

## Should We Hire a United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain?

There are several reasons why you might consider hiring a captain for all or part of your sailing or powerboat experience. If any of the reasons listed below apply to you, it might be a good idea to just go ahead and do it from the get go.

Do Any of These Circumstances Apply to You?

- You are not a boater and you've never driven boat on your own. In this case, hiring a captain is obviously a pre-requisite.
- You have plenty of boating experience ... but it's been a long time since you were at the helm. You feel you would be more comfortable having a quick refresher with a seasoned professional by your side, for all or at least part of the time.
- You know your own boat and how it handles inside and out, but being in command of an unfamiliar boat can be somewhat intimidating, not to mention nerve-racking. Having a skilled captain aboard for the first day or half day can help take the edge off. You are on vacation. Who needs to be stressed?
- You know your own boat or may have boating experience, but you are in unfamiliar waters. A local captain knows the area, currents, boating patterns, locations of underwater hazards, local attractions, good on the water restaurants etc.
- You know your way around a boat, but have never handled one quite as large as the one you are chartering/rented or just purchased and may need a little assistance in coping with the additional size. Hiring a captain for a day or two might be a good idea.

A Licensed Captain, is concerned about safety, is insured, is skilled. USCG licensed captains are screened by FBI, Homeland Security, local law enforcement. They are drug tested on a scheduled basis. USCG licensed captains must have a minimum of 360 days of sea time average of 4 hours per day. They know what safety equipment is needed on board, what to do who to call in the event of an emergency. What this means to you, you your family and friends will have a fun, safe time on the water.