



MISTRAL JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Joining a yacht is a thoroughly enjoyable, challenging and ultimately rewarding experience. If you have never been to sea before or don't have much experience or even if you are taking your Yachtmaster test you may well be apprehensive, a little frightened and possibly intimidated by the power of the sea. A healthy respect for nature will get you a long way.

There is suggested packing list of things you will need to bring in the download section. Please feel free to bring anything else you like but be aware that space is limited on a boat and almost everyone brings far too many clothes. Soft bags are a must – imagine the situation if everyone turned up with a hard bodied suitcase.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS –

Where will we go, where can we go? It depends on the wind and the tide and the wishes of the group. There are many destinations only a day sail away.

Can I bring my own lifejacket, safety line, GPS, binoculars etc? YES! But do make sure that safety equipment is suitable for the job and is 'in date'.

What shall I wear? You will need heavy duty waterproofs – if you don't have your own we can hire them to you. You will also need sea boots – specially designed to grip wet decks. These are also available to hire. We strongly suggest wearing a comfort layer (T-shirt or 2 and long johns/woolly tights) then a warmth layer (e.g. fleece and tracksuit bottoms or thermal 'romper' suit) then a protection layer (anything from a lightweight jacket to offshore standard oilies.) A warm hat and gloves is essential. Being cold and wet at sea is no fun and is entirely avoidable

Can I go ashore? Some nights may be in remote sea lochs – you may want to go ashore to view the wildlife or just to explore. Other nights you may be near a small village and you may wish to visit the shops. Ask the skipper but if its safe to do so there is no reason why not. Please don't expect a water-based shopping trip.

Who does the cooking? You do! Everyone takes it in turns and helps each other. If you can't cook don't worry - someone will help you. Everyone can wash up! Please feel free to bring along your favourite chocolate, sweets, biscuits etc but be prepared to share them! However, feel free to arrange a meal ashore. In this case, please note that your skippers meal will need to be paid for also.

Can I smoke? YES – on deck, when you are plain sailing i.e. never whilst sails are being hoisted or lowered or tacking, gybing etc. Even then you may only smoke on the aft leeward side so that the smoke doesn't affect anyone else. **Smoking is never permitted below deck.**

Can I bring a bottle of whisky with me? Of course! Drinking in moderation is fine. Be aware that if the wind pipes up in the night you may have to get up and move the boat or reset the anchor so don't over do it. The skipper has the power to stop anyone drinking if s/he feels it is wise. If an anchor watch is required the boat will remain dry.

What happens if I am sea sick? Carry on! Many people are seasick – there are tablets available – ‘Stugeron’ for instance – but you need to start taking them the day before you go to sea and they can make you drowsy. There are wristbands available that work on your acupuncture point – some people swear by them. However, if you are feeling a little sea sick, a stint on the helm often helps.

What are the sleeping arrangements? Mistral has 3 double cabins. We keep crew numbers to a realistic level. A skippered boat will have a maximum of 4 clients. The skipper will always have their own cabin. A bareboat will accommodate 6 guests, sharing the 3 cabins. Obviously not everyone can have a cabin to themselves and some sharing may be required. depending on the mix of the crew we try first to allocate bunks to couples (whether mixed or single sex) then to allocate bunks to avoid any sharing then ask men to share and as a last resort, women to share. Most people sleep in their comfort layer or warmth layer depending upon the season and this helps to avoid any embarrassment if you have to get up in the night to use the heads or relay the anchor etc.

We have plenty of car parking on site and you should aim to arrive at 0800hrs on the day of departure. The morning will be spent sorting people out with hire items, loading the food onto the boat, meeting each other, the boat briefing, stowing your kit, adjusting life jackets etc and generally getting ready to get underway. We know many of you will have had a long journey and will be tired so the first night is usually spent not too far away.

As well as hiring waterproofs we also hire freshly laundered bedding sets. Pillows are supplied, but towels are not. Please let us know in advance if you would like to hire foul weather gear or bedding.

Accommodation the night before or after the course? We can recommend local B&B's and hotels. On occasion the boat may be free the evening before your charter, for a small overnight charge, which can be negotiated separately.