

# What it's like to date a boat guy

You're in for both the most and least romantic moments of your life

By CLAIRE SHEFCHIK

My thing for seafarers started five years ago, at a sailing class taught by a Hems-worth-esque Dutch captain. Now I live on a Caribbean island among a hotbed of seamen (don't hate me), so I know ocean bros. If you want to reel one in, keep these in mind.

## PRO

### He has a boat!

You get to spend nights cuddling under the starry sky and days watching dolphins from the top of the rigging.

### The sea is intimate AF

With no Netflix, the only way to pass the time is to talk—and stuff gets deep when you're in the middle of nowhere.

### He wants a relationship

A captain is always looking for a first mate. Sites like FindA Crew.net have sections literally devoted entirely to dating.

### Romance is a breeze

One night, my Dutch captain rowed me to a remote island to watch sea turtles lay eggs. *Stratospheres* beyond a land date.

## CON

### He has a boat

That superyacht you fantasized about is actually a half-sunk wreck in a sketchy marina. Don't worry, he'll fix it up—he just needs \$10,000 first.

### No. Personal. Space.

There is literally zero room for drama (or, hi, privacy). So if you don't get along, you'll wish you could swim for shore.

### But it could be a lame one

Even modern sailors can still be...aggressive. My friend dumped her yachtie after he barked orders at her.

### He'll romance EVERYONE

I learned he also had a girlfriend back home and another hookup buddy he met sailing. Sigh.

Ugh, he can be a total mast-hole sometimes!



## 4 SEA LOVERS' DATING STORIES

At least they're dates you could never forget.

"I was having my way with my guy as he stood with his head out the hatch. We thought it was a secluded area, so he was making a lot of sounds. Then the fog lifted to reveal several fishing boats all around us getting an earfull!"

—BETH, 26

"My boyfriend and I were enjoying brunch on our boat, but the food didn't agree with me. The boat was too small for a toilet, so I jumped into the water. I didn't expect hundreds of fish to swim up and start trying to eat my poop!"

—JEN, 29

"My BF at the time worked on Richard Branson's yacht. One night, I went out with the crew and drank way too much rum, so they let me crash in one of the onboard cabins. Sir Richard was none the wiser."

—JOA, 31

"While my GF and I were on a trip, she went to visit another boat and I went to pick her up in the dinghy. I climbed aboard and found her giving the captain a BJ. When I got back to our boat, I tossed out all her luggage and sailed off without her."

—COLIN, 30

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