

About your charter and what to expect on the day....

How to Find Us – our berth is located adjacent to the Salthouse House Harbour Hotel and Isaacs Bar. To arrive by car you will need to drive down Coprolite Street and then at the end turn left and wait outside the Neptune Marina office building. From there we will meet up. If arriving by foot then please make your way towards our berth along the quayside. Our post code is IP4 1AX. Please find attached location map on page two of this document.

Weather - As with any outside event and particularly when it is on the water the weather naturally is integral to the enjoyment of the occasion. As a result, and we firmly believe in the safety and enjoyment of all concerned, we will not sail if the weather is forecast to be severe. By severe we mean winds 20kts or over or heavy prolonged rain/snow/hail. Ultimately it is the decision of the skipper on the day but it will be with full consultation with the guests. Should we decide to postpone we will re-schedule at a time to suit yourselves.

Clothing – What to wear. It is always cooler on the water however we have had some days when it has been blisteringly hot. So the tip is to come prepared for all eventualities. You may have wondered why you see all these ‘yachties’ with their huge kit bag – well they have a spare set of clothing with them! In the colder months it is better to wear more than two layers as this will keep you warmer than one really heavy jacket. Remember to wear soft soled shoes (without black soles – these can mark the deck) that will aid grip even when it is wet. We can supply wet weather gear if required but we do need advance warning. Also remember the sun screen – the water reflects the sun and can burn without you realising at the time. Also some sun glasses – even dull days can tire the eyes and they also help prevent sore eyes from the wind. We keep a supply of hand gloves on board to protect your hands from the ropes and caps to protect your head.

Food and Drink - We always supply soft drinks and this includes bottled mineral water, teas, coffee or even hot chocolate! It is essential whilst afloat, even when wearing warm clothing in the cooler months, to drink plenty of water. We do not, of course, supply alcoholic beverages though you are welcome to bring your own onboard though we expect all members of the party to behave responsibly and with due regard to the environment. Please also let us know if there are any special dietary or medical needs before the day.

Itinerary – Depending upon the time limits there is only a finite number of places we can sail. In a half day expect to reach Harwich harbour, maybe the Stour and obviously the Orwell. It can take up to an hour to negotiate the lock in the Ipswich wet dock so often we will try to choose a date that allows us “free flow” (when the lock is open at both ends) for at least one part of the journey. In a day we can extend this to sailing along the coast either in the direction of Felixstowe or Walton-on-the-Naze. For a day and an evening we can make the Walton backwaters for a picnic whilst anchored off with swimming to the beach or using the rib with outboard. For an evening why not sail to the Pier at Harwich, have a meal and then we can take you back to Ipswich. “For Sail Taster” days we will conduct tuition during the day and will encourage all on board to take part in every aspect of sailing the yacht.

Safety – The vessel is naturally subject to the forces of the water and wind and as such there is an element of risk whilst we are at sea. We always conduct a safety briefing before any cruise or trip and issue Life jackets with harnesses which are to be worn at all times whilst above deck. Remember though that safety of passengers and crew is paramount and we take our responsibility seriously. The skipper is always experienced and at least qualified to “Yachtmaster” with commercial endorsement. The yacht is also MCA coded category 2 with full life raft and other safety features.

We hope you have a wonderful time onboard Spirit of Ipswich!

