



Marine Safety and Rules (Do's & Don'ts)

To ensure navigational safety and protect the marine environment, please strictly observe the following rules:

Safe Navigation (Do's)

- Slow down in adverse weather and closely monitor the latest weather information issued by the Hong Kong Observatory
- Pay attention to the Marine Department Notices and Notices to Mariners published on the Marine Department's website for the latest navigational guidance and information
- When encountering marine mammals (including Chinese white dolphins) or sea turtles, maintain a safe speed, distance and course; do not touch, chase, approach or disturb marine life



Code of Conduct for
Dolphin Watching



Conservation of
Sea Turtles

- Equipped with distress signals, especially when operating at night
- Stop immediately and wait for instructions if the signal "L" (L-shaped) is made to you by light, sound or flag from a Government or Police launch
- Use horn or horn signal only when necessary

Strict Prohibitions (Don'ts)

- Don't operate a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Don't rent out the yacht or carry passengers for reward
- Don't enter statutory restricted areas
- Don't anchor in principal fairways or designated restricted areas
- Don't drop anchor or come into contact with the seabed in areas marked as "Submarine Cable Area" or "Cable Reserve"
- Don't occupy public piers or landing steps for an extended period of time (they may only be used for embarkation and disembarkation of passengers within a reasonable timeframe)
- Marine littering, including waste generated by daily operation of yachts, is strictly prohibited
- Don't make or emit annoying noise on board (e.g. improper use of loudspeakers/amplifiers, engaging in rowdy activities, etc.)
- Don't proceed at a speed exceeding 10 knots or carry out water-skiing in a marine park or marine reserve
- Don't swim, dive or carry out any boating activities within a marine reserve
- Anchoring, mooring, fishing, hunting and collecting animals and plants in a marine park or marine reserve without permission are strictly prohibited

Emergency Contacts

In case of an emergency or accident in Hong Kong waters, call for assistance immediately via VHF channels 02, 12, 14, 63 or 67, or call:

- Marine Department's Vessel Traffic Centre (VTC): (852) 2233 7808 or 2233 7801
- Marine Department's Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC): (852) 2233 7999
- Police/Emergency Services: 999



Useful Reference



Hong Kong
Shipping Directory
(English version only)



海事處
Marine Department

Set Sail for Hong Kong: All-in-One Guide for Visiting Yachts





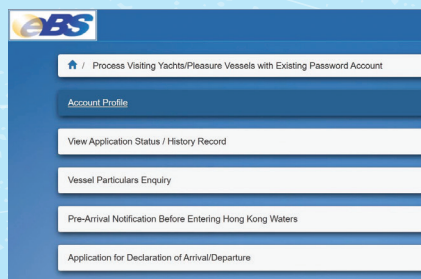
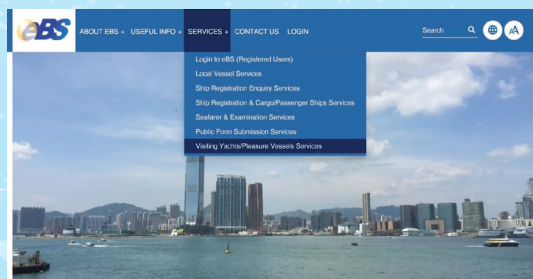
Pre-Arrival Preparation (Before Entering Hong Kong Waters)

One-stop Pre-submission of Arrival Information (eBS)

The owner or master should register an Electronic Business System (eBS) account with the Marine Department. They should submit arrival information for the vessel, crew and passengers via eBS in one go not less than 24 hours before the yacht arrives in Hong Kong, for preliminary vetting by relevant departments. It also allows application for Free Pratique to be submitted to the Department of Health within 30 hours prior to arrival in Hong Kong (Applicants should provide the information of a valid Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/Ship Sanitation Control Certificate to Department of Health).



Documents required for uploading: Certificate of Registry, Tonnage Certificate, Crew and Passenger List, etc.



Regulations of Stay

- **Limit of Stay:** Under Hong Kong marine legislation, visiting yachts are not permitted to remain in the waters of Hong Kong for more than 182 days out of 365 consecutive days.
- **Navigation Qualifications:** Valid documentary proof of the operator's navigation qualifications must be submitted.
- **Insurance Requirements:** A valid third party risks insurance policy with coverage of not less than HK\$5 million for operation of the vessel and its auxiliary vessel within Hong Kong waters must be produced.
- **Immigration Formalities:** The vessel master or his/her agent must complete

arrival and departure clearance for the crew and passengers of the yacht when entering or leaving Hong Kong waters. For immigration requirements and conditions of stay in relation to crew and passengers onboard, please refer to the following leaflet:



- Within 24 hours after a yacht's arrival, the yacht must obtain an Arrival Clearance by applying for and paying the relevant fees via eBS.



Berthing and Navigation Arrangements

Berthing Arrangement (Applicable to Application for free-to-cruise in Hong Kong waters)

- **Privately-operated Yacht Clubs/Piers:** Owners may reserve berths directly with privately-operated yacht clubs or piers.
- **Designated Anchorages:** Owners may also choose to anchor at a designated anchorage. Visiting yachts using designated anchorages MUST be equipped with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) and a Very High Frequency (VHF) radio equipment. While in Hong Kong waters, the AIS must remain operational at all times, and the vessel must maintain a continuous listening watch on the designated VHF channel.

Permission to Navigate in Hong Kong Waters

To cruise in Hong Kong waters for leisure purposes, permission to navigate must be obtained in advance.

- **Application Method:** Apply online via eBS or submit a hard copy of the application form to the Marine Department.
- **Required Documents:** Valid documentary proof of the yacht operator's navigation qualifications; a valid third party risks insurance policy for operation of the vessel and its auxiliary vessel within Hong Kong waters; and proof of reserved berth at a privately-operated yacht club or pier (if applicable).
- For visiting yachts using designated anchorages, applications for "Permission to

Navigate" can be submitted via eBS within 30 days prior to arrival.

- **Processing Time and Validity:** Applications are generally processed within 3 working days. Each "Permission to Navigate" is valid for up to 30 days. If you need to renew the permission, please apply through eBS.

Guidance Notes on "Application for Permission to Navigate in Waters of Hong Kong":



Requirement on Local Knowledge (Only Applicable to Those Applying for Permission to Navigate in Hong Kong Waters)

Yacht operators must possess local knowledge of Hong Kong waters. The relevant qualification can be obtained through the following three ways:

- 1 **Complete training at the Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI) in Hong Kong:**
- 2 **Take an examination at the Hong Kong Marine Department:** Take an examination at the Marine Department and obtain a pass result after arrival in Hong Kong. Reservation must be made via eBS or in person at the Marine Department's counter not later than one working day before the examination.
- 3 **Attend examination or training in the Chinese Mainland:**



Examination



Training



Application for Local Knowledge Examination



Examination Guidebook on Hong Kong Waters Local Knowledge