

Swan LK 243

Welcome Aboard



Swan is a beautiful, ideally sized, boat – small enough to visit small unexplored anchorages, yet large enough to be a joy to sail. Built in 1900, and painstakingly restored in 1996, she is a tried and trusted vessel, which handles well in livelier weather as well as lighter winds. Our experienced crew love the sea and will welcome you aboard as voyage crew to ‘learn the ropes’ and play an active role in sailing and working Swan. No prior experience is required, just a sense of adventure and willingness to pitch in.

On board the atmosphere is relaxed and sociable, living and working in close quarters you will get to know your crewmates well – with many forming firm friendships on our trips. As this is a sailing adventure, we always prefer to work with mother nature and so our trips are flexible, going with the weather whenever we can, to give the best sail possible for all on board. To allow this flexibility, you will often not find detailed itineraries for our trips, but rest assured that wherever we go you will find stunning scenery and wildlife, along with the best sail/experience possible for the conditions.

Statistics

◇ Year Built: 1900	◇ Gross Tonnage: 65	◇ Overall Length: 20.42 metres
◇ Vessel Type: Fifie	◇ Rig: Gaff Ketch	◇ Total Sail Area: 210 sq. metres
◇ Total Berths: 15	◇ Draught: 2.6 metres	◇ Air Draught: 24.3 metres

What to expect onboard

On arrival you will be greeted by our experienced crew and shown the shared living quarters, where you can store your bag. Please Note: As there is limited storage space, we ask that you take a soft shelled/collapsible bag. For details on what to pack, please refer to our kit list.

Before casting off, every trip starts with a comprehensive safety briefing including how to work the lines on deck and set the sails. A voyage on Swan is very much a hands-on experience - you are part of her crew, and work as a team to make your voyage happen. All tasks are shared and everyone joins in, from the most to the least experienced. You will take your turn on the helm, in the galley and stand watch with your crew-mates, adjusting sails and doing safety checks.

When not on watch duty you have plenty of time to relax, get to know your crew mates, look out for wildlife, enjoy the stunning scenery, reflect on your achievements in working the boat, write your own log book, or just enjoy getting away from it all.

The main saloon is a cosy, sociable space, where meals are served, music is played and stories are shared. Three meals are served daily and hot drinks and biscuits are always available. With all duties being shared, you can show off your culinary skills, sit up on deck while preparing vegetables or, if you fancy your hand at fishing, catch fish to enjoy on board. Everyone on board has their own bunk, with a privacy curtain and reading light. There are 8 bunks in the main saloon and 7 bunks aft. As there are no individual cabins, accommodation is usually mixed.

Forward of the Main saloon is the galley and two toilets with wash hand basins and shower, with pressurised hot and cold water. Swan also has a 240v electrical system for charging your cameras, portable music players, phones and other electrical items.

Further details and important safety information

Watch Duty - On longer trips, everyone is assigned a watch. Each watch has an experienced Leader, who will be in charge whilst your watch is temporarily responsible for the safe operation of Swan. Watch duty is typically the standard ship system - a 4 hour on, 8 hour off rota. Swan watches are split into 3 teams, which operate day and night. While exact times may vary, an example would be:

Watch A: 12:00 to 16:00

Watch B: 16:00 to 20:00

Watch C: 20:00 – 00:00

This means watch A will come on at 12 noon and be in charge of sailing and working the Swan until 4pm, when Watch B takes over until 8pm, then Watch C takes over until midnight. At midnight Watch A relieves Watch C to keep watch until 4am, when they are relieved by Watch B, and so on...

Note: While at anchor or in port overnight there are no watch duties for voyage crew, you can relax and get to know your fellow passengers.

Fitness - Sailing does not require a large degree of aerobic fitness but can be more demanding on arm and upper body strength when helping hoist the sails. As the boat is often accessed from ground level down a vertical pier ladder, and there are steep stairs to access the main saloon and toilets, you do need to be fit enough to descend a vertical ladder to access the boat.

Dietary requirements - To help us plan our stores, please let us know at time of booking if you have any dietary requirements or food allergies. Also, as galley duties are shared, please note you may need to advise or help those on duty to ensure your meals are correctly prepared.

Insurance - Swan is insured for legal liabilities during your stay onboard. However, we do not cover travel to and from the boat or whilst ashore. You should have your own travel insurance for your trip, ensuring your policy covers sailing, cruising and yachting and includes cancellation insurance. We would also advise appropriate health insurance for your own country.

Health & Safety - The health and safety of all onboard is our primary concern on all voyages. Swan is fully insured, compliant with MCA coding, fitted with the latest navigation and safety equipment, and operated by a professionally qualified Skipper and Mate. Before your journey, please note the following safety points:

- **Ships command:** For everyone's safety, when onboard you are under the command of the skipper and/or your watch leader. They will guide you in the safe operation of the boat and their instructions should be followed at all times.
- **Weather:** Due to changing weather and sea conditions, no sailing trip can ever be guaranteed and so the itinerary of any of our trips may be altered or cancelled, this will be at the discretion of our skipper for your safety and comfort.
- **Lifejackets:** Everyone on board will wear a lifejacket at all times on deck when at sea and, when directed by the skipper due to certain conditions, engage safety harnesses.
- **Medical Conditions:** The skipper must be informed of any medical condition and/or any medication you are taking. You should ensure you carry ample medication for your trip.
- **Sea-sickness:** It is advisable to take your own sea-sickness pills, and take a dose before sailing if you have doubts about your sea legs.
- **Tidiness:** Space is at a premium and shared by your crewmates. Therefore, please keep all areas tidy and stow your personal belongings appropriately. Note: hard shell cases and bags with wheels are not recommended, soft-shell bags are more suitable.
- **Alcohol:** We operate a dry ship when at sea, as even if you are off watch duty you may be called on deck at any time and need to have a clear head. When at anchor or tied alongside, an 'anchor dram' is often enjoyed. In port, conditions are more relaxed but please remember you are sharing your living quarters with your crew mates and be considerate of all aboard. Please note: As we do not sell alcohol on board, you will need to bring your own.
- **Smoking:** Smoking is strictly prohibited below decks and on deck must not interfere with the safety or running of the vessel.

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