **Below Deck Strangest Guest Requests**

### **The Cast of Bravo TV's Below Deck Med has revealed the strangest requests they have received from guests**

As yacht crew, it's your job to accommodate for the guests. And subsequently, try to make their guests stay onboard the yacht the best it can be. However, the [Below Deck](#) strangest guest requests may be a bit too left-field to achieve. Nevertheless, they do make us laugh!

Here are the strangest guest requests received from the Below Deck Med cast:

## Courtney Veale



Photo by: Laurent Basset/Bravo

The Strangest guest request that Below Deck Med star Courtney Veale has received is:



*“probably being asked to go to Russia with a charter guest”*

Courtney says the guest on board proceeded to ask her to come to Russia with him over the Christmas and New Year period... But as crew do, she went along with it in conversation to be polite but had no intentions of going, of course!

## **Lloyd Spencer**



Photo by: Laurent Basset/Bravo

For Lloyd Spencer, the Strangest guest request he received was being asked:

*“Can you hold a talent show?”*

Avid watchers of the show may remember this episode airing in season 6 of Below Deck Med. And of course, Lloyd acted as the MC for the whole talent show – he certainly stepped up, even if he thought it was “a strange request.”

## **Mathew Shea**



Photo by: Laurent Basset/Bravo

Chef Mathew Shea certainly showed off his culinary skills last season of Below Deck Med. Clearly, he knows what he is talking about when it comes to luxury cuisine on board. Therefore, he was completely fine when a family of charter guests requested for him to:

*“Make some tuna sushi”*

*However, he adds that actually, they wanted it made:*

*“with canned tuna”*

It’s safe to say, he was horrified.

## **Mzi Dempers**





Photo by: Laurent Basset/Bravo

Mzi Dempers, Aka Below Decks most lovable deckhand. He is adored by his guests, as well as viewers on the show, so much so, Dempers' strangest request was to:

*"Put on a fireman's outfit, hand out shots to all the ladies on board and, dance for them too."*

We wouldn't have minded being a fly on the wall on that charter!

## David Pascoe





Photo by: Laurent Basset/Bravo

Fan Favourite, David Pascoe kept his answer fairly brief and to the point. When asked in the interview what his strangest guest request was, he simply said

*“The strangest guest request I’ve ever gotten was to give someone a baby”.*

The context probably explains a lot, but let’s just leave it at that...

**For the full video on Below Deck Strangest Guest Requests, watch now:**

<https://www.superyachtcontent.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/video-1646736157.mp4>

**What is the strangest guest request you have received? Let us know over on our socials by [clicking here](#)**

For the latest Superyacht for yacht crew, click [here](#).

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**Yachting, Diving and  
Photography – The Life Of LJ  
Strike**



**Are you are wishing to pursue more interests alongside yachting, or perhaps you're considering your life after yachting? Lia Johnson says go for it!**

Superyacht Content was lucky enough to speak to Lead Deckhand, Dive Instructor and founder of [Strike & Co Photography](#), LJ Strike. We speak about her career in yachting and the experiences she's faced while being a female deckhand, as well as how to become a diving instructor. Not to mention, what it's like to run a photography company alongside all of this!



## **About Lia Johnson-Strike**

"My name is Lia Johnson-Strike, but people know me as LJ, I am the Lead Deckhand, Dive Instructor, and Photographer onboard M/Y Nomad. I was born in Alice Springs, a small town in the middle of the Australian outback. I have a massive passion for

photography, scuba diving, and skiing. This is rather strange since Alice Springs is 1500km from the nearest beach, and there's definitely no snow! I've been lucky enough to have lived in Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, and Japan. And, I've studied Indonesian, Arabic, and Japanese."

## **How are you currently spending your time and where are you located?**

Actually, I'm in the shipyard! First-time Nomad has been out of the water since her launch in April 2019. So, it's all jam-packed and exciting at the moment. We are in San Diego, California and It's such a nice place to be, so feeling super lucky.

## **When did your career in yachting begin?**

I've been a yachtie for four years now, which seems very short and very long at the same time! It was the end of 2017 when I made the leap from working ashore to being onboard a Superyacht. And, I've never looked back...

## **Which M/Ys have you worked on previously?**

M/Y Domani, M/Y Unicorn, M/Y Dancing Hare, and now, M/Y Nomad.



Image by Strike & Co Photography

## **Deckhands were once stereotyped as dominant male roles. Have you faced any challenges in your yachting career as a female deckhand?**

Sadly, I have had my fair share of challenges, especially in the earlier days. When I first started looking for deckhand positions, I was often told:

*“you won’t get a job as a female deckhand, so I’ll put you down as a stewardess”* – This was from an agency in Fort Lauderdale.

*“Boys on the outside, girls on the inside”* – One Captain told me.

So, I have had my share of ups and downs. But as you can see, I stayed persistent and now I get headhunted by Captains who are specifically looking for female deckhands.

**You're a Deckhand, a Dive instructor, and a Photographer... What do you consider to be your main career, and what motivated you to take on responsibility for three of them?**

As most people in yachting know, being a deckhand is the majority 90% of the job, and diving is just a bonus (depending on your boat's program of course). But, I would love my main career to be Diving and Photography. The joy I receive from doing both of these exceeds all the careers I've ever had (maybe bar the ski instructor job in Japan).

When I started on Nomad I was solely employed as the Deckhand and Dive instructor. However, as time went on, the crew, captains, and owner started to see my Superyacht Photography. As a result, they realised I was probably more talented than I had led to believe. And so, it became an added role. Now I'm in charge of everything Superyacht Photography and Videography related above and below the water, and I love it. Drones, underwater cameras, GoPros, and professional cameras. We have it all!

**Let's Discuss [Strike & Co photography](#)**





## How did Strike and Co start?

Strike & Co. is run by myself and my brother who lives in Australia. We've both been into photography for as long as I could remember and had always had a fiery passion for going out and capturing that perfect shot. After brainstorming for a



few years, we finally decided it was time to make Strike & Co a real thing, and here we are.

Which area of Photography do you specialise in?

We specialise in aerial, abstract, astro, underwater, and landscape photography.



Nomad goes

# INTO THE BLUE

Whatever your dream destination may be, it is a desire to explore and enjoy life in, on and under the water that unites so many superyacht owners, guests and crew. Lia Johnson-Strike – Lead Deckhand and Dive Instructor on board the Amels 180 Limited Editions NOMAD – takes us on a voyage of discovery into the blue.

## Natural Affinity

It's not just NOMAD's striking blue hull where the affinity to water lies. 80% of their programme is water orientated. And this doesn't stop at fishing, diving and wake surfing. The ocean is a major provider of lunch and dinner for NOMAD guests and crew! This is a superyacht that embraces her surroundings.

*"The owners and their family have a real genuine love of the sea. Our trips are always about having fun in and on the ocean, enjoying every aspect of what each day gives us out on the water."*

## Picture Perfect

Capturing these incredible moments and experiences in the big blue has gone from a much-loved hobby to an even more loved onboard responsibility for Lia.

*"The ocean is such an amazing thing to photograph. The colours vary during different times of the day and the same stretch of water can produce the most stunning colour of jewelled blue one moment and seafoam green the next. Capturing the way the sun shines through the water, creating beams of gold, is something that I'll never get tired of."*

**You mentioned to us before the interview that you've worked with companies such as [Funair](#), Invisible, and [Amels magazine](#). Are these all yachting brands that have approached you due to the success of Strike and Co?**

I would say most of these companies have been in touch with me through Instagram or the Nomad Instagram page. Instagram is such a useful tool for photo sharing and has a higher audience than most websites I'd say. It's through Instagram that most people discover Strike & Co.

**Which project to date has been your favourite, and why?**

Working with Amels and Invincible is always up with the best. Both Deniza and Rudy share that same passion for showcasing their commodities/products, through photos and videos. Having my photography featured in the Amels Finest Moments magazine will always be a favourite for sure!

**How about if you could pick one company that you hope to work with over the next year, which would it be?**

Besides always wanting to work for Nikon or Nat Geo, I would love to work with [Amels](#). I already have such great connections and relationships with some of the team there. And, I would love to go to Holland and see everything in the flesh!

**To finish off, Please could you share with our readers:**

1. Your Top 3 tips for aspiring female Deckhands who want

### **to start yachting:**

Do your research about yachting. Also, be persistent! Don't get disheartened by setbacks, know your goals and stick with them, and don't let anyone tell you that you can't just because you're a girl!

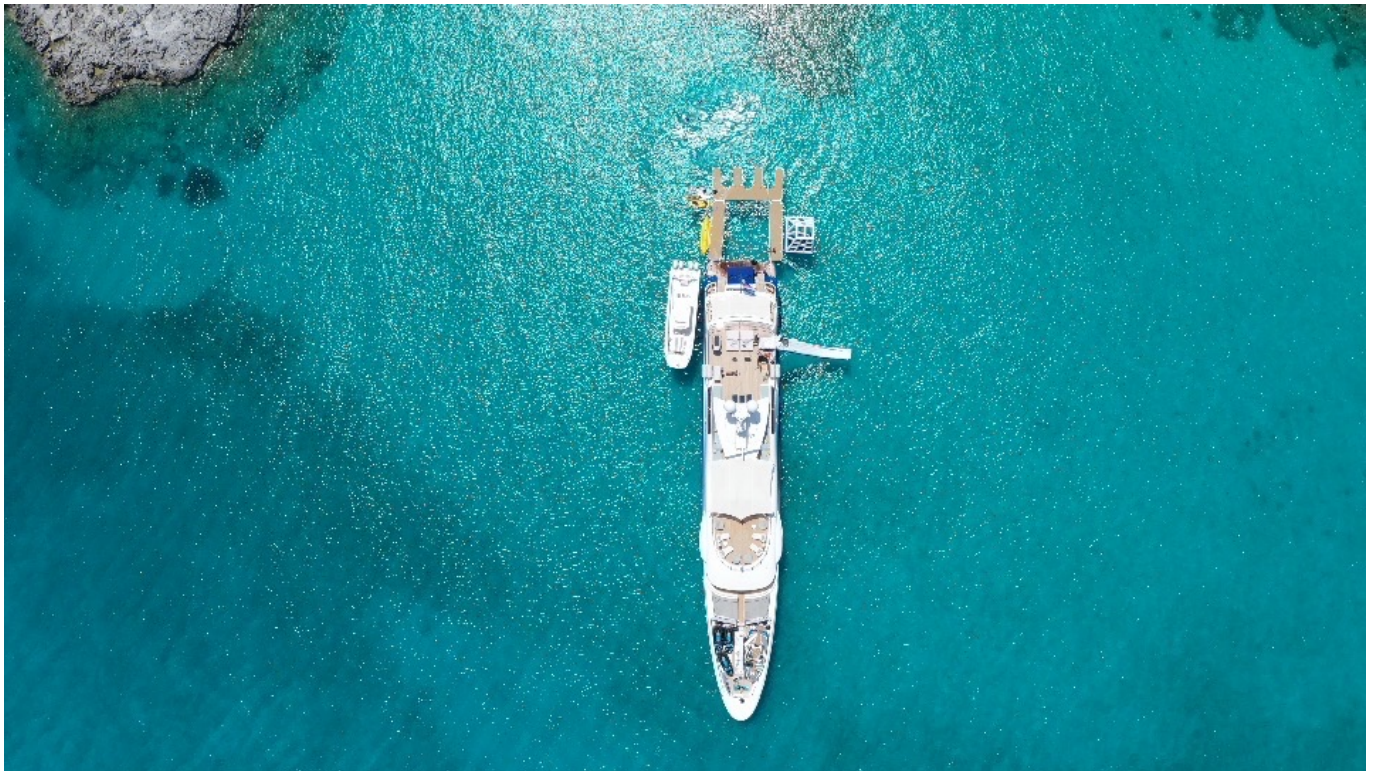
### **2. The main steps to take to become a diver instructor:**

If you go through Padi, everyone had to start with Open water, to Advanced Open water, followed by Rescue, and then Dive Master. Then finally, once you've logged your 100 dives you can enroll in the PADI IDC.

### **3. A key point of advice for other content creators looking to succeed:**

Being **consistent** is key. Keep your content interesting and up to date. This will ensure you don't get swamped by yacht life and have to keep your images and videos updated all the time

## **A collection of photos by Strike and Co:**















To check out more of Strike co Photography, click [here](#).

For the latest Superyacht news, click [here](#).

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# Best And Worst Times To Find Yacht Crew Jobs – Antibes, France

Following on from our first article, '[The Best And Worst Times to Find Yacht Crew Jobs – Fort Lauderdale](#)'; With the med season fast approaching, this month we're focusing on the best and worst times to find yacht crew jobs in Antibes, France!

We're talking about the ports that are your "best" options. That's not to say that there aren't other places in the world where you could find a job in yachting, but these particular locations we feature are the hiring hotspots of the superyacht industry and will offer excellent access to quality job opportunities for yacht crew entering the industry.

If you are currently hunting for your first role in the industry or just looking for a new position, this article hopefully gives you some tips!





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## **Best & Worst Times For Finding Yacht Crew Jobs In Antibes, France:**

**The worst times to apply: January,  
February, November, December**

The Caribbean season is in full force during this period. Therefore, we would advise an entry-level seeker to avoid applying for a job at this time.

**Good times to apply: March, April,  
October**

When we say good, we mean there is a decent chance. However, you may find yourself either a bit too early, or too late, for prime hiring season. In Antibes, March marks the end of the Caribbean season, April is the beginning of the Med season,

and October is the closing month just before yachts head across the Atlantic.

## **Great times to apply: May, September**

We recommend if you're in the area during this time to consider completing your training courses. It may also be worth gaining some experience to prepare for the following month.

## **The ideal time to apply: June, July, August**

With marinas packed and yachts aplenty, this is the ideal time to be in Antibes and hunting for a yacht crew position. This time of year is when you stand the best chance of getting your dream job.

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## **Where To Stay If You're Trying To Find Yacht Crew Jobs In Antibes**

If you're looking to walk the docks this year and are heading over to Antibes, staying in a crew house is your best option. It provides you with the opportunity to network with other crew and the houses themselves have plenty of advice and tips on how to secure your first yacht crew job. Keep a close eye on the notice boards as they are often advertising jobs in crew houses and Internet cafes. We have provided a list of some of the most popular crew houses and accommodations in Antibes:

- [The Crew Grapevine Crew House](#) – Crew Grapevine provides quality shoreside accommodation for Superyacht crew. They operate out of 3 private crew houses in the heart



of Old Antibes, just beside Port Vauban.

- [Debbie's Crew House](#) – Situated in a Provencal style villa in a gated, secure courtyard on the outskirts of Antibes. Debbie's Crew House has three independent self-contained studios within our courtyard and garden. Because of its location on the outskirts of Antibes, Debbie's is also popular with more senior crew looking for a base either between jobs or doing yacht courses making it a fantastic place to network.
- [The Glamorgan](#) – The Glamorgan provides a bourgeois style comfortable home, and has established itself as the Crew House of Choice for professional crew.



### 3 STCW Courses Available In Antibes

1. Stcw Direct – Crew [Courses](#)

2. Zephyr – Crew [Courses](#)

3. SeaScope Maritime Training – [Crew Courses](#)

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In the meantime, [keep up with the latest available industry jobs with us here](#) – don't forget to register!

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To keep up to date with the latest Superyacht Content News, click [here](#).

Sign up to our Newsletter below:

## Newsletter Signup

▪ Your Name

First

Last

▪ Your Email\*

Submit

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# Yacht Crew: It's Time to Do Your Tax Returns

It's that time of year again, where yacht crew suddenly realise the window for submitting your tax returns is closing. If you are British and working on a superyacht offshore, you need to submit tax returns by the end of January. Failure to do this will likely result in fines from HMRC, which is not

ideal at all. If you are reading this and starting to worry, do not panic! There is plenty of time to put together and submit your returns to avoid these penalties.

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## Why Should You File Tax Returns?

British yachties should be diligent in submitting their tax returns for two reasons:

1. There is no reason not to – It is unlikely, due to your job that you will have to pay tax. And, better still. Being a UK tax resident means you can [invest your money into property](#), pensions, ISA's, stocks and shares. You can't do any of this if you are not a taxpayer.
  2. It is the law – You are required by law to declare any offshore income. Your salary is offshore income as it is not earned in the UK.
- 

## Can Yacht Crew Avoid Not Declaring?

The answer to this in most cases is **NO**. But, why would you try to get away with not doing it? Again don't panic. We can fix it!

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## Don't Put It Off!

Make sure that, no matter what, you are on the right side of the tax authorities.

**DO NOT** – and we really mean this – **DO NOT DO NOTHING**. This

will not solve a problem or make it any easier to deal with.

Finally, **DON'T PANIC**. If you know you need to do something then get in touch. We can always help and it is never as bad as it seems. Pick up the phone or send us an email. We are waiting to help



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[CrewF0](#) is here to assist yacht crew with the difficult things in life, like tax. If you have read this article and feel like you need advice with your taxes, [get in touch](#).

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To keep up to date with the latest Superyacht Content News, click [here](#).

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Submit

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# Superyacht Crew: Feeling Burnt out? How to Stay Happy and Focused in Your Career

Are you feeling burnt out? Superyacht crew have a tendency to burn the candle at both ends, often finding themselves feeling overworked, overwhelmed and fed up with their career. Emma Baggett industry professional and founder of [The-0m](#), speaks with us about the different things superyacht crew can do to stay happy and focused in their career.

## Superyacht Crew: How to Stay Happy and Focused in Your Career

Your career can send you off on many tangents or keep you in a rigid and structured cage. Either way, it is easy to drift, being carried along without a clear plan as to where you are heading. Sometimes it can take a while to get to that point when you know you are ready for something new. Some people get that lightbulb moment, that flash of inspiration, but for most of us, it does not always happen like that. It is a more slow realisation that you are not actually that happy or fulfilled by your job anymore.

Perhaps you have not drifted at all. Your career has followed a carefully prescribed plan. The realisation comes when you have finally achieved the goal you have spent years striving towards, the Captain, Chief Officer, Head of Department position, with rotation that you thought was the ultimate accolade.

It often comes when you are sitting in the departure lounge waiting for your flight back to work. You experience that moment of clarity, that home, a simple life and frankly



everything that you thought you didn't want, is looking pretty attractive and, to be honest, you could happily contemplate never flying anywhere ever again.

I speak to professional crew daily, who are admitting reluctantly that they are burnt out, disillusioned, and are struggling to see a future in the industry. They hold senior positions onboard, jobs that they have worked very hard to achieve and on paper look like they have the "dream ticket". Great income, rotation, several properties bought and rented out, great toys, clothes, cars, watches and Instagram accounts that support the "living the dream" illusion.

It's not surprising that for many, their career and their enthusiasm has a finite life. After a while, the pressures of the industry and the relentless toll of the seasons can leave you feeling like you are experiencing Groundhog Day. It might look like you're working in paradise, but the reality of the yacht, and your surroundings, leave you feeling captured and confined.



Over the last two years, the impact of COVID on yacht crew and the long-term effects on mental health cannot be overstated. Surveys and reports continue to prove the fallout and impact on superyacht crew will continue to be felt. Much of the issue also sits with the industry itself, not recognising that a few fundamental changes to the way it values and supports crew would also help to minimise the tendency for short-term careers and vastly improve the work-life balance and longevity of those that operate the owner's prize asset.

In the yachting industry, wanting something more, or more to the point, recognising that something vital is missing does not always mean leaving the industry. In fact, I think it's the most common mistake that yacht crew make. It is not all doom and gloom. Sometimes, investing time in yourself, making a few adjustments, setting some new goals and finding new inspiration in your professional development can make all the difference and bring back the vital spark you are looking for.

Half the battle is acknowledging the issues and the problems and admitting to yourself that something needs to change and, if you decide you are ready to leave and seek the next stage of your career, it can be difficult to know where to start. What are your options? How will you maintain your earnings? Will you be happy? It's a lot to consider, but with thought and planning and a bit of effort, life does successfully continue.

The first step in moving forward is identifying the answer to the following question – **“Are you sure you want to leave the industry?”**

If the answer is **“yes”**. Then it would be best if you committed to no knee jerk decisions. Your exit needs to be planned, researched and realistic. You need to take your time.

If the answer is **“no”**. Then you need to identify what actions you need to take to re-set, recharge and refocus, to find fulfilment in your current career.





## **Is it your job?:**

Are you staying on board a vessel in a role that is making you miserable because you're determined to display longevity on your CV?

Having preached the importance of longevity, commitment and professionalism for years, I will admit something – it's all very well but being miserable can have such a long-term effect on you, that sometimes you just have to think of yourself first.



I don't advocate flouncing off and leaving your vessel in the lurch, but don't let yourself get deeply unhappy unnecessarily. It's a waste of your energy. Even with the best planning and consideration, some jobs don't turn out to be what we think they will be, and once you have given it your best shot, it's best to admit that for all concerned. Or is it the opposite? Maybe you work on a fantastic vessel with a great crew and owner, but you are no longer happy, and you are reluctant to leave because you know how good your situation is? Either way, if you are unhappy, you need to act.

## **Feeling burnt out? Don't be afraid to stop for a while:**

Stopping doesn't mean coming to a complete stop but, it could mean giving yourself some breathing space. Having a proper holiday, travelling, or simply spending some time enjoying a simple life is hugely beneficial.

Taking a full season out of the industry will not adversely affect your career if you can illustrate how you have benefited from doing so. You might be able to do this within your rotation or it might mean a bigger decision.

Is it time to resign and move on, or would your vessel consider a kind of sabbatical? Would they support you in taking a few months or a season out and returning refreshed and repurposed? It's always worth asking and negotiating before thinking that handing in your notice is the only option. The key is making the time that you take work for you.

## **Find a mentor or coach to find a way forward:**

Don't keep things to yourself. Talking to your fellow professionals and seeking guidance and wisdom from others is a very effective way to find out what you really want to do and

how to achieve it.

A mentor will use their professional experience to help you understand your options and share knowledge, insight, and advice. A coach will help you help yourself by asking key questions that give you the tools to understand and develop your own personal pathway.

Look at the LEGASEA initiative to find a mentor: [www.legasea.org.uk](http://www.legasea.org.uk) or look at the [www.lifeafteryachting.com](http://www.lifeafteryachting.com) platform to find a coach and mentors who specialise in careers after you leave the industry.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CYBbsVOKBQi/>

## **Focus on your mental and physical health:**

This may be an obvious one to discuss. Still, huge benefits can be gained from focusing on your body and mind. Mental and physical fitness, or lack of it can affect your well-being, focus, and a sense of purpose and worth so much more than many people realise. Spending time working on your fitness levels, eating healthy and understanding what your body needs to function can all have a huge impact on your happiness and confidence and inner calm.

Stress, unhappiness, excess alcohol, lack of sleep, are the perennial issues suffered by superyacht crew. They can all have an impact on your cortisol levels and be affecting you far more than you may be aware. Don't be afraid to admit if you are suffering from your mental health and reach out to friends and colleagues and the organisations that are there to help you, like [www.yachtcrewhelp.org](http://www.yachtcrewhelp.org)

## **Financial planning:**

Everyone will tell you this, but money gives you choices, it also gives you the ability to have time out and breathing space to think things through or it could be the factor that

allows you to spread your wings and set up your own business or retrain for a new career path. Spending on luxuries and short-term thrills is great for a while, but if you haven't done it already, make sure you maximise the income you earn, stop spending and start saving, especially if you are thinking of leaving the industry.

Set a goal and work towards having a target amount of savings. Put some structure in place, invest in property and don't bury your head. Educate yourself and take some good financial advice, [www.crewfo.com](http://www.crewfo.com) can offer you a broad range of advice to put you in the best possible financial position.

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CWS4\\_nfg0hu/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CWS4_nfg0hu/)

## **Adjust your outlook:**

You may not realise that you have developed a pretty negative approach to life. If you imagine this analogy, it might put this into perspective. (*From **The 7 habits of successful people**, Stephen R Covey*)

You plan a day out, but on the day the weather forecast is awful, are you the sort of person who cancels the day? Or do you enjoy the day despite the weather? You can't change the weather, but people who are proactive don't let themselves be adversely affected by it; they control their own narrative. Conversely, reactive people allow external circumstances to dictate their behaviours and emotions and let themselves be a martyr to it and might say things like, "It wasn't my fault" "It was out of my hands". Think about how your reaction to the outside influences around you onboard could be adjusted, and you might find this is really helpful.

## **Write a bio document:**

A "Bio" or biography document is an overview of your working life that is not structured in the way a CV is. It is a way of

looking at your achievements, skills and accomplishments in the round. Write freely and when you're done, try editing it back to a page, then take a good long hard look at yourself. I will be honest, this can be an excruciating exercise if you are not very good at promoting yourself, but it's a handy tool in identifying your strengths and potentially the gaps in your skillset. It also gives a potential employer a much broader understanding of what you can offer.

## **Use your rotation and annual leave wisely:**

If you haven't done it already, plan to use your rotation time off to work better for you. Not only to take time out but to use it to achieve things that make you feel happy and fulfilled or plan and research your future plans. There is potential to target and gain working experience with organisations that interest you, consider giving back and volunteering at a charity, perhaps go back to your roots and teach kids to sail?









**Invest in your professional development.  
Get excited about what you can learn and  
achieve:**

Just because you have achieved success in your maritime qualifications or position onboard doesn't mean that you have nothing left to learn. In fact, it's just the start. There are so many courses that can be studied online by distance learning. Look for courses that bring you knowledge that you can apply to improve your performance in your current role and

that improve your long-term employability.

The main thing to remember is that leaving the industry is not your only option. In fact, there are many steps that you can take before you reach that point. It's all about how you approach it. Maybe it is time to move on and is the catalyst to break into something new or it is about finding the perspective that keeps you focused and brings you newfound enjoyment in your role. Take the initiative, and see it as a positive step to start planning, thinking, talking and actively seeking that fresh path.

If you're interested in continuing to learn and the themes of this article resonate with you, Emma Baggett and her company, THE OM, have partnered with MLA College to develop an opportunity for superyacht crew to access a final year [BSc or MSc In Sustainable Maritime Operations](#). This degree is delivered via online distance learning, designed to be accessible and completely flexible around working routines. If you don't have previous academic qualifications, you can use your CoC's gaining entry. With the opportunity for qualified masters to jump straight to an MSc. Whether you want to build on your maritime qualifications or translate your experience and qualifications gained in the sector into a successful career ashore, find out more <http://the-om.co.uk/smo>. Wondering how difficult completing a degree whilst working on board a superyacht is? Have a read of Emma's recent [interview](#) with a student currently on the course.

Are you looking for your next position in the superyacht industry? Head over to our [Jobs Board](#).

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# Money Management as a Yachtie

Cover Photo by [Damir Spanic](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**We discuss key money management tips from yachtie, Jamila Garcia to help you stop wasting your money.**

Money management as a yachtie can be hard. Temptation is everywhere. Yet, the thoughts of saving enough for life on land loom. If you can relate then worry no more! [Jamila Garcia](#), AKA the [Superyacht Chief Stew](#) is here to help.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CC6lilkoPGm/>

**Here are her top money management tips:**

**It's all about the small steps**

Locking yourself onboard 24/7 because you decided to purchase a property, does not work. This will only make you hate your cabin and the crew mess (especially the snacks cupboard) after a couple of weeks of it! Instead of being so strict with yourself, set a fixed amount of money you want to save every week.

**Small short-term objectives seem more achievable than big long-term ones.**

Write things down on paper, old school style. Write all types of goals down, as they come to your head. When on a saving spree, also try to track ALL of your expenses. Again, on paper. When you see how much money you throw down the drain on

silly little things on a daily basis, you'll be astonished! For example, those daily Starbucks coffee runs become a pretty expensive habit!

Here are some planner recommendations to help:

- [Goal Planner](#)
- [Productivity Planner](#)
- [Daily Goal Planner](#)
- [Expenses Tracker](#)

## **Increase your wealth and keep a fixed amount aside every month**

Like it never existed. Let's say you earn 2,500 euros. Convince yourself that you earn 2,000, and budget around that amount. Transfer those 500 euros "extra" to a savings account. And forget about it, literally.



Photo by [Sasun Bughdaryan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## **Take care of your personal finances by reducing your outings**

If you are used to going out with the crew every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, try to “only” go out twice a week. We all know how it is... A crew day out won't mean less than a couple of hundred euros. If you go out three times a week, that's 600 euros GONE, just like that!

## **The key to money management is Rethinking those impulse purchases**

Going on a shopping spree after a month of slaving away is very tempting. But, when you see 10 beautiful bikinis at that lovely little shop in Porto Cervo:

- Leave the shop
- Go for a coffee
- Think about it
- And then decide if you need all 10 of them. Or, see if you could survive just fine buying “only” 5...

## **Diversify your income**

Working on a superyacht provides you with a generous income. All expenses paid for. You feel secure and confident. No need to think about any other ways of generating extra income, because you don't need to. But, you will probably wish to leave one day, and you don't want to be left with no options. Nowadays, there are so many ways of making extra money, you only have to find your niche, and go for it! Try to aim for something you enjoy. Anything.

Business and financial experts always say things like:

*“Find your passion. If you do not have passion, your business*

won't work"

However, this is not necessarily the case. You do not have to be an expert/have passion/ and all of those things...You just need to want to make money and find something that does just that. Obviously, if you do have a passion, it will be so much easier and more rewarding. But, if you do not, or don't know yet, just find something that can make you money. As small as that income is, it is money, at the end of the day. 500 euros in the "yachtie vocabulary" is peanuts. But, 500 euros "in the real world", will pay a pretty good mortgage for a month.



**We all have extra skills, ALL OF US.**

- Are you fluent in a few languages?

You wouldn't believe the huge amount of people out there that need things translated!

- Can you sew?



- Paint?
- Are you a photographer?

Anything really! There are many yachties who work full time and run pretty amazing small businesses. Money management is just about having a bit of initiative. Something that starts super small, just a bit of pocket money, can potentially become a stable source of income in the near future. In its origins back in 2016, [Starfish Crew](#) didn't make as much as it does now. But was it still something to be proud of? Yes! It's just a matter of perspective. And just that, perspective, is something that yachties tend to lose after a few years working on yachts, unfortunately...

## **Start investing in your personal finance as soon as possible**

Investing is not just for people that have a lot of extra money, and are finance experts. Even if you can only afford to invest 100 euros a month, that's better than nothing. If you do not feel comfortable doing it yourself you can hire someone to do it for you. [Quilter International](#) is a tried and tested good example. You just pay them a fix amount every month and they invest it in whatever they see fit. [Capital](#) is also a good for stocks. Remember that your money in the bank does absolutely nothing for you, in fact, absolutely the opposite, due to deflation, and so on.

**We hope you find these money management tips from the Superyacht Chief Stew useful!**



For more, follow [Jamila's Instagram](#) and check out her blog [here](#).

And, for more of the latest industry news and content, click [here](#).

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# Surviving Christmas As Superyacht Crew

Cover Image by: Photo by [Lynda Hinton](#) on [Unsplash](#)

For some, it can be the most challenging time of year. The 25th of December is often a struggle for superyacht crew with family at home getting together and creating memories.

Surviving Christmas as superyacht crew can be a challenge so to help ease the pain of being away during the festive period, we have put together a list of 5 things to be grateful for if you're working on board this year:

## 1. Your Family Will Be Missing You!

It may not feel like it, but we can guarantee your family back home thinking of you. As Superyacht crew, our family are often accustomed to only seeing us a few times a year.

When they are all together making memories, we can guarantee there will be a few family members that will picture you walking through the door as a surprise to celebrate Christmas with them. Although this may not be the year for surprises, be grateful for having a wonderful family back home that are thinking of you on Christmas day.

Your family is most likely very proud of what you are doing and the experiences you are having. So be grateful for them, free up some time to call them. Even if it is only for 5 minutes, it will make you feel a lot better for being away.







Photo by [Laura Beth Snipes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 2. You're On A Superyacht

Ok, this may be an obvious one, and if you are a seasoned yachtie, it may not feel special. However, it is one to remember. There are currently only 37,000 people working within the superyacht industry. When you compare this with the 6 billion people on the planet, you are one of the 37,000 who get to experience a Christmas onboard a superyacht. Even if you are not happy about being away, and you tell yourself, this is the last time you will ever do it. Embrace it, find the positives and soak it in because, for most, this is not forever. It's just what you are doing right now, so enjoy it.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CXBGXTHIUE0/>

## 3. The Food!

If you're a foodie surviving Christmas onboard won't be so difficult. Ok, It's not your mum's roast potatoes or your dad's delicious gravy but you are about to eat a Christmas dinner cooked by a professional chef! Very few people will get to experience a meal like this without paying a price. So, indulge, enjoy and appreciate the delicious food you will get to eat on Christmas day. Don't forget to offer the chef a hand, they're working on Christmas day too.



Photo by [Rumman Amin](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 4. The Location!

Maybe you're in the shipyard, or in a country you never thought you would visit, or perhaps you have guests on and are somewhere hot. Wherever you are, it is likely to differ from what you're used to. If you are off this Christmas, explore the country you are in, try out their Christmas traditions, venture into the local markets and test their Christmas cuisine. You may have to be away from your family this Christmas but make sure you come home with a story to tell them.

If you're working, make sure you take a moment out of your break to go outside, take in your surroundings, remember where you are and don't forget your team is missing Christmas with their family too, so be positive and make it as special as you can for them.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CLvYPw4LR0h/>

## 5. Your Pay Check

As much as we love the job, the vast majority of us enter the industry for the money. We are incredibly well looked after for what we do, and this is certainly something we should be grateful for. A good wage, accommodation, food, and toiletries are covered while working onboard a superyacht. Once you leave the industry, we can guarantee that you will miss this. So make the most of it whilst you are there and be grateful for it. If nothing else will help you survive Christmas as a superyacht crew, your wage at the end of the month is something that should ease the blow, and a lucky few may even be treated to a Christmas bonus!

It is certainly not an easy time to be away, but we hope this has given you a few things to be grateful for this year!

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CXVWpnCIK4m/>

The [Superyacht Content](#) Team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and successful 2022!

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## The Perfect Festive Season in



# St Barts

St Barts, the island in the Caribbean renowned for its glitz, glamour, designer shopping and high-end restaurants. It is undoubtedly one of the best places for guests to charter a superyacht over the festive period.

Do you have guests chartering a yacht in St Barts this December? If so, West Nautical are here to give you all the information and suggestions you need to give your guests the best experience.

## Christmas in. St Barts



Photo by [freestocks](#) on [Unsplash](#)

St Barts has a delightful Christmas Village in Gustavia. This runs from the 3rd – 20th December every year. Guests can spend the day browsing stores with the works of local artisans and food vendors.



As well as this, they can take their children to meet Santa, known as 'Pere Noel'.

## NYE in St Barts



Photo by [Yuheng Mei](#) on [Unsplash](#)

New Year's Eve is the highlight on the St Barts festive season calendar. It attracts people from all over the world. Guests can start their day watching the annual New Year's Eve Regatta. It showcases the most beautiful sailing yachts on the island. And, is often frequented by the world's biggest stars. They don't call it the playground of the rich and famous for nothing! The regatta is a "just for fun" event that kick starts the New Year's Eve celebrations.

In the evening, guests can start at one of the island's many dining establishments. Many of whom have live music or fabulous parties planned. The main event of NYE are the midnight fireworks which light up the night sky. The island is

aglow with parties, music and people dancing. While in the bay, the beautiful superyachts decorate the ocean and join in the festivities by sounding their horns along with the music. Once the clock strikes midnight, take guests to Nikki Beach, La Plage or Le Yacht Club. These are the three most esteemed venues on the island, where guests will find unforgettable entertainment to dance the night away.

## General Activities



For the days when guests are looking to explore the amazing island of St Barts, why not suggest a stroll through the streets of Gustavia? It is lined with designer shops, boutiques, and art galleries. Then, guests can enjoy a light lunch at one of Gustavia's chic cafes along the quay before heading back to the yacht.

For a more adventurous guests, why not suggest a hike uphill to Fort Gustave? It can be found at the mouth of the harbour. Built in the 18th century, it is one of the strongholds built to protect the island from invasion. Guests will be able to enjoy panoramic views from the top of this hike, looking over the harbour and out to the Caribbean Sea. The view alone will



be worth every step. Another option for a hike is to Fort Karl, which gives amazing views of the town and beyond to see other islands including St Kitts and Nevis and St Maarten.



If guests wish to relax, Anse de Grande Saline Beach is no doubt the most beautiful beach on the island. Saline beach is also a great place for guests to explore the crystal-clear waters with a snorkel to spot some of the local marine life. St Barts is also home to the famous beach club, Nikki Beach, found on Baie de St Jean.

**We hope these suggestions will be of use this season!**

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