

**RYA Sail Cruising recommended pre-course experience**

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| **RYA Start Yachting and RYA Competent Crew** |  |
| Pre-course experience | None |
| Assumed knowledge | None |
| Duration | **Start Yachting** – 2 days  **Competent Crew** - 5 days |
| Minimum age | **Start Yachting** – 8 years  **Competent Crew** - 12 years. |
| Course content | **Start Yachting** A short introduction for novices to sail cruising. You will experience steering a yacht, sail handling, ropework, and be aware of safety on board.  **Competent Crew** Introduces the complete beginner to cruising. You will learn about personal safety, seamanship and helmsmanship to the level required to be a useful member of the crew of a cruising yacht. |

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| **RYA Day Skipper** |  |
| Pre-course experience | 5 days, 100 miles and 4 night-hours on board a sailing yacht. |
| Assumed knowledge | Theory to the level of Day Skipper Shorebased course.  It is recommended that you attend a shorebased theory course before undertaking the practical course. |
| Duration | 5 days. |
| Minimum age | 16 years. |
| Course content | You will learn pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in waters in with which you are familiar. |

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| **RYA Coastal Skipper** |  |
| Pre-course experience | 15 days, 300 miles, 8 night-hours and 2 days as skipper on board a sailing yacht. |
| Assumed knowledge | Theory to the level of RYA Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster offshore theory.  It is recommended that you attend a shorebased theory course before undertaking the practical course. |
| Duration | 5 days. |
| Minimum age | 17 years. |
| Course content | You will be taught the skills and techniques required to skipper a cruising yacht safely on coastal and offshore passages by day and night. Students will gain practice in planning and skippering longer passages with a significant number of night hours where watch keeping rotas become relevant. |

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| **RYA Yachtmaster exam preparation** |  |
| Pre-course experience | **Yachtmaster Coastal**  **Without RYA Coastal Skipper** - radio licence, first aid certificate, 800 miles (within 10 years prior to exam and at least 50% in tidal waters), 30 days, 12 night hours and 2 days as skipper all on vessels under 24m in length.  **With RYA Coastal Skipper practical certificate** – radio licence, first aid certificate and  **EITHER** 400 miles (within 10 years prior to exam and at least 50% in tidal waters), 20 days, 12 night hours and 2 days as skipper all on vessels under 24m in length.  **OR** 800 miles, 30 days, 12 night hours on yachts up to 3000gt and 2 days as skipper on vessels under 24.  **Yachtmaster Offshore** – radio licence, first aid certificate, 2,500 miles (within 10 years prior to exam and at least 50% in tidal waters), at least 5 qualifying\* passages of over 60 miles (acting as skipper for 2 of these passages and 2 of which must have involved overnight passages), 50 days, and 5 days as skipper on board a sailing yacht.  *\*****Qualifying passage*** *– 60 miles non-stop, by shortest navigable route with no change of skipper* |
| Assumed knowledge | Theory to the level of RYA Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster offshore theory.  It is recommended that you attend a shorebased theory course before undertaking the practical course.  Trainee skippers undertaking 60 mile passages are strongly advised to take a Coastal Skipper practical course first. |
| Duration | Not fixed. Contact us to create your bespoke Yachtmaster preparation training. |
| Minimum age | Yachtmaster Coastal 17 years.  Yachtmaster Offshore 18 years. |
| Course content | Pre-exam preparation and coaching – IRPCC, Safety, Boat handling, seamanship & maintenance, responsibilities of Skipper, navigation and meteorology. |