

The Yachting Lifestyle - Is it for you?

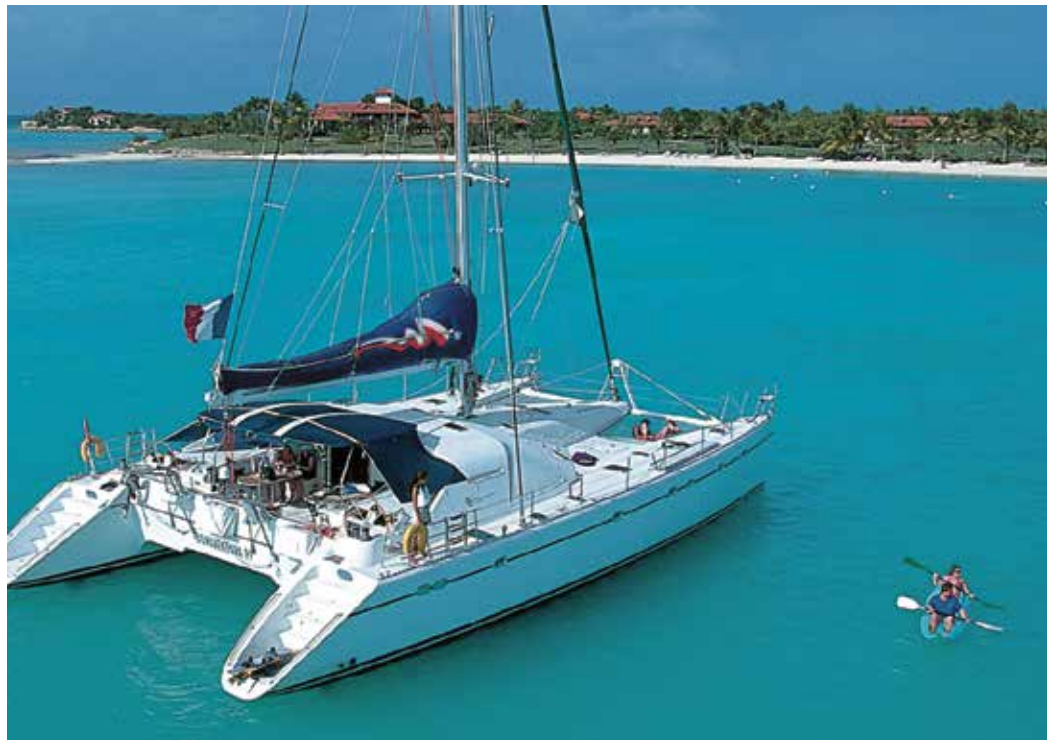
by Gregory Marlo



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a yacht at your disposal and be able to do things with it?

A Yacht - something you can live aboard, is comparable to a cottage on the water. Maybe you have been on a friend's boat and thought, I could do this, I would really like this. However just going out and buying the right boat, power or sail, getting the right options, price, age, size, make, maintenance requirements involves significant decisions. Difficult decisions to make without any experience. Fortunately there are options that would allow a would-be boat owner to transition into this lifestyle and consider ownership without having to make a substantial investment upfront or take unnecessary risks.

So let's say you can try it out for a day, week or the season. Charters are a good way to experience boating whether crewed or skipper yourself before you buy a boat. Learning to navigate through the waters of boat



operation will also require special licensing and training. Unlike smaller boats that just require a Pleasure Craft Operators Permit, sailing yachts require certification of an accredited program such as those administered by the Canadian Yachting Association. There are numerous programs that provide classroom and hands on instruction in order to get

your credentials, which are good for life and recognized in other parts of the world.

Membership for the season such as the YACHT Solutions Fractional Program is really timeshare on a boat. Yes, there are timeshare programs for boats! Programs like this promote all the benefits of yachting



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without any of the typical hassles of ownership including cleaning, routine maintenance and putting the boat in and out of the water seasonally. They offer a turn-key solution for the newcomer to this wonderful sport and lifestyle with well equipped, late model boats available to you at a fraction of ownership cost. In this type of program you can expect to get out boating a couple of times a week and even be able to go away for an entire week at a time.

Programs will vary in accessibility and benefits, so you have to see how it can work for you. Fractional programs on boats have been around for 12 plus years in Canada, the USA, Europe and Australia, Greater Toronto Area including Port Credit and Oakville. Instead of having to purchase a new boat for \$250,000 you can have all the advantages of using such a boat for less than \$6,000 per year, when just the typical cost of insurance and dockage is significantly more for an owner. And should you decide this is





anchored in a bay not far from the downtown core, where you can be totally disconnected from hustle and bustle on the nearby shore. So what are you waiting for... set sail today, leave the dock behind on a yachting adventure and journey that will enhance your life forever. See you on the water!

Gregory Marlo is a captain on sail and power boats while working in the yacht charter industry. He organizes group trips abroad to destinations in the Caribbean and Mediterranean year round and shares his passion for travel and being on the water.

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Specializing in luxury sailing and motor yacht charters in the Greater Toronto Area and at some of the best sailing destinations around the world, YACHT Solutions provides complete charter program for the yacht enthusiast or corporate client.

not for you, you can walk away from the program after a season. The real advantage to new boat operators is the ability to really see if this is the kind of lifestyle you desire long term.

Programs like YACHT Solutions introduces people to boating without the large investment of capital, as well as effectively providing all the necessary training. They operate in the GTA including Toronto, Port Credit and Oakville yacht clubs of marinas. When people adopt the yachting lifestyle and become interested in Yacht Ownership, there are programs with revenue that can add a whole new dimension to vacations and traveling abroad. More on this in an upcoming article.

Many boaters make this way to travel a lifelong passion and sometimes do most of their boating away from home. Destinations like the Mediterranean, South Pacific and Caribbean offer some of the best boating conditions and adventures. Companies like

Sunsail operate 40 plus marine bases around the world at ideal sailing locations, while operators like The Moorings offer crewed excursions on luxurious power and sailing boats around the world.

Because there is such a social element amongst boaters with this common interest, group travel is popular. The term "Flotilla" derived from the navy in the 1800's has also been adopted when groups of people traveling in multiple boats with a planned route and shared agenda. This is a great way for various experience levels to participate and learn from each other.

Getting into yachting lifestyle has never been easier and the vast amenities and options available on boats offer no compromise to a luxurious means. Once experienced, there are many advantages boaters appreciate having this unique perspective from the water looking back on land. A serene and peaceful tranquility awaits you

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