

GUIDE TO CHARTERING ROYAL AIR FORCE SAILING ASSOCIATION YACHTS

RAFSA currently has two Hallberg-Rassy 342 yachts. Atlas is berthed in Plymouth, Devon and Sir Arthur is in Gosport, Portsmouth. They are fully equipped with safety and foul weather equipment for up to 6 crew.

Who Can Charter?

To charter a yacht you must be a member of RAFSA or another Service sailing association. To join RAFSA go to the membership section of the website.

<https://www.rafsailing.co.uk/product/rafsa-membership/>

When Can You charter?

The season usually runs from the first week of March to the last week of October. Charters run from Monday to noon Sunday. However, you may take over the yacht after noon on the day preceding your charter (ie noon Sunday). Sometimes, during the quieter part of the season, shorter or weekend charters are allowed by arrangement with the charter manager.

Crew Requirements

The skipper must hold at least a Day Skipper ticket and the mate must be at least Competent Crew. Copies of certificates will need to be supplied. In addition, there must be at least one further crew member, ie a minimum of a 3-person crew.

Orders and Procedures

The yachts must be operated in accordance with the orders and procedures listed on the website. In particular:

Standard Operating Procedures

Boat Charter Agreement

The Safety Management Plan

<https://www.rafsailing.co.uk/offshore/offshore-charter/>

Costs and Payments

The weekly charter costs for 2024 are:

Low Season - £900

Mid-Season - £1,000

High Season - £1,100

A £100 deposit is payable on booking. This is refundable provided the booking has been cancelled within 30 days.

The charter balance is payable no later than 30 days before the first day of the charter.

The Booking Process

Assuming you are a RAFSA member go to the website, login and go to the Offshore tab, Charter.

<https://www.rafsailing.co.uk/offshore/offshore-charter/>

Here you will see Offshore Charter Booking Calendar. Scroll through the calendar to the period of interest and see if your yacht and required charter week are available (in green). Click on the week and the next window will give you details of the total cost and the requirement for £100 deposit. If you are happy with the information click on the Book Now button which will take you through to the payment page.

Once the £100 deposit has been paid you will get an acknowledge from the Charter Manager listing the booking and balance required and when payable. It will also include the Boat Charter Agreement which you must acknowledge and agree by email. Any further information required to proceed with the charter such as copies of qualifications and crew names will also be listed. If these qualifications have been supplied previously there is no need to send them again.

At least 30 days before the first day of the proposed charter you must pay the balance. This can be done via the website. Go to Home, Our Products, Charter Deposits & Balance payments.

<https://www.rafsailing.co.uk/product-category/payment/>

Once the balance has been paid and the Charter Manager has logged qualifications and the crew list, he will dispatch Joining Instructions. These give directions to the marina, the location of the yacht and arrival and departure procedures. At the same time an authorisation will be sent to the marina staff to release the keys to anyone on the crew list.

Expedition and Adventurous Training

The yachts are available for unit expeds but the full charter fee must be paid within 30 days of making the booking. This is necessary as there have been many late cancellations of unit bookings.

For further information or advice contact the chartermanager@hotmail.co.uk

Harry Britten-Austin

RAFSA(O) Charter Manager

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