

# HORIZON YACHT CHARTERS

## SKIPPERS NOTES

### GRENADA AND THE GRENADINES

#### Introduction

These notes are a guide to help you while on charter. Please read them carefully; they are written after many years experience in the charter industry and several years in Grenada and the Grenadines. The majority of the following points are made because somebody, at some point has made the mistake. It is our intention to give you the most pleasurable and incident free charter possible!

#### Navigational limits and rules

Please note that the following navigational restrictions apply to our cruising area:

1. Our cruising area extends from St. Vincent to Grenada. Cruising beyond these islands (to St. Lucia or Tobago for example) is possible but not without prior permission.
2. Do not enter or leave the Tobago Cays by the southern channel. The reefs are unmarked and very dangerous!
3. No sailing between Petit Nevis and Isle De Quatre south of Bequia
4. No sailing east of Mt Hartman bay on south side of Grenada without permission
5. No sailing at night, without prior permission.

#### Anchoring

1. Please anchor one hour before sunset, which is between 1730 and 1830 depending on time of year.
2. Do not anchor over coral!
3. Anchor scope should be a MINIMUM of 5 times depth. The motto is: if the chain's in the locker, it's not doing any good. Swinging is not normally great due to the normal consistency of wind direction and current.
4. Use the snubbing line or bridle to take the load off the windlass overnight.
5. Snorkel over the anchor to check it is properly set.
6. Do not hesitate to lay the second anchor if you are at all concerned with the weather or holding ability of the first anchor.
7. If you expect squalls overnight, anchor for 30 knots of wind, not 15.
8. In general, do not pick up any mooring unless advised to do so by Horizon Yacht Charters (HYC). DO NOT pick up any moorings in Clifton Harbour, Union Island; it will probably not be secure, is a private mooring and you will be ripped off! Moorings in Bequia are usually safe but check them and make sure it is not a private mooring or a navigation mark! Please do not pick up moorings in the northern part of Charlestown bay in Canouan; they are private.
9. If you do pick up a mooring, use a round turn and two half hitches to secure the line, not a slip knot. IT WILL CHAFE.
10. When picking the anchor up, drive the boat SLOWLY forward guided by hand signals from the foredeck to take the load off the windlass.

## Dinghy

1. On open passages (St. Vincent to Bequia for example), the outboard **MUST** be taken off the dinghy and secured on the back of the yacht. Also take the fuel tank out and stow in a locker which drains overboard. Tow on a long painter. On catamarans, the dinghy and outboard must be hoisted on the davits and secured. The dinghy should also be lashed after hoisting to prevent it swinging in the davits.
2. When maneuvering, shorten the dinghy painter so there is no chance of it going under the boat and round the prop.
3. Do not tie knots in the painter!
4. When securing to a dock, make sure the dinghy will not get pushed under the dock and get seriously damaged. Using the dinghy anchor will help to prevent this.
5. Do not land on a beach in conditions of large swells. It could be extremely dangerous.
6. Carry a torch and lifejackets at night.
7. **YOU MUST KEEP THE DINGHY AND OUTBOARD LOCKED AT NIGHT AND IF YOU LEAVE IT AT A DINGHY DOCK OR BEACH WHEN ASHORE. If you do not, IT MAY NOT BE THERE when you want it next!**
8. Lock the dinghy through the toe rail or stern cleat, not the pushpit, it is not strong enough. Keep the load on the painter, not the locking cable.

## Motor Sailing

Please note you should **not** motor sail in more than approximately 10 knots of breeze or (on a monohull) sufficient breeze that will cause more than around 10 degrees of heel. Motor sailing when heeled can cause serious problems for the engine – both in terms of oil circulation and coolant water pick up from under the boat. Cats are obviously less prone to heel but nevertheless caution is advised when motor sailing in stronger conditions. If you have to then just use the leeward engine.

## Fuel and water

You will start charter with full water and fuel tanks, after this, it is your own responsibility to take on fuel and water. At the end of charter, we will top off the diesel tank and charge EC\$11.30 Imperial gallon Grenada (Current price @ 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016). We also have a standard charge for a either 3 or 5 gallons of dinghy gas (depending on the size of tank the boat has) since we do not re-use this fuel for the next charter due to the risk of contamination. You do not have to re-fill the outboard gas tank unless you need to before the end of the charter. Please note due to contamination risk **we would much prefer** to fuel the boat back at base – on a 7 or 10 day charter you should not need to fuel the boat at all. If you do fuel the boat then our preferred location for you to do this is **Blue Lagoon Marina, St. Vincent or B & C Fuels in Petite Martinique or our Grenada base**. If you need to buy dinghy gas then there is a garage with dinghy jetty access just to the west of Lambi's dock in Union Island.

**ON NO ACCOUNT PURCHASE DIESEL IN CLIFTON, UNION ISLAND BY JERRY CAN AS IT IS DIRTY AND YOU WILL BE RIPPED OFF!**

For fuel and water availability please refer to the Quick Guide to Grenadines Anchorages in this file. Water costs vary considerably from island to island but is much more expensive in the Grenadines.

PLEASE NOTE: on no account dock at Lambi's or the Clifton Beach Hotel in Clifton Harbour, Union Island for water. You will be pinned to the dock by the wind and risk damaging the boat!

The Anchorage Yacht Club or Bougainvillea are the only relatively safe places to water up. It is much easier and safer to obtain water and fuel at the B & C facility in Petit Martinique.

### Gas

1. If you change the gas bottle over, check for leaks at the connection with some soapy water.
2. Make sure you turn the gas solenoid off every time after you have used the stove.
3. If you smell gas, turn off the bottle, ventilate the boat and if the smell continues, call for assistance.

### Garbage disposal and care of the environment

The Grenadines are a very special place, and we'd like to keep it that way. Some of the smaller islands may not have adequate garbage disposal facilities, so you may need to keep it a day or so until you reach one of the larger ones (Bequia, Union, Carriacou). Please place it in the proper receptacle yourself, rather than pay a boat boy who may leave it to be washed away on a beach. Don't throw any waste overboard.

Please take care not to anchor on any coral, or run the risk of your anchor chain cutting through coral heads. Any bottom that appears dark is probably coral or otherwise bad holding. In the Tobago Cays, the marine park authority has laid dinghy moorings so you do not have to anchor your dinghy when you snorkel on the reef.

Feeding fish can be fun but it can make them aggressive and changes feeding behavior, which can unbalance the reef ecosystem.

When snorkeling or diving, take care not to stand on or brush any coral or sea life around you.

If you are buying lobster, it should measure at least three inches across the carapace. Close season is 1 May – 31 August.

Fish traps. You will frequently encounter fish traps when sailing close to the coast of Grenada and most other islands. They consist of small floats or bottles, either singly or tied together with a line between. They can be very hard to see and can do a lot of damage! You will sometimes find a long line of them blocking your path – this is a net which is lethal! Please keep a very good look out at all times.

Marine parks. There are now two marine parks established in Grenada and Carriacou – the Moliniere marine park on the west coast of Grenada and the Sandy Island marine park just off Carriacou. Please note you are not permitted to anchor within either park, and moorings are provided for yacht use. In both locations yacht moorings are white in colour and cost EC\$27 per night. Do not pick up the red or other coloured moorings – these are for use by dive boats. Please check the mooring condition and refer to the anchoring notes above on how to tie up to them. A park ranger will come to the boat to collect the mooring fee – you should be given an official receipt on payment. There are also moorings available in the Tobago Cays (but anchoring in the designated anchorages is still permissible). These moorings cost EC\$50.00 per night.

### BBQ

1. If you are using the BBQ, pull the dinghy up the other side of the boat to avoid interesting pyrotechnics.
2. Make sure the BBQ is properly secured on the rail and will not drop burning coals on the deck.
3. Do not change the gas bottle while the BBQ is lit!

## Telephone and VHF

Each of our yachts has an allocated mobile phone from the local provider Digicel. They are the pay as you go variety, and phone cards to top up are widely available throughout the islands. The phones roam seamlessly between St Vincent and Grenada. At the start of your charter we will give you a EC\$10 phone card to charge the phone, if you do not use it simply return it at the end of the charter and we will credit you it back. You do not need to have credit on the phone to accept incoming calls. We request that you keep the phone switched on and charged and leave it at the nav station when not in use. We occasionally phone or text weather updates and may need to contact you for other information.

While you will almost always be able to reach us from your cell phone, please bear in mind that we cannot always reach you as you may be in a “dead spot”. If you don’t get us immediately, please leave a message and we will return your call. If you don’t here back from us, then try calling again as you may be out of our range.

### USING THE VHF RADIO

Familiarize yourself with the method for switching channels, and with the squelch and volume controls on your radio. Most radios have a button to instantly select Channel 16 – ensure you understand how this operates or your could end up speaking on Ch. 16 when you think you are on some other channel. HYC stands by on 16.

1. Make sure the radio is switched on, volume quite high, power to high unless the station you are calling is very close.
2. Squelch up until loud hissing, and then back a little until the noise *just* stops.
3. Select the channel for calling (Channel 16, unless specified otherwise).
4. Press switch on microphone when speaking. Release immediately.

If no response then wait two minutes and repeat the call. If still no response, wait a further two minutes before trying again. If calling on Channel 16, it is very important to switch channels after the contact is made (good channels to use are 6, 14, 71) Do no use Channel 16 for your conversations.

### Contacting us

Should you need to contact us, please do so by VHF outside the harbor in the Blue Lagoon, Young Island Cut area. In other locations, you will have to do so by phone (Using a phone card)

Our contact nos. are:   Office (784) 456 9395  
                                  Mobile (784) 493 1927 (general issues)  
                                  Mobile (784) 495 4930 (customer service)

### Weather

1. Weather forecasts may be obtained in the following places:  
    St. George’s at the Grenada Yacht Club or Port Louis Marina  
    Tyrrel Bay at the Yacht Club/ haul out (south side of the bay).  
    The Bougainvillea and Anchorage Yacht Club in Clifton Harbour, Union Island.  
    Bequia (try the local chandlery just near the foreshore).  
    Call Horizon for a forecast – always happy to provide!

Obtaining weather via the internet, please use the following sites: <http://www.windguru.cz> or <http://www.meteo.gp/Mer/index.php> (Marine high seas).

Local radio stations on the following frequencies and times

Radio St. Lucia	93.5/93.7 daily at 0730 and 1630
Radio St. Vincent	89.7/90.7/107.5 FM at 0700 after news/ 100.5 at 0745
Sun radio Grenada	98.5/87.9/105.5 FM at 0700, noon and 1800

2. The period June – November is the hurricane season. Although the risk of a hurricane affecting the region is very slight, flat frontal systems known as tropical waves regularly pass through the sailing area from east to west. These vary in intensity and can bring thunderstorms, squalls or longer outbreaks of rain. The wind backs NE on the approach of a wave and veers SE after. It is prudent to take into account the effects of a tropical wave when planning your sailing and overnight anchoring. **Please ensure you keep the boat phone switched on and available for calls if you charter during this time.**
3. During the winter months December – April, the Caribbean can be affected by northerly swells, which when severe make more exposed anchorages untenable and in some cases highly dangerous. If you are experiencing swell or it is forecast, you should NOT use the following anchorages: Hillsborough, Carriacou; Saltwhistle Bay, Mayreau; Charlestown Bay, Canouan. The safest bays are: Petit St Vincent; Clifton Harbour, Union Island; Tobago Cays. Other west facing anchorages may be affected and make dinghy landing difficult. The swells do not normally last for more than a day or so.

#### Obtaining assistance

If you need assistance, please contact us and we will direct you to our nearest service agent. If repairs are required, it is normal for you to pay for the repair, and we will reimburse you once you return to base. All repairs must be authorized by us and a receipt obtained. We have many contacts who can assist you throughout the islands so please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### Groundings

Please report any groundings IMMEDIATELY. We may need to have the boat checked out for further damage, which may be critical to the safety of the boat and yourself. Do not accept any tows without prior approval of the Horizon base. You will be ripped off otherwise! Any tow performed is at your expense.

Please note that grounding the boat will automatically cost you your security deposit US\$1000.00. There may be further damage to the boat that is not visible until the boat is hauled out.

#### Customs and Immigration

You are responsible for checking in and out with customs and immigration, which is required when travelling between St. Vincent and Grenada. Grenada territory includes the islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique; St Vincent territory starts at Petit St Vincent and covers all islands up to St Vincent.

If you are just sailing from St. Vincent into the Grenadines and back to St. Vincent you do not have to do any clearance but you will pay a small cruising fee at the customs office next to our office in Blue Lagoon. This office is open 9.00am until 6.00pm.

Customs and Immigration facilities are located at the following places in Grenada:

Prickly Bay (just round the corner from True Blue). Have their own office above the laundry at the Boatyard (haul out facility/ restaurant and bar) on the east side of the bay.

St. George's (Currently located in the Port Louis Marina premises.)

Tyrell Bay in Carriacou, the clearance office is located at Carriacou Marine Ltd., on the south side, next to the haul out facility. There is a dinghy dock available for accessing the clearance office.

Checking in and out of St. Vincent is usually done at Clifton Harbour, Union Island. Customs and Immigration are currently located at the small airport, a 5 minute walk from the harbour. Services are also available in Bequia (head of the ferry dock) but this is not as convenient for vessels travelling to or from Grenada.

Which place you use is up to you and will depend on your itinerary. We'll be happy to help plan with you!

YACHTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER ANY ANCHORAGE, HARBOUR OR BAY IN ST VINCENT TERRITORY THAT IS NOT A PORT OF ENTRY WITHOUT CLEARING CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FIRST. Thus if you are travelling to Bequia from Grenada you are not allowed to pull in and overnight in Chatham Bay unless you have cleared in Clifton Harbour first. The Coastguard carry out regular patrols and you are likely to be caught, the minimum fine is EC\$500 and a lot of aggravation!

Opening times: Officially Monday – Friday 0800 – 1600, with an hour for lunch 1200 – 1300. However, officials are normally present at weekends and public holidays, so checking in or out at these times is not usually a problem (if in doubt, call us and we will advise you). Don't leave it to the last minute to clear in or out – the officers may have decided to go home early after a quiet day!

What to take: Normally, only one crew member need deal with the formalities (the skipper). Take passports, copy of the ships document (in the boat file) and four copies of a crew list (we'll provide these as photocopies once you have filled one out at the charter start). Sometimes immigration will ask for plane tickets as well when you are checking back into Grenada so it is a good idea to have these too. Please wear a shirt and shoes, and be nice to them, they'll be nice to you!

Costs: Generally, when checking out of Grenada, a very small fee. Checking into St. Vincent – EC\$5 per person per day, plus an occasional charter licence. Checking out of St. Vincent – again normally very small charge. Checking into Grenada – you will pay a Cruising Permit fee of EC\$50 – 75 depending on size of yacht, plus a cruise ship levy of EC\$8.10 per person. Please note these charges can vary!

Overtime fees: If you check in at the weekend, during lunchtime or on a public holiday (or after 1600) you will pay an overtime fee of EC\$40 per check in or out. If you wish to avoid this charge, then plan your timetable to avoid overtime checking in or out.

Currency: although Customs and immigration will accept US\$, it is better to have some EC\$ in smaller notes to pay the charges. You should be given an official receipt for everything you pay for.

Do not forget to change your courtesy flag when entering Grenada or St. Vincent. Until you have cleared in, you should also fly the yellow “Q” quarantine flag.

#### Charter end procedure

If you are finishing back at the Blue Lagoon base please call Horizon on VHF Ch 16 in advance of arrival or telephone the office so they know when to expect you. Our staff will come out to assist you through the passage. Please do not enter the passage without our assistance as it can be extremely dangerous at low tide.

Once you are on the dock the marina dock assistant will come to fuel the yacht. Please pay the marina office for fuel used during your charter. Please put used laundry in the laundry bag ready for the crew to take off and clean up the yacht. A de-brief will be done onboard with a check out skipper. If you wish us to book a taxi to the airport please let us know in advance the time to pick you up.

Should you be finishing your charter at True Blue Bay Marina, Grenada please note the following points:

1. Please ensure that you have cleared Customs and Immigration before entering True Blue Bay, as we are not a port of entry. Currently you should do this at Prickly Bay or St. George’s or Tyrell Bay, Carriacou. See the notes above.
2. When you return the yacht to us in True Blue Bay please contact us on VHF Ch 16 so we are able to give assistance onto the dock. As part of our procedure on your return, one of our staff will then come out to you to dock the boat.
3. You do not need to re-fuel the yacht before you return to True Blue as we will do this once you have docked. We charge the fixed government price for diesel (better for you) and it is clean (better for us). We will also charge you a fixed fee for dinghy gas as we do not re-use (see notes on fuel and water above)
4. Once you have arrived on the dock we will arrange a time for the yacht debrief, taxi arrangements and anything else you may require. We are here to help you!
5. Please let us know ahead of time if you are unable to make the appointed finishing time. Charters start and end at noon (unless otherwise agreed) and you should be docked a little earlier than this to give yourself sufficient time to disembark.

**HAVE A GREAT TRIP AND SMOOTH SAILING!**