

FAST TRACK YACHTMASTER XPRESS

Our Fast Track Yachtmaster program, also known as Yachtmaster Xpress, is a complete course that will give novices the knowledge, experience, and mileage to be able to take the RYA Yachtmaster Sail Offshore Exam. Our combination of RYA courses and sailing/mileage/skippering is truly comprehensive, training you no matter your sailing background and future interest.

The program includes at least 16 weeks of training and is an intensive period of learning both theory and practical sailing skills, combined with extensive cruising and Crossings experience.

We limit our student intake for the Yachtmaster "Xpress" program to maximum of 4 in each cohort, although occasionally we may add an additional student during some modules – which helps balance out skill sets and change up expectations.

RYA certificate courses included in the program:

- RYA Competent Crew
- RYA Day Skipper Theory (online or classroom, your choice)
- RYA Day Skipper Practical
- RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Theory (online or classroom, your choice)
- RYA Coastal Skipper Practical
- RYA SRC VHF Radio (online or classroom, your choice)
- RYA First Aid at Sea
- RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance
- RYA Radar
- RYA Powerboat Level 2 (optional)
- RYA Professional Practices & Responsibilities (optional)
- Yachtmaster Prep Week

And finally, the RYA Yachtmaster Exam!

The Instructors:

Our RYA instructors come from a variety of backgrounds and experience, speak several languages, span age and gender, and like to focus on different aspects of sailing. Along our inhouse staff, we also have specialist instructors that will join us during your program to deliver particular courses, giving you access to additional resources.

Mileage and Passages:

Once you have the required skills and theoretical knowledge, we will offer you the opportunity to participate on longer passages, like boat delivery and crossing to gain a good sailing experience and see different sailing conditions. You'll skipper passages of 60+ miles as well as work towards completing the required 2500nm of which 50% will be in tidal waters. To achieve this, we include a minimum of a 3-5 week trip.

The passage portion of the Yachtmaster Fast Track will be a combination of longer passages and coastal technical navigation. Increasing your exposure to different weather conditions, navigation challenges, improving and rounding your skills.

For that same reason we vary both the boats and instructors you sail with to give you access to the greatest set of experiences possible and increase the breadth of your training.

Schedule:

Most of our courses are 5 days living on board. This allows you to have a couple of days OFF in between. The courses start at 9:30 on the first day and then at 09:00 the following days, and you usually finish around 5pm – this is true for both classroom and practical courses. Except for night sails, obviously!

Time off:

You will have days off almost every week, which gives you the opportunity to rest and recuperate and explore the place around.

We encourage you to sail with other people on other boats as well (whom you may have met during a regatta for example) or to charter a yacht on your own with friends and family during one of the weeklong breaks built into the program. This will allow you the opportunity to take full charge and build up your confidence.

Accommodation:

We highly recommend to our students the option to have housing on shore - this means that at the end of every week, or while you are taking a theory/classroom course, or anytime we are back in the marina, you have your own place to go back to, where you can relax, do laundry, study, cook, and not be limited in space... We have found that living on board or in transient hostels for 16-18 weeks without a break can be an added challenge for many of our students.

There are a variety of options, and we will put you in touch with the other members of your course to see if you can find something together.

Sample program (this is an example, may vary depending on the year and starting point)

The 2024/2025 Yachtmaster Fast Track Xpress program will be starting in Pisa, Italy, and will include boat delivery to Canary Islands, then boat preparation for the Atlantic Crossing, the crossing itself, final courses and Yachtmaster Exam in Antigua, Caribbean.

August and September 2024 (6 weeks + extra courses)

- RYA Competent Crew
- RYA Day Skipper Theory Classroom (option to do it online)
- RYA Day Skipper practical
- RYA Diesel Engine course
- RYA Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Offshore Classroom (option to do it online)
- RYA Coastal Skipper practical
- RYA First Aid
- Skills week
- RYA SRC VHF Radio course

October 2024

Preparing the boat for departure (Pisa - Las Palmas)

3 weeks delivery

We will plan to let you do some skippering passages in between Pisa and Canaries as you will need it to qualify for Yachtmaster exam.

7-10 days to rest, prepare the boat and provision in Las Palmas.

November 2024

2/3 weeks (roughly) - Las Palmas - St. Lucia (if we are crossing with the ARC, otherwise we head to Antigua directly).

January 2025

Skills week (so you can have some practice in Antigua waters and know better the place where the exam will take part).

Yachtmaster Prep Week

2 days Yachtmaster Exam

PPR (online course)

During the time with us you can also take the online RYA Professional Practices & Responsibilities course (PPR) course, which is a requirement for the **Commercial Endorsement** of your Yachtmaster Offshore Certificate of Competence.

Please note that in the schedule provided, there are designated off days. These are times when you won't be on board, allowing you to relax, explore the islands, and focus on your studies.

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| <p>Included</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RYA Courses and sailing weeks per the sample schedule above ▪ On board accommodation during all practical courses and events ▪ Participation in Deliveries, Crossings. ▪ Yacht charter for the 2 days of examination. Each student is examined for 12 hours during this period. ▪ Highly experienced RYA Instructors. ▪ A minimum of three alternative yachts for experience of different manufacturer's designs and sailing performance ▪ RYA course notes, supplemental didactic materials, and certifications per course specifications ▪ Use of Safety kit/life jacket (although we recommend you have your own as you will be wearing it every single day for 16 weeks) ▪ Berthing fees on island or while on mileage trips ▪ Boat fuel, boat water, etc. ▪ Boat provisioning basics (coffee, tea, sugar, spices etc.) ▪ RYA Logbook ▪ Boat linens and towels provided weekly ▪ Sailing kit (SPF50 long sleeve logo shirt, etc. |
| <p>Not included</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examination fees for SRC and Yachtmaster exams as these to be paid directly to the RYA or through the examiner. ▪ Provisioning, both onshore and on board during the courses ▪ Meals ashore and travel expenses ▪ Accommodation between scheduled practical courses ▪ Laundry facilities ▪ Visas or other required personal travel documents when going to different countries/islands |

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions! We have an extensive joining instructions list to aid you in preparing to sail with us that we will be sending you upon booking.