



# RYA Day Skipper Practical Course (Sail)

## Course Outline

The day skipper practical course will consolidate your skills in deckwork and prepare you to be the skipper of a yacht and crew. You will learn how to handle a yacht under power and sail, including manoeuvres at sea and in harbour, berthing, anchoring and man overboard recovery. You will learn real practical navigational and pilotage skills which work at sea. You will learn about weather, tides, rules of the road and how to plan and execute a simple passage. Most of all we will help you to develop confidence in taking charge of a yacht. You will live aboard the boat with the instructor and 3 or 4 other students/crew. Each day will involve a mixture of short passages from port to port and intensive exercises. We will be in harbour or anchorage every night but you should also get a few hours experience of night sailing. The courses are always great fun. All meals are provided aboard but there will be opportunities to go ashore during some evenings.

## Format Options

- 5 Day Course (1800 Sunday to 1500 Friday or 1800 Tuesday to 1500 Sunday)
- 3 X 2-day Weekends (1800 Friday to 1500 Sunday)
- 1 X 2-day weekend and 1 X 3 day weekend (1800 Friday to 1500 Sunday or Monday)

## Previous Knowledge/Experience

[RYA Competent Crew Course](#) and [RYA Day Skipper Theory course](#) or equivalent knowledge or experience.

## Locations

5 day and weekend courses run from Chatham, Kent – less than 1 hour from central London. Sailing areas are the River Medway and the Thames Estuary. 5 Day courses take you as far as the Essex and Suffolk coasts or the North Kent coast – occasionally to France. Weekend courses run in the Rivers Medway and Swale and the near Thames Estuary within a range of about 30 Miles of Chatham.

## Age

No minimum or maximum age for the training course but the minimum age is 16 for issue of the certificate.

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

You will be able to skipper a yacht on short passages in familiar/sheltered waters by day. Most charter companies will accept your Day Skipper Course certificate as evidence of competence to charter a small yacht in sheltered waters.

You will also qualify for issue of an [International Certificate of Competence](#).

## What's Included

The price includes a berth on the yacht, all meals aboard from dinner on the first evening to lunch on the last day, tea, coffee etc and all operating expenses. Water from the boat's tanks is drinkable. Alcoholic drinks, bottled water or other soft drinks are not included but you are welcome to bring your own. Often people contribute to a 'kitty' to buy some wine with dinner. Wet weather clothing hire (jackets and trousers) is available at £10 per week or weekend. 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 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 Practical Course Notes (about £10.50)

RYA Day Skipper Handbook (about £15)

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](#)

## Next Steps

Build up experience – as both crew and skipper – by sailing as much as possible. We recommend that you get your [VHF/Short Range Certificate](#) and take an [RYA First Aid Course](#). Consider joining one of our Adventure Sailing Holidays which offer superb experience and further training in varied locations and conditions.

## Customer comments

*"I just wanted to say thank you for a cracking week's sailing. A really nice yacht, good instruction and all in all a great trip"*

**Alex Jones**

*"Great course and very helpful and informative. Good food, excellent instruction and overall very enjoyable"*

**Ken Fifield**

*"We came to Elite because of previously excellent experience. This was a great trip with top marks for instruction, food and a nice boat. Overall enjoyment 10 out of 10."*

**Krystal Coss**

*"A very enjoyable and educational week. We all had an excellent time. Thank you!"*

**Lauren Sheldon**

*"It was an excellent 5 day course. Nick took very good personal care with regards to everyone's needs concerning sailing. Great instruction and an excellent opportunity to learn from his experience"*

**George Erdos**



***Elite Sailing***