

AYC Cruising Tier Structure

Cruising is an acknowledgement that good things happen to those who relax and enjoy the journey. To that end, we are structuring the cruising offerings as belonging to tiers:

Tier 1 – Local Cruising

This involves cruising locally (e.g. Lake Pleasant) aboard boats large enough to allow sleeping overnight if desired but serve as a means to familiarize oneself with what being aboard a boat of this size and its systems provide to those wanting to explore cruising.

Tier 2 – Coastal Cruising

Trips in this level typically involve travel to the California coast and involve Chartering or utilizing “Other People’s Boats” that are kept at coastal marinas. These trips are of longer duration, typically 3 days. Examples of these trips include the Long Beach to Catalina Island trips offered.

Tier 3 – Destination Cruising

This form of Cruising one can think of as typically involving airfare and/or Passport. These types of trip would be scheduled in locations like Florida Keys, Sea of Cortez, British or US Virgin Islands, Greece, etc. They would typically last from 5-10 days with 7 days being common. Due to the planning required for each of these trips, a great deal of lead time is required to schedule as well as assemble crews.

Things common to all of these are who will you be cruising with and what skill sets does each bring to the trip. This can be a wide range with experience levels also varying. What level of accommodation is needed? After all you will be spending time in close proximity to all as well as having to contend with simply being aboard a boat. What kind of food does everyone like or dislike.

Planning: Truly the success and enjoyment of cruising is largely dependent on good planning. Planning of itinerary with a good understanding of what, where as well as how goes a long way to making it a success even when the inevitable unforeseen things happen. Planning can also help make these unforeseen things seem less.

Packing: What you take with you matters a great deal to the health and wellbeing of self but also will determine how prepared you are for whatever situation. The motto of “be prepared” is wise to be ready for these trips. This would include appropriate clothing, typically layers to help you adjust to changing conditions going from comfortable PJ’s all the way to something with a water proof shell. This also includes items that you use to protect yourself from the sun and water (hat sunblock, etc.)

Provisioning: Goes from essentials as in water and food needed to feed the crew aboard as well as all of the needed items like dish soap, trash bags for kitchen and head, and paper towels. Usually it is better to get items for provisioning just before you go on the trip as it is often cheaper and easier if do at home. However, if you cannot do so from home because of flight restrictions and or Customs issues, one must then avail themselves of whatever local markets are found at the location you find yourself

People: Who will be going with you, or who will you be going with? What skills will you bring along to “add” to the trip for all aboard? Experience levels vary widely across a large gamut but these are the things that can go a long way towards making the adventure even more enjoyable, especially for trips of longer durations.

Participation: Cruising is very much a participatory event and as such a willingness to help in any way possible to make the trip better is always a plus. So come with the attitude that you are going aboard with others that will all pitch in and contribute to making the trip even better. Many hands make less work is very true aboard. This is essential and gives a greater cohesion to the group aboard. If you are thinking this is a cruise where you sit while others pitch in, then this is not the cruise for you.