

BLUE CUP REGATTA GREECE 31 Oct to 7 Nov 2009

Would you be interested in sailing a Beneteau yacht for a week in Greek waters for an estimated €900 including flights?

If so read on:-

This event is called the Blue Cup Regatta and is a series of passage races between harbours with stop-overs at each many. Daily prize giving/receptions are at local tavernas etc and a final awards dinner at a luxury hotel. The Blue Cup is now in it's 18th year and attracts crews from all over Europe and sometimes beyond.

Having participated in the 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2008 events I can safely say that this is a superb event in a superb location. Some yachts treat the races very seriously, some are just out for fun and some aren't even worried about racing but just tag along for the sailing and social events that this regatta generates.

The Yacht Charter Company is called Vernicos Yachts who are based at a large marina just outside Athens. They specialise in chartering yachts mainly from the Beneteau stable and the fleet for the Blue Cup Regatta is split into two classes, Class A for Cruiser Racers and Class B for Cruiser type yachts (Oceanis). In the past I have crewed on First 42.7 cruiser racers and Cyclades 43.3 that were well appointed with at least two heads, two showers, refrigerator, pressurised water and a well equipped galley.

Programme

For an idea of a typical programme please see 'Blue Cup Regatta in Greece 2008'

Location/Date

The sea area is called the Argosaronic Gulf and the regatta is between 1st and 9th of November. In this part of the world this usually means shorts and tee shirts! Of course there may be the odd patch of rain or rough weather but this is usually very short lived. Usually blue skies and blue seas are the order of the day. Tides are almost non-existent in this part of the Med.

Boats/Equipment

None of the vessels are equipped with spinnakers. Some vessels have in-mast/in-boom main sail reefing/furling and all vessels have foresail roller reefing. Sailing is therefore very easy! As per standard bare boat charter vessels, all boats come equipped with life jackets, full navigational instruments including GPS, VHF radio, an inflatable tender and a small outboard motor. Basic pillows, sheets and blankets are issued to each crew. Nearly all the boats have some form of swim platform at the transom and ground tackle is winched up on an electric anchor winch. When berthed at marinas, town quays and harbours the usual practice is to moor stern to. i.e. with the stern toward the quay, stern lines to the quay and the bow kept out by the anchor. It is not unusual to have the whole fleet of 40 to 50 odd yachts moored in such a way side by side whilst visiting harbours. Depending on size of boat there are usually at least two cabins with 2 berths each (bunk style), 2 double berths at the stern and 2 berths in the main cabin converted from the dining seats.

Costs

Based on chartering a Beneteau Cyclades 43.3, 6 to 8 berths and assuming a crew of 6: the 2008 price was €876.27 per person which included all flights transfers and *1 night motel. Not included is food/drink and optional travel insurance. (3 evening meals were included in the charter costs)

*There might be a requirement for a stopover at Luton if connecting flights don't work out but until 2009 schedules are available from the airlines, it will be impossible to tell.

If there is enough interest to form a viable crew then we would need to book the boat quite early to assure our place in the regatta. I will inform all interested people by way of a meeting if the project for 2009 looks workable.

**If you are interested or want more information then please contact Werner Cook.
On 095 22968 or 087 6427167.**