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Miami Boating Lessons – Yacht Transition Lesson

Miami Boating Lessons – Yacht Transition Course

Duration: 3–4 Hours

Audience: Experienced boaters upgrading to a twin-engine yacht with onboard systems

Vessel: Client's personal yacht (typically 35–60 ft range)

Objective: Develop confidence and competence in handling and managing the advanced systems of a larger, more complex vessel.

LESSON STRUCTURE

0:00 – 0:20 | Yacht Systems Overview & Safety Protocols

- Comprehensive walk-through of:
 - **Twin engine configuration:** shaft vs outboard vs pod drives
 - **Generator operation & safety protocols**
 - **Air conditioning systems:** seawater strainers, circuit management
 - **Battery banks/inverters/shore power transfer switches**
- Critical safety systems review:
 - Bilge pump layout and high-water alarms
 - Fire suppression (engine room)
 - Life raft/EPIRB (if equipped)

0:20 – 0:50 | Helm Familiarization & Electronics Integration

- Chartplotter & radar walkthrough (Simrad, Garmin, Raymarine, etc.)
 - Depth sounder/fishfinder interpretation and safe water navigation
 - Autopilot setup, route planning, and emergency disengagement
 - Engine gauges, diagnostics, and fuel/water monitoring systems
 - VHF with DSC and AIS functionality
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0:50 – 1:20 | Twin Engine Handling in Tight Quarters

- Throttle & shift review (mechanical vs electronic)
 - Independent engine use for:
 - Pivot turns
 - Crab walking
 - Controlled backing
 - Use of **bow/stern thrusters** and joystick control (if equipped)
 - Practice in marina/slip or simulated close-quarters environment
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1:20 – 1:45 | Open Water Operation & Advanced Maneuvers

- Engine sync & cruise RPM optimization
 - Trim tab automation/manual use
 - Fuel management: balancing tanks (if applicable)
 - Weather planning and wave handling at displacement vs planing speeds
 - Simulated emergency response: steering loss, generator fault
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1:45 – 2:15 | Anchoring, Holding, and Position Management

- Anchoring with windlass: chain vs rope combo, windlass use
 - Dynamic positioning or virtual anchoring (if equipped)
 - Holding position using twin engines/thrusters (manual)
 - Mooring or raft-up technique review for larger yachts
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2:15 – 2:45 | Docking & Systems Shutdown Protocols

- Docking scenarios:
 - Slip approach with wind/current
 - Stern-in Mediterranean docking (if applicable)
 - Docking with joystick vs manual engine control



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- Shutdown sequence:
 - Generator cooldown
 - AC system flushing or shutoff
 - Batteries & breakers: what stays on vs off
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2:45 – 3:15 | Systems Management, Alarms, & Maintenance Walkthrough

- Generator oil level, sea strainer checks, zinc awareness
 - AC raw water filters and flushing
 - Electrical panel: breakers, emergency overrides
 - Engine room walkthrough: fluid check points, inspection routines
 - Daily, weekly, and monthly maintenance checklist discussion
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Optional 3:15 – 3:45 | Client-Directed Scenarios & Advanced Drills

- Simulated loss of GPS or engine
 - Advanced MOB recovery with yacht-size vessel
 - Confidence drill: solo docking with instruction
 - Instructor debrief with tailored advice and future training suggestions
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