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## Training for Mariners

### RYA Training - An Overview

#### The RYA

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) dates back to 1875. It is the United Kingdom's national body for all forms of boating, including dinghy and yacht racing, motor and sail cruising, RIBs and sports boats, powerboat racing, windsurfing, inland cruising and personal watercraft.

The RYA provides practical and theoretical training courses, from novice to expert level, in all boating disciplines. It also administers a number of statutory marine qualifications that are recognised by marine authorities around the world. There are RYA training centres in the UK, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Indonesia, Thailand and the USA. These deliver over 170,000 training courses annually. UK organizations that use RYA training include the Royal Navy, RNLI, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the MoD, the Police and the Fire Service.

#### RYA Training Centres

To become a RYA Recognised Training Centre, organizations must adhere to a strict set of guidelines, use only properly qualified Instructors and provide training vessels to documented standards. All Centres are inspected annually. Only Training Centres, not individual Instructors can issue RYA certificates.

Each centre is approved to teach a number of specific training elements. For instance, if not approved, a dinghy sailing school cannot teach shorebased navigation courses.

Corfu Sea School is approved to teach:

**Practical Sail Cruising** courses (for those wishing to sail yachts with accommodation, capable of making coastal and offshore passages).

**Practical Motor Cruising** courses (for those wishing to make coastal passages aboard motor boats with accommodation).

**Powerboat courses** (for Users of RIBs, sports boats and small launches)

Plus, all of the shorebased, theoretical courses that support these activities.

### **RYA Instructors**

RYA Instructors are not just experienced sailors. They have attended and passed rigorous training courses that not only fine tune their seafaring but analyze teaching methods and group dynamics. They are chosen for their ability to deliver clear, concise instruction in the often challenging condition found at sea. They are also experienced in maintaining the vessels used for teaching and managing student groups to ensure everyone gets the very best from their course.

### **RYA Courses**

Different types of RYA courses are delivered in different ways. Below are explanations of how the training areas offered by Corfu Sea School are provided:

#### **Practical Sail Cruising Courses**

Clients live aboard a sail cruising yacht which makes passages to and stays overnight in different ports. Accommodation on a school yacht is included in the course price. Please note, it is not possible to take these courses and return to a hotel each night. A very important part of what we teach is how to live aboard a cruising yacht.

#### **Practical Motor Cruising Courses**

All teaching is aboard a school motor boat which will make passages to local harbours and bays but will return to our marina base each night. You will be expected to find your own accommodation. Please note, you will be required to continue your training into the evening on a couple of days.

#### **Powerboat Courses**

These courses are a mixture of shorebased lectures, at our marina base, and short sessions on the water in one of the school's powerboats. You will need to provide your own accommodation.

#### **Shorebased Courses**

The format for these specialist one day courses differs depending on the subject. Most are classroom based, some, like Sea Survival, require time by the water. You will be advised as to what is required.



### **What will be expected of me?**

You will be expected to take your turn at every job on your training boat. RYA practical courses are about doing, not just studying theory. Boating, especially sailing, can also be quite physical. Whilst you do not need to be an athlete do be prepared for a bit of physical effort!

You will also be expected to pull your weight with domestic tasks such as cooking, washing up and cleaning the boat. It is all part of of boating.

Your Instructor knows the area intimately. He (or she) will decide where the boat goes based on weather conditions and training requirements. We have no fixed routes or itineraries. We try to visit as many places as possible.

For many people, a training course with us is their first formal learning experience for many years. Please bare this in mind. We all learn in different ways, do not be afraid to take notes and be prepared to revise in your free time. RYA courses build on the knowledge learnt in previous sessions. So, never assume that any part is unimportant as dismissing it may leave you struggling in a future session.

Our Sail Cruising Scheme courses require clients to live aboard a yacht. Whilst the yachts are fully equipped with toilets, showers and cooking facilities, they are basic compared to what we have in our homes. The best way to think of it is as camping on the water! Space is at a premium, even on the largest yacht, so it is essential that everyone helps keep the boat tidy, cleans up the galley and heads after use and are willing volunteers to help with preparing food.

Finally, we realise that for most people our courses are also a holiday. However, please remember that you are joining a training course. It is essential, to cover the syllabus, that we start at a reasonable time every morning.