



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

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Dear Charterer,

We have recently just returned from exhibiting at our 29th Sydney Boat Show. The new venue at Glebe Island was a concern for the B.I.A with access by ferry and bus only - but for us as good as any recent show at Darling Harbour.

Catching up with returning charterers and those soon to depart face to face, is something Lynn and I always enjoy and punctuates the year for us.

In the early Boat Show years we spent most of our time explaining the bareboating concept (telling people how you do not need to cook aboard in Croatia etc.). These days it is easier as the holiday style is well understood. New yacht models, expected weather patterns, discussing the merits of one cruising area versus another is much more fun to talk about.

This season is winding down for us as documents are delivered to our September charterers and the Mediterranean season draws to a close.

It is a VCE year for our family and we made a commitment to stay closer to home to maximise the study support (cooking meals really!). Next year is a different story and I have a number of ideas - top of the list is Chesapeake Bay and perhaps Koh Samui. These two areas are getting increasing interest from those who have been to most areas, and want to experience something completely different - some brief information below.

RETURNING CHARTERERS SAY IT BEST

Lisa and Geoff Ronald & family recently returned from Tonga while Rob Jansen along with Roger Nicholson and crew returned from Greece. Both parties dropped us an email. I could not sell the bareboating in either destination any better.

RONALD PARTY

Just a quick email to say we have all arrived home safely after a truly memorable week of sailing in Tonga. Everything went as planned regarding the flights, hotel, and transfers etc. and the charter company was excellent as was the boat. It was very

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spacious and had all you needed. Plenty of sitting space, great music system if you took your own iPod, good fridges, comfy beds, nice linen and towels, great navigation systems and general overall condition. Bathrooms were perfectly adequate, small as you would expect and water pressure from shower a bit low, but hey just jump in the sea if you need to get wet.

The area we sailed through and around was absolutely superb. The water was not only warm but the most magnificent aqua blue I have ever seen and the visibility for snorkelling was up to 40 metres. No need to dive really. The fish and coral were all just there. We found wonderful secluded anchorages each evening in front of palm fringed little islands with white sand beaches. Would definitely recommend this holiday for people who love nature, a sense of adventure and happy to leave a few of the comforts of home in exchange for a real tropical castaway type holiday.

Thanks for all your help. Can't wait to plan the next one.

Lisa and Geoff Ronald and their very happy and grateful children

JANSEN/NICHOLSON PARTY

Hi Brook,

Many thanks for the update. Very informative for sure. We (Nicholson party) have just returned from an amazing Greek Island 21 day charter. We did the one way from Athens to Rhodes! Wow it was amazing with great weather and some interesting marina madness with crossed anchors. No drama though as I am a diver so had my own system with a rope and snorkel to the rescue many mornings. I could write a book about all the places we stayed and the surprises we encountered. I guess that's the joy of holidays and being free to travel on the water. We had our boxing Kangaroo flag as per photos which proved a hit with many passers-by even the crowds on ferries were happy to cheer the Ozi flag. All went smoothly with the pic up and drop off. Let me know if you would like a few more pics as I have heaps, Rob.

🇳🇵 CHARTERERS & AREAS IN FOCUS

Jones Party/New Caledonia

Greg & Melissa Jones love their bareboat holidays and after catching up at the recent Sydney Boat Show decided to book their fourth New Caledonia charter in 3 years.

New Caledonia is one of those places that clients do return to again and again as the charter area is so large and diverse; you can take a totally different route each time. It was commented that over the years I had more articles on New Caledonia than other great charter destinations, and I believe that it is a fair comment. I am still a huge fan of these cruising waters and often make the following comments when clients are looking to experience

something different.

1. ACCESSIBILITY

Qantas and Air Calin fly direct daily from Sydney (2.5 hours) and 3 days a week direct from Melbourne (3.5 hours) and Brisbane (2 hours). Flights approx. \$600 per person return.

2. NATURAL BEAUTY

- Cruising yachties say the Isle of Pines are one of the two best areas in the whole Pacific (massive claim).
- Japanese travel magazine rates beaches in the Isle of Pines number 1 and 6 in the world.
- World Heritage listing for reef with 80% of the world's coral types found here.

3. CULTURE

A piece of France in the Pacific. Sophisticated quality dining and provisioning options as well as a true South Pacific Melanesian cultural experience.

4. QUALITY FLEET

New fleet of Catana & Lagoon Catamarans as well as Jeanneau & Beneteau yachts. Extras such as watermaker, air-conditioning, generator and electric sail winches.

5. CRUISING AREAS

As stated it can be a true blue water experience with overnights to the Loyalty Islands and even Vanuatu, or a relaxed potter out on the reef islands only an hour or so from Noumea.

Three time monohull charterers the Jones's are this time trying a Lagoon 39 catamaran which leads into our article below.

TO CAT OR NOT TO CAT

The option of chartering a Monohull or Catamaran is increasingly a choice that charterers have to make, with both offerings available at almost every charter destination.

I have often said that I would take a Cat in tidal areas where you are a long way from shore and cooking aboard as in these circumstances the bigger the better. In non-tidal areas such as the Mediterranean the reasons to take a multihull are less compelling - although I would not go so far as to say don't take one. Weather is a factor and if at the start or end of a season the Cats offer better protection and warmth without having to go below. Time of year is another factor as Croatia in August would be a time that a Monohull has more flexibility and options.

Interestingly in the Mediterranean, Catamarans are only 5% of the bareboat offerings. Being attached to the shore nearly every night allows more space on a Monohull with the ability to step ashore. Most charterers eat ashore every night in the Mediterranean so a smaller vessel can suffice. One reason for the lack of Cats in busier Mediterranean areas is the cost of berthing for the operators and

charterers. Europeans (who are the bulk of charterers in this area) also seem to like sailing Monohulls.

Another catch phrase I find myself saying is that Cats are better at anchor, motoring and sailing downhill but if you want to enjoy the upwind sailing feel a Monohull cannot be beaten. There is no doubt that sailing a larger 45' plus yacht upwind is a pleasurable experience for many who mess around in much smaller boats.

Catamarans such as Catana's are trying to bridge the performance gap, but a Catamaran is of course a completely different feel.

Putting my sexist hat on, I think that if I did put it to a gender vote the girls would push the Cat button on more occasions. Experience shows that most that try Cats don't go back and this is perhaps why the Pacific, Whitsundays and Asia now offer more Catamarans than Monohulls. As always we are happy to discuss the pros and cons to help make the best choice.

▮ OTHER ASIAN OPTIONS

Koh Samui

Tioman

Koh Chang

While Phuket and Langkawi continue to increase in popularity for worldwide bareboaters, the eastern side of the Thai/Malay Peninsula offers some interesting alternatives with a seasonality better suited to Australians looking to escape our cooler winters. The best time to charter in Phuket and Langkawi is November to March and although Koh Samui and Tioman are in not too dissimilar latitudes, the effect of this approximate 80 mile peninsula is quite remarkable in stopping the south west monsoon making June though to September the best time to cruise here.

Koh Samui

Koh Samui is Thailand's self-styled boutique island with an abundance of high-end spas, restaurants and every imaginable luxury. You could be forgiven for thinking that Koh Samui is for party goers only, with the now world-famous full moon parties, however there are many secluded anchorages with small beachside restaurants, authentic fisherman's villages and pristine waters.

Ang Thang National Park is one the world's best with 42 islands comprising caves, inland lakes and tropical walks.

The annual Koh Samui Regatta in May is a laid back event that previous charterers have enjoyed, commenting how relaxed it was even compared to a King's Cup in Phuket.

Tioman

Tioman has often been classified as among the ten most beautiful islands in the world. Volcanic, covered by dense and varied vegetation, fine white sandy beaches and crystal waters. Tioman Sea Park Islands are for those looking for untouched natural beauty. There are no cars on Tioman with the locals using boats as they have for hundreds of years for fishing and trade.

Tekek Marina is the one and only marina based on Tioman surrounded by a few local shops and bars at night. Giant Leatherhead Turtles lay their eggs between June and August in Pilau Siba while Pilau Tinggi has the stunning 650 metre volcanic peaks.

Pilau Seri Buat has fantastic snorkelling and an interesting dinghy trip up into mangroves. Visit the impressive waterfalls and the fishing village in Maku which offers outstanding snorkelling.

Koh Chang

Koh Chang operates more closely to Phuket's seasons and comprises a Archipelago of over 50 islands offering beautiful protected bays and beaches. Previously known as the Gulf of Siam and bordering Cambodia the area has influences of Chinese traders, Japanese and French occupation.

There is ample opportunity to eat ashore at restaurants and resorts and world class rainforest walks beyond. The cruising area is relatively easy line of sight navigation with good GPS charts and a tidal range of less than 2 metres. Unlike Asia's tourism hotspots, Koh Chang offers a more relaxed authentic Thai experience with no ATM's on the islands and often limited English.

Ñ CHESAPEAKE BAY

We have had some returning clients raving about chartering in the U.S.A's Chesapeake Bay (and these charterers have been almost everywhere). I remember once reading an article on the world's top ten boating environments to retire; Chesapeake Bay came out at number one.

At about 200 miles long with thousands of miles of coastline it is the largest estuary in the United States (more than 150 rivers and streams to explore). Protected waters, great anchorages with no tide and good holding. Dotted with unique towns and villages, steeped in history it is surrounded by the states of Maryland and Virginia and just inland from the Atlantic on America's East Coast.

At a little over 3 hours' drive south of New York, Annapolis is the base of a number of charter operators. Half a day's sail can then have you in Middle America with quiet small towns where it is

said locals make visitors feel like old friends.

St Leonard's Creek is typical of the topography which is a mix of marshes, rolling hills both open and forested.

Numerous towns dot the shoreline including Solomon's which remain an active fishing village while St Michael's was the ship building centre for the 'Baltimore Clippers' (the fastest sailing vessels of their time), so a visit to the Maritime Museum is a must.

The sailing season runs from mid-April to mid-November with July being the warmest month so perfect for a winter escape or as an adjunct to a business or leisure trip to New York.

A wide range of vessels mostly configured in American style. Jeanneau 53's with 3 cabins (instead of 6 in the Mediterranean). It is possible to do charters from as little as 3 nights. Contact us for further details.

BEAT THE PRICE RISE

2015 prices are normally released over the month of September, so it is the last chance to secure 2015 charters at 2014 rates. I am predicting a 5-8% increase in rates for 2015.

The 2014 Mediterranean season was fully booked and operators are finding it harder to get new yachts into the fleets at the rate of years gone by. Yacht investment is down as Europeans tighten their purse strings and banks are also tightening finance requirements. This year Croatia actually saw a reduction in the number of bareboats on offer (approx. 5%) for the above reasons. Yet demand and bookings for this once niche holiday style are booming with "Joe Public" hiring a Skipper and enjoying these vessels as floating apartments. So there is now even more reason to book early.

We have also already booked an unprecedented number of charters for 2016 with Australians planning well ahead often for longer term charters. The other bonus is the longer the lead time, the longer you have to look forward to your next amazing adventure!

Good chartering!

Brook Felsenthal
and the Charter World Team