CA Seminar

Your First Channel Crossing

For many skippers a first crossing of the English Channel is a big step in their cruising accomplishments – one undertaken with some trepidation.

Why | When | Where | What | How

In a seminar organised by the Cruising Association's Channel Section we will hear why you would want to take your boat to France or the Channel Islands, when are the best times to go, where you might choose to arrive, what preparation you should undertake, how to actually undertake the passage and your arrival, and then some tips for cruising the coast.

We will address many of the concerns we have heard from sailors about a first passage such as the length of the passage, being out of sight of land, avoiding big ships, entering ports with restricted access, unfamiliarity with foreign marinas, understanding international entry/exit processes, and not speaking the language.

We won't be setting out all of what you should do, because we are all different, but providing lots of information and identifying the things you should consider so you can make the best decisions and, ultimately, ensure you and your crew have a smooth passage and enjoy the rewards crossing the Channel can provide.

Seminar details

Sunday 31st January 2027 - Your First Channel Crossing
CA Channel Section Seminar, including buffet lunch.

Booking via the CA website
https://www.theca.org.uk/first-channel-crossing-seminar-2027



theca.org.uk
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Seminar Topics

The Attractions of Crossing the Channel
Discover the unique experiences and destinations that make Channel crossings so rewarding.

Cross-Border Paperwork and Processes
Learn about customs, immigration, and documentation requirements for a smooth journey.

Cross-Channel Destinations
Explore popular and lesser-known ports and anchorages on both sides of the Channel.

Boat Preparation & Equipment
Get expert advice on essential gear, safety checks, and vessel readiness.

Planning & Undertaking Your Crossing
Understand weather windows, passage planning, and navigation tips for a successful trip.

Cruising France
Dive into the joys of French cruising—marinas, cuisine, culture, and cruising regulations.

CA Channel Rallies
Learn about the Cruising Association's organised rallies and how to get involved.

Ask the Panel
A Q&A session with experienced sailors—bring your questions!

Extras
Enjoy refreshments and a delicious lunch, all included in your ticket price.

Feedback from previous seminar attendees

"found the day very informative", "Really enjoyed the day, well planned and welcoming", "very helpful advice great refresher", "great tips and pragmatic up to date advice", "gained confidence"



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