



Elite Sailing
training and adventure

RYA Day Skipper Practical (Motor Cruising)

Course Outline

The RYA Day Skipper Practical course aims to teach you pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling so that you can skipper a motor cruiser safely, by day, in tidal waters with which you are familiar.

You will learn from first principles how to prepare a boat to get under way, handle a yacht under power, including manoeuvres at sea and in harbour, berthing alongside, anchoring, securing to a mooring buoy, 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 motor cruiser.

You will spend all the time aboard the boat with the instructor and up to 3 other students/crew. Each day will involve practical hands-on training including some short passages from port to port and intensive exercises. On two of the nights we will return to base and you will be free to return home to sleep at night. However, you are welcome to stay aboard overnight if you wish. On one of the nights you will experience some night sailing and will probably stay overnight in a harbour or anchorage away from base. On this occasion you will have to stay aboard overnight. The courses are always great fun and you will get plenty of time hands-on in charge of the boat. Coffees, teas, lunches and breakfast as appropriate are provided aboard.

Format Options

- 4 – Day Course (0900 Day 1 to 1700 Day 4)
- 2 Weekends (0900 Sat to 1700 Sun)

Location

Chatham Marina, Kent

Required Previous Experience or Knowledge

- Practical: RYA Helmsman Certificate – or equivalent knowledge and experience.
- Theoretical: RYA Day Skipper Shorebased course or equivalent knowledge or experience.

Age

Minimum age for issue of a certificate is 16 years.

What's included

The price includes tuition, all operating expenses, fuel, lunch every day, breakfast when staying overnight and coffee/tea/water etc. There is a berth aboard if you wish. When you stay aboard overnight dinner would be taken ashore at individual expense. Wet weather clothing hire (jackets and trousers) is available at £10 per 2 or 4 day session. 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 when staying aboard overnight 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 able to skipper a motor 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 motor yacht in sheltered waters. You will also qualify for issue of an International Certificate of Competence. [Click here for more detail of the ICC.](#)

Next Steps

Build up experience – as both crew and skipper – by getting on the water as much as possible.

We recommend that at this stage you get your [VHF/Short Range Certificate](#) and take the following one-day courses: [First Aid course](#), [Diesel Engine Maintenance course](#), [Radar course](#).



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