



**Elite Sailing**  
training and adventure

[www.elitesailing.co.uk](http://www.elitesailing.co.uk)

# Helmsman Course

## Course Outline

This is a course for beginners in motor cruising. It includes theory on types of motor cruisers, systems, safety and seamanship, and rules of the road, but it is primarily a basic practical course on boat handling. You will learn about hull designs, engine operation and checks, safety equipment, boat preparation, boat handling at slow speed in confined spaces and at speed in open water, tying up alongside, securing to mooring buoys, anchoring, and man overboard recovery. You will be training with up to 4 other students/crew and of course the instructor. You will have plenty of opportunity to gain hands-on practice in control of the motor vessel. We will return to base at the end of the first day and you are free to spend the night at home before coming back early the following morning. If you wish you can arrange to sleep aboard the yacht. The courses are always great fun. Coffees, teas etc and lunch are provided each day. If you stay overnight dinner is taken ashore at individual expense.

## Format Options

- 2 Days aboard a motor yacht (0900 Day 1 to 1700 Day 2)

## Location

Chatham Marina, Kent

## Required Previous Experience or Knowledge

None required. This is a complete introductory course for beginners.

## Age

There is no minimum or maximum age limit.

## What's Included

The price includes tuition, all operating expenses, fuel, lunch on both days, breakfast on Day 2 and coffee/tea/water etc. There is a berth aboard if you wish. If you stay aboard on Day 1 dinner would be taken ashore at individual expense. Wet weather clothing hire (jackets and trousers) is available at £10 for the 2-days. There are no other essential extras but you may want to buy one or two books (see below) and bring a little pocket money for use if you go ashore.

## What will I need to bring?

The only specialist requirement is a sleeping bag (if you plan to stay aboard) and some suitable footwear – deck shoes (trainers will do) and in case of rain we recommend sea boots. Further information is provided in the suggested packing list – see below under Downloads.

## Books

There is no essential pre-course reading but we recommend the following books prior to or during the course:

- RYA Day Skipper Handbook (Motor) (about £15.99)
- Day Skipper for Power and Sail (Alison Noice) (about £20)

These are available on line from the RYA website or you can buy them in our reception at Chatham

## Downloads

- [Recommended Packing List](#)
- [Directions to Elite Sailing at Chatham Marina](#)

## Achievement (certificate awarded and ability after the course)

You will be take charge of a motor cruiser as a skipper within a defined area. However, the course will not give you knowledge and skill in navigation or of skippering a motor cruiser at sea.

## Next Steps

Take a Day Skipper Theory Course to learn about navigation, pilotage and seamanship, prior to taking a Day Skipper Practical course to become proficient as a motor cruiser skipper. We recommend that at this stage you also get your VHF/Short Range Certificate and take a First Aid Course.



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