

26. Charter a yacht with old friends

It's the ideal reunion: you, your closest buddies, the sun, and the sea—and, of course, one dazzling yacht (while we're at it, throw in a crew to steer the damn thing). Tom Rowe, co-owner of 20-year-old Newport Yacht Services in Rhode Island, offers some insight:

1. Sailboat or powerboat? At the mercy of water and wind, sailboats are all about the journey. If you're into land excursions, powerboats (generally more expensive) can get you from port to port efficiently.
2. Pricing varies. Most Caribbean sailboats are all-inclusive. In the western Mediterranean, you'll get boat and crew—everything else is extra. In the eastern Med, they kick in some meals and engine time.
3. How will you split costs if all cabins aren't equal? There's often an owner's stateroom and various lesser cabins. Or some rooms may have double beds, others twins. Decide in advance or risk walking the plank.



Bandera, \$11,000 a week (four passengers, Caribbean); Hinckley Crewed Charters, 800-504-2305



Destiny, \$55,000 a week (ten passengers, New England/Caribbean); Northrop & Johnson, 800-868-5913



Thunder Gulch, \$150,000 a week (ten passengers, Mediterranean/Caribbean); Camper & Nicholson's, 561-655-2121



Helios, \$47,000 a week (ten passengers, New England/Caribbean); Newport Yacht Services, 800-234-7720