

RYA ESSENTIAL NAVIGATION AND SEAMANSHIP

The Essential Navigation and Seamanship course provides an introduction to the basic skills required before taking a small boat to sea or taking an active part in running a boat.

The Essential Navigation and Seamanship Course is an inspiring course for anyone interested in sailing, motor boating, sea angling or diving - or pretty much anything else on the water! This course will give you the essential knowledge needed when you're afloat, from navigation to safety and seamanship to passage planning.

This classroom based course is delivered over a weekend consecutive days, from 9.00 – 5.00 each day.

1. Charts, publications and terms

- Basic terms
- Chart overview
- Introduction to chart datum and depths

2. Buoyage

- Lateral buoys
- Cardinal buoys
- Where to find information

3. Navigation

- Plotting a position
- Measuring distance and bearing
- Position fix
- Heading

4. Safety

- Personal and boat safety equipment
- Safety procedures and briefing
- Communications
- Engine checks
- Rescue procedures

5. Anchoring

- Where to anchor
- How to anchor

6. Tides

- Tidal streams
- Tidal heights

7. Electronic navigation

- GPS terms
- GPS use
- Using waypoints

8. Rules of the road

- Risk of collision
- Who gives way

9. Weather forecasts

- Sources of forecast
- Terms used in forecasts

10. Pilotage

- Harbour information
- Transits
- Pilotage plan

11. Passage planning

- SOLAS V requirements
- Pre planning
- Chart choice

NB: The Essential Navigation and Seamanship is NOT as in depth as RYA Day Skipper on-line theory.

If you want to complete the Day Skipper Practical you will need to know how to do the navigation skills contained in the more detailed Day Skipper Theory syllabus, so the instructor can help you become faster and more confident about actually applying those skills and navigating on a boat at sea.

It is not a pre-requisite that you pass a Day Skipper Theory before booking a Day Skipper Practical Course on a boat, but it hugely helps if you have. If you are good at teaching yourself then take a look at the Day Skipper Theory syllabus to see the topics you need to learn and consider teaching yourself from well illustrated books like Tom Cunliffe's - RYA Day Skipper. Key knowledge to pick up is how to look up tidal streams, tidal heights, understand measuring speed, distance and courses on a chart, chart symbols, bouy identification, rules of the road.

If you are unclear, please contact us PRIOR to booking onto the course.