



## YACHTING ETIQUETTE

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Boating is an informal type of recreation and doesn't usually stand on ceremony, but there are some customs and courtesies that are pretty standard across the board.

### *Invited to be a guest on a boat?*

A courteous host will tell you what to bring, where and what time to arrive, when the boat plans to depart (you don't just step aboard moments before departure time) and what to expect. If you have questions about these kinds of things it is best to ask.

Do not wear black or leather soled shoes. Do not wear high heels. Best are deck shoes, but many flat, rubber soled shoes are fine on boats that allow shoes. If there is a rug in the boarding area use it no matter how clean you think your shoes are. If you have been walking on shells, sand, dirt, rocks, or mud take your shoes off. Be aware that some captains require everyone who comes aboard to remove their shoes.

Plan to bring a minimum of clothing as long as you have enough to keep warm or cool and dry and be able to take a dip, depending on the season; ask what you might need ashore if that is part of the plan. Pack in the smallest duffle bag you can get away with. Plan to keep your gear stowed in a place assigned by the skipper at all times. If it is more than a day trip you will probably want a book.

If you are bringing food or drinks, keep it simple, coordinate with the Galley Chef, and leave the large hard coolers at home.

If you are prone to motion sickness take medication at least an hour before you leave the dock and avoid drinking alcohol excessively the night before. Limit drinking aboard. If you get sick try to lean over the lee side. When you recover clean up after yourself.

Ask permission before boarding.

Make sure you know how to use the head before using it. If it is a manual pump it can clog easily from insufficient pumping and can ruin the trip for everybody. Be assiduous about putting only the smallest amount of toilet paper in the bowl for the same reason. Some boat owners don't let you put any paper in it.

Use fresh water sparingly.

Be cautious about getting sunscreen all over the boat. If you're slather up sit on a towel and wash or wipe your hands each time you apply sunscreen.

Do not throw anything overboard.

When using binoculars, cameras, or handbearing compasses use the neck strap to prevent loss overboard.

If using the VHF radio be sure you know radio courtesy.

Become familiar with all safety procedures at the outset of your voyage.

Don't smoke without clearing it with the skipper/owner/captain. If you have permission to smoke do it down wind for safety and the comfort of others.

Conserve electricity unless a generator is running.

Know that even in the middle of the ocean boats get dirty quickly. Be careful to avoid dropping crumbs, sticky drinks, hair, fuzz, etc. onto the cabin sole or the deck. Help keep the boat tidy and clean.

Pitch in whenever an extra hand is needed, but make sure you understand the task. Examples: docking, linehandling. Ask what you can do to help.

When preparing to drop the anchor wait for the skipper to order the drop.

Don't leave winch handles in the winch. Place them in their storage area.

If you see a line dragging in the water pull it in to prevent it getting tangled in the prop

If you are down in the cabin, before coming up ask those topside if they need anything. Offer to bring it up for them.

Ask your skipper about hanging out towels, swimsuits, etc. This is not allowed in some marinas and yacht clubs.

Follow skipper's instructions. If he/she asks you to put on a life jacket or harness or do anything else for safety reasons comply.

Don't argue with the Captain or First Mate!