

RYA Personal Watercraft Courses

Our one-day course teaches you how to use your personal watercraft (PW) safely, responsibly and with confidence, ensuring you get the best out of your craft.

All new PWs come with a voucher towards the cost of this course and, once passed, you are issued with a certificate of proficiency. Increasingly this certificate is required for launching in UK harbours, and is needed if you want to apply for an International Certificate of Competence to use your PW abroad.



Recommended pre-course knowledge	Course Content	Ability after the course	Minimum course duration	Minimum age
None	Launching, handling and recovery skills, passage planning and decision making, high and low speed riding skills, essential safety information, collision avoidance and orientation at sea	Self-sufficient in good conditions and aware of the limitations of yourself and your craft	1 day	12. Certificates for children aged between 12 and 16 will be endorsed to show that they must use PWs only under the supervision of a responsible adult

Recommended books:



RYA Introduction to Personal Watercraft (G35)

Once you have learned the basics, Personal Watercraft (PWs) are versatile, fun and exhilarating. They will provide you with a real adrenaline rush and a day out full of excitement.

Joining a club is a great way to become fully involved with the many events that are organised throughout the year. Clubs welcome new members, can offer good advice to novices and are a sociable and responsible way to use your PW.

RYA Inland Waterways Courses

Our one-day Inland Waterways Helmsman's Course is for those wanting to cruise the UK's inland waterways or Europe's extensive network of lakes, rivers and canals.

As the name implies, it deals specifically with the requirements of the inland boater, whether they are a narrowboat owner or a cruiser enthusiast. It assumes no prior knowledge and is ideal for the first timer. However, more seasoned skippers will learn plenty of tricks of the trade and tips to make their boating safer and more enjoyable.

It is a hands-on course with minimal theory and maximum opportunity to learn new skills.



Recommended pre-course knowledge	Course Content	Ability after the course	Minimum course duration	Minimum age
None	Safety, helmsmanship, locks and tunnels, collision avoidance, an introduction to engine maintenance	Able to helm a vessel safely on inland waterways	1 or 2 days	12

Recommended books:



RYA Inland Waterways Handbook (IWPCN)



RYA European Waterways Regulations (G17)

After your course, why not explore our network of over 3,000 miles of inland waterways – a unique way to visit new locations and discover a relatively unknown and fascinating part of the country.

Spending time afloat in this way is about slowing down your pace of life and relaxing while enjoying our heritage of canals, lakes and rivers.

There are many companies across Britain and Europe that have a range of boats available for hire and many provide RYA tuition for your peace of mind. There are also many clubs which welcome newcomers and actively support the development of inland boating. Joining a club will give you an excellent introduction to other enthusiasts.



POWER COURSES

COURSES FOR RIBS, SPORTS BOATS, MOTOR CRUISERS, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND INLAND CRUISERS



Come and learn with the RYA

Welcome to RYA training – a programme of courses designed to help you progress through your chosen activity. The expert tuition and sound advice offered by our training centres is just what you need to make the most of your time afloat, whatever your age, ability or aspirations.

So, how do you start?

We offer courses for all types of motor boating from small powerboats to large cruisers, and from personal watercraft to narrowboats.

You don't have to start at the beginning – simply pick the course most suited to your ability and experience. Be realistic when choosing your course and don't expect to master advanced manoeuvres or navigate long and complex passages until you have cracked the basics. If in doubt, call your local training centre for advice.

Where do you want to learn?

Our courses are run all over the UK and at lots of locations around the world. They can only be run by RYA recognised training centres, which we inspect annually to check they are maintaining our high standards of instruction, safety and equipment. Only these centres are allowed to display the tick mark logo.



What equipment do you need?

If you're just starting out you shouldn't need anything as your training centre will provide suitable clothing, buoyancy aids or life jackets.

If you're thinking of buying a boat but don't know which to choose, have a chat with your instructor. They can give you expert advice based on your experience, your budget and what you want from your time afloat.

What do you want to do next?

There are so many opportunities to make being on the water a part of your life. You may like to join a club and enjoy the social life that comes with it, or take part in one of our cruises in company to build confidence before going it alone, or even work towards a career in the watersports industry.

Power boating in its various forms is the starting point for so many leisure and professional pursuits. Whether you want to dive or water ski, volunteer for safety boat duty at your local sailing club or skipper a superyacht, our courses are widely regarded as among the best in the world. They are the ideal way to help you achieve your goal.

Our website www.rya.org.uk has full details of all our courses, where they are run, how to find your local club and careers advice.

RYA Powerboat Courses

Our National Powerboat Scheme is primarily for those using small powered craft such as RIBs and sportsboats, and also for the professional small boat skipper who is required to prove their competence or provide certification for work.



Course	Recommended pre-course knowledge	Course Content	Ability after the course	Minimum duration	Minimum age
Level 1	None	Boating safety, boat handling and basic theory	A basic understanding of powerboating	1 day	8
Level 2	None	Close quarters boat handling, high speed manoeuvres, man overboard recovery and collision regulations	Able to handle a powerboat in familiar waters by day	2 days	12
Intermediate	Boat handling to the standard of Level 2 with the coastal endorsement	Daytime navigation skills, passage planning, use of plotting instruments, GPS and electronic navigation	Able to navigate a powerboat on coastal passages by day	2 days	16
Advanced	Boat handling to the standard of the Intermediate course. Navigation to Day Skipper Shorebased standard	Skippering techniques for coastal and offshore passages	Able to navigate a powerboat on coastal passages by day and night	2 days	17
Safety Boat	Boat handling to the standard of Level 2. Level 2 certificate required	Recovery techniques for various craft and fleet management afloat	Able to provide safety or support cover in a racing or training environment	2 days	16

RYA/MCA Certificate of Competence

Certificate	Minimum sea time	Form of exam	Other certification needed	Exam duration	Minimum age
RYA/MCA Advanced Powerboat	30 days, 2 days as skipper, 800 miles, 12 night hours	Practical	SRC/VHF and first aid	4-5 hours for 1 candidate. Up to 7 hours for 2 or 3 candidates	17

Recommended books:



RYA Powerboat Logbook (G20)



RYA Powerboat Handbook (G13)

You might also like to try...

The powerboat courses listed here are very much hands-on boat handling training. To support your learning we run a range of shorebased courses too. To help with your navigation you might like to try the Basic Navigation and Safety Course or the Day Skipper Shorebased course.

There are also one-day courses for specialist areas such as marine radio use, radar, sea survival, first aid and diesel engines.

Our website will give you full details of all these courses.

www.rya.org.uk

RYA Motor Cruising Courses

Our National Motor Cruising Scheme is designed for those wanting to start cruising, or to expand their cruising area. While there is no fixed dividing line between boats suitable for the National Powerboat Scheme and those for the National Motor Cruising Scheme, this scheme is generally aimed at inboard powered boats with accommodation.



Course	Recommended pre-course knowledge	Course Content	Ability after the course	Minimum duration	Minimum age
Helmman	None	Boating safety, helmanship, boat handling, introduction to engine maintenance	Competent to handle a motor cruiser of a specific type in sheltered waters	2 days	12
Day Skipper	2 days practical experience. Navigation to Day Skipper Shorebased standard	Pilotage, boat handling, seamanship and navigation	Competent to skipper a motor cruiser in familiar waters by day	4 days	16
Coastal Skipper	15 days (2 days as skipper), 300 miles, 8 night hours. Boat handling to Day Skipper standard. Navigation to Coastal Skipper Shorebased standard	Skipper techniques for coastal and offshore passages.	Competent to skipper a motor cruiser on coastal passages by day and night	5 days	17

RYA/MCA Certificates of Competence

Certificate	Minimum sea time	Form of exam	Other certification needed	Exam duration	Minimum age
RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Coastal	30 days, 2 days as skipper, 800 miles, 12 night hours	Practical	SRC/VHF and first aid	6-10 hours for 1 candidate. 8-14 hours for 2 candidates	17
RYA/MCA Yachtmaster Offshore	50 days, 5 days as skipper, 2500 miles, 5 passages over 60 miles incl. 2 overnight and 2 as skipper	Practical	SRC/VHF and first aid	8-12 hours for 1 candidate. 10-18 hours for 2 candidates	18

Recommended books:



RYA Motor Cruising Logbook (G18)



RYA Motor Cruising Handbook (G24)

You might also like to try...

The practical nature of these motor cruising courses means that building up some background knowledge of the theory side of boating helps you to fully grasp the skills taught afloat. So, to support your learning we run a range of shorebased courses. For navigation we have every level of training from the Basic Navigation and Safety Course to the Yachtmaster Ocean Shorebased course.

There are also one-day courses for specialist areas such as marine radio use, radar, sea survival, first aid and diesel engines.

Our website will give you full details of all these courses.

www.rya.org.uk



Photographs courtesy of: Paul Wyeth and Yamaha Motor UK Ltd

