

BEGINNING IN BISCAY

A full day seminar at CA House, Limehouse, London EC14 8BT

Saturday November 29th 2025 1030 - 1700

1030 -1100 Coffee and Registration

The Biscay coast of France is an excellent cruising ground, with quiet anchorages to explore, lovely islands, beautiful beaches, and the opportunity to moor your boat close to the centre of historic towns such as Vannes, La Rochelle or St Martin de Ré.

Beginning in Biscay provides an insight into cruising south of the Chenal du Four. Whether you are planning to return to your home port at the end of the season, are interested in taking time to discover the delights of this region, or are making your way towards the Mediterranean, this seminar will provide you with the information needed to make the best of your time.

The event will cover the resources to help you plan your cruise, and highlight the delightful rivers, islands and ports you will discover, while cruising along the Atlantic coast. The presenters and our section secretaries will be available to answer any questions you may have throughout the seminar.

1100 Welcome and Introduction, followed by:

Nick Chavasse - Atlantic France pilot guide

The relevance of a pilot book in the digital age, navigation lessons learned whilst researching the pilot book and a tourist guide to the area for the cruising yachtsman.

Nick is the author of the recently updated pilot guide for the coastline of Atlantic France, cruising Ouessant to the Spanish Border works for the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation. He has been cruising for over 30 years in western Europe and always finds himself back in Brittany. Nick is also a dinghy and cruising instructor and sails a Bowman 40, Wild Bird.

Paul Bragg - Keeping a boat in Atlantic France.

Paul and his wife Elaine sail Jennie B an Island Packet 380 which is based on the River Vilaine in southern Brittany. They have spent the last several years trying to visit every port and anchorage covered in the Atlantic France Pilot Guide. Paul is a Joint Section Secretary of the CA Biscay Section.

1300- 1400 Lunch

Nick and Alison Boxall - Discovering the delights of Biscay, Cruising to Western France

Nick, a retired submariner and commercial IT manager and Alison a retired Naval Officer, lecturer and Club Secretary, are enjoying life as liveaboards on their Southerly 110, Whimbrel, as they experience the freedom of cruising to their own timeline. They keep their boat in Gosport and have just returned there after their summer 2025 cruise to Biscay..

Nick Sexton - Captains Mate and other essential sources of information for cruising Biscay

Nick and his wife Debbie sail Tamara a Nicholson 476. Their boat is currently based on the River Vilaine in Brittany. Nick is a Joint Section Secretary of the CA Biscay Section

1630 / 1700 Review plus any questions

The cost of the seminar includes a hot two course buffet lunch and tea/coffee etc.

The galley bar will be open after the close of the seminar. Why not stay on for a drink and a chat?