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What is a crewed charter?

A crewed charter is like a week (or 2, or 3...) in an all inclusive resort where the resort happens to be a yacht. But the best part is that the "floating resort" you chartered is on the move to new islands, anchorages and beaches daily. The scenery changes around you! The yacht comes complete with a captain who takes care of all boat handling operations and a chef and/or stewardess who prepares fantastic meals and blends superb drinks. The meals and drinks are included in the charter fee. Also like a resort, the yacht will have watersports which may include float mats, snorkel gear, SCUBA diving equipment. There are crewed charters designed for just about every possible charter group; honeymooners, families, family reunions, corporate outings, or a great vacation for you and your friends. There are yachts designed to accommodate anywhere from 2 to 20 guests!



Captain Only Charters

Yachts are available with only a captain to take care of handling the vessel. Food, beverages and preparation of meals are handled by you, the charter guest. In most cases, this saves the charterer money.

Captain Only with Provisioning

This is the charter option that bridges the gap between *Captain Only* charter and the *All Inclusive* charter. A captain is on board to handle the vessel and a provisioning company will deliver your provisions to the yacht the morning you arrive. You make your food and beverage selections from a detailed form in advance. This saves taxi fares and time spent stocking the boat.

How do I make a charter reservation?

The process is simple. After a conversation with our staff, we'll recommend several yachts that will fit your budget and preferences.

1) Call Bay breeze Yacht Charters with the yacht and the dates you'd like to charter and we'll check and confirm availability. If the yacht is available, we'll hold the date temporarily. At this point, the charter is only held tentative and dates can be lost until the deposit is paid.

2) The deposit is 50% of the charter fee and can be paid with check or credit card. To pay by credit card, a "Credit Card Authorization" form is available at our website or can be faxed or mailed. At

this time, we'll also send a Charter Contract. Return the Credit Card Authorization Form (if paying by credit card) and the signed Charter Contract to Bay breeze.

3) Once the deposit and signed contract are received by Bay breeze, your charter is confirmed for the yacht and the dates requested.

4) We'll then send (or you can download from our website) the "Passport & Travel Information Form" and the "Charter Party Preference Form". These need to be filled out in ample time before the charter so the captain and crew can provision and prepare the yacht to your liking.

How do I choose which yacht is best for my group?

Much of the decision depends on the size of your group and your budget. Many times a larger boat is less expensive if the vessel accommodates more passengers making it more cost effective per person. Some yachts may advertise that they sleep a certain number of people but check to see if some of the sleeping areas are single bunks or converting dinettes that may be more suitable for kids or a single adult.

Every yacht is different in the sense that some are smaller but much more elaborate, some are very basic and less expensive but some of the basic yachts exclude many watersports and amenities, some are geared more towards performance sailing which may compromise inside accommodations, some compromise their qualities under sail to give the guests enormous space and comforts.

Call us. We'll ask you the questions that will narrow down the best boat for you. We've toured the boats, met the captains and crews and can make the process a lot easier than it sounds!

What do crewed charters typically cost and what does it include?

With a wide range of yachts, high season to low season, the starting point is \$175 per person per day for a typical 6 guest, 3 cabin yacht that includes captain, chef, food and beverage. The rate increases from there depending on the yacht, services and activities provided. Discounts may be found in the low season (May thru early December). Usually Christmas and New Years have a surcharge. Power yachts typically cost more than sail and some boats may charge extra if the generator is needed to run air conditioning 24/7.

Crewed yachts are all inclusive concerning food and beverage. Charters down-island, such as St. Vincent & Grenadines may have a very limited all inclusive bar selection and may charge extra for certain beverages. There may be an additional charge for special requests pertaining to food, liquor, wine or champagne on any yacht if the special request is a costly, premium food or beverage that the yacht doesn't normally stock.

Activities, if provided on board, are included such as snorkeling, wakeboarding, etc. but not every boat offers the same activities. Check the yachts web site or call us for an update for on-board activities provided. Taxi's and land excursions are paid by the charter guest. Diving may be an extra charge as well.

Tips are not included in the charter fee. Tips for the captain and crew on average run 12-20% of the charter fee. Tips account for most or all of the crew pay and they work hard accordingly! Normally tips are given to the captain in the form of cash or check on the last day of charter.

Where do we go when cruising?

Most crewed yachts stay within the protected waters of the Virgin Islands. There are a dozen or so main islands surrounded by dozens of smaller islands and most have more than a few anchorages. Point being, within the Virgin Islands, it's impossible to see everything in a week! Where you go greatly depends on how you filled out the "Charter Party Preference Form". This information tells the crew if your group likes solitude, a party scene, shopping or a mix of everything. Trust the crew to set up an itinerary based on the information you provide.

What is there to do?

Personally speaking, there is so, so much to see and do. Depending on how active you and your fellow charterers are will determine what boats we will suggest. Every boat is different regarding what they have on board.

On-Board (if it isn't available on board, it can be arranged and charged separately.)

- Snorkeling
- Fishing
- Exploration by Dinghy
- Float mats
- Kayaking
- Waterskiing
- Wakeboarding
- Windsurfing
- SCUBA Diving
- Board Games

Ashore

- Hiking
- Island Tours
- And so on...
- Beach Bars
- Resort Spa Visits
- Beach Combing
- Shopping

Want to SCUBA Dive?

Some yachts have "Dive Masters" which can take only certified divers for a dive. Other yachts have "Dive Instructors" who can offer the course and certify first-timers for diving while on-board. These boats usually have an inventory of SCUBA gear on-board. Some have unlimited diving, others charge per dive. Other boats that don't have Dive Masters, Instructors or the tanks and equipment on board use "Rendezvous Diving".

Rendezvous Diving is where Dive Instructors or Masters from an outside company will bring a smaller, personalized dive boat to your yacht to take you diving. They send as many Dive Masters & Instructors as your group needs and will return you to your yacht (even if your yacht has moved to a different anchorage) after a half day of diving. Rendezvous Dive Companies can offer the complete course for dive certifications for those that have never been diving, but it can be time consuming on your vacation. There is also the option of a "Resort Dive" (not to be confused with being at an actual "resort"). With a resort dive, a first time diver can dive one-on-one with an instructor after an abbreviated instructional. You will not be certified and cannot go off on your own but it's a chance to see if diving is for you.

The Best Way To Get Certified

A dive certification is broken down into two parts; 1) the bookwork and tests 2) the diving. It's recommended that if you want to get certified for diving while on vacation, that you do the bookwork and take the written tests at your local dive shop. Then, all that's left is the actual dive tests that you do while on vacation with an instructor. It makes for time well spent when you take care of the paperwork at home and save the diving for the islands!

What's the food and drink like?

The crew has a good idea of what goes over best with the guests keeping in mind that they have very limited kitchen space! The "Preference Sheet" will help further hone the chef's shopping list for the week. Premium requests may require a surcharge. If someone has special dietary requirements such as for vegetarians, or for health issues, this is also covered on the "Preference Sheet" and the crew will accommodate.

Charter yacht chef's love to compete with each other. You'll find the food one of the best aspects of the trip!

What do I need to bring?

Most yachts aren't designed with the kind of storage you have at home so packing light is better. Some formal resort restaurants require a sport coat but most places just like clean and casual. Pack shorts and t-shirts and a swimsuit and maybe a light, long sleeved shirt in the event you should sunburn. A sun hat is also a good idea.

Bringing your own snorkel gear is only necessary if you have a fondness for your own set but usually the yachts have snorkel gear on board. Dive equipment can be brought aboard but please notify us first so we can let the crew get prepared with cages and tie downs.

Most yachts have sunscreen on board. Normally you won't find tanning oils on board because of how it stains teak and upholstery. Soft luggage is the only way to go. Not only to compact down for storage but it's easier on the interior of the yacht. But please be careful, the wheels and hard plastic corners on even soft luggage can damage woodwork, cabin floors and decks.

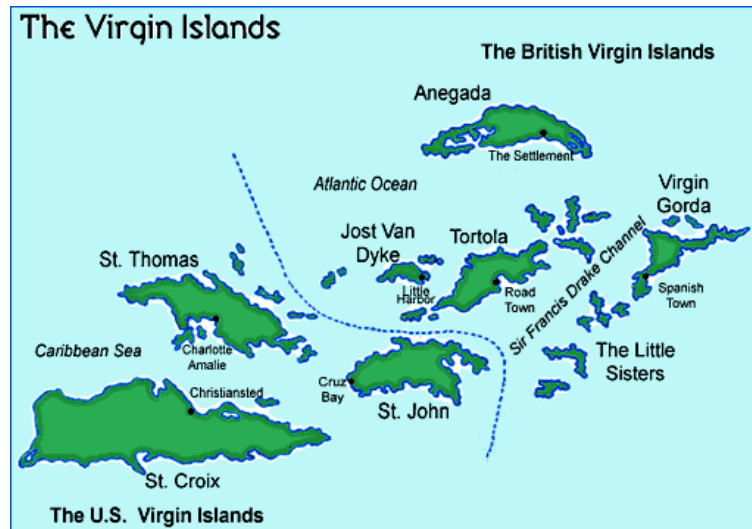
What about Theme Cruises or Specialized Cruises?

SCUBA charters, learn to sail charters, birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, multi-boat flotillas, corporate retreats, teambuilding, clothing optional, weddings and even wakes, are just a few of the themes we can put together.

Physical impairments can be accommodated; some yachts are better suited than others. We can recommend the best yacht for the situation.

Airfare & Trip Insurance

We recommend purchasing trip insurance after confirming your charter. Trip insurance is relatively cheap easily obtained. Call CSA Travel toll free (800) 873-9855 or visit them online at www.csatravelprotection.com. For airfare, it's best to check flight availability before you confirm your charter. Reserve your flights ASAP after confirming the charter. The fine folks at Bay Breeze can offer advice on airports, flights, ferry schedules, taxi's and all other logistics to get you to your yacht as promptly and smoothly as possible!



About the Virgin Islands

Located about 1100 miles south of Florida, the Virgin Islands enjoy consistently warm, sunny weather in the 80's, the average varying only about 5 degrees between summer and winter. The best trade winds blow usually from mid November thru early June but the sailing is typically top notch year round. Sunny and dry is the norm but it has been known to rain for a week at a time.

Known throughout the world for first rate sailing, sandy beaches, crystal clear waters, snorkeling & diving, this small chain of islands offer endless possibilities.

The islands are split between the US and the British governments. Crossing borders is not a problem with a passport or proper identification. You'll hardly notice a cultural difference between the islands but you will notice a slower, more carefree pace compared to most anywhere in mainland USA! The best thing you can do, immediately upon debarking the plane, is slow down! Walk slower and talk slower and relax a little. This may help how you're received by the locals! Locals like to be approached with a little cordial dialogue before asked of something. "Good afternoon, how's it going today?" will break the ice before you ask for a taxi or for directions.

Swimsuits are not appropriate attire around the towns or in restaurants or shops without a t-shirt or sarong or something to cover up a bit. Once out of town, most anything goes but if you venture into town for any length of time, it's best to cover up.

English is the main language but with the accents and dialects of the West Indians, it can seem like a different language! The US dollar is used in both the US and British Virgin Islands. Credit cards are becoming more widely accepted but there are still many beach bars, restaurants and local stores that aren't



Crewed Charter FAQ's

set up to take credit cards. Your local check won't cut it once on the island, but the captain and crews will accept a check for gratuity at the end of charter. Travelers Checks and Cash are the way to go!

St. Martin & "Down Island"

Many of the charter yachts will start and finish charters outside of the Virgin Islands. St. Martin, St. Vincent & the Grenedines, St. Lucia, etc are also very popular cruising grounds. We know the yachts and crews that are the most familiar with the "down-island" islands and will steer you in the right direction.

Why Use a Charter Broker?

Most importantly, because we've met the captains and crews, we've toured the yachts, we've lived and worked in the islands and can ensure you'll have the best vacation you've ever taken. We know ferry schedules, hotel locations and pick-up proximities to the airports and we can assist with flights and other travel arrangements.

All deposits and payments are held in trust accounts, not in the yacht owners accounts. A few weeks prior to the charter start date, some funds are released to the yacht to allow for provisioning. The balance is released on the charter start date. We only broker yachts registered with a local Charter League and a reputable "Clearinghouse". A Charter League will only allow yachts with licensed captains and active businesses. A Clearinghouse maintains trust accounts for many yachts registered with it, dispersing funds according to a schedule and will not allow any yachts that do not maintain a stellar charter reputation.

Taxes & Information Sources

USVI: no sales taxes apply, \$20 per night for mooring balls in the National Park system. No charge for day use of mooring balls in the Park system.

BVI: Cruising taxes (payable when you check in at Customs) \$4.00 per person per day in BVI waters. National Park Trust Permit for US flagged vessels \$50 per week up to 4 passenger, then \$5 for each additional passenger. For BVI flagged vessels, \$25 per week up to 4 passengers, then \$5 for each additional passenger. For those visiting "The Baths" in Virgin Gorda, \$3 for adults, \$2 for children.

USVI Department of Tourism

(800) 372-8784 / (340) 774-8784 / www.usvi.net

BVI Tourist Information

(800) 835-8530 / (284) 494-3134 / www.bviwelcome.com

US Virgin Island Hotel & Tourism Association

(340) 774-6835 / www.virgin-islands-hotels.com