

Dream Yacht Sabbatical FAQ

Dream Yacht Sabbatical is a new offer and will adapt to the requirements of the sailors, therefore these answers can and will evolve. All information in this document is preliminary.

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The Basics

In which regions and on which routes are there long-term charter offers?

Many want to go to places that are difficult to get to during normal holidays; the Europeans to the South Pacific, the Australians to the Mediterranean. But we also offer Caribbean and Phuket plus opportunities to charter transatlantic.

What is the typical duration?

For most sabbaticals, it is a period of either around three or nine months, which is usually the period of a sailing season in an area.

The Crew

How can we best prepare ourselves?

- Charter a similar boat for a week or two; learn your strengths and weaknesses. We will count some of the charter cost towards a Sabbatical Charter (yes, there is fine print).
- Sail! The smaller the boat, the better for practice.
- World Sailing's 'Offshore safety' two day course (it's fun, too)
- Diesel engine class (everybody can understand marine diesels, just try)
- Ask us about information on the regions you plan to visit; there is heaps of free information online and we know where to find the best.
- First aid course (ideally with focus on outdoor emergencies)
- Watch MacGyver TV series...

May we invite friends to join us for a few weeks?

Absolutely! Your yacht sabbatical is a great opportunity to spend time with friends and family while exploring and enjoying.

When planning, make sure to follow the old cruisers rule: "Never agree on a place AND a time to meet" Just make sure the number of persons on board never exceeds the legal maximum.

May I rent out cabins/bunks for weekly guests?

Our insurance and other policies do not allow such a use within the Sabbatical Charter Programme. Give us a call and we will find a suitable solution.

What is the ideal age for kids?

Ideally the kids are out of diapers and can swim. On the upper end; many teenagers do not want to leave their friends and be with their parents for many months. 4-11 years of age seems to be ideal. However, many families happily cruise long-term with children of any age.

The Yacht

How does the equipment on Sabbatical yachts differ from charter yachts?

Safety is of paramount importance when sailing to remote places. The safety equipment is much more extensive than on a charter yacht and should meet or exceed the requirements of the World Cruising Club (ARC). Comfort depends on the region and budget. A very good dinghy is needed in any case, a sustainable energy supply, extensive spare parts and tools and often also a water maker. Nevertheless, we consciously want to keep things lean, the systems should be simple but reliable. On a sabbatical you don't have the desire to tinker endlessly or wait for parts in remote marinas.

What options are there for temporarily installing your own equipment on board?

As with any rental property, you can do anything that does not cause damage and can be restored to its original condition. With us, customers want to go sailing and the essentials will be provided.

The Voyage

The boats will sometimes be far away from a Dream Yacht base. How does the service and repairs work?

Before departure, we will perform an extensive handover, which includes instructions on how to maintain and repair your boat.

With over 50 bases worldwide, we can offer a great service network. During planning, we will schedule a stop at a DYC base every 40-50 days. You must report all defects as soon as they happen, so we can prepare for these stops (e.g. order parts etc). Our experts then carry out all maintenance and repair work. But we also have a 24/7 email hotline for any kind of help you may need, so ships are equipped with satellite communication if they go outside cellphone coverage. But of course, the skipper must be aware that unlike a weekly charter, the responsibility for maintenance and repair also lies with him and he must be able and willing to perform maintenance and repairs with remote support. We may also authorize local repairs if the voyage cannot continue otherwise. As with a normal charter contract, the costs for service and repair are borne by us. Excluded are of course damages or losses caused by the crew.

Is the handover always at Dream Yacht bases or are these individual handovers?

Yes, the starting point is always one of over fifty Dream Yacht Bases. There we have the whole infrastructure for maintenance, repair and care of the yachts. And there is usually also a good infrastructure to be able to do the preparation and all the provisioning.

Are there any limitations of where I can take a sabbatical yacht?

Yes, there may be restricted due to:

- insurance coverage
- crew licensing requirements
- civil unrest or war
- hazardous navigation conditions

Please discuss your plans with us and let us know if they change.

What are the costs for such a voyage?

The operation and maintenance of offshore yachts on blue water cruises as well as the support through our staff and our bases during the voyage requires an elaborate organization on our side. But for many it is crucial that they can focus on their job and career until shortly before departure. And upon return, they can get back into the business without wasting an infinite amount of time on buying, equipping, paperwork and selling a boat.

Another big advantage of our model is that the costs are known at the start of the trip and there are no nasty surprises, e.g. if a major part breaks or the boat develops osmosis.

About Dream Yacht Sabbatical

Urs Rothacher, who leads Dream Yacht Sabbatical, began sailing when he was 10 and has raced dinghies, skiffs and multihulls ever since. When he was a teenager, he found books by Bobby Schenk, the German sailing writer, lecturer and blue water expert, while collecting local recycling. Reading the books inspired him to take a sailing sabbatical to Polynesia with his family some 30 years later.

Founded in 2001 by Loïc Bonnet, Dream Yacht Charter is the world's leading yacht charter company. The company, created in Mauritius and headquartered in Brussels, offers a fleet of over 1,000 boats. Dream Yacht Charter is present in 34 countries and has 50+ bases in the world. The group has enjoyed a continuous growth of 20% on average per year since its creation and welcomes each year on its boats more than 130,000 customers.