



sailingholidays.com[®]



2018 NEWSLETTER

COME AND SAY HELLO...

Catch up with the team and enjoy a G&T on us!

LEAD CREW NEWS

All our lead crew news, past and present...

NEW FOR 2018

Return of the two week Faraway Islands Flotilla!

Thanks to everyone who sent us letters, emails, online reviews, photos and videos - we really appreciate receiving them. As always, we have included a few of your stories and photos in this newsletter, so don't be surprised if you feature.

Plans for 2018 include a return to the two week Faraway Islands flotilla (on two dates only). In addition, we are once again running two week pop-up flotillas in Croatia in June (again, on two dates only).

As we roll into our 42nd year, with the arrival of yet more new yachts, our flotilla sailing holidays have evolved considerably. The latest yacht designs are simply brilliant!

2017 saw Heidi and I trying to spend less time in the office without much success. We had a brilliant time sailing on our annual flotilla (this time the Argolic Gulf) for a couple of weeks during the summer. We met a few of our regular flotilla sailors along the way.

Thanks again to everyone who sailed with us in 2017 - we look forward to bumping into you again in Greece this coming summer! We haven't decided which route we will be doing yet, but it will be a two week flotilla.

Cheers!

*Barrie + Heidi Neilson
+ the Sailing Holidays Team.*



2017 LEAD CREWS

6



2018 BOAT SHOWS

4

IN THIS ISSUE...

MEET THE TEAM...

- 04 Boat Shows - come and say g'day
- 06 2017 lead crews!
- 08 Past Lead Crews & Greek News
- 10 Barrie & Heidi's Greek Island villa
- 12 Allan Barwell - Celebrating a life!
- 14 Reasons to be Cheerful

NEW FOR 2018

- 16 Two Week Faraway Islands Flotilla
- 18 London office news
- 20 Barrie and Heidi visit the Argolic Gulf
- 22 Croatia Pop-Up 2017 Run Down

SNAPS & STORIES

- 25 New boat deliveries
- 26 The life of a Sailing Holidays Family
- 28 Stories from summer 2017
- 30 South Ionian Regatta
- 31 North Ionian Regatta
- 32 Our Photo Competition 

YACHT CHARTER DIVISION

- 34 Independent Charter, Skippered Charter and Luxury Charter
- 35 Luxury Yacht Charter
- 36 Bex and Faye visit the Saronics!
- 38 Exploring new seas in Sardinia



16

2 WEEK FARAWAY ISLANDS FLOTILLA



20

BARRIE & HEIDI VISIT THE ARGOLIC



38

EXPLORING SARDINIA

MEET THE TEAM

COME & SAY HELLO...

PAGE 4: Boat Shows

PAGE 6: 2017 lead crews

PAGE 8: Past Lead Crews & Greek News

PAGE 10: Barrie and Heidi's Greek Villa

PAGE 12: Allan Barwell – Celebrating his Life!

PAGE 14: Reasons to be cheerful



COME AND SAY HELLO!

LONDON BOAT SHOW

EXCEL, LONDON

10TH - 14TH JANUARY 2018

STAND: WD017

londonboatshow.com



The London Boat show definitely went off with a bang last year, it was as ever, great to see so many familiar faces coming to say hello. We had a mixture of London Office staff and our Greece team manning the stand. We were overlooking the indoor boating lake which helped a little to mellow our winter blues.

As always there was lots to see and do at the show with SUP (stand up paddleboard) demos, safety talks and plenty of yachts to explore. We were pleased so many of you came to join us for Winter Sundowners on the Thursday late night.

Some of you may have heard about the big changes for the 2018 London Boat Show. The show will have a reduced running time (only 5 days). We will be there as usual however, to bring a bit of Greek summer to the ExCel Centre.

We will still be hosting our late-night G&T's on Thursday evening, now the second day of the new format show. So please come along and catch up with fellow flotilla sailors old and new.

These evenings are very pleasant for exchanging flotilla tales and a great excuse to reminisce on the warm days of summer.



RYA DINGHY SHOW

ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON

3RD - 4TH MARCH 2018

www.rya.org.uk

The RYA Dinghy show is always an excellent opportunity for us to say hello to some of our current flotilla sailors, but also to introduce dinghy sailors to the joys of sailing in the Med.

The step from dinghy sailing to yacht sailing isn't as big as some may think, once you know how the wind works there's not really too much else to it! We think a flotilla holiday in the gentle waters of the Ionian is the safest way to try your hand at yacht sailing and with the support of our flotilla lead crews it couldn't be simpler.

Once again, we will be bringing the sunny shores of Greece to the Show in 2018, tickets are on sale now from the RYA website.

SOUTHAMPTON BOAT SHOW

MAYFLOWER PARK/TOWN QUAY, SOUTHAMPTON

14TH - 23RD SEPTEMBER 2018

southamptonboatshow.com

The Southampton Boat Show is becoming our busiest show of the year! Many of you are planning further ahead to ensure you get the yacht you want in the place you want it.

With bookings coming in earlier and earlier (a few of you have even paid your deposit for 2020). September is fast becoming the new January! The sun managed to keep its hat on for most of the show this year and the yachts on the water were once again a top attraction.

FANCY A G&T?
Visit us Sat 15th Sept

We didn't want to break with tradition and held our 2017 G&T afternoon for flotilla sailors old and new! One couple even popped in to say hello before flying out to Greece that very weekend.

The 2018 show is sure to be a good one as it will be celebrating its 50th year.

For those of you who didn't spot our charity parking sign, look out for it in 2018 (close to the Red Funnel Ferry entrance). It is only available at weekends and all donations go to local charities.



OUR 2017 *Lead crews*



KALAMAS - RICH, CALUM & EMILY



ATHINA - JAKE, BECKY & TOM



ZEPHY - RUAIRIDH, SOPHIA AND JB



SHORE-BASED TEAM - JAKE, PATCH, ROSIE & RALPH



KYRA - BEN, PHOEBE & ALEX



DESSA - BILLY, DANIELLE & KIT



KIRKI - JACK, SAM & ABI



KAMARA - ADRIAN, HARRIET & CONNOR



ELPIDA - CHRIS, XAVIER & NIAMH



DELPHI - GEORGE, WILL & ESME



LOUTRAKI - MEGAN, TODD & ROB



VASSIA - NETTY, BILLIE & COOKIE



OUR RYA TRAINING TEAM



HELEN - EOIN, HEATHER & YORKIE



KEFALOS - IVAN, LAUREN & GEORGE

PAST LEAD CREWS & GREEK NEWS...

KAT & LOCKIE'S WEDDING

Kirki Lead Crew Kat and Lockie tied the knot in the beautiful Salisbury countryside. It was the most glorious day in June, reaching a scorching 30 degrees! It was a great day for a few of us from the old Sailing Holidays Lead Crews to get together and celebrate our wonderful mates getting hitched!

See if you can spot any familiar faces...(Bex, Faye, JD, Sophia, Stavros - who used to be thin, Josh and Charlie).

It was a charming church where they said the all-important "I Do's", then a short stroll down the road to Howards House Hotel for the reception.

A girl couldn't of dreamt of a more picturesque wedding and the happy couple could not have had a more perfect day.

We wish them all the best for the future and look forward to many more reunions to come! Yamas!



ALL EX-FLOTILLA LEAD CREWS



SPORADES 2014 LEAD CREW CHARLIE, KAT AND LOCKIE

EX LEAD CREW BABY NEWS!

On 4th March 2017 our Ex-Kefalos Lead Crew Sam and Clodagh welcomed a baby girl Ailish into the world.

We were lucky enough to meet this little beauty at the Southampton Boat Show, where they were booking a flotilla for 2018.

Congratulations to Clodagh and Sam!



CLODAGH, SAM & THEIR NEW CREW MEMBER

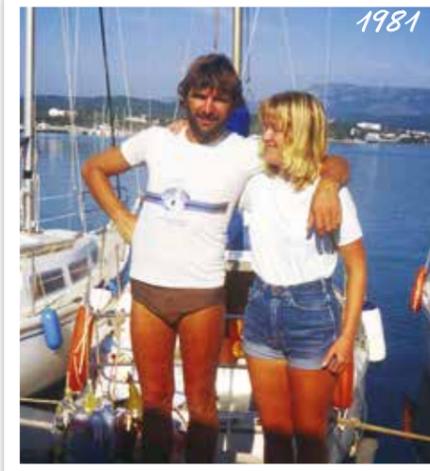


KEFALOS CREW IN 2013

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE FOR HOSTESS LAURIE!

In the early 80's Barrie was joined in the Ionian Islands by Canadian Hostie Laurie. They ran a flotilla of Jaguars around Corfu and Paxos.

Their reputation as a lead crew must have spread as they were soon approached to see if they would be interested in running a flotilla in the Florida Keys.



By the end of 1982 that operation hadn't worked commercially, so Laurie decided to head back to Canada. She subsequently married fellow Vancouverian Robert and they have two sons. Barrie set off for a new adventure with the company in Yugoslavia.

Now a travel consultant, this year Laurie returned for the first time to introduce Robert to sailing in Greece. They had a really nice catch up and even managed to get this snap on our remaining Jaguar 27, Emerald Girl. Talk about memory lane!



ALEX AND EWEN BABY

In Auckland on 6th January 2017 ex-Hostie and Skipper duo, Alex and Ewen welcomed Rose into their family.

They headed up the first of our Saronic Flotillas in 2008 along with Engineer Nik.

Rose has even made it out on the water already, we like to see the next generation getting started nice and early.



EX-HOSTIE FIONA'S FAMILY HIT THE HIGH SEAS

Some of you may have had the pleasure of sailing on a flotilla with ex-Hostie Fiona. She worked in Greece during the summer seasons of 2008/09. Then she came ashore to work in the London Office.

Fiona kept in touch with her flotilla engineer, Glenn, they are now settled in Sydney. Glenn is a pilot and joins other Kiwi and Aussie lead crews who have gone flying after their flotilla years.

This year Fiona persuaded her sister Bryony to head out on their first Sailing Holidays flotilla. She was joined by husband Lee and their two children Joshua and Chloe.

They sailed on our Two Week Whole Ionian Flotilla on a Beneteau 331. Flotilla sailing holidays are definitely contagious for all generations!



*New for 2018
our own
inhouse villa*



A NEW "SHORE TO SAIL" LUXURY OPTION
BARRIE AND HEIDI'S "SIVOTA MANOR" ON LEFKAS ISLAND!
(They haven't settled on a name yet so all ideas gratefully received!)



After forty years of sailing around the Ionian Islands, Barrie and Heidi have decided to at last put some roots down in Greece. The land was bought almost twenty years ago, but they never had the wherewithal to build anything at that time.

Building started only a year or so ago, and the first stage was finished in time for Barrie's 70th birthday on 21st October. The villa is complete apart from various final touches and it has taken our breath away!!

It certainly ended up being a rather more grand design than they originally envisaged!

The view out from the large infinity pool is to die for, looking out to Atoko Island, the Dragoneras and Oxia.

It features a large covered but open area South African style barbecue, with an equally stunning view. The living area is also huge with a feature fireplace.

The villa is bordered by fantastic stone walling and, being surrounded by olive groves and forest, is very private. The nearest habitation cannot be seen from the house. However, it is only a ten minute walk from Sivota village harbour.

The nearby waterfront has shops, a bakery, bars and tavernas. It will be rented out for the main summer season to try to recoup some of the cost over the next decade or so.

The villa features huge bathrooms, wide doorways throughout the living floor, and the main entrance on the same level. There are three ensuite double or twin bedrooms, one on the living level and the other two on a lower level.

All rooms enjoy great views and spacious balconies. There is air conditioning, double glazing and ceiling fans throughout.

It is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the prevailing morning and afternoon breezes through the open areas and roof widows (for the afternoon Northerlies).

Finishing touches are continuing throughout the winter so that everyone will be able to enjoy simply being there. Every hour of the day seems to present a different atmosphere as the sun moves across the horizon.

We suspect that many of you will choose a luxury week or two before or after a flotilla. We can't wait to spend some time there ourselves!

We are making an introductory offer from the middle of June until the middle of September. Keep an eye on the Sailing Holidays website in early 2018 for further information.

Bookings will be made via the Sailing Holidays Ltd office, through our "shore-to-sail" team who will also be able to advise on flights, transfers, hire cars and the various other attractions on the island.

Barrie & Heidi





ALLAN BARWELL – CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A FREE SPIRIT!

The roly poly rigger of old Dorsetshire is no more! The big "C" finally got him and according to his wishes, he is now "feeding the crabs off Old Harry Rocks".

In his early years, Allan began sailing in the Thames with the Westminster Sea Scouts and to quote him, was "taken advantage of by a Sea Ranger!"

(a female Sea Scout). The Sea Scouts set him on his way in life. Allan became the rigger at Cobbs Quay, Poole, following on from another amazing character, Horace Hoare! He didn't spend much time actually rigging in his latter 30 years, as he was always sailing with mates.

They crossed thousands of Mediterranean and Atlantic miles together over the decades. Sailing and socialising was the mantra – and hundreds of young people continue to tie people in knots with his rope tricks!



Allan raced extensively on both sides of the Atlantic on various yachts, one of which encountered a reef in the Caribbean at high speed. Being asleep at the time, he swam and crawled ashore with not a lot on, then walked for two days before finding some habitation. A naked and bedraggled Allan doesn't

bear thinking about! He had to knock on a village door in the all-together. The Salvation Army eventually sorted him out by providing clothes, food and a return ticket to the UK.

In recent years, Allan completed the excellent RYA book of rigging, so his legacy is the first UK book of modern rigging and running. This came about when the RNLI were looking for a "qualified rigger".

Allan asked them what qualification they required, only to discover that there wasn't one in existence, nor was there a "textbook". There is one now!

Being a gregarious chap, it wasn't long before Lorraine decided he "needed sorting out" and 23 years later, we were together at his funeral event. Allan's son Sam spoke movingly.

We all adjourned to one of Allan's watering holes in Hamworthy for a pleasant send-off event. Oddly enough it involved food and drink! Like the crematorium, the place was packed with all Allan's special mates. It was really nice to meet other sailing friends like Rodney, who operates tugs and barges in Poole.

The following day, Rodney took us out on his Beneteau from Cobbs Quay in pouring rain, and consigned Allan's ashes to the deep. The weather was a reminder of why Allan enjoyed coming out to the Mediterranean so much.

A collection was taken on behalf of the Poole Sea Scouts which raised £1,400 so, all in all, we saw our old mate off in an appropriate manner. A further £1200 was raised at the AITO charity auction in November. We will certainly miss his jovial presence and extraordinary rigging knowledge.

Barrie

Reasons to be Cheerful

OUR BEGINNERS HAVE LESS DIFFICULTY THAN THE PROFESSIONALS!

Just in case you accidentally ploughed a bit of sand with your keel whilst on holiday, this page is to illustrate that you are in good company! Hopefully these shots of professional shipping blunders will make you feel better!

Taking the ferry across to Corfu from the mainland we spotted a large coastal freighter hard aground across the main channel of Igoumenitsa Harbour with a tug trying, without success, to move it (no tides to help here!)



OCTOBER 2017 - IGOUMENITSA HARBOUR

Another one that hit the news in August this year was again an enormous container ship that ran aground and blocked the entrance to Antwerp Harbour. It seems fairly obvious that many ships seem to have outgrown the harbours (or the channels into them). Clearly their satellite navigation systems don't know much about mud.



AUGUST 2017 - ANTWERP

Upon our return to the UK, we turned on the television and there was a report of a huge container ship hard aground in the main channel of Durban harbour in South Africa!



OCTOBER 2017 - DURBAN HARBOUR

We began to wonder how many of these huge ships were getting stuck around the world, and were staggered to discover all sorts of mishaps. One that caught our eye was an enormous container ship that had somehow hit an island at the entrance to Hong Kong harbour.



ISLAND. WHAT ISLAND?

THE LAST THING THIS CAPTAIN NEEDED WAS AN AUDIENCE!



STAN KICKS THE BUCKET

Stan Anslow spent his early life as a footballer (hence the reference to kicking). He was a well known full back for Millwall Football Club in the 1950's.



CORFU 1990

He was moved forward on the pitch in the mid 50's and he shot to fame when "the Lions" won the 1957 FA Cup Final by beating Newcastle United. Stan scored two of the goals!

He was thereafter elevated to legendary status at the club and played 131 times for them.

After his playing days were done, Stan decided to see a bit of the world and headed down to Greece with his wife Pam. Having enjoyed a flotilla holiday they began helping us with shore-based activities around Gouvia Marina in 1986. Once involved there was no escape and they spent the next 10 years working for the company in Corfu.

Pam's attention to detail and Stan's energy were very important in those early days. They also represented the

company at many boat shows where Pam's friendly manner was a real asset.

Eventually they returned to the UK and settled in Kent. Stan's jovial presence will be missed by all those who knew him and the Amstel brewery will be struggling financially after his departure from the mortal realm!



STAN AND PAM HELP TO GET THINGS READY AT GOUVIA IN 1986

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL



For many years, the buckets that have been available in Greece are recycled rubber. The snag has been that they came with anodised handles and eyelet thimbles which rusted within weeks.

Anybody who has had a yacht with anything rusty on it will know that the stains on the gel coat take some removing!

Heidi gave ex-flotilla engineer Derek the task of solving this issue. The result was specially designed 316 stainless handles being made. These have proved to be excellent. They still don't float of course, but we don't have rust in our cockpit lockers anymore. Details matter!

Whilst on the subject of things rusting, please be careful when you are buying anything made of stainless steel in this day and age, because of "looky-likey" stainless which is produced in China but is only 304 stainless. This is not only weaker, but produces rust stains very quickly. Again, if buying items for your boat, specify 316 stainless, even though it costs a little more.

2017'S BIG CHALLENGE



You may have heard of the demise of Monarch Airlines, who we had flown with for 25 years. Sailing Holidays would like to say a BIG thank you to all those affected for their patience whilst we worked to make new travel arrangements.

We tried to keep everyone in the loop at all stages!

One way or another we managed to get everyone to Greece and back, so it all worked out well in the end.

The Civil Aviation Authority repatriated people who were on a Monarch package holiday.

Every year presents a challenge of some description, from volcanic eruptions to the invention of new ways of taxing us. Fortunately our independence allows us to be light on our feet and cope with whatever is thrown at us.

We are currently working on next year's flight arrangements.

NEW FOR 2018

NEW ROUTES,
POP-UP FLOTILLAS, NEW BOATS
& LONDON NEWS!

PAGE 16: Two Week Faraway Islands Flotilla
PAGE 18: London office news
PAGE 20: Barrie and Heidi visit the Argolic Gulf
PAGE 22: Croatia Pop-Up 2017 Run Down



TWO WEEK FARAWAY ISLANDS FLOTILLAS

GETTING AWAY FROM THE CROWDS



PAXOS ISLAND



MATHRAKI AND OTHONI ISLAND

We are taking another trip down memory lane and running a couple of flotillas to the Faraway Islands. We have been asked over and over again to reinstate this amazing flotilla and we thought...why not this year! It will take in the best of what the North Ionian has to offer and of course the stunning Faraway Islands.

TOUCHING DOWN

You will pick up your yacht in either our North Ionian base of Plataria, or Gouvia Marina on Corfu.

The first couple of days will take in the harbours of Sayaidha, on the mainland, and St. Stephanos, on the north-east coast of Corfu. Both of these are beautiful little fishing villages. You will most likely be moored on the town quay just a hop, skip and a jump away from some of the best seafood restaurants in the Ionian.

This flotilla route will be adjusted according to where the wind is coming from, and it's strength.

HEADING NORTH

The rest of your first week will be spent exploring the delights of

the three main Faraway Islands. The first you come to is Ericousa, here you will find just one small harbour and a long sandy beach. The Faraway Islands are home to some of the most stunning beaches in the Ionian and they have the turquoise water to match!

Sailing further west you come across the islands of Othoni and Mathraki. Othoni is the largest of the three islands and also the furthest from Corfu, it is often the quietest of the three. Mathraki is the epitome of 'getting away from it all'.

There is a stunning golden beach right beside the harbour and a taverna that overlooks the bay. It has an excellent view across the harbour and back across to Ericousa and Albania.

CORFU ISLAND

After a few days of sailing between the islands, you will head back to more familiar territory. On Corfu Island the flotilla may stop off at Kassiopi, Corfu Town and Petriti.

All come with their own individual charms. Kassiopi has kept its small town feel despite the area drawing in a more affluent crowd than ever. You will still be able to find small family run tavernas and little bakeries.

Corfu Town is as beautiful as ever! Approaching the yacht club from the sea is a stunning sight, with the ancient citadel perched precariously on the cliff top above. The winding

Venetian backstreets hold a whole host of restaurants, shops and bars for you to spend your evening exploring.

PAXOS & MAINLAND GREECE

From Corfu, you will carry on down to the island of Paxos. There are three main harbours to choose from, Lakka, Gaios and Mongonissi. Lakka and Gaios have a bustling waterfront with some excellent restaurants. Mongonissi is a bay to the south of Paxos, it is home to one taverna and some more crystal-clear water. You may also have heard of (or been witness to) their fantastic Greek dancing nights. Another highlight of the trip is a lunchtime stop in Emerald Bay on Anti-Paxos Island for a lazy lunch and swim.

The end of the fortnight is drawing near but there is still time for a sail back over to the mainland to the towns of Parga and Sivota Mourtos. Parga is

one of the larger towns in the area with some fabulous history behind it. We recommend taking a walk up to the fortress on the hill, there happens to be a bar handily located within the walls (excellent for quenching the thirst). It is quite a walk up and over the hill into Parga town from the boats so you can hop on Yiannis water taxi. He will pick you up from the back of your boat and drop you off again at the end of your evening - ideal!

BACK TO BASE

Your last day will be heading back into Plataria for your final group meal and a reminisce over all the places that you've explored over the past fortnight.



HISTORIC CORFU

ELENA & PANOS TIE THE KNOT IN CORFU!

Our London Office Greek Goddess gets married! In September, Ellen attended Elena's wedding in Corfu. The traditional ceremony was beautiful to witness.

The bridal party, friends and family of the bride all walked to the church together with traditional Greek folk music, played by a violinist and guitarist. During the ceremony the Maid of Honour exchanges the wedding rings three times. Crowns are worn which symbolise the couple's union and the Best Man places them on the couple's heads three times.



At the end the priest ties the crowns together and they must never be undone! After the ceremony the couple were "showered" in rice for good luck and then onto the reception for wonderful food and Greek dancing!



Elena and Panos chose to spend their honeymoon on a Sailing Holidays flotilla! We can't think of any better way.

Congratulations Mr and Mrs Christodoulopoulos!

AMY & LIAM DISAPPEAR OVER THE HORIZON TO AUCKLAND



As many of you may know, we had to say goodbye to Amy and Liam in October as they embarked on a new adventure over in New Zealand!

Barrie and Heidi's eldest daughter, Amy, had been in the London office since 2012. She is finally using her New Zealand passport.

After skippering in Greece for 3 years, Liam joined the office in 2013. Amy introduced new marketing techniques on the internet and Liam developed our booking system.

They certainly made their mark and it was sad to see them go but we are sure working over there will be a great experience.

LONDON OFFICE WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS

With Mel on maternity leave, Sara migrating to Devon and Liam and Amy off to Auckland, we had a void in the office to fill. In addition, in March, Hannah left to further her city ambitions, and is doing really well.

Filling the gaps in the Launch Crew are ex-Hostie Ellen, Elena from Greece and Matt (from Southport!).

These three also cover all sorts of elements of administration.

On the sales side of things, Dave, Harry, Fin and another ex-Hostie Faye have taken up the challenge. The boys are tending to the phones and emails, while Faye is working alongside Bex in graphics, publications and social media.



OUR NEW "SAILS CREW"



BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS 2017 SUCCESS!

At the glittering annual end of season British Travel Awards ceremony, we surpassed all expectations.

We won two of the classes outright for small companies and actually won the Best Overall Activity/Sports Holiday Company!

This last one meant that we had beaten the big guns with their beach clubs and all sorts of other activities.

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to vote for us in these purely consumer voted travel industry awards.

Barrie and Heidi attended the star studded awards evening to represent the company. They found themselves up on the stage twice and well and truly in the limelight.

It certainly reaffirmed that we seem to be getting things right generally.



SAM AND LUCY



SAM & LUCY'S WEDDING

On the 16th of September the eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed that some of the familiar faces were missing from our Southampton Boat Show stand. That was because they were driving across the country to attend the wedding of Sam from our London Office.

The wedding took place in Suffolk in the village that Sam's bride Lucy grew up in. The Sailing Holidays contingent was made up of Bex, Amy, Henry, Liam and Alan along with Abby and Hannah.

Once fully suited and booted they walked through the village to the church.



LONDON OFFICE CREW HENRY, HANNAH & BEX

Sam and Lucy exchanged their vows and it was only afterwards that Sam's nod to Sailing Holidays, by way of a nautical print tie, was spotted!

The evening was spent dancing the night away before they slipped away to Mauritius for their honeymoon.

A step back in time exploring some of the previously hidden historic spots of Greece.

THE VIEW BACK TO THE MAINLAND FROM MONEMVASIA



TIROS



TEAM PHOTO!

DIMITRI & JENNY'S TAVERNA

A GLORIOUS RUN DOWN TO MONEMVASIA

OLD FLOTILLA HANDS TRY A NEW AREA - THE ARGOLIC GULF

THE SARONIC ADVENTUROUS FLOTILLA

Barrie and Heidi, along with 1980's flotilla engineer Derek and his wife Mary-Anne decided that this year's flotilla holiday had to be the Saronic Adventurous route down to Monemvasia. None of them had been there before so they booked a Beneteau 38 for the voyage. What a revelation! Monemvasia is as spectacular as the pictures suggest, with an incredible history.

They had perfect winds and used hardly any diesel at all. Every night was a new adventure, steeped in history and real Greek atmosphere.

SAILING FROM NAVPLION

Their first night out was the village of Astros with its excellent new harbour and village feel. It was followed by a night in Tiros which was even more 'villagy'. The terrific lead crew of George, Esme and Will went above and beyond, making sure that everyone had a great time, and even producing fantastic meze breakfast briefings on a couple of occasions. The flotilla was in good hands!

UNCHARTERED TERRITORIES

The next day was a bit longer down to the bay and picture postcard village of Kiparrisi. There was plenty of time to walk

around the track to the village where they enjoyed a grill on a rooftop in the middle of town. This was one of the few eating houses and what was there was very small – just as we like it!

THE STAR OF THE ARGOLIC GULF

The following day was another glorious run down to Monemvasia. Spotting 'the Gibraltar of Greece' as they sailed around a headland, was certainly memorable. The following day was spent climbing up to the top of the rock to see the village and ruins above. This is a great viewpoint and it was easy to see why this natural fortification had been in use for centuries.

HISTORY A PLENTY

It was then a shortish close hauled reach up to Ieraka, another small village tucked inside a glorious natural harbour. On the way in, some strange walls on the hilltop appeared, so it was decided that an exploratory walk up there would be a good idea.

The ruins of ancient Zarax were incredible. It must have once been a huge fortification in ancient times. It must have been a mighty place in Macedonian times but was destroyed by an Athenian General called Cleonymus, who apparently didn't like the Macedonians!

MAKING "NEW" FRIENDS

On they sailed, this time up to Plaka, a flotilla favourite, where there was a crossover with the 'short hops flotilla'. A most enjoyable evening was spent there, rafted up to the fallen down quay with its rudimentary repair – such is life in Greece.

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

Then the flotilla headed north to the island of Dhokos for a beach party. The night at anchor was treated to a glorious view of the stars.

Due to a slightly challenging weather forecast, the flotilla sailed down to the beautiful island of Spetses.

Two nights were spent there, one night of which was hit by a spectacular thunderstorm which arrived right on cue but a bit stronger than expected.

This was followed by a quiet night at anchor in Vivari, before the flotilla returned to Navplion.

A TRIP TO REMEMBER

This cruise route is certainly a memorable one, and with such an energetic lead crew, will not be soon forgotten. We have a feeling that this flotilla will be oversubscribed next year.

The illustrious crew of Titania

**Our Croatia
Pop Up
Flotillas**



SKIPPER CHARLIE



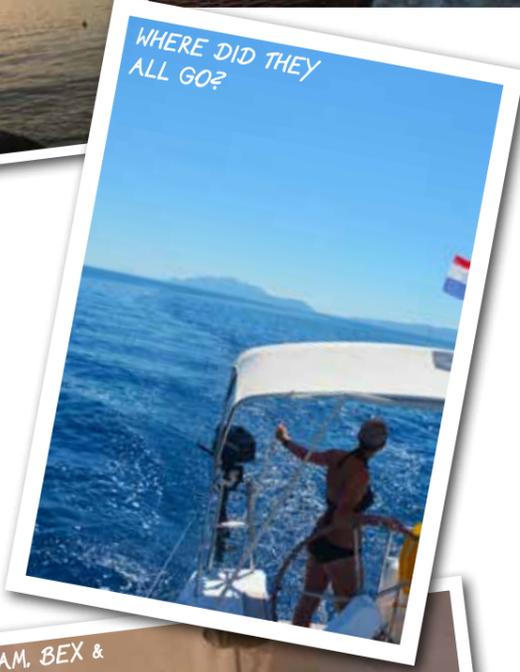
HVAR ISLAND



STARI GRAD, HVAR



PERFECT SUNSETS



**A COUPLE OF LAPS OF THE DALMATIAN ISLANDS
LONDON OFFICE DON THEIR LEAD CREW HATS**

Charlie, Liam, Amy, Bex and Sam from our London office were offered the chance to act as the lead crew for our 2017 Croatia Pop-Up Flotilla. Naturally, they leapt at the opportunity!

They put together their favourite spots in the area, along with various tips they picked up along the way.

Charlie skippered for 2 years in Greece and has around 60,000 sea miles under his belt, so seemed like the perfect person to head up the flotillas.

Charlie was lead skipper for both the first and second fortnights. He let us know his favourite stop from his time in Croatia.

Why is Korcula such an attraction?

The walled town is located on a peninsular jutting out from the land and as you approach the marina the view is amazing. There are so many tiny back streets to explore, I decided to do a two day stop here on both flotillas. On our second flotilla we spent the day windsurfing in the bay!

Top Tip: Explore off the beaten track! Croatia has over 1000 islands with around 600 islands just in the Dalmatian region.

Bex's Favourite Spot:
STARI GRAD, HVAR ISLAND

Bex was a Hostie in Greece for 3 years but has been desk bound in our London Office for a further 3. So, when she was asked to join Charlie on the second Pop-Up Flotilla she dusted off her Hostie notes!

Why did she love Stari Grad?

It's a stunning spot to stroll around and is the apparent birth place of Marco Polo. It also boasts the first toilet in the world with running water! The entire flotilla took a walk along the waterfront and managed to stumble across a very pleasant bar. While sipping a refreshing cocktail we caught up on everyone's sailing adventures from that day.

As some boats headed off to find sustenance a small group of us walked to the mouth of the bay to catch the sunset.... what can I say? It was worth the walk!

Top tip: At the start of your holiday you will find a large supermarket and a Lidl on the road out of Kastela marina. Stock up on your favourite tipples for a reasonable price. Bex and Amy can personally recommend the gin!

Our Yacht Charter Division's Sam, was new to the lead crew game. Having sailed on flotilla with his family we thought that he could do with spending some time on the other side! We think it's safe to say that he has a new understanding of what it takes to be a Sailing Holidays lead crew.

Sam's Top Spot:
LOVISTE

Why would you recommend a night in Loviste?

This was an unexpected find for us. We needed to do a short hop from Korcula town because the wind was expected to pick up in the afternoon. We scoured the chart and settled on Loviste. From the pilot book and the pictures on Google it looked beautiful...it turned out that it was even nicer than we had expected.

We built a raft and a local taverna owner put on an excellent group meal for us. We sat on a terrace overlooking the bay and devoured some delicious dishes. The dinghy ride back to the raft after a bottle (or two) of wine just topped off the evening.

Top tip: The winds are a little more exciting than you might be used to in Greece. We had steady strong breezes throughout our flotillas so be prepared for some "proper sailing" in the warm Dalmatian sun!

The verdict:

We loved exploring the Dalmatian coast, in fact, we enjoyed it so much that we are doing it all over again in 2018!

Charlie's Favourite Location:
KORCULA TOWN, KORCULA ISLAND

SNAPS & STORIES

FUN AND GAMES FROM YOUR TIME IN GREECE

- PAGE 25: New boat deliveries
- PAGE 26: The Life of a Sailing Holidays Family
- PAGE 28: Your stories from 2017
- PAGE 30: South Ionian Regatta
- PAGE 31: North Ionian Regatta
- PAGE 32: Our 2017 Photo Competition

"I think it's 7 times we have been with Sailing Holidays. Southern Ionian, Northern Ionian, Faraway Islands and Croatia (Dalmatian Islands). This is just the best way to take a family holiday. They were all great, even during a 6.4 earthquake." **Rod Brown-Lee**

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS FROM YOU



"We had a fabulous holiday last week on the Lefkas flotilla. My husband and I had never sailed before and we're a little nervous - the team looked after us so well and the place was beautiful. A truly amazing holiday - we will be back!" **Charlotte Skayee**

"The best yet. Two weeks beginning of July, South Ionian with lead boat Kyra - with Ben, Alex and Demelsa. Couldn't have asked for a better team. Would definitely recommend Sailing Holidays. My partner and I had an amazing holiday and looking forward to the boat show to book our next one. Lots of fun, good company, and we visited some beautiful places, not forgetting good sailing" **Angela Dunbar**

PHOTO FROM BILLY WOODFIELD



NEW BOAT DELIVERIES TO GREECE

In February 2017 three new Beneteau 35s, two new Beneteau 38s and a Beneteau 45 set off from Port Napoleon near Marseille.

Skippers George and Netty took some of these snaps along the way! From Marseille they sailed along the French coastline to Antibes.

Then they called in to Monaco before heading south to Palau in Sardinia. The final stretch saw them sail down through the straits of Messina via southern Italy, before finally reaching the home comforts of Corfu!

Five more new Beneteau's are on the way as you read this newsletter!



Everything from Big Birthdays to Anniversaries...

JOHN AND JEAN - THE LIFE OF A SAILING HOLIDAYS FAMILY



1995 - JAGGING THROUGH THE LEFKAS CANAL

As the years went by we found ourselves sailing with the company every year, and last year increased to twice a year. As grandchildren have arrived, we have watched with delight the joy, freedom and challenge that children experience in the flotilla environment. This meant that for our 70th birthday year we decided a week on three boats with all the children and grandchildren (now numbering 6) would be far better than any party [we were correct as you can see from the photos].



It was fantastic for us and them to find that all of them (aged 8 to 18) could enjoyably helm a 35ft yacht, manage dinghies and generally be thoughtful and responsible sailors. You can see the 'team' assembled for the drinks party on the mole at Frikes.

We have had some really lovely crews in our 18 trips with Sailing Holidays so far. Rob, Jo and Grant in 1993 set the bar very high but we have found much care and fun and learned so much from people over the years. We love the Ionian out of season (we spent our Ruby wedding in the cellar room at Castello's) and the Sporades at any time, so next year for our golden wedding anniversary we will celebrate in the Sporades.

Our adventure with Sailing Holidays started in 1993 when Jean gave in to my relentless pressure to go for our 25th wedding anniversary.

After crying herself to sleep the first night over the breeze block loos at Petreti, it's been plain sailing ever since.

As scared dinghy sailors we were lucky to have our eldest daughter Frances, and her boyfriend Simon with us for part of the first trip. Our second daughter Anna came with Paul the next time and then on our third flotilla a couple of weeks before their wedding. We decided this was a crucial test of suitability to marry into the family as the layout of the Jags meant that night time toilet trips were conducted just a few inches from the young folk with only a curtain in between.

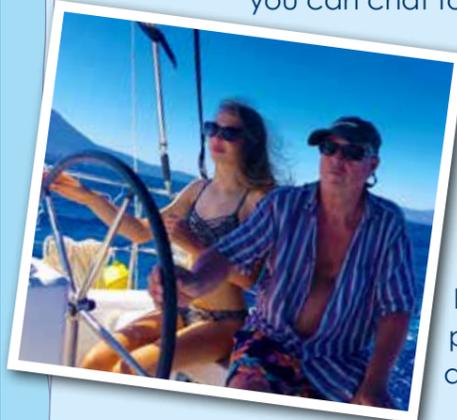


1995 - ANNA & PAUL PASS THE MARRAGE TEST



For those who have done many flotillas but still resist the downsides of having a boat in the UK, a week on flotilla to re-acclimatize and then a week independent sailing can be as near perfect as is possible. We did this last Spring and have booked again for 2018.

We love the relaxed unstuffy, 'you can do it' atmosphere of the company and the fact that you can chat to Barrie and Heidi as easily as anyone. We've made some lovely friends over the years, and a number of times we've decided to book together after being glad to see people again by accident.



A special mention must be made of Bob and Liz Newbury who were first-time 'yotties' like us on the Jags in 1993. We have followed their purchase of 'Birvidik' (see sail blogs) and met them numerous times while on flotilla as they sailed from Jersey to Turkey and back to Greece. We can recommend Bob's recent book 'An Idiot Aboard - an Utterly Useless Guide to Mediterranean Sailing' is subtly supportive of flotillas, recognizing that many liveboards started that way.

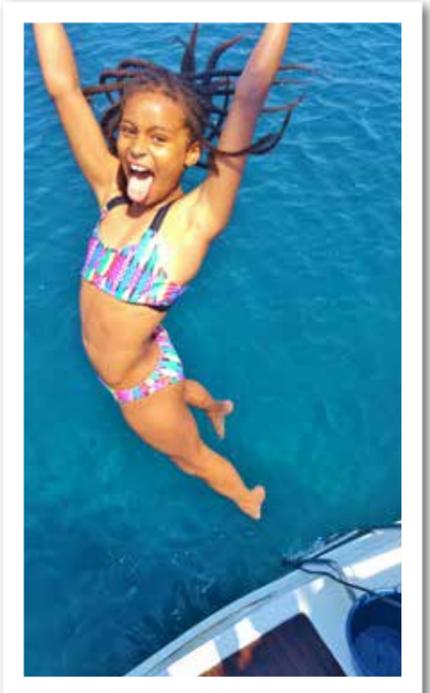
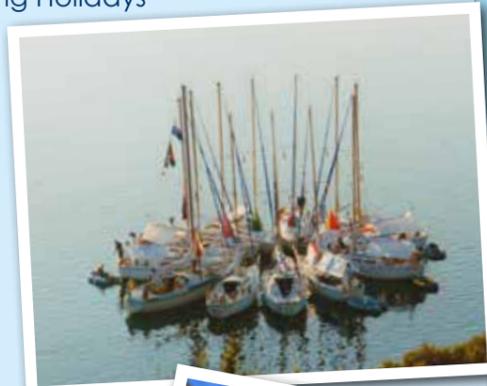
John, Jean & the Keene family



The Bent Family Take on the Ionian

In 2016 the Bent family sailed on our Two Week South Ionian Flotilla. It seems that they had a great time as in 2017 they decided to come back and explore the Whole Ionian. Barrington, Sarah, Hugo and

Florence are now really on the sailing ladder and it's clear that they do a fair bit of swimming as well! Their photographs were so good we couldn't resist popping a couple of them into the newsletter.





STORIES FROM SUMMER 2017



"SHARE-A-YACHT" ROMANCE 21 YEARS ON...

On their trip to New Zealand in 2017 Barrie and Heidi caught up with ex Sailing Holidays accountant Mark. Mark and Christine have just celebrated 21 years of marriage after meeting on a share a yacht holiday in Greece! We were hoping she would send him back, but no such luck!

DAVID & FELICITY - ANOTHER "SHARE-A-YACHT" WEDDING!

David and Felicity met on the one-week delivery from Gouvia to Sivota in May 2011. Following this they became friends and since then have sailed on several flotilla holidays including a two-week delivery in 2012 and the Sporades twice.

This year they sailed on the South Ionian in May as an engaged couple and received the 'Sailing Holiday's Romance Award' from Lead Boat Dessa. They were engaged on Valentine's day in 2016 and married on the 16th September 2017 at the Master Builders Hotel, Bucklers Hard.

They sent across some photos from their magical day along with their award from Lead Boat Dessa in May!

These two kept the nautical theme throughout their big day and even used one of our souvenir charts as the background for their table plan! Alongside that they used the names of some beautiful Greek Islands as the names for the tables and Sailing Holidays even got a mention in the speeches.

Sailing Holidays played Cupid once again and we wish David and Felicity all the best for their future together!



FOURTH FLOTILLA IN THE NORTH IONIAN

Dear Sailing Holidays,

"We did the North Ionian flotilla in July, and, although it was our fourth flotilla, it was by far the best yet.

We met some amazing people, had a fantastic crew and were

sailing around some of the most stunning scenery we've ever seen. We're now looking to book our fifth holiday!

Thanks for a great holiday..... again!"

Falworth family



A COUPLE OF DOLPHINS FOR COMPANY

MAMMA MIA!!

"A wonderful holiday - so many highlights, including an impromptu recreation of a scene from 'Mamma Mia' in Frikes and sailing with dolphins on the last day!

Counting down to next years' holiday already!"

Phil, Kate & Chloe



POISED FOR THE JUMP

IONIAN SAILING

"What an amazing week sailing the South Ionian Islands off Lefkas.

Amongst my favourite moments were anchoring up in Cliff Bay off the south of Atoko where I explored caves on my paddleboard and mingled with fish whilst snorkelling the crystal clear waters.

Another was spending the evening with the rest of the flotilla drinking cocktails in the Zephiros cocktail bar on the island of Kalamos.

Beautiful scenery, lovely staff offering support whenever we needed it and memories I'll never forget. We'll be back!"

Caroline Metcalfe

To see more of Caroline's adventures follow her on Instagram @carriestravels





SOUTH IONIAN REGATTA 2017

2018 DATE: THURSDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER



MICK & HIS CREW SAILING KEZIA

The winner of Class two was our Greek end manager Mick, on his Maxi 95, Kezia! His day was not without drama:

They burst the genoa halyard shackle whilst still in the Meganisi channel and thought the day was over. By some miracle the crew re-hoisted the sail using a spinnaker halyard which was okay but made the sail impossible to reef.

Luckily, between the 4 of them they were able to deploy approximately 65 stone onto the windward side of the boat to keep her upright!

Outside the channel it was a solid Force 5 with stronger gusts. It was quite lumpy around the back of the island, so the crew all got wet but had a great day.

They hadn't been able to see much for the spray so it was a pleasant surprise to hear that they had won the class 2 race! They had only class 1 boats in front of them.

Needless to say, there was rather a lot of celebrating in the evening.



KALOKERI - FULL STEAM AHEAD

Lots of Sailing Holidays yachts took part in the Regatta and they all reported having had a great day. However, as there are few special class prizes in this regatta, none of our flotilla yachts troubled the scorers!

Lead Boat Helen however managed to grab the First Lead Boat home prize. Yorkie and his crew were very happy bunnies!

All in all, a wonderful day and a fun night of celebrating was had by all. Roll on 2018!



NORTH IONIAN REGATTA 2017

OVERALL WINNER - JOE CHARLTON AND HIS CREW



WILL DAVIES - LINE HONOURS



EX-LEAD CREW SAM & JO - YACHT, MAKANI



KALOKERI CREW - THE BURTON FAMILY



2018 DATE: SATURDAY 27TH OCTOBER

The windy theme continued for the North Ionian Regatta! A solid Force 3 the whole way around the course meant that there were 72 finishers from 81 entries, which was fantastic.

The Burton family on 52ft Beneteau "Kalokeri" were having a great race with private yacht "Caryad" (a Sovereign 54) for line honours. Unfortunately, they sailed on the wrong side of the committee boat and left Caryad with an easy run to the line for a fortuitous win.

Not far behind Kalokeri was Joe Charlton on his X119 39, Daisy Sea. He had sailed up from Lefkas to take part and was rewarded by an overall regatta win on handicap.

Second overall was Sam Peters on Sigma 38 Makani, and third overall were the Burton's on Kalokeri. Happily, there are many class prizes and our flotilla yachts made a clean sweep.

The 33ft class was won by the Spurway family on Kypseli, closely followed by the Brayshay family on Thyamis. Third was the Thomas family on Sinope (all Beneteau 331's)! The up to 39ft class win went to the Bointon family on Callisto. Second in the class was the Carter family on Abelaki and third was the Tewson family on Vonitsa (all Beneteau 361's)!

We had some representatives of our main equipment suppliers sailing in the race on one of our boats. They were raring to go - definitely in it to win it.

Much to their dismay, some of our shore-based staff (with the devious guidance of Mick) tampered with their boat and replaced the mainsail with a much smaller Jaguar 27 sail with a less than subliminal message on it! Mick was grinning from ear to ear. Fortunately, they all had a good sense of humour and the proper mainsail was fitted in time for the start!

It was a gloriously sunny day with excellent wind, enjoyed enormously by every one of the yachts that took part.

October 2017 was generally the best weather for a few years, so hopefully that will be a continuing trend, as many yachts are already booked for October 2018.

Entertainers Roger (Fat Charlie) Harris along with Maria from our Corfu Office, rocked on into the night, backed up by boatbuilder/drummer Scojo (Scottish John). Along with local residents, Roy and Chris, they made up the latest reincarnation of the Corfu band "Blues Latitude". Lots of fun was had by all during and after the prize giving.

The whole of 2017's weather has been brilliant for the flotillas generally, and your feedback has reassured us that we are still getting things right. Another year has simply flown by!

Win!

Sailing Holidays' Annual

• Photo Competition! •

Congratulations to our 2016 Photo Competition winners (see the amazing entries below), and thanks to all who entered their photos! We love seeing your holiday memories and it certainly makes the dark winter days a bit brighter. Our 2017 Photo Competition is open! There is still time to enter your holiday snaps, email them to: photos@sailingholidays.com or upload them to our Facebook.

Entries will be closing on New Year's Day (1st January 2018).

Pre-London Boat Show we look forward to compiling all of your entries before picking the finalists.

They will be uploaded to our Facebook page in January and then the voting will commence!

We can't wait see all your 2017 summer memories!

WINNERS RECEIVE:

- 1st: £500 towards their 2018 holiday
- 2nd: £300 towards their 2018 holiday
- 3rd: £200 towards their 2018 holiday

Sails

Sea

Sundowners



1st

John Warburton



1st

Sian Marie



1st

Barry Weston



2nd

Tomas G. Mac Eoin



2nd

Claire Curran



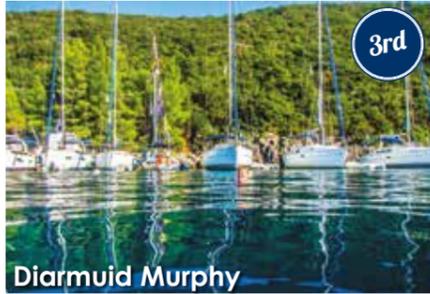
2nd

Alan Corlett



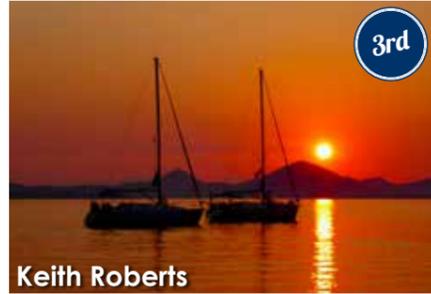
3rd

John Warburton



3rd

Diarmuid Murphy



3rd

Keith Roberts

THE SAILING HOLIDAYS YACHT CHARTER DIVISION NEWS 2018

NOTES FROM THE WORLD OF INDEPENDENT SAILING...

- PAGE 34:** Independent Charter, Skippered Charter & Luxury Charter
- PAGE 35:** Luxury Charter
- PAGE 36:** Bex & Faye visit the Saronics!
- PAGE 38:** Exploring new seas in Sardinia





 **Sailing Holidays Ltd**

YACHT CHARTER DIVISION

Once you have tried all of our flotillas you may wish to consider branching out to a new area or larger yacht, so check out a few possibilities below:

INDEPENDENT YACHT CHARTER
For those with qualifications!



SPAIN

Independent yacht charter (also known as bareboat charter) is where you hire and sail the yacht yourself.

This is a way for qualified sailors to explore a new country, allowing them to discover beaches and coves many visitors wouldn't even know existed!

Within the five countries and between the 30 bases, we have 14 different sailing areas available, each with their own unique ability to create a memorable sailing holiday.

SKIPPERED YACHT CHARTER
No stress sailing holidays!



Skippers allow for non-sailors or sailors without qualifications to charter a yacht. In addition to encouraging everyone to 'have a go', explaining the intricacies of sailing, they will also advise on ports to visit, restaurants to eat at and places to swim.

It's very easy...we charter a sailing yacht with a skipper who effectively 'drives' the boat for you wherever you'd like to sail! You, your friends and family can get involved as much or as little as you like - it is a great activity holiday for all the family.

LUXURY YACHT CHARTER
Sail with all the trimmings!



GREECE

This is fully crewed ultra comfort...a week on board a luxury yacht or catamaran combines the freedom of a sailing holiday, with the comfort and service of a luxury villa.

You will enjoy ensuite cabins and lots of space. All with the guarantee of a sea view!

Your skipper and hostess will cater for your every need, from a delicious breakfast in the morning, to a comprehensive wine list. Free water sports are also provided.



SAILING HOLIDAYS FOR THOSE WHO LIKE ALL THE TRIMMINGS

LUXURY YACHT CHARTER...

This is fully crewed comfort. A week on board a luxury yacht or catamaran combines the freedom of a sailing holiday with the comfort and service of a nice hotel.

Your skipper and hostess will cater for your every need. From a delicious breakfast, to a comprehensive wine list, you couldn't be better looked after!

When it comes to dinner you can either eat on board or try out the local restaurants - in our eyes it would be remiss not to step off and explore the ambient local eateries.

With comfort like this, we could forgive you for enjoying a night on board!

SAILING, WATER SPORTS AND GENERALLY LOLLING ABOUT...

If you're worried that having a crew means you'll get less action, you couldn't be more wrong! There is an array of activities on board. The sun-deck and trampolines on catamarans are great for simply relaxing. Stand up paddleboards and windsurfers are provided should you be feeling energetic.

This is an ultimate escape from all the stresses of everyday life.



There is also the small element of sailing from place to place, with a different view every day. The beauty of having a skipper and hostess means that you can be hands on or hands off, whichever you prefer.

Novices can be as involved as they like in the sailing - they can practice sailing skills and our crew will be on hand as required. Experienced sailors can take the wheel!

This is like having a private villa where you wake up in a different beautiful location every morning. The perfect holiday for people who enjoy great experiences without sacrificing comfort! A memorable way to spend those special moments.

SAM, OUR YACHT CHARTER MANAGER, SALUTES THE QUEEN AT THE TOWER OF LONDON

On 2nd June the Queen celebrated her 65th year on the throne. As a serving member of the Army Reserve, Sam is involved with ceremonial events such as this Gun Salute.



In recognition of this Barrie, Heidi and Francis were invited by Sam to be his guests at the Tower of London in celebration. It was the first time they had been escorted through the bus lanes and red traffic lights of central London!

It was a great event, which brought back memories for Francis who served as part of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the 1970's.

Sam is a Lance Sergeant in the Honourable Artillery Company, the oldest regiment in the British Army. He is also a Detachment Commander within an operational Gun Troop.



GREECE CROATIA TURKEY SPAIN ITALY

Call our Yacht Charter Division on: **020 8438 1133** or visit our website:  **BareboatSailingHolidays.com**



POROS



THE 2013 HOSTIE GANG SCRUB UP PRETTY WELL...



SUNSET IN ERMIONI



HYDRA



FAYE AND BEX HIT THE BUBBLES



FAYE RELAXING WITH YULI

BEX & FAYE VISIT THE SARONICS ON A BAREBOAT!

At the end of September ex-skippers, JD and Russell, together with six of our Sailing Holidays ex-hostesses, chartered a Gib'Sea 51 out of Athens. A short transfer took them to the marina where they boarded their new home for the week! In the morning, they sailed over to Epidavros on the Peloponnese.

Upon arrival, they were greeted by a couple of Sailing Holidays colleagues, Justin and Marinos!
SWIM STOPS AND GIN STOPS
 The next stop was Poros and the sun had its hat on! Happily it stayed that way all week! It was decided that a swim would be the perfect way to spend the afternoon.

After a slap-up lunch in Russian Bay, a quick dip and lounge on their resident inflatable unicorn Yulanda (Yuli for short) was required! Fun fact: you can fit 4 people on a unicorn at once!
 In Poros they were greeted with absolutely breath-taking views of the town quay and surrounding green mountains!

After a stroll around the winding back streets they decided on dinner at an old favourite - the Garden Restaurant.

SQUEEZING INTO HYDRA

A lazy morning was spent wandering around Poros town, picking up some more provisions for the passage to Ermioni in the afternoon.

In the evening they strolled over the peninsula to the North Quay and chose a fabulous Italian restaurant called Ganossis.

The following day's plan was to set sail to Hydra, which is a short day but, fingers crossed, would mean space might be available on the town quay. There are a myriad of ferries, yachts and motorboats that use this tiny harbour.

Happily, a space was available which meant plenty of time to explore. Once again, a wonderful taverna was found and the evening drifted away blissfully.

The following morning, they treated themselves to a breakfast of eggs, bacon, freshly squeezed orange juice and a frappe whilst looking out over the waterfront. All in all another beautiful memory.

BUBBLES ON BOARD

Again, the sun was shining and the girls just happened to pick up a couple of bottles of bubbly for the journey. With corks popping and a buffet of chips and dips to help them on their way, they had a gentle cruise up to Angkistri.

After a little sunset photoshoot they found a lovely taverna right on the water called Kouros! With full happy bellies they headed back up to Jamaica Bar to take part in some all-important Greek dancing!

THE LAST DAY!

With all the food left on board they decided to anchor off Moni Island for a lazy lunch stop and for one last dip in the transparent water of the Aegean Sea.

****YULI THE UNICORN UPDATE****
 - You can get 5 people on! Fantastic team effort!

While the sun set over the Peloponnese peninsula they raised a glass to a perfect week.



SAM CRUISES AROUND SARDINIA AND CORSICA

At the end of May, Sam chartered a Jeanneau 509 and took a relatively novice group of 9 friends to explore La Maddalena Islands in Sardinia. Despite being new to it, he was pleased to say, they are now all sailing holiday converts!

ARRIVALS, BRIEFINGS AND BEERS

The Marina in Portisco is purpose built with four restaurants and a great little supermarket. A range of local sparkling wines was selected, and they got down to some sampling. The check-in by the charter company was very thorough.

PORTISCO TO CANNIGIONNE

With a crew new to sailing, the first day was set to be hands on training! After concentrating all morning, a relaxing lunch stop was definitely required.

They moored in Spiaggia di Mortorio, just a short hop from Portisco and a great bay for a swim and a bite to eat... After lunch they upped anchor and headed to Cannigione. There is one main marina, but each pier is operated by a different cooperative.

BEAUTIFUL BUDELLI TO SANTA TERESA

After a slow breakfast, they had the wind on the nose the whole way to Isola Budelli. This is a gorgeous natural anchorage in the right conditions but you do need to buy a pass to drop an anchor overnight.

That afternoon a lovely strong northerly blew which provided a great sail, cruising at 8 knots, over to the traditional Sardinian village of Santa Teresa.

One of the best pizzas of the trip was savoured in the beautiful Piazza (town square)! Even after their feast, fancying croissants for breakfast, they agreed that a morning sail to France was the order of the day.

SETTING SAIL TO BONIFACIO

Up bright and early, they made the short passage across the Straights of Bonifacio to the southern tip of Corsica; without a doubt one of the most beautiful places Sam have ever been.

The town and castle fuse into the huge cliffs on the impressive approach. They were whipped back to reality by their phones buzzing to inform them that they had, in fact, arrived in France!

EXPLORING CORSICA

Bonifacio is lined with smart restaurants and bars.

A winding staircase leads you up into the Old Town. A great brunch (complete with French Croissants) was enjoyed at a café on the cliffs looking out to the straits.

The crew divided; the girls shopping, the boys stumbled across an arrow pointing into a basement, simply marked "Limoncello". A one hour tasting session later, they had an insight into the art of (probably illegal) home distilling!

BONIFACIO TO SANTA MARIA

The next day was a suitably slow start. Following a run to Isola Santa Maria they spent a long afternoon on the beach at Spiaggia di Cala Santa Maria.

The bay opposite Palau Marina was well suited to dropping an anchor (a mooring fee free night - hoorah!).

LA MADDELENA ARCHIPELAGO

Breakfast at anchor in the bay near Punta Coda was followed by a quick sail up to the jewel of the emerald coast - Cala Coticcio (also known as Tahiti Beach). Pushing the day to its limits, they motored to La Maddalena Town.

€50 CLUB SANDWICH ANYONE?

Porto Cervo was their final lunch stop. The 50ft Jeanneau looked like a rubber dinghy compared to the super-yachts that flooded the Marina. At €19 for a bottle of beer and €50 for a Club Sandwich, it is a place for a different crowd than this particular crew!

A SUMMARY OF THE WEEK OVER A PIZZA

Following an easy check-out at the marina, they ate at Matt's pizzeria – a great evening recounting the week's events. A Sailing Holidays flotilla style awards ceremony wrapped up a wonderful week.

The water is as blue as the photos, the food is spectacular and the harbours ooze character. It may be a bit more expensive than sailing in other areas, but many would pay the premium for the experience.

Sam says that it is hands down the best sailing area he has ever explored and the level of service was exceptional.



sailingholidays.com[®]

Another glorious summer in the Greek Islands blessed by exceptional weather has whizzed by.

Our shore-based teams have lifted the boats out of the water and winter project work has begun. This ensures that the yachts remain in excellent condition.

Since the Southampton Boat Show in September we've had quite a number of 2018 bookings. If you haven't already sorted something out for next year, it might be a good idea to give us a call so you don't miss the date you want.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the water next summer!



ABTA No. Y5647



FULL FINANCIAL PROTECTION



ASSOCIATION OF BONDED TRAVEL ORGANISERS TRUST
No: 5218



SailsCrew@sailingholidays.com

 020 8459 8787

Sailing Holidays Ltd, 105 Mount Pleasant Road, London, NW10 3EH, England