

Information Pack

How to find us

Southern Sailing School

All courses start at:

Southampton Water Activities Centre
Floating Bridge Road
Southampton
SO14 3FL
Telephone: 01489 575511

Get additional directions on [Multimap](#)



Road

Coming in by road from London via M3, follow the main signs for Southampton and enter the City on the A33. Follow "Old Town" and "Waterfront" signs. These will take you downtown until you pick up "Ocean Village" signs. At the traffic lights, do not turn into Ocean Village, but leave it to your right.

Floating Bridge Road is the second turning on your right (approx. 200yds) just before the main structure of the Itchen Bridge. If coming from the East or West on the M27, head for the Docks/Waterfront and Ocean Village.

There is ample parking within the Centre's grounds. We have a free car park with fencing and security lighting. **CAR PARKING IN THE CENTRE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

There is always a great deal of activity on Fridays and Sundays. Access to the site is very restricted, with young people, dinghies, minibuses, etc. moving about up until 5:30pm. **PLEASE TAKE GREAT CARE.**

Public Transport

This is by far the easiest way of travelling to us. If coming by train, head for Southampton Central Station, or by coach to Southampton Coach Station. We are only a short taxi ride away.

Air

Southampton airport is about 10 miles out from the city centre and has flights arriving from Aberdeen, Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds/Bradford, Manchester and Newcastle, as well as many European destinations. [Flybe](#) is the major carrier for the airport. Southampton Airport Parkway rail station is a 2 minute walk from the airport and has good train links to Southampton Central Station railways station.

Practical Courses Afloat

Check In

At Southern's reception in the Southampton Water Activities Centre (SWAC). There is normally adequate parking on site but we will need to retain your car keys while you are at sea in case you are blocking anyone in. In addition there are public car parks nearby.

Please arrive no later than 16:30 on Sunday afternoon (or 17:00 for Friday weekend courses). If you find you are running late please phone us to let us know (Tel: 01489 575511). We normally aim to sail the first evening so please make every effort to arrive on time.



What to expect

All our boats are well equipped and have excellent seagoing characteristics. However, they are first and foremost teaching boats that we fully expect to take the knocks and scuffs that are an inevitable consequence of our hands-on practical sailing style.

Your skipper will be interested to know what you personally expect from the course and to learn if there are any aspects of sailing that you want to give extra attention to.

Throughout the course you will be asked to take on various roles, such as passage planning and navigation. These are not tests, but rather are opportunities for you to challenge yourself, and the skipper will be on hand to give you as much (or as little) help as you want. Our prime aim is to boost your skills and confidence so that you get maximum enjoyment out of your sailing activities.



Be assured of the best instruction at all times. We are sure you will enjoy your time with Southern, as thousands have before you. We certainly will work hard towards that aim. Should you have any queries whatsoever, please ask. Everyone at Southern is here to help.

Clothing

It can get cold at night, even in summer, so bring warm clothes i.e thin thermal layers, long-johns, fleece, woolly hat, gloves, toiletries, towel, wellies, deck shoes/plimsolls, and only use collapsible bags as there is no room for rigid suitcases. Clothes that dry quickly are preferable to jeans etc. Pack sun block and Lipsyl to prevent skin soreness. Plastic bags are useful to keep your gear dry. You may find it useful if you have your own torch, penknife and notepad. Come prepared for the vagaries of the British climate.

Wet weather gear and sleeping bags

Good quality foul weather clothing is essential, and if you do not have your own, the school has jackets and trousers that you are welcome to borrow (free of charge) along with sleeping bags and liners. We also provide pillows and freshly laundered pillow cases. We highly recommend that you bring sailing wellies/boots with you.

Lifejackets

The boats are of course fully equipped with safety gear and lifejackets, but please bring your own if you prefer.

Safety

Personal safety is all important, and on a boat we all need to look out for others as well as ourselves. We take safety very importantly and your skipper will draw your attention to the various hazards on board, and show you how to move around (and on and off) the boat in the safest manner. The environment you are now entering is completely different to the one you know ashore; many find it completely alien. Safe thinking and practices are a must in order to get the maximum enjoyment out of your time afloat.

Food and drink

The course fee covers all meals and soft drinks on board, however some crews choose to eat ashore on the final evening of their course. If you have any specific dietary requirements, please be sure to let us know when you make your booking.

Cooking and the preparation of food on board is an essential part of seamanship and everyone is expected to do their share. A boat galley is a challenging culinary environment but your skipper will offer tips and to lend a hand.

For obvious reasons of safety and to ensure that everyone gets maximum benefit from the course, there is a school rule that no alcohol is consumed on board during the day. However, once the boat is safely moored for the evening, please feel free to relax and enjoy a glass or two – you will have earned it!

Feel free to bring along your own favourite snacks and tipples.

Maintenance and Cleaning

It is essential that the boats are kept clean and tidy, or life afloat becomes chaotic. Running repairs, whippings, simple splices, minor sail repairs and basic engine maintenance are part and parcel of boating and will be covered during the sessions.

On the final day everyone gets involved in the cleaning of the boat so that it is ready for the next crew to takeover.

Cross-Channel 7 day courses

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) and Passports

if you are booked on a cross-Channel 7 day course, please remember to pack both. It saves a lot of problems. The EHIC provides emergency treatment within EC Countries with the minimum of fuss. An application form for the EHIC can be obtained from the Post Office or you can apply for this online by clicking [here](#)

Special Instructions for Coastal Skipper/Yachtmaster Practical Preparation Course and Exam Candidates

Although we cannot turn you into a Coastal Skipper or Yachtmaster in 5 days, the course will ensure you are aware of scenarios the Examiner will present you with, and your Instructor will prepare you to a very high degree. Should it transpire during the progress of the course that you are not ready for the exam, you can come back at a future date to be examined, at no extra cost, if you have booked for 7 days initially.

Before your examination, it is advisable to move your vehicle from the centre car park to another parking area, to avoid them being blocked in by our weekend customers.

The examiner will normally join the boat on the Friday afternoon. You need to have your logbook, certificates, passport photo and application form filled in so that you can give these to the examiner, along with a cheque for the exam fee. Exam application forms are available from us on the day of the exam. The exam will normally finish on the Saturday evening and you are welcome to stay overnight on the boat before handing it back, cleaned out, to Southern by 10:30 on the Sunday morning.

VHF/SRC and First Aid certificates

If you are a candidate for Yachtmaster Coastal or Yachtmaster Offshore exams you must be able to provide your VHF and First Aid Certificates. The school runs both VHF and First Aid single day courses .

Shorebased Courses

courses start at:

Southampton Water Activities Centre
Floating Bridge Road
Southampton
SO14 3FL
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These start at 0900 hours Mondays or Saturdays and take place in our classrooms at the Southampton Water Activities Centre.

Bed and breakfast accommodation is located close to the Centre. You will find friendly and considerate staff, who are now very used to our customers' requirements. There are facilities for study in the evening

Local Accommodation

We recommend:-

Mayfair Guest House, 11 Landguard Road, Shirley, Southampton, SO15 5DL
Telephone 023 8022 9861. www.themayfairguesthouse.co.uk

However, please feel free to make your own accommodation arrangements if you wish.

