

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!

A Big Year at Heesen Yachts

[Heesen Yachts](#) are looking forward to a big year. Check out

what they have in store for us.

They will deliver no fewer than six superyachts in 2021. With a total length of 315 metres and an even more impressive combined volume of 3,816 Gross Tons. They currently have 14 yachts currently under construction, with deliveries taking them through 2024. These include both semi-custom and full-custom yachts, from 50 to 80 metres in length. Below we have picked 4 of their exciting current projects.

Project Aquamarine

The imminent launch of YN 18950 Project Aquamarine, the first in the new 5000 Aluminium Class, will mark the start of a busy year. Possessing a narrow, curved and sporty superstructure, Aquamarine is a 50m fast-cruising aluminium semi-displacement yacht. With crisp design language and enviable appeal. Also equipped with MTU's new green oceanic engines with reduced NOx emissions. Aquamarine is the first fast-cruising yacht below 500GT to be IMO Tier III compliant.



Project SkyFall

The 60-metre Project SkyFall, is a 60m all-aluminium, full-

custom motoryacht. She is set for delivery in spring 2023. Her thunder will come from 22,000 horsepower. This extraordinary power will feed four water jets that will drive her at 37 knots in light load conditions. An impressive feat, particularly when considering her significant 900GT volume. She is the most powerful project Heesen has created to date. SkyFall exudes power and speed in every single detail. The exterior design includes a fishing cockpit located at the stern for her Owner, who is a keen angler.



Project Sparta

67-metre Project Sparta is taking shape. We will see her hull and superstructure joined in the autumn. At 67 metres and with an internal volume of approximately 1,200 Gross Tons, Project Sparta is the largest steel-hulled displacement motor yacht built by Heesen to date. Her ultra-efficient Fast Displacement Hull Form is an iteration of the patented design by van Oossanen. This is complimented above the waterline by a

dynamic profile from the drawing board of Winch Design. Powered by two MTU 12V4000 M65R diesel engines, she will reach a top speed of 16 knots. She has a transatlantic cruising range of 4,500 nautical miles at 12 knots.



Project Cosmos

November will see the launch of the mighty 80-metre Project Cosmos. With exterior lines by [Winch Design](#), and interiors by [Sinot Yacht Architecture and Design](#). Project Cosmos will carry on the theme of Heesen's flagship having a space related name. At 1,700 Gross Tons and with a top speed of 29 knots, Project Cosmos will be the world's largest and fastest full-aluminium Superyacht with a conventional propeller propulsion system.



All this in 2021 will be down to [Heesen](#)'s 500 employees and their additional, 500-strong flexible workforce. Thanks to the resilience, commitment and passion of [Heesen](#)'s women and men, who adapted to new ways of working imposed by the pandemic.

