

Important Information For Stingray Charters Rentals

Welcome to the beautiful Florida Keys! At Stingray Charters it is our mission to help our guests have a wonderful vacation and experience the one of a kind beauty that we call home! We are happy to help anyway we can.

Please treat our Vessels and equipment with care and respect!

Please review the following information

Age/Licensing

- You must be at least 21 years of age to rent a boat
- If you are born after January 1988 you must also have a valid boating safety card
- The boat operator must have a photo ID as well as his/her boating safety card (if applicable) with them on the vessel at all times.

Recommended Experience

- Boating and navigating in the Florida Keys can be very difficult as such we suggest the lessee have at least 3 solid years of boating experience. This is for your safety!
- Understanding of Tides is a must!

Areas of Operation

- Lessee agrees to keep the vessel no more than 7 Miles from the shoreline (US1)
While this may not seem like a great distance all notable locations reefs, sandbars etc. are well within this distance.

Operation of Vessel

- Lessee agrees to operate the boat in a safe and responsible manner
- Towing, tubing and skiing by use of the vessel is prohibited
- Use or possession of illegal substances on the boat is prohibited
- Operating the vessel while impaired is prohibited
- Night operation of the vessel is prohibited (before sunrise/after sunset)

Loading The Vessel

- Lessee will not overload the vessel: Each vessel has a maximum occupancy and weight number. It is important to remember that excessive gear (heavy coolers, scuba gear etc.) will lower the amount of occupants allowed on the vessel.
- Weight should be loaded with consideration to create balance on board the vessel

Fuel

- Lessee acknowledges that the vessel will be received and returned with a full tank of non-ethanol gasoline (REC-90) Not returning the vessel with a full tank will result in fees plus the cost of fuel.
- The Lessee will only refuel the vessel with only non-ethanol (REC-90) gasoline

Damages

- Lessee acknowledges responsibility for all damages that occur during their rental period. This may include but is not limited to damage to hull, flooring, seating, controls, safety equipment, boat equipment, motor, propeller, awning. Lessee also acknowledges that any damages, late returns, low fuel returns and excessively dirty returns will result in additional charges to the credit card listed on the contract.
- If you think something is not operating properly or that you may be starting to see signs of an issue please do not hesitate to call so that we can get ahead of or resolve the issue.

Vessel Becomes Imobile/inoperable

- Please call if the vessel becomes imobile or inoperable. If the problem is due to your mistake (running aground, out of gas, drained battery, damaged motor or propeller etc) you may have to be assisted by Tow Boat US. Please call first so that we may be able to assist you.
- Tow Boat US: (800) 395-2628

Equipment

- All vessels are equipped with required USCG safety gear and other additional gear that you may use. Life jackets, signal kit (flares etc.), GPS, whistle or horn, throwable flotation device, fire extinguisher, dive flag, fender/buoys, dock lines, anchor and anchor line, cooler.
- Additional equipment may be rented or borrowed from the company. Just ask! Additional items may include dry bags, noodles, floaties or other flotation devices, beach games etc.

Adhere to all Maritime Laws

- It is the responsibility of the Lessee to familiarize themselves with local Maritime Laws
- All Canals are NO WAKE ZONES!**
- Do not litter or allow trash to fly overboard
- Children under 6 years of age must wear a life jacket at all times
- Follow all markers and postings

Respect Marine Life

- Please Respect our local environment and all its inhabitants
- Do not remove any shell that contains any living organism

Pets

- While we are pet friendly it is the lessee's responsibility to ensure their pet's safety and that they do not damage any part of the vessel or equipment.

- It is important to monitor your pets both on the vessel, in the water and out on sandbars

Going Underway Checklist!

***Please take a minute to go through this checklist anytime you plan to operate the Vessel**

- Check the Weather (Windy APP)
- Check the Tides (US Harbors or Tides4fishing)
- Plan your destination and route (is it safe considering tides?)
- Familiarize passengers with safety equipment locations
- Check your battery system switch
- Be sure nothing is hanging overboard (Ropes, anchors etc.)
- Check that bilge pumps are operating properly (if applicable)
- Bilge compartments are clean (If applicable)
- Check that drain plugs are in (If applicable)
- Check that your prop doesn't have any fishing line, mud, grass or anything else that shouldn't be there.
- Check that engine is "peeing" properly
- Lights are working properly
- Boat has enough Fuel
- GPS is working and reading depth
- All cargo is in a safe and appropriate spot
- All passengers are safe and ready

Tips for Boating In The Florida Keys

Below are a few tips and resources for your review

Free boater education program specifically designed for the Florida Keys. This website also has other helpful tips and information.

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/apr19/florida-keys-national-marine-sanctuary-boater-education-course.html>

Tides may change the water levels 3 - 4ft about every 6 hours. Much of the Bayside (north of US1) will be extremely shallow or impassable especially during low tides. These areas can be dangerous if you are unfamiliar. It is very important to plan your path ahead of time and always check your GPS and depth. Be mindful of your engine tilt and height. There should never be dirt or grass wash in your propeller trail. Tide times can be very different even over short distances (1 Mile or less can change tides times drastically)

While Stingray charters will provide tracks to our favorite and the most popular destinations in the area it is still your responsibility to adhere to tidal and other unforeseen changes to routes.

Reading water depth by Colors:

Blue Blue go on through

Green Green nice and clean

Brown Brown run Aground

Watch out for crab trap buoys and ropes! These can damage the engine.

Watch out for Seaweed getting wrapped around the motor which can mess up the flow of the propeller and cause damage.

If you run too shallow mud and bottom grass can cake to the lower unit and clog it. Causing the motor to overheat and damage it. Be mindful of your engine tilt and height.

Most Sandbars will have other people and pets. Please be mindful and respectful of others.

Never assume that you know what other vessels will do out on the water. Always leave plenty of space and time to react.

Enjoy and Have Fun
Stingray Charters