

Preparing for Chartering

How to plan for a safe and fun vacation



Introductions



Henry Tkachyk

- Lives in Nanaimo
- Originally from Calgary
- Over 20 years sailing experience
- Skipper/Instructor (Sail, Power, Mono and Multihull)

Charter Prep - Overview Activities

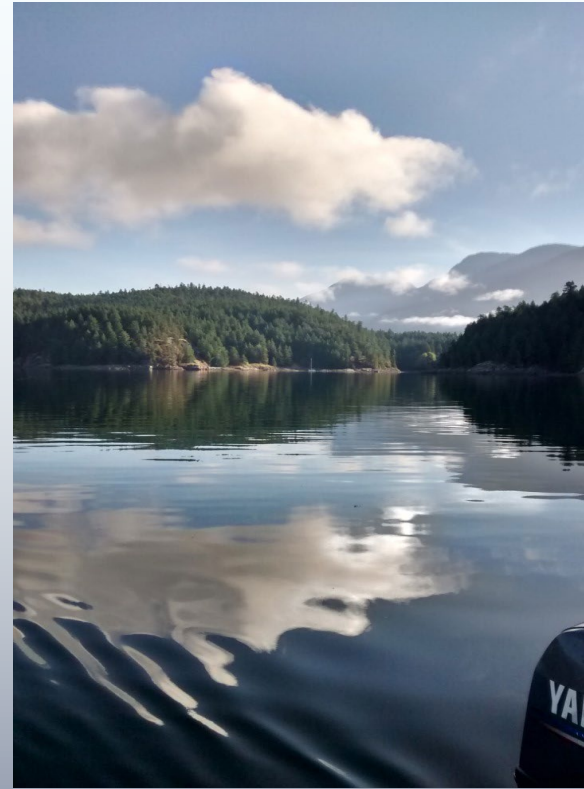
- Plan your trip
 - Long range - 1 month - 1 year
 - Route
 - Skipper Prep
 - Medium range - 1-2 weeks
 - Preparing your Crew
 - Short range - Day of and Daily trip prep
 - Boat Briefing and Prep

* Long Range Prep

30 days or more

Charter Prep

- Choose your cruising ground
 - Gulf Islands
 - Sunshine Coast
 - Desolation Sound
 - Broughtons
 - San Juan Islands
- Items to consider
 - Length of trip
 - Activities/Lifestyle
 - Experience



<https://thevoyagemakers.com/vancouver-boat-show-2025>



Plan your navigation

Get Ready to Navigate Now!

1. Plot your course in advance
2. Identify hazards clearly
3. Make use of available publications
4. Understand relevant Tides and Currents



Sample Plan - Anchorage Data

Name	Location	Wind Exposure	Hazards for Entry and Exit
Cortes Bay	L 50°03.7"N λ124°55.5"W	Easterly and South Easterly	Must approach from Just West of Twin Islands and East of Three Ilets. DO NOT Pass North of Three Ilets. Upon entering Cortes Bay Stay left or Red Light on Rock
Squirrel Cove	L 50°08"N λ124°55.5"W	South Easterly	Passage only to the left of Protection Island entering Squirrel cove. Shallows at narrow gap so stay to the middle of the gap
Teakerne Arm	L 50°11.6"N λ124°51.1"W	Westerly and North Westerly	No major hazards, Marine Park is to the North(left) side of the bay
Roscoe Bay	L 50°09.3"N λ124°46"W	Easterly	Narrow entrance to anchorage dries out at low tide. ONLY accessible at the peak of high tide. Anchor just outside of mouth entrance
Tenedos Bay	L 50°07"N λ124°42"W	South and South Westerly	Be wary of Ray Rock about 300yds off shore. Take a WIDE berth while rounding the corner to the head of the bay. Stay East along the bay all the way into Tenedos bay. Anchor behind the island
Prideaux Haven	L 50°08.5"N λ124°41"W	Northerly/uncertain	Rock covered 100m north of Eveleigh Island.
Gorge Harbour	L 50°06"N λ125°00"W	uncertain	Drying reefs around Central Islands. Anchor to NW corner of harbour
Drew Harbour/Heriot Bay	L 50°06"N λ125°12"W	Northerly and Easterly	Keep outside of Rebecca Spit
Okeover Inlet/Penrose Bay	L 50°00.5"N λ124°43.5"W	Southerly	Keep outside of Boundary Rock
Okeover Inlet/Thors Cove	L 50°04.5"N λ124°42.5"W	Westerly	Watch for oyster beds and marine farms

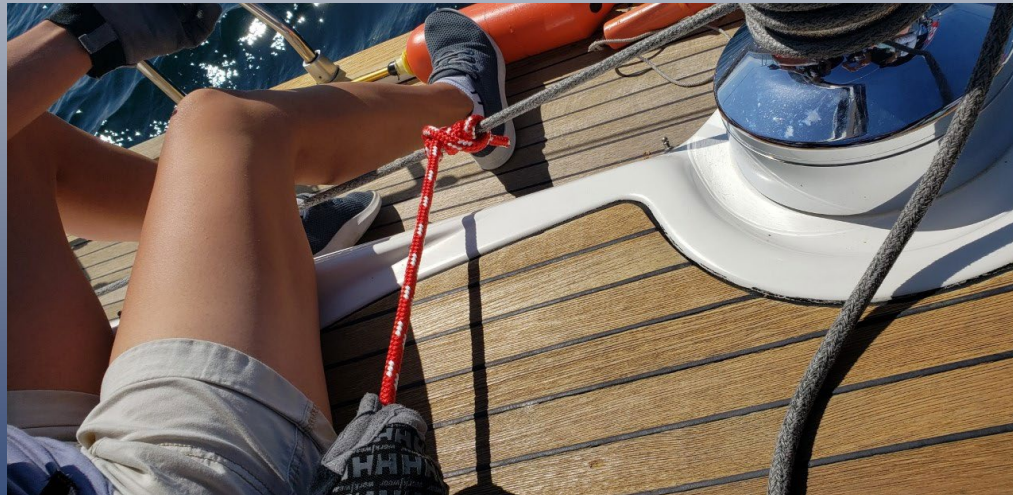
Resources

Here's a list:

- Charts:
 - Navionics, on line
 - Paper charts, parallel rules, divider
- Cruising guides
 - Dreamspeaker Vol 1 thru 6,
 - Waggoner Cruising Guides
 - Salish Sea Pilot Guides
 - Docks and Destinations
 - Pacific Yachting Magazine
- Tide and Current publications or apps,
 - <https://www.charts.gc.ca/publications/tables-eng.html>
 - <https://www.amazon.com/2025-Ports-Passes-Fine-Edge/dp/B0DNGD94LN>
- Local publications
 - Marine Blue Pages
 - Notice to Mariners

Charter Prep - Skipper Preparation

- **Skipper mind set**
- **One person must be in charge**
- **Sail to the comfort of the crew and safety of the boat**
 - **Capability of the boat**
 - **Knowledge/Experience of Skipper**
 - **Ability of crew**
- **Managing the crew and required tasks**



Charter Prep - Skipper Preparation

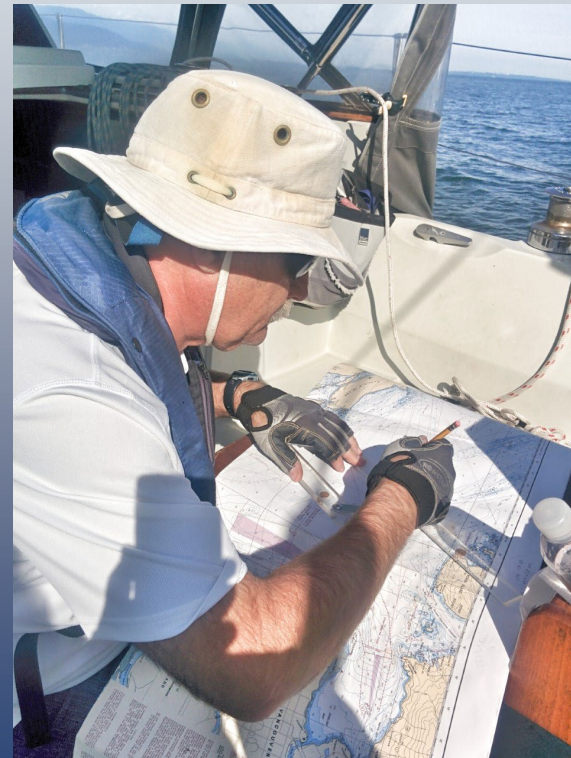
- **Must have competencies**
 - **1st aid certificate**
 - **Crew overboard procedures**
 - **VHF radio skill**
 - **Heaving to**
 - **Furling headsails**
 - **Furling main sails**
 - **Sail trim**
 - **Proper winch handling techniques**
 - **Prop walk for docking**
 - **Housekeeping the lines (rigging and docking)**
 - **Knot tying**
 - **Anchoring**
 - **Boat preparedness - anchor is ready to go always**



 **Medium Range Prep**
1-2 weeks pre-departure

Charter Prep - Medium Range

1. Weather checks
2. Navigation - review/alteration
3. Packing lists
4. Food prep



Charter Prep - Marine Weather Guide



Charter Prep - Weather

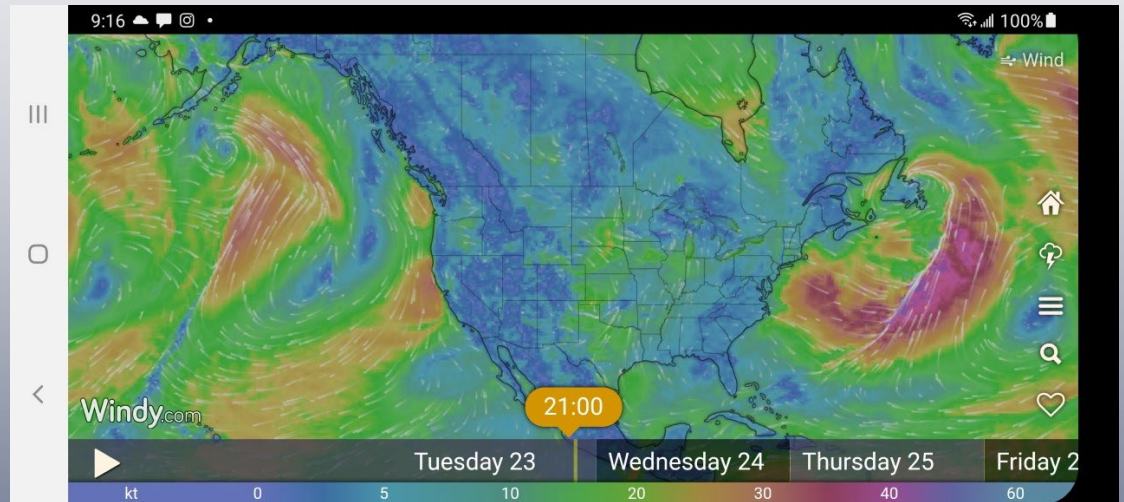
Other Sources for local forecasts:

Predict Wind

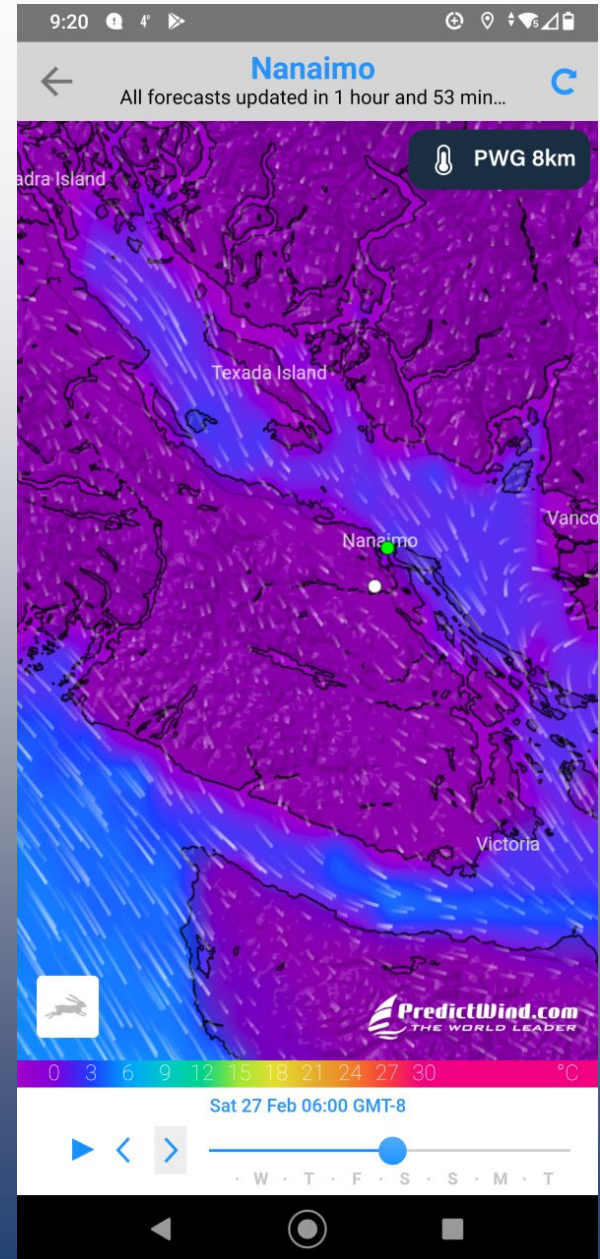
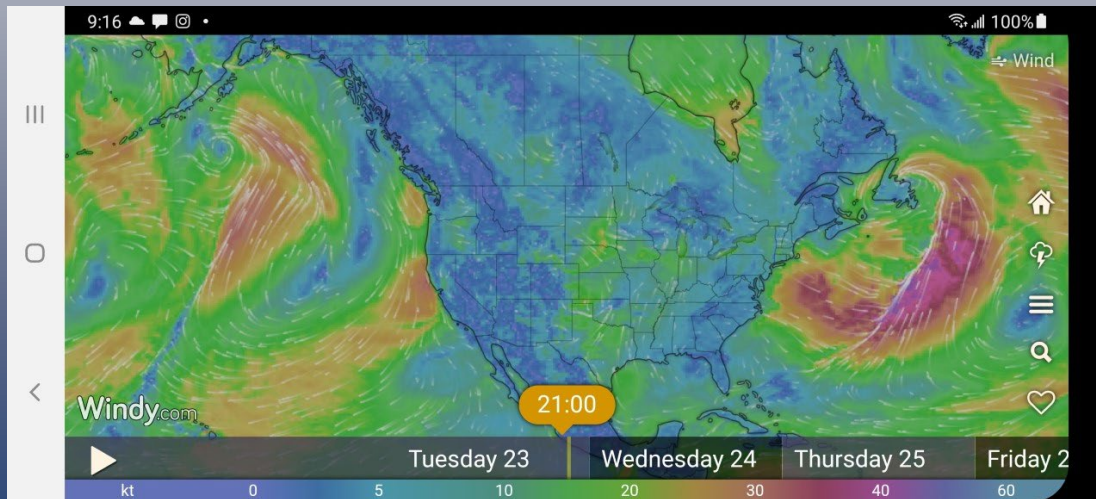
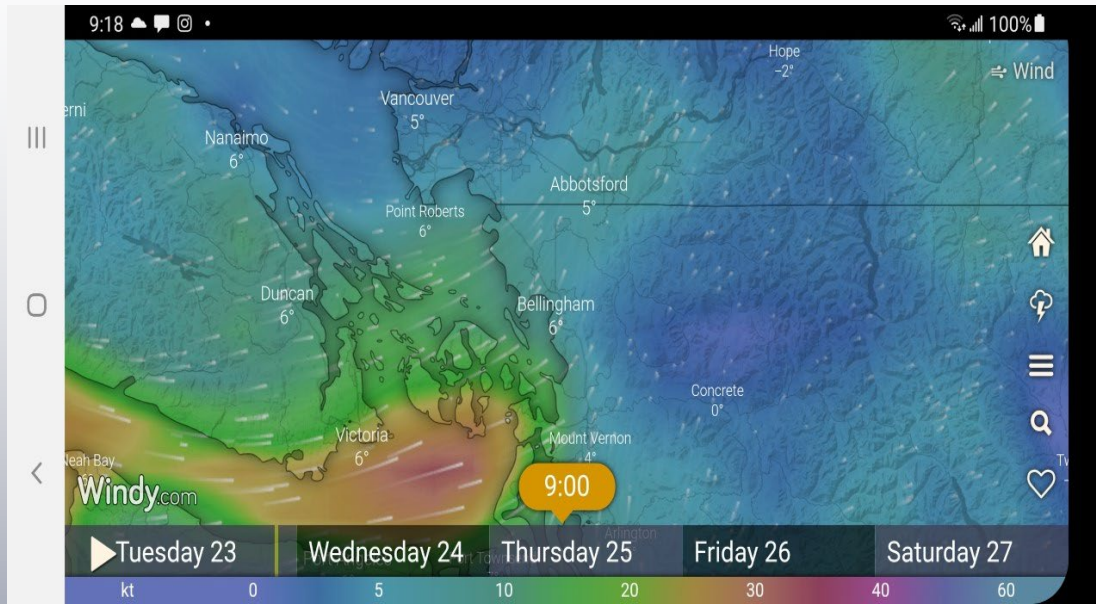
Sail Flow

Wind Finder

Windy



Charter Prep - Weather



Charter Prep - Route Planning

- Rough plan route
 - Don't be too ambitious
 - Assume 5kts/hour for distances
 - Plan first day, last day, and 1 must see destination
 - Plan for 1 provisioning stop
 - Fill in the rest of the trip details

- Rough plan meals
 - Align to route plan.
 - Simple meals for longer travel days
 - Complex meals for shorter travel days
 - Marina/Restaurants?
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- Plan to be flexible!



Charter Prep - Sample Plan

Sailing Trip Logistics 2020 - July 18th to 25th

Crew size: 4 people

	Saturday (18th)	Sunday (19th)	Monday (20th)	Tuesday (21st)
Destination	Early Board (Nanaimo)	Montague Harbour via Dodds Narrows 29 Miles	Tumbo Island/Reef Harbour 24 Miles	Port Browning 16 Miles
Alternate	Early Board (Nanaimo)	Wallace Island via Poirlier Pass 30 Miles	Lyll Harbour/Boot Cove 17 Miles	Port Browning 5 Miles
Meals	Saturday (18th)	Sunday (19th)	Monday (20th)	Tuesday (21st)
Breakfast	-	Timmy's	Cold Cereal/Fruit	Bacon, Eggs, Hashbrowns
Lunch	-	Soup/Sandwich	Wraps	Make your own Sandwich
Happy Hour	-	Chips/Salsa Tuna, Coleslaw & Coconut	Cheese, Crackers, Meats	Pub Night
Dinner	Pub Dinner	Rice	Lemon Grass Chicken	Pub Night

Charter Prep - Final Prep

Resources - Weather

Government of Canada - Marine Weather - South Coast

- https://weather.gc.ca/marine/region_e.html?mapID=02
- https://weather.gc.ca/marine/forecast_e.html?mapID=03&siteID=14305

Tide and Current Tables:

- <https://www.charts.gc.ca/publications/tables-eng.html>
- <https://www.amazon.com/2025-Ports-Passes-Fine-Edge/dp/B0DNGD94LN>

Current Atlas

- <https://www.charts.gc.ca/publications/atlas-eng.html>
- PNW Current Atlas App by Tiny Octopus LLC

Marine Weather Guide

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/general-marine-weather-information/understanding-forecasts/regional/products-services-pacific-coast.html>

*Short Range Prep

Marina arrival and daily trip planning

Charter Prep - Preparing for Departure

1. Checking in and paperwork
2. Boat briefing
3. Crew briefing
2. Departure plans

Charter Prep - Checking in

1) Complete Paperwork

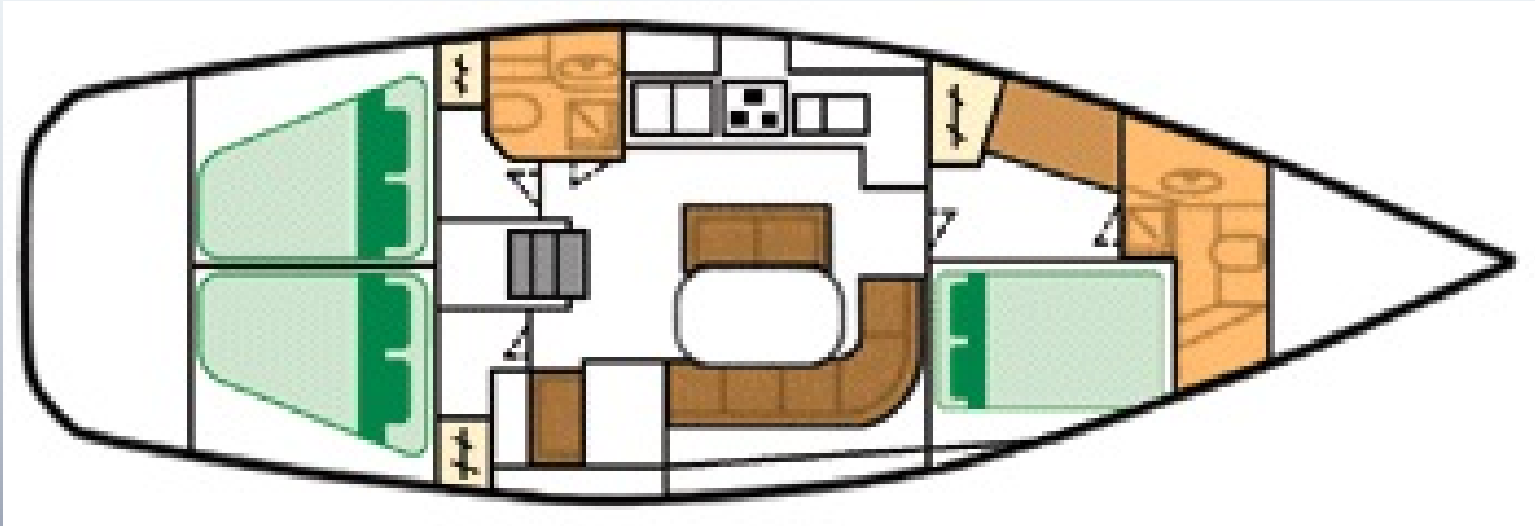
- a. Crew Manifest
- b. Insurance
- c. Boat Briefing
- d. Navigation Briefing
- e. Possibly Sea Trial

2) Complete Skipper Prep





- a. Become one with the boat

Charter Prep - Boat Preparations

1) Boat briefing



Anything unique or critical:

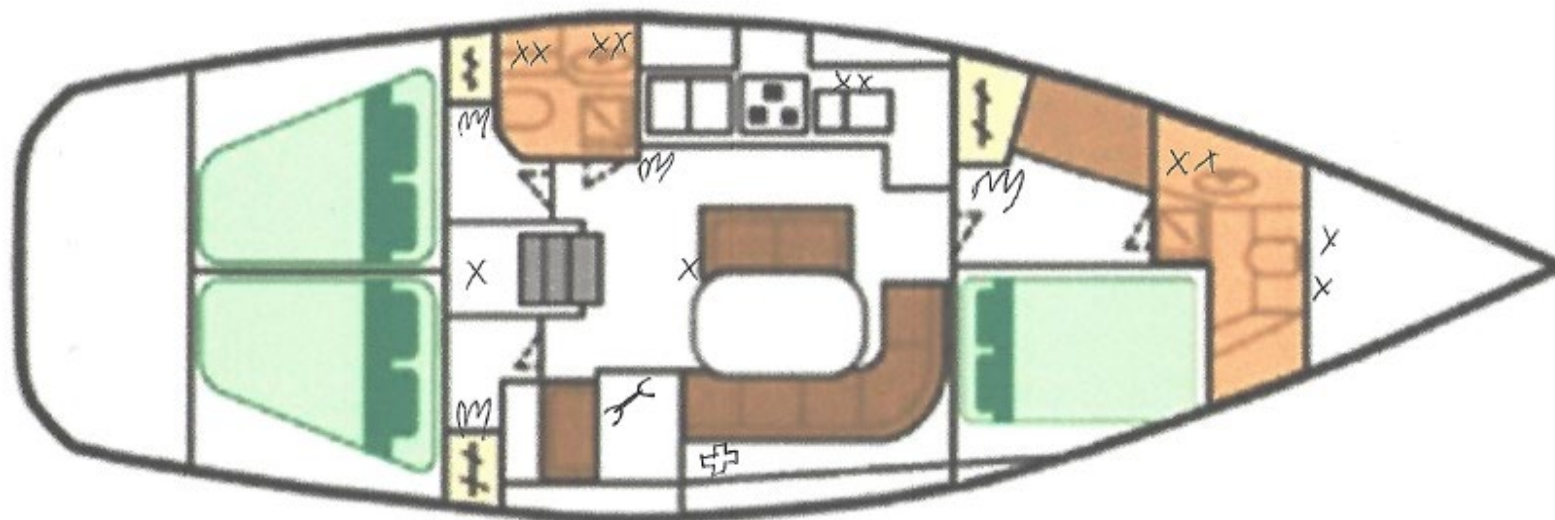
-  - Through hull
-  - First aid
-  - Fire extinguishers
-  - Tools/parts

- Multiple steps to light stove
- Anchor rode, chain, marking
- Depth sounder - offset to keel?
- Location of breaker for windlass

Windlass breaker
Under Nav station

Depth from keel

100' chain
150' Rode
Yellow Paint @ 30'



Fridge - On @ Panel
on behind stove
Temp set below 3

Charter Prep - Prepare Crew

- **Assign daily tasks and responsibilities**
- **Confirm Emergency Procedures**
 - assign a medical crew,
 - assign a fire extinguisher crew,
 - assign a VHF operator,
 - assign galley responsibilities like stowing dangerous items and proper use of propane.
- **Understand skills knowledge and experience before you leave the dock**
- **Line handling/ knots**
 - Round Turn and 2 half hitches BEFORE leaving the dock
 - how to tidy a line, attach lines and keep lines from falling overboard.

<https://www.animatedknots.com/round-turn-two-half-hitches-knot>



Charter Prep - Day of

2) Crew briefing

Boat Briefing

- How to use the head
 - What to flush or not?
- How to turn on the stove
- How to turn on the lights
- Water pump and salt water pump
- How to raise and lower the dinghy

Safety

- Lifejackets - must fit properly, know where it is and be in reach while underway
 - For day 1 minimum must wear while going forward of the cockpit while underway
- Location of and how to use through hulls
- One hand for you, one hand for the boat
- Be aware of the ropes/sails while underway
- Be aware of where safety equipment is located and how to use it
 - MOB pole
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Heaving line
 - First aid kit
 - Tools, bungs, emergency tiller

Charter Prep - Day of

3) Departure plans

- Have a plan
- Ensure all crew know what the plan is
- Ensure all crew know what their job is
- Ask for help from the dock staff
- Prepare to depart
 - Power cord
 - Water
 - Tender
 - Lines
 - Fenders

Charter Prep - Daily Checks

1. Mechanical
 1. Engine compartment
 2. Oil
 3. Belts and Hoses
 4. Raw water strainer
2. Weather
3. Tides
4. Currents
5. Location/route plan
 1. Where to
 2. How far
 3. How long
 4. Hazard Identification

Pearls of Wisdom

No shame in reefing the Main

Slow is Pro

Never approach anything faster than you're prepared to hit it

It's easier to STAY out of trouble, than to GET out of trouble

It's easier to create momentum when required than remove it when it's not

There are no brakes on a boat

One hand for you, one hand for the boat

You will STEER at what you STARE at

As much about the food as it is about the sailing





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