



Charter World Yachting Holidays
- Australia's original yacht charter specialists

August 2011

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Dear Charter World,

My older brother and his wife recently returned from their first ever yacht charter on the new Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 in Turkey. They are not yachties at all (although they are water-skiers - or as I like to say 'petrol heads'). I initially recommended one week only but they both felt touring overland in Turkey would be tiring and they wanted to relax so booked for 2 weeks.

I got a text on day 6 to say thank God they were not disembarking the next day as they were having the holiday of a lifetime and after 2 weeks they did rate it their best holiday ever!

I hear this from clients a lot and I do not take it for granted as I know how well travelled you all generally are.

The holiday style just has so many ingredients; adventure and relaxation, sociability and privacy. Over our 25 years in the business, yacht chartering has never lost its great appeal - more people are just finding out about it.

I noted with interest Flight Centre's recent profit increase was attributed to the fact that Australians now consider an annual holiday a necessity and not a luxury. We are amongst the world's hardest working nations - a relaxing break is almost a necessity for most who work at a frantic pace. Airline departures attest to the fact that more and more Australians are continuing to travel while perhaps cutting back in other areas. 2012 looks set to be another great year to travel! I hope we can get you afloat and relaxed.



• ASIAN OPTIONS - Koh Chang & Koh Samui



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Several years ago Phuket was Asia's only chartering destination, however now there is a choice of five distinct regions. In Thailand; Phuket, Koh Samui and Koh Chang and in Malaysia; Langkawi (approx. 130 miles south of Phuket) or the Tioman Islands on the eastern side of the Malay Peninsula.

The effect of the peninsula on the weather is quite dramatic, although the distances are not great.

Best times for Phuket. Langkawi and Koh Chang are November to April and for Koh Samui and Tioman, June to September. So there are great options all year round.

In reality the temperature is 28-32 degrees around the clock and throughout the year. The off seasons are really about the rain and cloud cover.

In terms of hustle/bustle busy and touristy destinations, Phuket is by far the most developed, then Langkawi and Koh Samui. Koh Chang and Tioman are less developed. Of course in all areas (with the exception perhaps of the Tiomans) it is possible to eat ashore every night.

The Koh Chang archipelago is located high in the Gulf of Thailand relatively close to the Cambodian border. It's 52 islands combine a balmy tropical climate with the lovely temperament of the Thai people, deserted long white sandy palm tree lined beaches, secluded anchorages and a scattering of restaurants and resorts offering up the very best that the Thai cuisine has to offer.

If snorkelling is your thing you'll find living coral reef at most anchorages and an abundance of marine life and for a deeper look, diving can be arranged with local operators.

Beyond the abundant beaches, resorts and tropical rainforest walks, the area is of historical significance, situated in what was once named the Gulf of Siam and bordering Cambodia there remains influence of the Chinese traders of old and stories of piracy, the Japanese occupation during the second world war, the French occupation of Indochina or Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam combined.

Koh Samui is Thailand's self-styled Boutique Island, with it's 'coconut' feel, it offers an abundance of high end spas, restaurants and every imaginable luxury.

In spite of the fact that Samui is now almost entirely dedicated to the task of pampering the weary traveller, the value of the surrounding area as a yacht cruising ground remains a little known fact to the yacht chartering community.

The Koh Samui cruising area includes the islands of Koh Phangan, well known for its edgy full moon parties and the Island of Ko Tao, a world-renowned diving destination. Ang Thong Marine Park which rivals the beauty of Phang Nga Bay one of the must see highlights of the Phuket cruising area. The Ang Thong Marine Park is simply spectacular and is on the list of "must dos" amongst the yacht charter community with its limestone atolls and breathtaking geography it will not remain a secret for long - be there before the crowds.

[Click here](#) to visit our Asia page for more info.

• FRASER ISLAND - Quality Catamaran, Quality Cruising Ground



Outside of the Whitsundays and Sydney, there are a number of bareboat chartering regions mainly around Australia's east coast. While the cruising grounds themselves can be worthwhile, the fleets are often made up of refurbished ex charter yachts. Rarely is there a high quality vessel on offer which is why Fraser Island and the new Robertson Caine 46 are worth considering.

Many of you have experienced the Robertson Caine in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Caribbean and they do get very good reviews.

The design has always been excellent and in recent years the finish is now competitive with the major French Marques.

The largest sand island in the world, Fraser Island is home to crystal clear freshwater lakes, ancient rainforests, beautiful meandering creeks and miles of fabulous beaches. Water and sand are the most abundant elements on Fraser Island and this combination has created the towering rainforests and the mirror-surface lakes throughout the island.

In and along the tranquil waterways of the Great Sandy Strait nature abounds. Fish, dugong, turtles, dolphins, mangroves, sea grass pastures, wild flowers and bird life are plentiful.

Dotted along the mainland of the Great Sandy Strait lie the seaside townships of Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Tinnanbar, Poona, Tuan, Boonooroo and Maaroom. Providing a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere, the Great Sandy Strait offers holidaymakers a great place to 'take time out'.

The Robertson Caine is also very reasonably priced and over 25% less expensive than the same vessel in the Whitsundays.

Please [call us](#) for more information.

• CANAL BARGING - New Base in Venice



We had a number of charterers just return from barging in Italy's latest offering in the Venice Lagoon.

This was the first season that barges could access this area and all of our clients returned raving about this unique area.

Arriving in Venice by water besides the Basilica of St Mark and the Palace of the Doges was generally a highlight, although it was quite busy on the weekends.

The cruising grounds are however quite diverse with natural landscapes and picturesque villages such as Chioggia, a stunning town linked by bridges to the mainland.

The traditional fishing village of Pellestrina contrasts with the fashionable beach resort of Lido.

In Grado you can find some of the best beaches on the Adriatic.

Venice is of course arguably the world's most beautiful waterside city with a wealth of culture, art and history.

For those who think a villa in Tuscany is a must in Italy - I think that the Canal Cruising offers all of this and more.

• 2012 - THE YEAR TO GO

Our bookings for 2012 are already extremely strong as Australians are well underway with their planning for 2012.

The Australian dollar looks likely to hold or strengthen against a weakening Euro giving great buying power in Europe.

Airfares also appear to be holding levels similar to previous years although Early Bird rates are not due for release until early November.

Our bareboat operators are offering some tempting deals in a number of regions - and bareboating in particular is getting less expensive (and cheaper than a decade ago).

• LIFE ON A SUPER YACHT - India's Report

As we said in our last newsletter, our 22 year old niece India has set off to the Mediterranean after completing a Super Yacht Course in Sydney.

It took less than a week for India to find a job on a brand new Heeson 50 metre motor yacht, and after a month of final preparations in the shipyard in Holland, India survived a 132 hour delivery on her new home around to the Mediterranean.

We join her just after she arrived in the Mediterranean...

[Click here](#) to read India's update.

• SPECIAL OFFERS

Whitsundays

25% discount on high performance Jeanneau 44i (for charters during 01 Oct - 20 Dec).

New Caledonia

20% discount on charters up to 01 Oct 2011.

Tahiti

30% late booking discount on charters up to 24 Sep 2011.

Caribbean

25% late booking discount on charters up to 31 October 2011.

Seychelles, Madagascar & Maldives

20-30% last minute discount on Cabin Share charters in Sep, Oct & Nov 2011.

Thailand (Phuket base)

Up to 17 December 2011

Pay for 8 & get 10 nights

Pay for 11 & get 14 nights

Pay for 16 & get 21 nights

Pay for 22 & get 28 nights

20% all fleet discount valid for charters 17 Dec - 12 Feb and 10 March - 29 April 2012.

Malaysia (Langkawi base)

Up to 17 December 2011

Pay for 8 & get 10 nights

Pay for 11 & get 14 nights

Pay for 16 & get 21 nights

Pay for 22 & get 28 nights

Malaysia (Tioman base)

30% all fleet discount valid for charters up to 01 Oct 2011.

MEDITERRANEAN LAST MINUTE BOOKINGS

Corsica, Sicily, Cote d'Azur, Croatia, Greece & Turkey

20-30% discount on end of season last minute bookings and one-way offers as below.

Greece Delivery Discounts

Oceanis 473, 17-24 Sept (Samos/Athens) = 24% discount

Cyclades 43.3, 24 Sep - 01 Oct (Paros/Athens) = 24% discount

Cyclades 39 24 Sep - 01 Oct (Paros/Athens) = 25% discount

Cyclades 39.3, 10-22 Oct (Samos/Athens) = 32% discount
Oceanis 40, 11-22 Oct (Skiathos/Athens) = 29% discount
Oceanis 40, 15-22 Oct (Kos/Athens) = 37% discount
Lavezzi 40.6, 15-22 Oct (Athens/Athens) = 21% discount
Oceanis 43, 18-28 Oct (Rhodes/Athens) = 25% discount
Cyclades 50.5, 22-29 Oct (Kos/Athens) = 36% discount
Oceanis 40, 22-29 Oct (Corfu/Athens) = 37% discount

Good chartering!

Brook Felsenthal
and the Charter World Team