

RYA Day Skipper - Tidal

A course for aspiring skippers with some yachting experience and basic navigation and sailing skills.

Course Objective:	To teach pilotage, navigation, seamanship and boat handling up to the standard required to skipper a small cruising yacht safely by day in tidal waters with which the student is familiar
Pre-course Experience:	5 days, 100 miles, 4 night hours on board a sailing yacht
Assumed Knowledge:	Basic navigation and helmsmanship. It is recommended you have some knowledge of navigation either by previous experience or completing the Day Skipper shorebased course
Course Content:	Preparation for sea, deck work, navigation, pilotage, meteorology, rules of the road, maintenance and repair work, engines, victualling, emergency situations, yacht handling under power, yacht handling under sail, passage making, night cruising
Ability after course:	Skipper a small yacht in familiar waters by day
Minimum Duration:	5 days
Minimum Age:	16
Next Steps:	Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Theory / Coastal Skipper Practical / Milebuilding

Day Skipper - Tidal Syllabus

Preparation for Sea

- ★ Is able to prepare a yacht for sea, including engine checks, selection of sails, securing the stowage of all gear on deck and below

Deck Work

- ★ Can reef, shake out reefs and change sails to suit prevailing conditions
- ★ Can prepare an anchor, mooring warps and take charge on deck when mooring alongside, coming to a buoy, anchoring, weighing anchor and slipping from a buoy or alongside berth

Navigation

- ★ Is proficient in chartwork and routine navigational duties on passage including:
 - Tacking and plotting visual fixes
 - Use of electronic navigation equipment for position fixing
 - Use of way points
 - Working up DR and EP
 - Estimating tidal heights and tidal streams
 - Working out course to steer to allow for tidal steam, leeway and drift
 - Knowledge of IALA buoyage
 - Maintenance of navigational records
 - Use of echo sounder and lead line

Pilotage

- ★ Can prepare and execute a pilotage plan for entry into, or departure from, harbour
- ★ Understands the use of leading and clearing lines
- ★ Use of transits and soundings as aids to pilotage

Meteorology

- ★ Knows sources of forecast information
- ★ Can interpret shipping forecasts and use a barometer as a forecasting aid

Rule of the Road

- ★ Has a working knowledge of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea

Maintenance & Repair Work

- ★ Understands and is able to carry out maintenance tasks
- ★ Knows the properties and uses of common synthetic fibre ropes

Engines

- ★ Knows how to change fuel and water filters, pump impeller and to bleed the fuel system

Victualling

- ★ Understands how to victual a yacht

Emergency Situations

- ★ Is able to take correct action as skipper for recovery of man overboard
- ★ Understands distress flares and how to use a liferaft
- ★ Can operate a radiotelephone in an emergency and send a distress message
- ★ Understands how to secure a tow
- ★ Understands rescue procedures including helicopter rescue

Yacht Handling under Power

- ★ Can bring a boat safely to and from an alongside berth, mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide

Yacht Handling under Sail

- ★ Can bring a boat safely to and from a mooring buoy and anchor under various conditions of wind and tide
- ★ Can steer and trim sails effectively on all points of sailing

Passage Making

- ★ Can plan and make a coastal passage, taking account of relevant navigational hazards and limitations imposed by the type of boat and the strength of the crew

Night Cruising

- ★ Has experienced sail cruising at night, including leaving and entering harbour. Understands the special consideration for pilotage plans, keeping a lookout and identifying marks by night.