

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course (Sail)

Course Outline

The coastal skipper practical course will prepare you to skipper a yacht on coastal passages by day or night. The course will raise your boat handling, sailing, pilotage, navigation, passage planning and crew leadership skills so that you have the competence and confidence to be in charge in a wider range of situations. Our aim is to extend your knowledge, your awareness and your standards of navigation and seamanship so that you can make good judgements and decisions and so deal effectively with the more challenging circumstances that may be encountered on longer passages and in unfamiliar waters. You will live aboard the yacht for 5 days and nights, work as a member of the crew and act as skipper in planning and executing a variety of passages – including one longer one with more complex tidal conditions. You will visit a variety of harbours and berths in marinas, mooring buoys and anchorages. All meals are taken aboard.

The RYA Photo ID Certificate is awarded on satisfactory completion of the course. You can use this as evidence of competence in applying for an [International Certificate of Competence \(ICC\)](#).

Format Options

5 Day Course (0900 Mon to 1500 Fri). The course must be done in 5 or more consecutive days.

Previous Knowledge/Experience

[RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster](#) Shorebased course or full knowledge of the subject. At least Day Skipper level practical sailing competence. Minimum 15 days at sea, 300 miles and 8 night hours logged. VHF Licence and First Aid Certificate (required for exam). To really benefit from this course you should have some prior experience as a skipper in charge of a yacht.

Locations

5 day and weekend courses run from Chatham, Kent – less than 1 hour from central London. Sailing areas are the River Medway and the Thames Estuary. 5 Day courses take you as far as the Essex and Suffolk coasts or the North Kent coast – occasionally to France. Weekend courses run in the Rivers Medway and Swale and the near Thames Estuary within a range of about 30 Miles of Chatham.

Age

The minimum age for this course is 17 years. There is no maximum age.

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

Competence to skipper a yacht in any coastal waters (tidal or non tidal) by day or night and on longer passages including watchkeeping.

What's Included

The price includes a berth on the yacht, all meals aboard from lunch on the first day to lunch on the last day, tea, coffee etc and all operating expenses. Water from the boat's tanks is drinkable. Alcoholic drinks, bottled water or other soft drinks are not included but you are welcome to bring your own. Often people contribute to a 'kitty' to buy some wine with dinner. Wet weather clothing hire (jackets and trousers) is available at £25 for the week. There are no other essential extras, but you may want to buy one or two books (see below) and bring a little pocket money for use if you go ashore.

What will I need to bring?

The only specialist requirement is a sleeping bag and some suitable footwear – deck shoes (trainers will do) and in case of rain we recommend sea boots. Further information is provided in the suggested packing list – see below under Downloads.

Books

- Yachtmaster for Sail and Power (Alison Noice)
- The Complete Yachtmaster (Cunliffe)

Next Steps

Gain experience as a skipper and work towards the [RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Coastal or Offshore examination](#).

Downloads

- [Recommended Packing List](#)
- [Directions to Elite Sailing at Chatham Marina](#)

