



Adventure Charter Trainee Skipper

Post: Trainee Adventure Charter Skipper – 6 month placement

Employer: Classic Sailing. Location: St Mawes, Cornwall

Salary: £16 000 salary pro rata once solo skippering and during refit work.
Unpaid for training period (approx 4 weeks depending on experience)
St Mawes accommodation available when ashore (free whilst unpaid).

Contract Dates: 29th March– 8th Oct 2010

Application Deadline: Mon 15th February 2010. (Interviewing 17 Feb – 3rd March)

Summary of the Post

Classic Sailing is an established adventure sailing company that operates sailing holidays and RYA courses on its own pilot cutter 'Eve of St Mawes' in Cornwall and markets voyages on traditional boats and tall ships around the world.

We have created a trainee skipper post for 38ft Pilot Cutter 'Eve of St Mawes' for part of the season. The role is very intensive as our skipper sails with up to 6 guests and no mate and our voyages can involve teaching RYA courses up to Day Skipper on a heavy displacement gaff cutter (51ft overall), themed voyages, rowing expeditions, coastal walks and cooking high quality meals.

Once solo skippering and familiar with our particular style of traditional sailing holidays the skipper will work approximately 3 weeks in 4 a month on a salary, and not more than 10 days skippering consecutively where possible. Good people skills and a certain amount of charisma are required as they will be running the majority of voyages peak season on our 'flagship vessel' so our directors can spend more time developing the business ashore.

An ideal opportunity for a sail training mate to make the first step up to command an eye catching gaff rigged vessel that is not too large, or for an existing skipper or sailing instructor to move into traditional boat adventure charter. The sailing ground is Cornwall with shore support fairly close at hand, and on Brittany and Isles of Scilly voyages you will have the support of a staff skipper, sailing as skipper or mate.

Prospects:

This is a trainee placement with regular staff appraisals and career development advice. Classic Sailing will be reviewing staffing for 2011 at the end of the period.

Full Job Description

Skipper Role

Classic Sailing runs adventure sailing holidays and RYA courses on our own charter boat – ‘Eve of St Mawes.’ The majority of voyages run from St Mawes near Falmouth and the main sailing ground in 2010 is the Isles of Scilly, West Country, Brittany.

Eve is a traditionally built 38’ wooden pilot cutter with gaff rig, a long keel and a displacement of 14 ton. Overall she is 51’ (15.5m) and can set 5 sails. Eve is well known as has been run by Classic Sailing since her launch in 1997. We also act as traditional sailing travel agent and marketing consultants selling ‘hands on’ sailing voyages on larger tall ships and boats with bowsprits worldwide. See www.classic-sailing.co.uk

Our skippers generally sail ‘single handed’ with only the 5-6 customers as crew. The majority of guests are over 18 and come as individuals. They are only as good as you make them, but it is a very satisfying arrangement that brings out the best in people, and customer feedback shows that they appreciate that trust in being the real ‘hands on’ crew.



Whilst we promote our voyages as sailing holidays, these traditional vessels are quite demanding for novices and those only used to sailing small yachts. A more accurate description of the job is a sail training skipper in a holiday context, rather than a charter skipper taking guests for a sail or pub crawl. Therefore we prefer skippers who have wide interests, like cooking, exploring ashore, marine wildlife, conversation and broadening our guests horizons !

Our skippers need to be safety aware, physically agile, comfortable working with adults, capable of cooking and entertaining whilst keeping the boat safe and be good at building a working team from guests quickly each week. Full responsibility for winter refits and the maintenance schedule for the vessel rests with the operations director but the trainee skipper will be expected to assist a small part of the refit so they can become familiar with the vessel and keep up with regular maintenance schedule during the season.

Any skipper of Eve plays a key role in Classic Sailing as we strive to lead by example for the rest of the fleet and the new boat owner/ operators that we work with.

Training:

The training will be on a one to one basis with Adam or Debbie Purser. The two directors set up Classic Sailing in 1997 and have been running the business and skippering Eve since the company was launched as we like to stay in touch with our customers. Classic Sailing regularly employs a 3rd skipper (and sometimes a 4th relief skipper) so that Adam and Debbie can also work ashore marketing a worldwide fleet of upto 12 vessels a year. In the office will be a business development graduate so this year they will have more time for training and skipper support.

Both have sail training backgrounds. Debbie has worked for Ocean Youth Trust and Trinity Sailing as Operations Manager and both have worked on several tall ships. Adam is the RYA Principal for Eve’s Sailing School and was one of the first directors of Cornwall Marine Network. Debbie has a Deck Officer OOW Certificate for Yachts and sail training vessels upto 3000 ton. They have extensive links in the industry, so can advise on career development. The trainee skipper will also gain valuable business experience in a very practical way. Understanding the importance of creating good stories and adventures, subtle marketing at sea, customer care and public relations is an integral part of the commercial charter skipper role and we will help you develop these skills. (you are allowed to pose on a beautiful boat and have fun too !)

Classic Sailing have training / familiarisation structures in place as we train voluntary mates / employ relief skippers.

The vessel has a daily, weekly, monthly maintenance check list and there are clear vessel handover procedures between skippers.

Your work / leave rota can be discussed with you at interview. Your Job Contract will explain every aspect of your role from provisioning and budgets to communications with HQ and welcoming guests.

Accommodation:

We recognise that accommodation in Cornwall can be expensive, and rent for a base ashore can be a frustrating waste of money when you are at sea most the time.

When not on Eve accommodation can be provided ashore in St Mawes (own room with internet wi fi - sharing a house with Adam and Debbie). This is free during your unpaid training month but you will need to buy your own food. Whilst you are on a salary (refit & skippering) we will charge rent at £45 a week but only for the weeks you tell us you need a base ashore. Alternatively Falmouth is a lively university town with mix of accommodation and there is a foot ferry between Falmouth and St Mawes all year.

How to Apply

Key skills:

RYA Yachtmaster Offshore and up to date commercial endorsement

Either previous employment as a skipper or RYA yacht instructor OR experience as a 1st mate working with participating customers on either sail training vessels or holiday charter vessels.

A strong desire to be a skipper of a traditionally rigged boat.

Full Driving Licence: The boat runs from St Mawes – a beautiful but remote location, and our offices are 5 miles away in Portscatho so a driving licence is required.

Fitness – Willing to row our harbour tender, work aloft and out on the bowsprit, and accompany guests on coastal walks. There are no winches on Eve except our manual anchor windlass.

Desirable:

RYA cruising instructor is preferred but we can help you gain this.

An interest in marine wildlife, maritime history & traditional boats, boat building or anything that can enhance the holiday experience for our guest crew. World travel experience is an asset! Decent cooking skills. Previous experience of gaff rigged or heavy displacement vessels. Instructing or teaching skills.

More information: See Classic Sailing website www.classic-sailing.co.uk

For an informal discussion ring Debbie or Adam Purser on 01872 580022

CV required by email or post to: Classic Sailing, Parton Vrane, Portscatho, Cornwall. TR2 5ET

e mail: skippers@classic-sailing.co.uk

