



Pre-Charter Sailboat Check List

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Below items are listed in order and can be safely run through within 30 minutes. Send us an email if you have changes that would benefit other sailors.

You bring	Checked	Head	Checked
Sailing resume		Test - open valve, pump wet, flush, pump dry, close valve, and verify no leaks	
Sailing gloves		Verify proper toilet paper is available (biodegradable)	
Flashlight (red light if sailing by night)			
Hand held compass		Paperwork	
Watch		Observe all necessary charts and cruising guides	
Chartbook (unless provided)		Observe boat documentation and cruising permits	
Printed float plan to give to charter company		If you are changing countries during your cruise, to avoid rewriting several lists, have crew list copies ready	
Food and provisions – Load last		Emergency charter company phone numbers recorded and stored with papers _____	
Weather forecast			
		Cockpit	
Charter Company provides		PFDs	
Radio channel for charter company		Check water tanks by filling them yourself	
Weather channel		Review windless anchor - test down 6-8 feet and up. (may require another crew member at bow)	
Severe weather actions		Location of spare anchor	
Capacity of fuel _____, water _____, and septic _____		Check cockpit compass	
Anchor weight ____, rode ____, and line length _____		Rotate wheel all the way to port and starboard; it should move freely	
List of special events in the area – check www.PortsByBoat.com		Start the main engine and make sure water is being discharged out the back	
		Test transmission, forward and backward, with the charter crew present	
Exterior			
Examine hull exterior above water line for obvious damage		Running Rigging	
Walk around the deck and observe any damage		Unfurl genoa 6 ft and return to check that it moves freely	
		Review reefing specifics	
Standing Rigging		Hoist the main a few feet to check that it moves freely	
Forestay taut		Identify location of emergency tiller	
Spreaders taut		Identify location of tool box	
Backstay taut			
Mast and gooseneck taut		Dinghy	
		Start the outboard and check that it spits water.	
Galley		Observe properly inflation and identify air pump location	
Refrigeration is in working order and review operation procedures. If it is a cold plate system, the plates should be covered with a thin layer of soft ice.		Check the gasoline level	
Identify windless anchor reset switch		Identify paddles	
Identify location and operation of all seacocks		Identify bailing bucket	
Observe and manually activate bilge pump(s)			
Identify location of flares and fire extinguishers			
Test stove – If propane system, check all three valves, 1) tank, 2) safety power switch, & 3) stove			
Review water tanks switching procedure			
Obtain filler cap keys for Cockpit check			
Verify engine oil level and stick location, and cooling water tank & cap			
Review battery procedure; 1 for odd # days and 2 for even, or alternate by week? ___ Use both to start engine? Y/N ___			
Review and test the VHF radio and other electronics			
Review electrical switch board: running lights, beaming light, refrigerator operation, propane switch, and minimum use power for mooring.			