



5 TIPS TO SUCCESSFULLY EMBARK ON YOUR SAILING JOURNEY

Picturing yourself floating on a sailboat in an idyllic blue lagoon, water lapping the shore and the sun lapping your skin as you hold a cold, fruity beverage in your hand? This ultimate freedom, cares blown to the wind is easily within reach! As you plan your adventure on a sailboat, think about these 5

tips. Look for opportunities now to practice these five philosophies in your daily life. Sailing is amazing, but can be challenging, especially for the unprepared sailor. It's best to have realistic expectations of your time on the water; knowing this in advance will allow many more stress-free days!



APPETITE FOR KNOWLEDGE

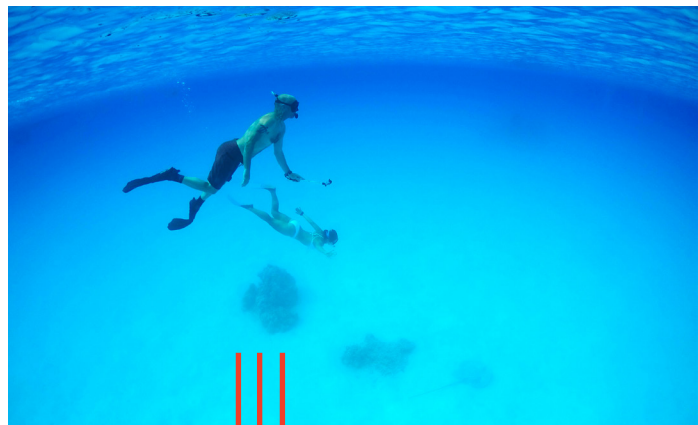
As a sailor, we'll always be students. As an instructor, I make it my goal to learn something new every time I go out on the water. You may have to look for it, but a situation for learning will present itself. Be it weather, vessel behavior, vessel mechanics, or your physical cruising grounds, something will be different that will cause you to go "huh". Be ready- and able to take in the new information. It is our duty to be as prepared as possible so that we may absorb the lesson in safety and with grace.

We do not like to be party to urgent, unscheduled learning experiences. The prepared sailor is the one who can most graciously handle those situations and subsequently make the necessary changes to prevent them entirely. Better yet, be an active learner and search for the lessons! Read books on how to perfect sail trim, or how to prepare your vessel for heavy weather, or on diesel maintenance to learn what that clanking sound coming from the engine may be.

ROLL WITH IT

ROLL WITH IT Reiterating above - as much as we can prepare, rest assured, something will not go as planned. Usually it's weather, but will also include vessel troubles. Take a deep breath, know that you can handle it and you'll make it out on the other side! You made a plan with secondary and tertiary alternatives. You know that the alternatives won't be as good because, by definition, they are not your first choice. But that's okay! You're still on the water and floating - it's a good day! Re-frame your situation and adjust your expectations. Maybe you aren't going beach-combing anymore since the surf is crashing on that beach. Or snorkeling because the visibility is now zero with all the wind. Maybe it's time to change the belt on the engine that you've been putting off for the last week. Or maybe it's just time to read a book. Be willing to embrace the change that's thrown your way and you'll avoid the gray hair for a while longer.





SENSE OF ADVENTURE

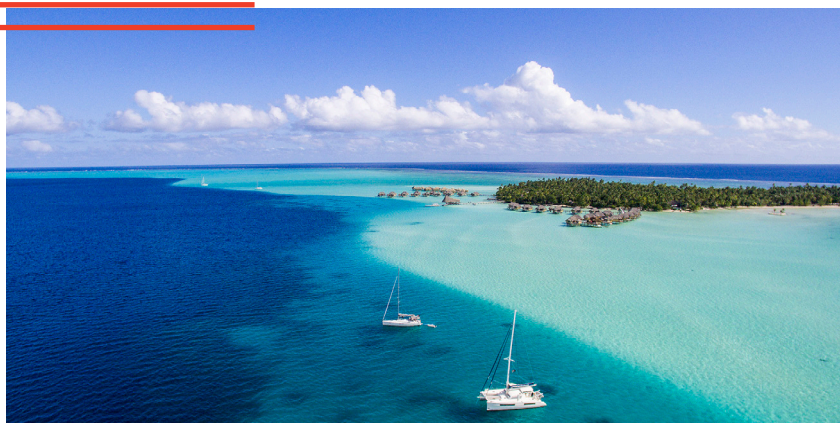
Synonymous (Axiomatic? Perhaps.) with being able to roll with it - the journey IS the point! Yes, the destination is pretty damn spectacular too. But when you're telling the story to your friends back home you don't lead with what restaurants you ate at...You lead with "MATE - there was this 40-footer cruiser that miscalculated the tides and winds at anchor that had their keel stuck in the sand and was getting pushed up on to the beach and the only reason they weren't already high-and-dry on the beach is because they luckily still had their anchor out and

were like 3000 rpms in forward! We went over in the dinghy (thankfully we had 20hp on the back) to try to help. We tried putting a second anchor forward so they could pull themselves out - that didn't work. Then, we tried a hip tie to add 20 hp thrust forward - and that didn't work. Then we tried pulling their halyard 90 degrees off to the side..." You get the point. Yeah, Foxy's is amazing: getting asked "wet or dry, mon?" when you order a coke is hilarious. But you will always love telling the story of how you helped the boat stuck in the precarious situation.



BUILD **EXPERIENCE**

The more you do it, the better, and more comfortable with it, you get. Yes, this is a use-it-or-lose-it skill. You've heard it before: we are the sum of our experiences. Still true here. And every experience matters: from the Laser regattas on the lake, to the Shields races on Wednesdays, to the week-long cruises with your family in the islands. Each one should be presenting a different aspect of the sport that (see tip #1) teaches us something and keeps our skill alive. No, you're not going to be the world's greatest after a season or two of racing and cruising, but you'll be better than your previous self.



JUST DO IT

No better time than now to find a boat and go sailing! In my old career, we used to like to say that eventually, you just have to “shoot the engineer”. You can read and study forever, but sooner or later you just have to go. Better to be out there doing it - there’s no greater learning tool than experience! Of course, we’re happy to help you gain that experience in a safe, productive, efficient manner via a learning charter. Give us a ring, shoot an email and we’ll chat about how you can work towards your sailing independence.





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