

HOW TO CHOOSE A YACHT CHARTER IN GREECE

Bareboat, Skipped or Cabin Cruise ?

Are you confused about the way of chartering a yacht ? Let's see if I can help you:

- 1) First determine your departure and return point of your cruise. You will start and end your trip at the same base or you will leave the boat in an other port ? (one way trip).
- 2) Also determine your embarkation and disembarkation point and time of your arrival and departure, (see air tickets availability). For both 1+2, best communicate first with your charter agency.
- 3) Will you need a skipper, a hostess, or someone of your group is competent (to have knowledge and experience) and qualified (to have a sailing certificate or a signed document) to sail a yacht ?

If you are wary about sailing in foreign areas, then maybe best choice is to have on board a skipper-guide. A lot of experienced sailors choose this option for their first sailing in unknown waters. As second skipper on board, they participate to all activities (sails, navigation, maneuvers), so they get the knowledge of local sailing conditions in these foreign waters, without any risk.

Bareboat charter:

Bareboat charter, means that you will skipper the yacht yourself, with some help from your crew. Arriving on board, you will have to delivery the yacht and it's equipment from the charter agency or from the owner (check-in & check-out).

From this moment and until it's redelivery back at the end of your trip, you remain responsible again Third party and passengers, also for any damage, loss, or accident could arrive in the port or at sea.

According the law in Greece and the terms of the insurance company, it is required at least two competent crew in total, presenting two sailing certificates to the Port Authorities, or sign a declaration, proving their knowledge to sail a yacht.

A guaranty deposit of 1000-2500€ (accordingly the size of the yacht) is requested upon the delivery, usually by cash or by credit card. This deposit will be refund in total, if the yacht will be redelivered back in the same good condition it was at the departure. A spinnaker on board is an extra payable option, most of times following by an extra guaranty deposit.

Skipped charter:

The second option is the skippered charter, (some times by owner/skipper and upon request a hostess).

This one has an advantage in, that the owner/skipper is on board and you are sailing on his guidance. You can compare holidays with sailing practice. With owner/ skipper on board most of times, no deposit required.

That will relieve you of responsibility for the yacht and gives you a 24hour guide for your trip. The skipper will show places on land and sea, that you would very rarely chance up on your self, but the most important, he guaranties you carefree sailing holidays.

A skipper will cost ±130-150 €/day, a hostess costs slightly less (±120-130 €/day). Skippers' food on board is under passengers fee. The skipper will not clean or do groceries, but a hostess will.

Cabin charter:

You are following a pre-fixed sailing schedule and you can hop on and off the yacht during weekly outings, at certain pre-determined ports.

This option fits mostly for singles, couples and small groups. It is the easiest and cheapest way to enjoy hands on sailing, without the hassle of complicated advanced of planning. Hop on and off the boat during weekly outings at certain pre-determined stops with easy access by ferry, by plain or by bus. No deposit required.

You are chartering a cabin or a berth. It is possible to compare holidays with sailing practice.

The price includes your participation at the whole operational cost of the yacht, including skipper, taxes, insurance.

A common cash created before the departure, will cover your consumables and half-board on board (fuel, water, food, port fee, end-cleaning etc).

And believe me, . . . ending the cruise, you'll have make new friends !

One way Charter: (Bareboat or Skipped)

Choosing one way cruising from one charter base to another you will be able to move more away.

Also, a one way cruise downwind, gives you a longer range and it is usually a lot more comfortable than a windward beat.

Most of times, one way charters come with an additional fee, covering the way back of the yacht, (skipper's fee, tickets, fuel).

Additional costs:

End cleaning, spinnaker, outboard motor, windsurf, are not standard inventory and most of times they are not included in the price. Also overlooked is the airport transfer, if use a taxi.

Your consumables during the cruise like water, fuel, ice, port fees, should be provided as a small extra fee.

Vardis Georgakakis / skipper

