

Motor Cruising Courses – Helmsman & Dayskipper

The Motor Cruising Syllabus consists of the following courses/qualifications:

- Motor Cruising Helmsman
- Dayskipper Practical
- Coastal Skipper
- Yachtmaster (Offshore)

This series of courses is aimed at those with cruising craft (displacement or planing) who are keen to further their knowledge and capability on larger craft. Typically we suggest that if your vessel is over about 10m and/or has inboard twin engines then the Motor Cruising Scheme is preferable to the National Powerboat Scheme. Inevitably there is an area of overlap and we suggest calling us to discuss if you have a craft in the 30 – 33ft range as our recommendation will be based on a variety of factors.

Motor Cruising Helmsman

This is an excellent two day introduction to Motor Cruising. The course assumes no knowledge (although some prior experience is always helpful) and aims to spend the majority of the time on the water practising boat handling. The subjects we cover include:

- Types of craft
- Engines and drives
- Engine operation and maintenance
- Safety and seamanship
- Rules of the road
- Boat preparation
- Boat handling
- Securing to a buoy
- Berthing alongside
- Man Overboard

The course works very well for those keen to give Motor Cruising a try and for those keen to get started with training. You can either train with us on one of our craft or we can spend time with you on your vessel.

Duration: 2 days Experience required: None

Dayskipper Practical

Over the four days of this course there is the time to really focus on both boat handling and all aspects of planning and executing passages. Time is spent looking at charts and tides, passage planning, pilotage and subjects such as Course to Steer. All aspects of using GPS and chartplotters are covered too and we also introduce the basics of radar. There is plenty of time to address in detail safety from the equipment carried to how to deal with a man overboard situation. We also go out at night and execute a night passage., The subjects we cover include:

- Safety & preparation for sea
- Boat handling including leaving & coming alongside
- Navigation including use of electronic navigation techniques
- Pilotage & passage planning
- Rules of the road
- Engines
- Emergency situations including man overboard
- Night cruising
- Meteorology

You can either train with us on one of our craft or we can spend time with you on your vessel.

Duration: Usually 4 days (Alternatively 5 days if combined with Helmsman - 6 days if completed over 3 x 2 day periods.)

Duration:	See above	Experience required:	None, but possessing Dayskipper Theory will increase the time available for practical work.
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Don't have your own vessel?

At PTUK we have our own Motor Cruiser available for training those without access to a craft or for charter for Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster examinations.

'Top Hat' is a Botnia Targa with twin Volvo KAD44s and is revered as one of the most practical and sea worthy craft available. In service with many agencies around the world its most notable customer in the UK has to be the Marine Police on the Thames who run 7 of them, if you boat in Poole then you will also have seen the Harbour Authorities with a smaller version than ours (Viligent). Top Hat is Coded to Cat 2 ('60 miles from a Safe Haven') and is fitted with all of the relevant electronics including Radar and Autopilot.

Recommended reading

RYA Motor Cruising Handbook (G24) – Simon Jinks

A very useful publication written to accompany the Motor Cruising Scheme by this respected author/journalist and now head of the RYA Motor Cruising Scheme. £11.55 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.



RYA Motor Cruising Logbook (G18)

The Logbook to accompany the scheme. Essential reading for anyone training under the RYA Motor Cruising Syllabus. £4.75 from PTUK or the RYA.

RYA Powerboat Handbook (G13) – Paul Glatzel

A very useful book which whilst aimed at the Powerboat Scheme has much of relevance to the Motor Cruising scheme. Written in a different style to Simon's book (by PTUK's very own Paul Glatzel) this is worth a read too (but then we would say that wouldn't we!). £13.65 from PTUK, the RYA or Amazon.

