

Combined RYA Day Skipper Theory and Practical Course (9 Days)

Course Outline

For the ultimate in cost-effectiveness this Combined RYA Day Skipper Theory and Practical course requires just 9 days in total – starting on a Saturday and finishing on the Sunday a week later. It covers all the theory and practical training for day skipper in a single intensive package. It allows you to get the training done in the shortest and most efficient manner and requires only 5 weekdays off work. The first 4 days are spent in the classroom. At the end of the class on the Tuesday you join the yacht for the 5 days of practical training that runs until the following Sunday. On the practical course you will sail away from Chatham, visit a variety of harbours and anchorages and return on the final Sunday. Depending on progress one or both of the test papers for the theory element may be completed on the Tuesday afternoon, during the practical course – or possibly in the afternoon immediately following the practical. So you should be prepared to stay on at Chatham until about 1700 on the final Sunday. For further details see the individual pages for the [day skipper theory course](#) and the [day skipper practical course](#).

Location and Format

Start and finish at Chatham.

Saturday to Tuesday. 0900 – 1700. Classroom. Day Skipper Theory. Homework in the evenings. Non-residential.

(You can travel daily, book into a local hotel or B&B)

Tuesday 1800 to Sunday 1500. Day Skipper Practical. This element is a live-aboard course.

Previous Knowledge/Experience

[RYA Competent Crew](#) course or equivalent

Age

No minimum or maximum age but the minimum age for issue of a Day Skipper Practical Certificate is 16.

Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

Day Skipper Theory Course completion certificate. Day Skipper Practical courses certificate (photo ID). You will be able to skipper a yacht on short passages in familiar/sheltered waters by day. Most charter companies will accept your Day Skipper Course certificate as evidence of competence. You will also qualify for issue of an [International Certificate of Competence](#), which you are able to apply with on the RYA website.

What's Included

For the practical element the price includes a berth on the yacht and all meals aboard from dinner on the Tuesday evening to lunch on the Sunday, 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 £10 per week or weekend. For the classroom theory element the price includes all essential course materials, tea, coffee or water, but not accommodation or meals. We can supply a list of local hotels and bed and breakfast places. 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 from the yacht.

What will I need to bring?

For the theory element bring a personal notebook, a soft pencil and eraser. If you have a Portland Plotter and Dividers bring those too. A set can be provided on loan – or you can buy your own on the first day (£25). For the practical course 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

There is no essential pre-course reading, but we recommend the following books prior to or during the course:

RYA Day Skipper Practical Course Notes

RYA Day Skipper Handbook

Day Skipper for Power and Sail (Alison Noice)

These are available online from the RYA website or you can buy them in our reception at Chatham.

Downloads

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

Next Steps

Build up experience – as both crew and skipper – by sailing as much as possible. We recommend that at this stage you get your [VHF/Short Range Certificate](#) and take an [RYA First Aid Course](#). Consider joining one of our [adventure sailing holidays](#) which offer superb experience and further training in varied locations and conditions.

