

ADVENTURE

Sailing the High Seas

Hoist the main, set the jib, and plot a course for these world-class cruising destinations. | *By* **BENJAMIN SHAW**

According to swashbuckling actor and sailor Errol Flynn, “There is nothing like lying flat on your back on the deck ... silence except for the lapping of the sea against the side of the ship. At that time you can be equal to Ulysses and brother to him.” Not skilled enough to go bareboat? Hire a skipper, even a crew, and conquer the islands.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS > Steady trade winds, crystal water, and line-of-sight navigation make this an ideal sailing destination. More than 30 Caribbean islands make up this **British Territory**, home to one of the world’s largest charter sailboat fleets. Explore caves on Norman Island or relax with a rum punch at Foxy’s beach bar on Jost Van Dyke.



CHESAPEAKE BAY > This mid-Atlantic estuary, the largest in the **United States**, offers thousands of square miles of sailing ground yet remains protected from ocean swells. Pull up to the dock at Cantler’s on Mill Creek for steamed blue crabs or spend some time ashore in “America’s Sailing Capital,” Annapolis, Maryland.

NOVA SCOTIA > This maritime province in **eastern Canada** offers unspoiled anchorages and welcoming coastal communities. Thousands of offshore islands create a maze of rocky nooks and crannies. Sail into the past with a visit to the old British colonial settlement of Lunenburg. Then, enjoy the modern museums and art galleries of Halifax.

WHITSUNDAYS > These 74 tropical islands off the coast of **Queensland, Australia**, offer picturesque harbors with turquoise water and white sand beaches. Don a mask and plunge off the side of the boat to revel in the Great Barrier Reef’s magnificent coral and fantastic fish. Multiple charter outfits cater to all levels of sailors, from novice to old salt.

DALMATIAN COAST > With plenty of reliable wind and more than 1,000 islands to explore, **Croatia** is a celebrated European yachting destination. After a day sailing the Adriatic, find a remote cove, berth at a modern marina, or moor off a sleepy fishing village. Ashore, visit what some claim to be Marco Polo’s birthplace, tour a Roman emperor’s palace, and wander a warren of streets in Trogir, an ancient walled city on a tiny island.



Bay watch: Chesapeake charms include regattas and Old Bay–spiced steamed crabs (top).