



Charter World *e-news*



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

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In this issue

BAREBOAT LATEST

- Greece
- Turkey

MARMARIS YACHT SHOW

PROVISIONING

Ecce Navigo



Dear Charter World,

I returned last month from a quick reconnaissance in Greece and Turkey. Speaking to many Base Managers, inspecting fleets and catching up with friends (some made almost 30 years ago) and like me still in this fantastic industry.

In the middle of the trip I spent a few days at the Marmaris Yacht Show meeting the Gulet crews and viewing these magnificently built and maintained vessels.

Bareboating remains the core of our business, we are all sailors and love the adventure of sailing independently, however our Crewed charters (which vary through big white boats, large crewed catamarans to our great value Gulets) have become an increasingly large part of what we do.

I remember a multiple bareboat charterer commenting after experiencing a Gulet holiday that the two cannot really be compared, although the scenery and time spent ashore arguably the same.

Sitting on the aft deck of a Gulet with a large group of family and friends, your personal Steward and Chef serving you is perhaps close to the ultimate indulgence holiday and surprisingly costs to experience this can be similar to a skippered bareboat.

We know you all love to holiday afloat. The options to experience this continue to expand and given we all agree that there is nothing better than messing around in boats we will continue to offer all types of vessels perhaps drawing the line at 4000 berth ships.

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Ñ BAREBOAT LATEST

- Greece
- Turkey



GREECE

I spent some time in Athens and Kos and would have to say that I did not notice any major differences from 2, 5 or 15 years ago. I say this as the constant bad press that Greece received most of last year had me questioning whether I should reconsider it for 2013 as there are many other Mediterranean options. I am sure that away from the tourist areas Greeks are doing it tough, but I do believe that the press here love to point a blacker picture than the reality.

On the waterfront the charter operators are reporting healthy forward bookings with an increase over last year when the Germans stayed away after the Greek government blamed Germany for their predicament.

There has been some softness in the French and Spanish markets but this has more then been replaced by the new and rapidly growing Russian market. Often all male groups sailing in large flotillas. These groups can put extra strain on the operators.

The Mediterranean season is relatively short at 4-5 months and same day Saturday turnarounds (covering normal wear and tear) can get over stressed when damages from collisions are added.

After nearly 30 years in the business we can tell quite quickly if the pre-maintenance, staffing, spare parts and budgets allow vessels to be properly turned around, especially later in the season.

This is why we often work with operators who also sell and service the marque of yacht that they also offer for charter - they know the boats better as well as all of the peculiar idiosyncrasies.

On the quay the restaurants are already in full swing and perhaps a noticeable change in the last year or two is in the attitude of these restaurateurs.

Turkey have for many years operated with a spruiker outside the restaurant while Greeks traditionally took a 'take it or leave it' attitude. Now the Greeks have realised it is a competitive world and service is the key to greater prosperity.

If I had any slight reservations about recommending Greece for 2013/2014 charters over other options these were well and truly put to rest. Everyone I spoke to is firmly convinced that Greece will never leave the Euro and it is business as usual, with laid back friendly people, stunning harbours and beautiful cruising waters being that usual.

TURKEY

A quick half hour ferry from Kos and I arrived in the noticeably different atmosphere of Bodrum in Turkey. Bodrum is the trendy town in south-west Turkey, perhaps a Port Douglas or Noosa. Upmarket restaurants line the quay and cater for the tourists as well as the Turkish nouveau rich who choose to holiday in the region.

Bodrum Marina is jam packed and many charter operators have moved out to nearby places such as Turgutreis, a half hour drive to the west. Turgutreis is a modern upmarket marina of 600 berths, day spas and luxury accommodation. It is also an entering and exit port for charters to Greece from nearby Kos.

For 2013 Greek flagged vessels are only allowed to visit Turkey for two days with an extension usually granted for an extra two days. Turkish flagged vessels however can cruise in Greece longer (up to two weeks). This is the opposite to what has previously operated but the situation between Greece and Turkey is always dynamic.

I believe the Dodecanese/Turkish combination is a sensational mix for those who have 2-3 weeks and the formalities to transit between these two are easily done if you use a local agent to facilitate the paperwork.

From Bodrum I drove east dropping into a few bays before Marmaris. Karacasögüt in the Gulf of Gokova is a small beautiful rustic bay of handmade jetties which we often recommend as a one-way pick-up and drop off point. Orhaniye likewise is a great place to avoid the hustle and bustle of the larger ports yet has small supermarkets and everything that you need to commence or end your charter.

I arrived at Marmaris for the annual Marmaris Yacht Show where I spent the next three days inspecting vessels and meeting crews (see article below).

After Marmaris I headed further down the coast to Gocek and Fethiye. Gocek has retained its charm although it was in the middle of Audi Race Week and quite busy when I arrived.

We have been sending clients to the [Efe Hotel](#) for many years and I spent a night in this beautiful family run pension.

Fethiye has always had a special feel to me and where I like to visit a Hamam and have a unique Turkish shave.

Turkey was quite busy from the land but I know that if I had the time to leave a dock, that in five minutes the heart rate would drop significantly. There are still lots of options to escape the crowds and experience the idyllic bays lost in time.

For me Turkey has really always been about the local people. Driving around Turkey I asked many locals for advice and directions, always obliging with a smile, always wanting to help and serve. For me that was the proof that nothing much had changed.

Ñ MARMARIS YACHT SHOW

Splendido



The 32nd annual Marmaris Yacht Show as always was held in mid-May with over 70 crewed vessels lining the old quay in Marmaris.

Turkey's shipyards have developed into a major builder of high-end luxury superyachts and the range included some of these through to sailing yachts, large catamarans to traditional gulets.

Prices ranged from Eu5,000 to Eu45,000 per week, so there were vessels on show to suit all budgets.

Most of the vessels are household names to us, having been in charter for a long time, or replacements of original vessels with the same name.

As a guide to a range I have outlines some brief details in each category:

Motor Yacht

Splendido

80' Ferretti, 4 cabins (8 guests), 4 crew
From \$550 per person/per night plus expenses
(based on 8 sharing)

Comments: We have booked this vessel before and I was fortunate to have a meal aboard with Ramazan and his highly professional crew. Notably the Chef, Suat, recently won MasterChef Turkey - Be assured I did not sit in judgement, just enjoyed one of the best meals I have experienced.

Great Value Gulet

La Vicomtesse

92' Gulet, 5 cabins (10 guests), 4 crew
From \$210 per person/per night plus expenses
(based on 10 sharing)

Comments: Great value gulet, European owned and operated with a caring and experienced crew. Lots of water toys including an RS sailing dinghy.

Luxury Gulet

Ecce Navigo

111' Gulet, 5 cabins (10 guests), 6 crew
From \$600 per person/per night plus expenses
(based on 10 sharing)

Comments: As good as it gets for me in a Gulet - not the largest or newest but exceptional crew and a character vessel that sails well and is presented in superb condition. Captain Bilol into his ninth season aboard and Chef Mehmet his eighth.

These are just a sample of vessels available. Please [contact us](#) for a comprehensive range.

PROVISIONING



We can all remember the effort of shopping and stowing provisions sometimes in extreme heat. In reality it is usually always stressful - have we got everything? Have we got enough? How long will the fresh food last? Where can we reprovision?

The only thing that tends to dull the stress and effort completely is the thought of casting off in a few hours - the holiday about to begin!

After school I did a Bachelor of Business in Hotel Management and Tourism working in resorts and hotels so have always been aware that good food and beverage are key to overall enjoyment on holiday.

Over the years we have become so familiar with the closest supermarkets to the bases, that I almost know which aisle to find the breadcrumbs in!

Whether it is importing cryovac meats to Tonga, knowing when the self-select lists for a slab of beef is too expensive compared to local shops or advising the approximate costs of provisions and restaurants, we have a vast amount of knowledge on dining options ashore.

The Mediterranean is always the easiest with opportunities to reprovision and restaurants plentiful.

The Pacific can be completely the opposite; usually we ask if there is a foodie in the crew to chat about the options.

In some areas I have to impress on the crew that if they cannot catch fish they must cater for up to 10 days and for 8 people this is 240 meals so no small task!

Certainly yacht refrigeration has come a long way since the early days of bareboating in terms of reliability and with reasonable planning there is plenty of space. We still hear the stories however of helicopter flights and light planes dropping extra grog in remote locations.

Wherever you choose to sail we are happy to provide the latest feedback and information on all of your provisioning options.

Good chartering!

Brook Felsenthal
and the Charter World Team