

ISSA OFFSHORE SKIPPER

ISSA OFFSHORE SKIPPER
CERTIFICATION
IN NORWAY



**International Sailing
Schools Association**

MASTER THE ART OF OFFSHORE SAILING

Join us for an unforgettable liveaboard sailing course, where you will have the unique opportunity to fully immerse yourself in the world of sailing while living aboard one of our exceptional vessels. Throughout this comprehensive program, our expert team of skippers will guide you through an extensive curriculum designed to cover your next level of sailing and navigating skills: the ISSA Offshore Skipper.

ISSA courses are unique in that theory and practice are seamlessly interwoven and as a consequence students' learning is vastly improved. The Offshore Skipper course requires candidates to have mastered the collision regulations, navigation (DR, EP, Fixes, GPS, Course to Steer etc), tides and currents and have a good knowledge of the ISSA Inshore Skipper Syllabus. Students wishing to attend this course need to have spent at least 28 days at sea as skipper or watch leader in at least 2 voyages, at least in 2 sea areas and hold an ISSA Inshore Skipper, RYA Day Skipper certificate or ASA equivalent.

Embark on exhilarating passage planning exercises as you develop the skills to meticulously plan and navigate longer journeys. Consider various factors such as weather patterns, safety considerations, and provisioning to ensure successful passages across open waters. Your safety at sea is of utmost importance, and our experienced skippers will teach you essential emergency procedures, proper use of safety equipment, and how to identify and mitigate potential hazards.

As part of the course, you will gain proficiency in VHF radio operation, mastering radio etiquette, distress call procedures, and effective communication with other vessels. Basic maintenance and repairs will also be covered, equipping you with the knowledge to perform engine checks, troubleshoot electrical systems, and address minor issues that may arise during your sailing adventures.

At the end of this transformative course, not only will you obtain the prestigious ISSA Offshore Skipper Certification but you will also have developed a deep appreciation for the art of sailing. Immerse yourself in the enchanting beauty of the Norwegian Fjords and Lofoten islands during this unforgettable liveaboard experience.



COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

What you will learn (core modules and outcomes)

Offshore command & watchkeeping

- Take command of a cruising yacht: leadership, clear communication, watch handovers, fatigue management and bridge resource management.
- Organize efficient watch systems for short-handed and full-crew operation.

Passage planning & navigation

- Plan and execute offshore passages: route choice, tidal streams, weather windows, alternatives and contingency planning.
- Practical use of electronic navigation (chartplotter, AIS, radar) and required paper chart plotting, fixing positions, bearings and dead-reckoning.
- Night navigation, coastal pilotage through channels and approaches to Lofoten harbours.

Sail trim, sail handling and boat handling

- Advanced sail trim for performance and safety in variable conditions; reefing and sail changes under way; heaving-to and heavy-weather sailing techniques.
- Boat handling under power and sail in confined waters, berthing, mooring to quays, and short-handed techniques for limited crew.

Meteorology & weather strategy

- Interpreting diverse weather forecast sources and weather routing.
- Recognize local wind effects, squalls and rapidly changing conditions.

Safety, emergency procedures & seamanship

- Correct use of lifejackets, harnesses, jacklines, EPIRB and distress procedures, MOB drills, firefighting, flooding control, damage control and life-raft awareness.
- Effective emergency leadership and decision-making at sea.

Communications & electronics

- VHF operation, radio etiquette, distress procedures and clear communications with vessels and shore stations.
- Use and limitations of onboard electronics: AIS, radar, chartplotter and VHF.

Systems, maintenance & troubleshooting

- Engine checks, fuel and cooling system basics, electrical systems, charging and refrigeration troubleshooting; practical small repairs to keep a passage going.

Anchoring, mooring and close-quarters pilotage

- Selecting anchorages, deploying and retrieving anchor in different seabeds, kedge and stern-to techniques, and anchoring in exposed coves common in Lofoten.

Practical leadership assessment

- Each student prepares and presents a full offshore passage plan and will be assessed on command, seamanship and safety management to meet ISSA practical standards.



NORWAY'S BEST

Let's explore some of the captivating destinations you may have the opportunity to visit during your sailing adventure. While the order of destinations is not fixed and depends on various factors, including weather conditions, these locations offer unique experiences that are worth exploring.



Our adventure starts in Harstad, a lively coastal town that sits where fjords and islands meet and blends practical harbour facilities with Arctic scenery. Harstad's sheltered approaches and nearby soundings create a natural training ground for close-quarters handling and passage planning — then, with a short hop, you're into open water framed by dramatic peaks and island channels.



Tjelsund is a winding tidal strait flanked by steep shores and scattered islets, where currents and eddies reward careful planning and pilotage. The channel offers sheltered stretches alternating with narrow cuts that funnel winds — perfect for practicing tide timing, controlling set and drift, and short-handed manoeuvres. Anchoring options in adjacent bays provide safe overnighting while training on current workarounds and transit tactics through complex waterways.



Stormolla is a broad island with exposed headlands, open coastline and long sheltered bays — a place of contrasts that highlights the variable nature of Lofoten weather. Offshore approaches can produce swell and wind acceleration around points, while inner coves offer snug anchorages for onshore hikes. Stormolla's mix of exposure and shelter is ideal for seamanship exercises: sail changes, heavy-weather reefing practice, and selecting secure anchorages in mixed seabeds.



Kabelvåg is an atmospheric fishing village with a compact harbour, colorful wooden houses and straightforward provisioning for visiting yachts. Its sheltered anchorage and nearby amenities make it a convenient stop for crew rest, re-provisioning and briefings. From Kabelvåg you can stage short coastal passages into intricate archipelagos or use its comfortable harbour as a base for night-navigation practice and local cultural visits ashore.



Litlmolla is a smaller, quieter island with sheltered bays, sandy beaches and a sense of remote calm — ideal for restorative anchorages and close observational training. The island's protected coves are perfect for anchoring lessons, stern-to shore mooring practice and sheltered day sails. Ashore, short walks reveal birdlife and coastal geology, offering a peaceful contrast to offshore passages and a good setting for crew briefings and reflective debriefs.

Trollfjorden is a narrow, dramatic fjord hemmed in by sheer mountains. The fjord's steep walls create unique wind and wave shadows; approaches require concentration and careful use of charts and local knowledge.



THE SAILBOAT

Our main training yacht for this Norway course is a Delphia 47 — a robust, comfortable offshore cruising yacht well suited to the dramatic seas and complex pilotage of the Lofoten Islands and the fjords around Harstad.

Performance and design

The Delphia 47 is built for safe, long-distance sailing with a hull and rig that balance seakeeping, comfort and handling. Its design delivers predictable, sea-kindly motion in swell and chop, good directional stability on passages, and responsive helm feel when close-hauled or reaching — all important when practising sail trim, reefing and heavy-weather techniques in high-latitude conditions. The rig and sailplan are arranged for flexible sail combinations (roller-furling headsail(s) and slab-reefing main) so you can quickly adapt to the shifting winds and gusts that characterise the Lofoten coast.

Cockpit, deck and deckwork

The Delphia 47's cockpit is spacious and built with training and offshore safety in mind. There's ample room for four students and instructors to manoeuvre comfortably during sail handling and drills, a clear, ergonomic helm station for good sightlines, and safe, well-placed handholds and guardrails for working on deck. Deck layout keeps winches, clutches and lines accessible and organised to make sail changes, reefing and short-handed manoeuvres straightforward and safe, even in confined fjord passages and narrow channels.



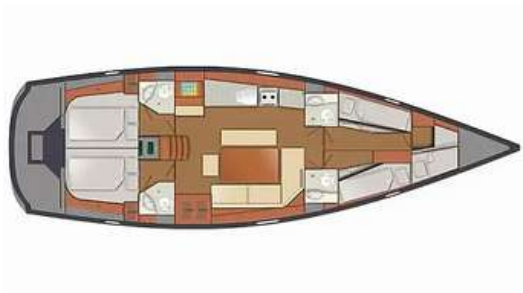
LIFE ON BOARD



The Delphia 47 used on the course is equipped for offshore training: reliable inboard diesel engine, modern chartplotter and AIS, radar and VHF, plus backup paper charts. Safety fit-out includes offshore lifejackets, harnesses and jacklines, EPIRB, liferaft and firefighting and damage-control equipment — all essential when operating in the remote and changeable conditions of northern Norway.

Below, the Delphia 47 offers a roomy saloon and a proper navigation station that doubles as a classroom for chartwork and briefings. Comfortable berths and adequate storage make extended liveaboard training practical and pleasant during the week-long itinerary between Harstad and Lofoten. The boat's systems are laid out for efficient training: accessible engine bay, straightforward electrical systems, and clear instrumentation for teaching navigation and systems troubleshooting.

The Delphia 47 is an ideal platform for practising the full ISSA Offshore Skipper syllabus in Norway. Its combination of seaworthiness, comfortable liveaboard accommodation and accessible deck systems makes it easy to teach passage planning, night navigation, reefing and sail changes, anchoring in mixed seabeds, and close-quarters pilotage through skerries and narrow fjord entrances.





DETAILS

PRICES

US\$5,800/PERSON IN DOUBLE CABIN

US\$10,000/TWO IN DOUBLE CABIN

Course limited to four students. Must have ISSA Inshore Skipper certificate and 28 days at sea as skipper or watch leader in at least 2 voyages, at least in 2 sea areas

BOOKING TERMS

To confirm booking, a 50% deposit payable by bank transfer or credit card in MXN, USD, CAD or EUR is required.

Remaining 50% is payable at least thirty (30) days prior to date of embarkation.

Payments made in MXN shall be made at the exchange rate published in the Diario Oficial de la Federación on the date the payment is made.

INCLUDES

Liveaboard, sailing instructor, ISSA Offshore Skipper Handbook, ISSA Offshore Skipper Certificates, drinking water, bed linen and towels, fuel and VAT.

Not included: Air and land transfers, meals and drinks, foul weather gear, hotels.

NATIONAL PARK

PROTECT AND PRESERVE

Leave only footprints, take only memories.

(No shell, rock or plant collecting)

Protect the wonders below, let starfish and coral glow.

(No touching the sealife)

Silence is the melody of the sea, let nature's symphony be.

(No loud music)



SAIL IN
MEXICO

www.sailinmexico.com

info@sailinmexico.com

+52 55 4030 9955