Bareboat Charter Market Report

Prepared Oct 20, 2026 · Markets: BVI, Leeward Islands, Greece, Italy, Tahiti, San Juan Islands, Southeast Asia, Mexico, Bahamas, Belize, New Zealand

Bottom line

- **Moorings and Sunsail are sister brands** (the same parent since 2005) and run nearly identical qualification processes: you submit a **sailing resume**, a base manager approves it, and you may be asked to take a skipper for a day or more if your experience falls short. **Dream Yacht Charter** works the same way, with a lighter-touch public policy: "experience on a boat of similar size."
- **Formal certification is rarely needed in the Caribbean, Tahiti, Mexico or the San Juans (resume only), but is required in the Mediterranean (Greece, Italy) and at Sunsail's Phuket base.** Bahamas and Belize have their own rules.
- **Resume benchmark:** about 50 days of sailing with at least half as skipper on a boat over 28 ft (broker guidance). In the Caribbean, roughly 800 nautical miles as skipper is commonly treated as sufficient, though bases weigh the whole resume.
- **Budget:** advertised charter fees are only part of the cost. Moorings tells guests to add **25–50%** for fuel, provisioning, damage waiver, mooring fees and taxes.

Checkout risk: a base can refuse the boat, force a paid skipper ($215–$452 a day) or cancel with little refund if a customer's resume does not hold up, most often when a monohull sailor books a catamaran or the boat is much larger than any they have skippered. Details and costs are in section 5; pricing options for customers are in section 7.

1. The three companies you asked about

	The Moorings	Sunsail	Dream Yacht Charter
Resume required?	Yes. Online sailing resume ("Resumes/CVs and Requirements")	Yes. Completed in your online account when you book	Yes where no license is mandated; "many destinations require just relevant experience demonstrated by a sailing resume"
How they judge you	Qualifies you to skipper boats within 10 ft of the largest yacht on your resume. Destinations are tiered Level 1–3; one tier cites at least 10 days or 200 miles as skipper on a similar-size yacht (confirm which tier applies to your target base)	Reported minimum days/miles as skipper on a similar-size boat (secondary source; Sunsail's own page could not be retrieved)	Expects experience on a boat of similar size; helpful to have a crew member with similar experience
Certification	Formal certification required in parts of the Mediterranean (Greece, Croatia; Italy for power), Seychelles, Bahamas, Belize (temporary Certificate of Competency) and, per Moorings, Tahiti	Required in the Med, Bahamas and Phuket (IPC from ASA, US Sailing, NauticEd, RYA, IYT or similar, uploaded to your account). Not required in the BVI, Tahiti or Mexico per booking listings	Mandatory license recognized by port authorities in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Spain, Montenegro, Turkey (ICC or equivalent; carry originals aboard). Not usually required elsewhere
If you don't qualify	Add a skipper: BVI $330/night, Antigua $240/night, Thailand $215/day	Add a skipper	Add a skipper at a daily rate; skipper needs a cabin

	The Moorings	Sunsail	Dream Yacht Charter
Checkout	Charter agreement lets the base require a checkout sail or hired skipper	Same (check-in briefing and checkout at base)	Chart and technical briefing at base before departure
Payment terms found	Advance Reservation Service: no deposit at booking (departures 280+ days out), 20% within 14 days, 30% within 60 days, balance 180 days before departure	BVI listings: balance due 45 days out; 100% of fee non-refundable if cancelled 45 days or less before start	30% deposit to confirm; balance 60 days before departure; cancel 60+ days out lose 30%, 59 days or less lose 100%
Certification help	Notes US Sailing/ASA 104 courses start around $1,100 each	Works with NauticEd (Bareboat Charter Master cert, accepted for the Bahamas)	ASA preferred partner; NauticEd SLC accepted in the Med; Nautilus learn-to-sail trips

Conflict to resolve: Moorings lists Tahiti among regions needing formal certification, while booking-platform listings for Sunsail and other Raiatea boats say no license is required. Ask the base directly before booking.

Typical reservation flow (all three): pick boat and dates → pay deposit → submit sailing resume (and first-mate resume on larger catamarans at some bases) → base manager approves, requests a skipper, or asks for certification → balance paid → pre-departure checklist, chart briefing and checkout at the base. Dream Yacht issues a confirmation invoice once it accepts your booking.

2. What a sailing resume should include

- Every sailing experience: dates, boat name/type/length, location, your role (skipper or crew), days aboard, miles, conditions
- All charters you have been on, even as crew, and any chartered as skipper in the last five years
- Licenses and certifications (ASA, US Sailing, RYA, ICC, NauticEd), however old

- Training courses with days, vessel size and level (skippering, bareboat, offshore, theory)
- Counts of anchorings, mooring-ball pickups, night sailing; long-distance or offshore passages
- Powerboat experience, boat ownership, years sailing and where you sail most
- For catamarans: any catamaran time, since approval is often size- and type-specific

3. Markets: top operators and requirements

"Top" here means the operators with the biggest base presence in each market, based on the sources found. This is not an independent ranking.

Market	Leading operators	License / qualification
British Virgin Islands	The Moorings and Sunsail (Road Town, Tortola; ~300 boats at the Moorings base), Dream Yacht (Hodges Creek, Tortola), Horizon Yacht Charters (older source; verify status)	No license. Resume only; some bases require a first-mate resume and approval within about 10 days for the largest catamarans
Leeward Islands (St Martin, Antigua)	Moorings (St Martin; Antigua base opened Nov 2017), Sunsail (St Martin), Dream Yacht (St Martin, Antigua), Horizon (older source)	No license; resume only
Greece	Moorings (Athens Zea, Corfu), Sunsail, Dream Yacht (Athens, Corfu, Kos, Lavrion, Lefkas), Kavas Yachting (Athens, Lefkas, Kos, Mykonos, Volos), Nomicos Yachts	License required: ICC, IYT Bareboat Skipper, RYA Day Skipper or ASA 104 plus IPC. A second adult with sailing experience is usually expected aboard

Market	Leading operators	License / qualification
Italy	Dream Yacht (Naples, Sardinia, Sicily), Sailitalia (preferred partner of Moorings and Sunsail; Sardinia, Gulf of Naples, Sicily). Moorings added Sicily in 2018 and Sunsail once had Tropea/Palermo bases; current status unverified	License required. IPC from ASA, US Sailing, NauticEd, RYA or IYT, or an ICC; one source says non-EU skippers should hold ICC plus RYA Coastal Skipper-equivalent
Tahiti (Raiatea)	Moorings, Sunsail (Apooiti Marina), Dream Yacht; Tahiti Yacht Charter (crewed)	Booking listings: no license, resume only. Moorings' own page lists Tahiti as needing certification, so confirm
San Juan Islands	San Juan Sailing (Bellingham), Anacortes Yacht Charters (Anacortes; Moorings "preferred partner"), Ship Harbor Yacht Charters (Anacortes). Dream Yacht once listed Anacortes (unverified)	Most operators ask for ASA 101/103/104 (or equivalent) plus a logbook with overnight passages. Anacortes Yacht Charters offers a 2-day bareboat course followed by a charter
Southeast Asia (Phuket)	Moorings (Ao Po Grand Marina area), Sunsail (Ao Po Grand Marina), Dream Yacht (Phuket, Koh Samui), Elite Yachting (largest independent bareboat fleet, per an undated article), Asia Global Yachting	Sunsail requires an IPC-type certificate. Operators generally want 1–3 years of skipper experience on a similar-size yacht
Mexico (La Paz)	Moorings (La Paz base opened 2024, Costa Baja; Starlink on boats, Leopard cats), Dream Yacht (La Paz); a forum user also reports Sunsail charters there (unverified)	Listings: no license required. Resume only; remote cruising area with few places to reprovision

4. Cost information

The figures are **per week (7 days)**. Moorings numbers are its published "starting from" prices for 2 people on the cheapest bareboat, low to high season, updated April 2026. Other figures come from broker and booking-platform listings. Those pages were not dated, so treat them as indicative. **Exact prices by length were only available for some markets;** where a cell says "not found," you will need a quote.

Market	Monohull ~35 ft	Monohull ~40 ft	Monohull ~45 ft	Cat ~40 ft	Cat ~45 ft	Moorings bareboat "from" (low–high)
BVI	Not found	$3,400–$4,750 (12 m / 40 ft listing)	From $5,039 (48 ft Oceanis 48)	From $5,234 (Sunsail 40); $7,600–$10,500 (Lucia 40)	$7,500–$13,500 (46 ft Lagoon 46)	$3,284–$14,484
Leewards	Not found	Not found	Not found	Not found	Not found	Antigua $2,974–$15,999
Greece	Not found	Not found	Not found	Not found	Not found	Athens $3,059–$10,602; Corfu $2,884–$19,499
Italy	€1,200–€4,000 (10–12 m, about 33–39 ft; secondary source)	€2,000–€3,650 (Oceanis 40, Sicily)	Not found	€3,690–€5,690 (Lagoon 42, Sicily)	Not found	Not found
Tahiti	Not found	From about $2,503 (Oceanis 41 / Sun Odyssey 439)	Not found	From $4,641 (Sunsail 424)	Not found	Not found (crewed starts $37,999)
San Juans	$2,800–$3,800 (35–40 ft sloop, peak)	$2,800–$5,000 (40–44 ft, peak)	Not found	n/a	n/a	n/a
SE Asia	€1,700–€4,390 (Sun Odyssey 379)	Not found	Not found	€3,290–€6,300 (Lipari 41)	Not found	$5,749–$26,999

Market	Monohull ~35 ft	Monohull ~40 ft	Monohull ~45 ft	Cat ~40 ft	Cat ~45 ft	Moorings bareboat "from" (low–high)
Mexico (La Paz)	Not found	$2,670–$5,214 (Dufour 412)	$2,964–$5,796 (Sun Odyssey 449)	Not found	$4,818–$10,794 (Bali 4.5); $5,058–$10,794 (Lagoon 450)	$4,412–$13,174

Extras to budget on top of the fee (Moorings BVI guidance): damage waiver $80–$170/day, provisioning about $50–$75 per person per day, mooring fees about $30–$55 per use, fuel, cruising taxes, and a skipper if needed (BVI $330/night). Typical additional costs for 2 people on a week start around $1,600–$2,500 depending on the base. Damage deposits are large: about $8,700 on a Sunsail 424 in Tahiti and about €9,980 on a Sunsail 454L in the BVI.

5. Base checkout: what happens when a customer overstates their experience

Bases can refuse to release the boat, force a paid skipper, or cancel with little or no refund, and standard contract language favors the base. I found few first-hand stories of customers who admit they overstated; most evidence is contract terms, operator FAQs and forum or review-site posts, so how often this happens is unknown.

How checkout typically runs

1. **Resume review before arrival.** Usually remote, by the base manager. Approval is not final: one Mediterranean operator states that bareboat approval is conditional on documented command experience on yachts of comparable size and category.
2. **Document check (Mediterranean).** Skippers show original certificates at handover; Moorings asks for copies at the base at least 2 weeks before the charter, and another broker's guide says 4 weeks. Greek port authorities can reject certificates, such as ones limited to daylight or under 12 nm.
3. **Boat walkthrough and chart briefing.** Staff note how you answer questions about anchoring, docking and routing.
4. **Checkout sail if staff doubt you.** Examples: 2–3 hours with a base skipper (NauticEd), and a $350 first-time checkout with a failed checkout leading to classes or a captain (a San Francisco operator).

5. **Base staff decide.** A SailNet poster notes the base staff, not the salesperson, have the final say.

Where overstated experience gets caught

Pattern	What the sources say	Likely result
Monohull-only sailor booking a catamaran	NauticEd: 20 years on monohulls does not get you a cat on its own; you may be forced to take a skipper for a day or the whole week. Heavy monohull experience (about 40 ft+, roughly 50 days) likely earns a roughly 40 ft cat after a 2–3 hour checkout	Checkout skipper, or skipper all week
Experience only on smaller boats	Moorings qualifies you within 10 ft of the largest yacht on your resume. A broker says 30 ft monohull experience will not qualify you for a 40 ft cat unless the company agrees before booking	Smaller boat, skipper or cancellation
Largest catamarans (BVI)	The Catamaran Company requires skipper and first-mate resumes for its Lagoon 500/52; if not qualified you hire a skipper for part or all of the charter, and if you refuse you must cancel or downgrade	Skipper, downgrade or cancel
Certificate but thin hands-on time	NauticEd: a cat certificate with little experience as master means the company will not give you the cat	Handover refused or skipper
Certificate not accepted (Greece)	Port authorities may reject limited certificates; operators reserve the right to require a skipper even if you hold one	No handover, or skipper

Pattern	What the sources say	Likely result
Visible weakness at the dock	Review-site case below (Whitsundays): crew could not safely perform practical operations	Charter cancelled

Repercussions and what they cost

Outcome	Evidence	Terms and costs found
Skipper at your expense, for part or all of the trip	Cruising World, Navigare (BVI), Moorings (forum report)	Skipper per day: Moorings BVI $330/night, Antigua $240/night, Thailand $215/day; Catamaran Company $452/day; booking-platform listings from $194 to $343/day; €295/day on a BVI Lagoon 42 listing. The skipper needs a cabin and food
You cannot send the skipper home early	A Dream Yacht boat-delivery clause (published on LawInsider; verify against your booking contract)	Skipper stays for the whole charter unless the company agrees
Charter cancelled or modified, no refund	12 Knots terms: the service provider may terminate and the client gets no refund. The same Dream Yacht clause: payments to date are not refunded. A European charter-conditions template: refund only if the boat is re-chartered	Loss of the charter fee, possibly extras
Partial refund	Whitsundays case below	Charter cost refunded, other costs not
Downgrade or cancel	The Catamaran Company (BVI)	Smaller cat at the base's discretion

Outcome	Evidence	Terms and costs found
Bareboat switched to skippered and billed	A forum poster on a Greek operator	Skippered rate charged
Insurance and legal exposure	NauticEd warns that exaggerating can create legal and insurance risks; Filovent says the resume is needed for the operator's insurance to cover the charter	Liability for damage if the resume was false

Documented cases and counter-examples

- **Whitsundays, Australia (outside your eight markets):** a reviewer on ProductReview says the base cancelled their 8-day charter after a handover session, saying they were not competent, and refunded the charter cost only. The operator replied that the briefer judged the crew unable to safely complete practical operations and called the outcome fair.
- **Mediterranean broker (Trustpilot):** a reviewer complains the operator tried to force-sell a skipper on a paid bareboat despite two licensed skippers aboard. The operator replied that approval depends on documented command experience on yachts of comparable size and category, reviewed before final confirmation.
- **Lenient bases exist:** a forum poster with zero catamaran time chartered a 42 ft Moorings cat in 2022; the checkout was a conversation on the dock. Do not plan around this.
- **Greece forum post:** a poster reports a bareboat charter converted to skippered and billed at the skippered rate after the base supplied a more experienced skipper.

How to protect your customers

- Clear the resume at booking, not at the base (NauticEd advice), and send the Mediterranean certificates early (about 20 days is needed to issue an ICC).
- Match boat to the largest comparable boat the customer has actually skippered, within about 10 ft, and log catamaran days separately.
- Quote a day-one checkout skipper as an option so a failed checkout is a budgeted cost, not a surprise. Budget $215–$452 per day depending on base.
- Suggest cancellation insurance, since 45- and 60-day cancellation windows leave little room for a refund.

6. Secondary operators by market

Each market has independent operators beside the big three. Rating and fleet notes come from the sources listed at the end; verify current status before recommending any of them.

Market	Big three presence	Secondary operators	Notes on qualifications and fit
BVI	Moorings, Sunsail (Road Town), Dream Yacht (Hodges Creek)	**The Catamaran Company (Catco)**, Hodges Creek Marina, Tortola, catamaran specialist since 1989 with Aquila cats exclusive to its BVI charters. **Horizon Yacht Charters** (Nanny Cay). **Conch Charters** (Tortola, family-run, 28–65 ft). **Navigare Yachting** (BVI base). **TMM Yacht Charters** (Tortola). **BVI Yacht Charters** (Tortola, strongly reviewed)	Catco: resume plus first-mate resume for its largest cats, decision within 10 days, instructional skipper recommended for day one. Navigare: resume after booking, base may place a skipper at your expense. Horizon: online resume scores every crew member. TMM: values on-water time on a similar-size yacht over course credentials
Leeward Islands	Moorings and Sunsail (English Harbour, Antigua; St Martin), Dream Yacht (Jolly Harbour, Antigua; Anse Marcel, St Martin)	**Horizon Yacht Charters** (Simpson Bay, St Martin; Jolly Harbour, Antigua)	NauticEd names Horizon, Dream Yacht and Sunsail/Moorings as the three main companies at Antigua. Dream Yacht had 27 bareboats at Jolly Harbour in 2019

Market	Big three presence	Secondary operators	Notes on qualifications and fit
Greece	Moorings (Athens Zea, Corfu), Sunsail, Dream Yacht (Athens, Corfu, Kos, Lavrion, Lefkas)	**Istion Yachting** (12 bases from Alimos and Lavrion to Kos, Rhodes, Lefkas, Corfu, Volos, Mykonos and Paros; Trustpilot about 4.5 of 5 with some sharply negative reviews). **Kavas Yachting** (Athens, Lefkas, Kos, Mykonos, Volos). **Nomicos Yachts** (forum recommendation)	About 300 professional operators work in Greece. License is required everywhere; operators may still demand a skipper if your resume is thin
Italy	Dream Yacht (Naples/Pozzuoli, Olbia, Portorosa); Moorings and Sunsail work through a partner	**Sailitalia** (about 73 boats; Cannigione in Sardinia, Procida in the Gulf of Naples, Portorosa in Sicily; preferred partner of Moorings and Sunsail). **Sunsicily** (Portorosa, listed on Yachtbooker; verify)	License required; many listings ask you to upload an IPC or ICC to your account for verification
Tahiti	Moorings, Sunsail, Dream Yacht (Raiatea)	**Tahiti Yacht Charter** (about 30 catamarans, Apooiti Marina, Raiatea). **Filovent** (booking agency for partner fleets)	Tahiti Yacht Charter asks for at least 2 years of catamaran sailing experience for a bareboat. Per a 2014 article Sunsail and Tahiti Yacht Charter shared Apooiti Marina, with Moorings and Dream Yacht in another marina

Market	Big three presence	Secondary operators	Notes on qualifications and fit
San Juan Islands	Moorings livery boats through partner Anacortes Yacht Charters; Dream Yacht once listed Anacortes (unverified)	**San Juan Sailing** (Bellingham). **Anacortes Yacht Charters** (Anacortes; bareboat course plus charter option). **Ship Harbor Yacht Charters** (Anacortes). **Crown Yacht Charters** and **ABC Yacht Charters** (Anacortes). **NW Sailing Adventures** (Bellingham)	Most ask for ASA 101/103/104 or equivalent plus a logbook with overnight passages; strong tidal currents in the passes
Southeast Asia (Phuket)	Moorings and Sunsail (Ao Po Grand Marina), Dream Yacht (Yacht Haven)	**Asia Marine** (Yacht Haven Marina; established 1987; partnered with Sunsail in 1992 on Asia's first bareboat fleet; about 14 boats, mostly catamarans). **Elite Yachting** (undated article: largest independent bareboat fleet). **Asia Global Yachting**	Operators generally want 1–3 years of skipper experience on a similar-size yacht; Sunsail at Phuket asks for an IPC-type certificate
Mexico (La Paz)	Moorings (announced June 2024 with bookings from Dec 2024; Starlink on boats), Dream Yacht (CostaBaja)	**Sailing Catamaran Adventures** (La Paz). **J World** (Puerto Vallarta; a forum mention, mainly instruction and flotillas). Forum users also report earlier Sunsail charters at La Paz (unverified)	No license required per listings; remote area with few places to reprovision, so operators weigh anchoring and self-sufficiency experience

7. Pricing options for customers

A 40 ft BVI catamaran runs about $5,200–$10,500 a week before extras, and a customer's real cost lands 25–50% higher (Moorings' own planning rule). The per-size figures in section 4 are updated with the new data points below; prices come from broker and booking-platform listings of unknown date, so confirm live quotes before presenting.

Fees on top of the charter fee

Item	Typical cost	Source
Damage waiver	$80–$170/day (Moorings BVI guidance); $50/day on a 40 ft Catana listing	Moorings; NauSYS listing
Provisioning	About $50–$75 per person per day	Moorings
Mooring fees (BVI)	About $30–$55 per use	Moorings
BVI taxes and permits	Cruising tax about 4.05% of booking on a Sunsail 40 listing, plus park permit and rescue fee; $4 per guest per day on the Catana listing	Sailo; NauSYS
Final cleaning, starter pack, card fee	$299 cleaning, $55 starter pack, 3.5% card surcharge (waived for wire or Zelle) on the same 40 ft Catana listing	NauSYS
Dream Yacht add-on pack (Martinique rates page)	Essentials pack $594–$973/week plus a $38 handling fee	VI Sailing
Skipper	$215–$452/day depending on base (see section 5)	Moorings; Catco; listings
Damage deposit (held on card)	About $8,005 on a BVI Sunsail 424; $8,687 on a Tahiti Sunsail 424; about €9,980 on a BVI Sunsail 454L	12 Knots; Be Blue Sailing

Brand-specific reference points

- **Sunsail 40 (39 ft 4 in cat), BVI:** from $5,234 a week.
- **Dream Yacht, Martinique (proxy, Windwards):** Lucia 40 about $3,430–$3,605 low season to $7,518–$7,910 high; Lagoon 42 $4,956–$7,084.
- **Antigua (all cat sizes, 12 Knots average):** about €4,300 in Aug–Sep up to about €11,500 in Mar. Timing moves the price more than boat size does.
- **Moorings promotions:** its destination pages currently advertise 10–20% sales (for example a 20% sale on BVI bareboat, power and skippered charters departing through Dec 31, 2027). Confirm terms.

Options to present: BVI example (7 days, 4 aboard)

All-in applies +25% to the low end and +50% to the high end of the base fee. Flights and skipper are extra.

Option	Boat	Base fee / week	All-in range	Per person (4 aboard)
Value	40 ft monohull	$3,400–$4,750	$4,250–$7,125	$1,063–$1,781
Comfort	40–42 ft cat	$5,234–$10,500	$6,543–$15,750	$1,636–$3,938
Space	46 ft cat	$7,500–$13,500	$9,375–$20,250	$2,344–$5,063

Same math for other markets with sized data

Market	Boat	Base fee / week	All-in range
Mexico (La Paz)	41 ft monohull (Dufour 412)	$2,670–$5,214	$3,338–$7,821
Mexico (La Paz)	45 ft monohull (Sun Odyssey 449)	$2,964–$5,796	$3,705–$8,694
Mexico (La Paz)	45 ft cat (Bali 4.5)	$4,818–$10,794	$6,023–$16,191
San Juans (peak)	35–40 ft sloop	$2,800–$3,800	$3,500–$5,700
San Juans (peak)	40–44 ft sloop	$3,500–$5,000	$4,375–$7,500
Italy (Sicily)	40 ft monohull (Oceanis 40)	€2,000–€3,650	€2,500–€5,475

Market	Boat	Base fee / week	All-in range
Italy (Sicily)	42 ft cat (Lagoon 42)	€3,690–€5,690	€4,613–€8,535
Phuket	41 ft cat (Lipari 41)	€3,290–€6,300	€4,113–€9,450
Tahiti (Raiatea)	42 ft cat (Sunsail 424), lowest listed week	From $4,641	From about $5,801

Ways to bring the number down: travel in shoulder or summer months, choose a monohull over a cat for the same length, book early (Moorings' Advance Reservation Service allows no deposit at booking on departures 280+ days out), and split the cost across more crew. Greece, the Leewards and most Moorings and Dream Yacht models still need live quotes.

8. Additional markets: Bahamas, Belize and New Zealand

No site ranks bareboat companies like for like, so "top-reviewed" below means the operator with the strongest review evidence I could verify in each market. Review counts and ratings differ by site, and I note where a number could not be retrieved.

Top-reviewed operator and forum chatter

Market	Top-reviewed pick	Review evidence found	Forum and anecdotal chatter
Bahamas	**Cruise Abaco** (Marsh Harbour, Abacos; independent) for the Abacos; **The Moorings** (Palm Cay, Nassau) for the Exumas, the largest base	Cruise Abaco: reviewers on Wanderlog consistently praise staff, boat upkeep and its "Captain for a Day" program (a skipper by day, bareboat by night, with ASA courses); I could not retrieve a numeric rating. Moorings: about 4.6 of 5 on Trustpilot UK across all destinations; a Wanderlog summary of its Palm Cay Exumas base calls reviews mixed (good service and boats for some, equipment problems and poor booking communication for others). Navtours (Dream Yacht member, Palm Cay): no Trustpilot reviews yet	A Moorings client write-up (autumn 2021) says the Palm Cay maintenance board showed 24 boats under repair, six of them catamarans for groundings, yet the family called the trip their best ever. A Fodor's poster found almost nothing to buy in the Exumas and cooked every meal. A Trawler Forum poster preferred the Abacos to the BVI and says a bareboat restriction kept them from one cay. A Yacht Forums thread says the largest bareboat base is Nassau, about 40 nm from the Exumas, and suggests a power cat for a one-week trip

Market	Top-reviewed pick	Review evidence found	Forum and anecdotal chatter
Belize	**The Moorings** (Laru Beya Marina, Placencia), the largest base. No independent Belize-only ranking exists	Moorings shows 582 testimonials on its own site (company-curated) and about 4.6 on Trustpilot UK overall. ComplaintsBoard lists 11 Moorings complaints at 1.4 stars, a self-selected sample that is not Belize-specific, with one positive Belize review of a 42 ft cat in December 2022	An older Practical Sailor review found the Moorings 4500 immaculate and the crew strong, but the chart briefing weaker than a rival's and the autopilot dead. A Moorings testimonial recommends hiring a captain even for experienced skippers. SpinSheet notes the government must approve you and your experience before you arrive. Sail magazine says Moorings rates Belize Level 3, for confident and experienced sailors
New Zealand	**Great Escape Sailing** (Opua, Bay of Islands) by review volume; **FairWind Charters** (Opua) by fleet range; **CharterLink** (Auckland) for the Hauraki Gulf	Great Escape: a TripAdvisor listing shows 217 reviews (rating not retrieved). CharterLink: 67 reviews on Rankers, rating not shown; it says it has the largest fleet out of Auckland. FairWind: no review count found; it claims the widest bareboat selection in the Bay of Islands	A SailNet poster found FairWind the only bareboat option for the Bay of Islands, and another said it appeared well run. Rankers reviewers praise CharterLink's boat condition and service. NauticEd staff once did a 10-day charter on a Moorings 40 ft Leopard cat in the Bay of Islands; that post is old, so verify Moorings still operates there

I found no stories of failed checkouts in these three markets; the checkout evidence is in section 5.

Other operators in each market

Market	Operators found
Bahamas	Moorings (Palm Cay, Nassau; Marsh Harbour). Sunsail (Abacos). Dream Yacht (Palm Cay with Navtours; Marsh Harbour). **Navtours** (Palm Cay, 12 boats in 2015; ASA and CYA instruction; one-way charters Nassau to Georgetown). **Navigare** (Marsh Harbour; a reviewer sailed a 46 ft Lagoon). **Horizon Yacht Charters** (Bahamas fleet)
Belize	Moorings (Laru Beya Marina, Placencia). Sunsail (Placencia; base opened Nov 2010). Dream Yacht (Placencia Marina; first night at the marina free). **TMM** (Placencia and Ambergris Caye, per an older Frommer's guide; verify). Privately owned cats also appear on booking platforms
New Zealand	**FairWind Charters** (Opua; family company; 28–45 ft yachts). **Great Escape Sailing** (Opua; twelve yachts, 20–31 ft). **CharterLink** (Bayswater Marina, Auckland; Bavarias). **Sounds by Sail** (Marlborough Sounds; 32 ft Beneteau, self-drive and skippered; 12 TripAdvisor reviews). Small owner boats on Charter Guide NZ, such as a Lotus 9.2 at Gulf Harbour

Qualification rules

Market	What is required
Bahamas	Moorings and Sunsail list the Abacos and Exumas among destinations with formal requirements, and NauticEd's Bareboat Charter Master certificate is accepted by the Bahamian government. Several broker sites say no license is needed and only a resume. These conflict, so confirm with the base. Dream Yacht and others still require a sailing resume
Belize	A Temporary Certificate of Competency from the Belize Port Authority is required for every bareboat charter: apply at least 2 weeks before arrival with a color passport copy and a headshot. Moorings asks for at least 20 days or 400 miles as skipper on an equivalent-size yacht, and one page says a formal license is not mandatory. A Sunsail listing says an IPC-type certificate is required. Night sailing is forbidden, charters stay inside the barrier reef, and outer atolls need a local guide or skipper
New Zealand	New Zealand has no general recreational boating license, but the national tourism site says most companies want an ICC or equivalent. Great Escape asks for sound sailing knowledge, ideally six months skippering a similar vessel plus a recreational qualification, and offers an instructor on day one. A getmyboat page says bareboat is available once your skills are vetted

Pricing

No size-specific prices (35, 40, 45 ft monohulls; 40, 45 ft cats) were found for the Bahamas or Belize, so those need quotes. New Zealand rates are daily boat rates, shown without a currency on the source pages (presumably NZD); multiply by 7 for a week.

Market	Prices found
Bahamas	Moorings Exumas bareboat from $5,579 for 7 days for 2 people; 14 days from $9,058

Market	Prices found
Belize	Moorings bareboat $3,144 low season to $15,999 high season for 7 days for 2 people; skipper $190/night; extra costs from about $1,200 for 2 people. Sunsail skipper $183/day and a Sunsail 424 damage deposit of about $8,678 on a booking platform. An older Frommer's guide gave US$2,000–$7,000 a week
New Zealand	FairWind (28–45 ft): $340–$760/day low season, $395–$900/day high season, so about $2,380–$6,300 a week; its 45 ft boats are presumably at the top of that range, to be confirmed. Great Escape: Noelex 25 $250–$350/day; Noelex 30 $350–$525/day; Raven 31 about $516–$645/day. Add about $15/day fuel, optional bond insurance $25/day and linen $30 per person. Deposit 30%, balance 30 days out; cancellations inside 30 days may forfeit the deposit

9. Gaps and suggested next steps

- **Sunsail's own qualification page could not be retrieved** (404), so Sunsail details above come from booking-platform listings, NauticEd and forum posts. Confirm directly with Sunsail.
- **Size-specific pricing is still missing for Greece, the Leewards, and most Moorings and Dream Yacht models.** Request quotes for 35/40/45 ft monohulls and 40/45 ft cats from each of the three companies for a common week in each market.
- Several operator lists come from older articles (Horizon, Elite Yachting, Dream Yacht Anacortes, Sunsail Italy). Verify these are still operating.
- Since your business is sailing, a mystery-shop call to each company's reservations desk would show how each handles resume review in practice.

Sources

- Moorings bareboat qualifications · Moorings resume page · Moorings BVI costs · Moorings Greece costs · Moorings Athens · Moorings Corfu · Moorings Thailand · Moorings Antigua · Moorings La Paz · Moorings Tahiti costs · Moorings Advance Reservation terms
- Dream Yacht: Are you qualified for a bareboat charter? · Dream Yacht skippered FAQ · Dream Yacht Greece
- NauticEd / Sunsail Bahamas certification · 12 Knots: Sunsail 424 Raiatea · 12 Knots: Sunsail 424 Phuket · 12 Knots: Sunsail 424 BVI · 12 Knots: Caribbean requirements · 12 Knots: Greece requirements
- Boatbookings: sailing resume · Boatbookings: BVI · Boatbookings: Mexico · Boatbookings: Lagoon 42 Sicily · Boatbookings: Lipari 41 Phuket · Boatbookings: Sun Odyssey 379 Phuket
- Yachtbooker: Oceanis 40 Sicily · Sailitalia (NauSYS) · San Juan Islands charter guide · Spinsheet: PNW operators · Afar: Anacortes Yacht Charters · Asia City: Phuket bareboat · Yachting Magazine: Moorings La Paz · SailNet: checkout discussion · Wikipedia: Bareboating

Sources added Oct 20 (checkout, operators, pricing)

- Checkout and policy: NauticEd: catamaran qualification · NauticEd: monohull sailor on a cat · NauticEd: charter guide · NauticEd: sailing resume · SailNet checkout thread · Sailboat Owners forum · Cruising World: chartering a sailboat · Sail: bareboat credentials · 12 Knots terms · LawInsider boat-delivery clauses · Charter conditions template · Filovent FAQ · Whitsundays review · Yachtssociety reviews · Greece forum thread · Moorings Greece requirements · Yachtico Greece licences · San Francisco checkout policy
- Operators: Catamaran Company FAQ · Catamaran Company resume · BVI tourism: Catamaran Company · 12 Knots: Catamaran Company · Navigare BVI · Sail: Horizon and Conch · Sail: Horizon St Martin · NauticEd: Antigua · Antigua Yacht Club: Dream Yacht · Istion reviews · Kavas Yachting · Sailitalia · Tahiti Yacht Charter · Asia Marine (NauSYS) · Asia Marine story · Ship Harbor Yacht Charters · Dream Yacht La Paz review
- Pricing: Sailo: Sunsail 40 BVI · Boatbookings: BVI monohulls · Boatbookings: BVI catamarans · 12 Knots: Oceanis 48 BVI · VI Sailing: Dream Yacht Martinique rates · NauSYS: 40 ft Catana BVI · 12 Knots: Antigua catamarans · Italy planner · Be Blue Sailing: Sunsail 454L · Moorings BVI page

Sources added for Bahamas, Belize and New Zealand

- Bahamas: Moorings requirements · NauticEd: Bahamian certification (Moorings) · Dream Yacht Nassau with Navtours · Cruise Abaco reviews (Wanderlog) · Cruise Abaco profile · Moorings Exumas reviews (Wanderlog) · Moorings Trustpilot UK · Navtours Trustpilot · VI Sailing: Exumas client report · Yacht Forums thread · Fodor's thread · Trawler Forum: Abaco vs BVI · Moorings bareboat prices
- Belize: Moorings Belize pages · Moorings Belize useful information · Moorings Belize eGuide · Dream Yacht Belize base guide · Sail: Belize · SpinSheet: Belize · Practical Sailor: Moorings in Belize · Frommer's: Belize · 12 Knots: Belize · 12 Knots: Sunsail 424 Placencia · belize.com charter guide · Moorings testimonials · ComplaintsBoard: Moorings · Sail-World: Sunsail Belize base
- New Zealand: newzealand.com: sailing · FairWind Charters · FairWind (Charter Guide NZ) · Great Escape Sailing · Great Escape Noelex 25 · Great Escape Raven 31 · CharterLink reviews (Rankers) · Sounds by Sail · SailNet: Bay of Islands · NauticEd: Bay of Islands charter · getmyboat: Auckland