



HOUSEBOAT
HOLIDAYS ITALIA

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION
All you need to know to plan and
enjoy your holiday on the water

Thank you for booking with Houseboat Holidays Italia! We're sure you'll have a great time..

This handbook tells you everything you need to know for an enjoyable and safe boating holiday.

We operate in the market of the inland self-drive leisure cruisers since many years and we have been helping thousands of people enjoy the pleasures of boating.

All our boats are simple to operate and are suitable for seasoned 'sailors' and first-timers alike, so no previous experience is required. Everyone has a full briefing and a hands-on boat handling demonstration before setting off.

That way you can be confident about how the boat works, how to handle her and the relevant navigation rules of the waterways.

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the information in this handbook before your cruise.

Have a great boating holiday!



Summary

3. What you find on board
3. What you should bring
4. The basic extras
5. Non-compulsory extras that you need
6. Casale sul Sile base
7. Precenicco base
8. Time to check in
8. The driving trial
9. Safety on board
9. Behaviour during the holiday
11. Restrictions in your cruising region
11. Time to check out
12. Your boat

What you find on board

Everything you need for a comfortable and safe holiday is on board.

Cabins have all bed linen (pillows, duvets and sheets) provided for the number of people on board, and cabins will be made up in advance as singles or doubles according to your preferences. 2 bathroom towels for each person are also provided.

The kitchen galley is fully equipped with a range of utensils, cutlery, crockery and equipment to suit the number of people on board. The kitchen galley has a oven and hob and depending on the model, microwave and dish washer.

When going ashore and make sure you never leave valuables in sight of people passing by.

All safety equipment is on board such as a life-ring, lifejackets for each person (children's life jackets are available) and a first aid kit, as well as a boat hook, fenders and a fire extinguisher.

Deck equipment is provided so you can keep the outside of the boat clean and tidy while you cruise.

This manual contains the complete list of equipment that you will find on board

What you should bring

Don't forget that boats have very limited storage space, so we recommend you pack your belongings in soft bags that can be easily stowed away. Bring comfortable clothes that allow you to move about the boat easily and deck shoes or rubber soled shoes will prevent you from slipping and won't damage the decks. Don't forget sunglasses, sun cream and a hat, as the sun reflects off the white surfaces of the boat.

Leather gloves (such as gardening gloves) are useful for protecting your hands while holding ropes in the locks.

Binoculars are also great for birdwatching from your sundeck, and large beach towels are a good idea for sunbathing.



The basic extras

These can be paid for prior to departure or at the base on arrival. We suggest you book in advance to avoid finding out of stock on the day of check in.

A complete list and prices can be found in the website www.houseboat.it

COLLISION DAMAGE WAIVER (CDW)

All customers must pay either a non-refundable Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) or a refundable Damage Deposit.

With the CDW the security deposit is significantly reduced. You will be covered if your boat is returned damaged, or if there is any accidental damage or injury to third parties except if this has been caused by negligence or wilful loss or damage.

In all cases, the replacement cost of any items of boat equipment or inventory, such as bicycles, tables, chairs, that are lost or damaged will be charged for separately.

FUEL AND FUEL DEPOSIT

Your boat will be supplied with a full tank of diesel before you set off on your cruise and you will not normally need to refuel en-route. Fuel is an additional cost which you pay locally in local currency.

On arrival, you will be asked to pay a fuel deposit towards the cost of your fuel. At the end of your holiday, depending on your fuel consumption, you will either be given a refund or you will be asked to pay any additional fuel costs.

Fuel charges are calculated on 'per hour' basis, and you will be informed how much the hourly fuel rate is.

Please note that fuel is charged according to market rates and is subject to change.



Non-compulsory extras that you need

We have a range of great holiday extras which you can pre-book to make sure your holiday flows smoothly.

FINAL CLEANING

After a relaxing holiday you probably don't want to spend your last evening cleaning the boat, so why not pre-book our cleaning service and let us take care of this for you. Ask our sales teams or agents for more details when you book.

SAFE CAR PARKING

Guarantee yourself a safe, fenced and video-monitored berth, ensuring your car while you are on vacation.

PRIORITY BOARDING & LATE CHECK-OUT

This service enables you to collect or return your boat earlier/later than our standard times. Take advantage of an extra half day of vacation, for a modest supplement. In addition, you will pass all procedures in peace, away from the crowds.

BBQ

Charcoal BBQs or campfires are not allowed along the waterways due to the risk of fire. However, you can hire one of our authorized gas BBQs which are attached to the railings of your boat so you can enjoy alfresco meals with friends and family as much as you want. You can also hire halogen lanterns for extra light in the evenings.

BIKES

For collecting your morning baguette to exploring more of your cruising area; the vast majority of our customers find bikes to be very useful to take on board with them. Children's bikes and child seats are also available for hire, but don't forget to bring your own helmets.

NAVIGATION MAPS AND GUIDE

If you want to prepare your cruise in advance and plan your stops, choose the kit corresponding to your itinerary on the website www.houseboat.it and we will mail the pack to your home immediately.

GROCERY PACK

If you come from afar, by plane, or just want to travel light, you could find on board the necessary for snacks and breakfast. You can buy further stock in the shops you will encounter during the trip.

WELCOME PACK

We can arrange a superlative welcome basket with a selection of local delicacies for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

CAR TRANSFER

If you have chosen a one-way cruise you will be able to arrange for your vehicle to be transferred to your end-base, or your crew transferred back to your start base by taxi. In the event of a vehicle transfer, our drivers are covered by insurance policy to do this. You will need to have your relevant car insurance papers with you when you hand over your car.

Casale sul Sile base

Our starting base for the Veneto region is located just a few kilometres from the splendid medieval city of Treviso, which is certainly worth visiting. Although located in the municipality of Casale sul Sile, the base is about half a kilometre from the historic centre of a pretty little town called Casier, which can be reached by bicycle and where you will find various services and can buy provisions. The base is located in a private and locked area with open parking for cars and a garage. The boats are moored in a closed basin with river access via a drawbridge that can be opened only during the base's business hours.

You must notify the staff ahead of time when you want to leave the base and when returning, phone when you are approaching the drawbridge.

The base is open from March to October with the following hours: 8.30 – 12.30 and 14.00 – 18.00.

ADDRESS

Via Nuova Trevigiana, 1
31032 Lughignano – Casale sul Sile – TV – I
GPS : 45°38'12.7"N 12°18'12.8"E
Tel : +39 3391922161
Email: casale@houseboat.it

Click, start the browser, and that's it

HOW TO GET THERE

Motorway

On motorway A4, exit at Preganziol.
On motorway A27, exit at Casale sul Sile.
The base is about 7 km straight ahead.

Train

The nearest train stations to the base are:
Treviso Centrale: 8km
Quarto d'Altino: 10km
Venezia Mestre: 25km

Airport

The most convenient options are:
Marco Polo in Venezia: 22km
Canova in Treviso: 10km

You can arrange for a taxi to collect you from a train station or airport. The receptionist will make all the necessary arrangements and confirm these details to you.

The taxi driver will arrange to meet you in a dedicated place.

If you have pre-booked a taxi collection, please do not use any other taxi service as you will still be charged for the booked taxi transfer. This is payable directly to the taxi driver, in local currency.

Precenicco base

This town is just a few kilometres from the Latisana exit on motorway A4.

The base is located on the town square near the fountain and the church. The boats are moored on the Stella River; the jetty is accessible at all times.

The base provides a fenced-in private car park, but no garage.

The nearest supermarket is about 2 km away, accessible by bicycle if necessary. Alternately, there are a well-stocked bakery and a farm selling quality fruits and vegetables near the base.

The base is open from March to October with the following hours: 8:30 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 18:00. It may be closed if no reservations have been made for that day

ADDRESS

Piazza Roma 14

33050 Precenicco – UD

Telefono: +39 342 8450962

Email: precenicco@houseboat.it

Click, start the browser, and that's it

HOW TO GET THERE

Motorway

The nearest motorway exit is Latisana, motorway A4.

Train

The most convenient train station is Latisana, on the Venice-Trieste line. Trains are very frequent. We recommend taking a taxi from the train station. The base is about 10 km away

Airport

Marco Polo in Venezia: 87km

Canova in Treviso: 91km

Ronchi dei Legionari in Trieste: 55km

You can arrange for a taxi to collect you from a train station or airport. The receptionist will make all the necessary arrangements and confirm these details to you.

The taxi driver will arrange to meet you in a dedicated place.

If you have pre-booked a taxi collection, please do not use any other taxi service as you will still be charged for the booked taxi transfer. This is payable directly to the taxi driver, in local currency.

Time to Check In

You can expect a warm welcome from our friendly base teams - most of whom speak several languages – when you arrive. The receptionist will complete any outstanding paperwork and if you haven't already done so, help you choose which itinerary would best suit you and your party. Your boat will be ready for collection from 15:00 onwards unless you have pre-booked Priority Boarding, which will let you gain a great half holiday.

If you are going to be arriving at the base late (over 6pm), you will need to inform the base directly and get all information to let you go onboard and sleep.

The base staff will do the full briefing the following morning. Please note you are not allowed to leave our harbour without first completing all the relevant paperwork and having a boat briefing. Cruising after dark is also prohibited.

The driving trial

Once you have completed all the relevant paperwork at reception you will be shown to your boat. You will be shown how everything on your boat works. You will also be given a boat handling demonstration so that you and your crew are able to take the boat out on the water and practice steering and manoeuvring under the guidance and supervision of one of our team. Generally 1 hour is enough to cover this phase.

THE CREW

People under 18 years are not allowed to drive the boat. 2 persons is the minimum crew; both people must be able to pilot the boat. The base staff may deny you use of the boat if they consider that the crew members do not have the necessary physical and mental conditions to be reasonably self-sufficient to pilot it.

We recommend a crew of at least 3 people for complete and safe handling.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In the unlikely event of your having a technical problem that prevents the usage of your boat, you can contact your departure base 7 days a week.

When calling, you must give your name, the name of your boat, the nature of your problem, your exact location and your mobile telephone number. A technician will come to your assistance as soon as possible. Technical assistance is free except if the incident is a result of your negligence and in these cases additional charges will be made.

EMERGENCIES

The numbers to call in the event of a medical or technical emergency are included with the boat's papers.

Safety on-board

- ⊗ Do not navigate after 6pm (in april and October 4pm)
- ⊗ People under 18 years are not allowed to drive the boat
- ⊗ Boating under the influence of drink or drugs is not tolerated and significantly increases the likelihood of accidents
- ⊗ Do not jump in or out of the boat, the risk of injury is high
- ⊗ When driving, be alert and pay attention at all times. Always refer to the waterways map to identify water hazards
- ⊗ Take care when walking around the boat and look out for open hatches, cleats and other trip hazards. Always use the railings to steady yourself.
- ⊗ We recommend you wear shoes with nonslip rubber soles to avoid slipping and falling
- ⊗ Take care not to place any part of your body between the mooring lines and a mooring bollard or the quayside.

Behaviour during the holiday

PRECEDENCE

Is always given to the craft on the right. If there is a current, precedence is given to the craft moving downstream. If in doubt, slow down and let the other craft pass.

NAVIGATING IN A STRAIGHT LINE

Do not swerve to the left and right, but pilot your boat in a straight line. Other boats may pass you on the left or right, so you must slow down and travel in a straight line to facilitate the manoeuvre.

TRAFFIC

Before entering a canal, wait to avoid cutting any other boats off. Do not cut any boats off when traveling through busy canals.

USING NAVIGABLE CANALS

You should generally travel down the centre of navigable canals, without travelling too close to the bank which may be shallow.

If you cannot see beyond the next curve, sound the horn to alert anyone coming in the opposite direction.

When rounding curves and bends, remember that the deepest water is usually in the outer edge of the curve and the shallowest in the inner edge.

SPEED

Although houseboats are slow, remember to slow down when:

- entering a narrow canal
- you need to detour around an obstacle or pass through a bottle neck
- your waves wash against the river bank
- passing moored boats, especially small ones
- you meet fishermen standing along the banks
- you are not sure of your direction
- speed limits are clearly marked

COMFORT ZONE

Drive the boat based on your ability and experience. Do not make risky moves. Always maintain a safety margin. Do what you can based on your knowledge and how confident you feel. Start your cruise calmly at low speed, until you get used to the boat and feel confident driving it.

WATER CURRENT

The water flow can change both in terms of speed and direction:

- when navigating in a river with a free current, the current will tend to always be in the same direction
- when navigating near the sea coast and in lagoons, the current will change direction every six hours along with the tides
- navigating against the current can reduce speed by up to 30%.

During the navigation, we invite you to follow all the instructions provided by the official Navigation Guide produced by the Company.

If you wish to receive the Navigation Guide at home in advance, ask for it on the website www.houseboat.it

BEHAVIOUR DURING THE HOLIDAY

During your cruise, you will share the waterways with many other users. These may include commercial barges, fishermen, sailors, bathers and riverside land owners. There is room for everyone as long as you observe the basic rules of courtesy: keep your distance from fishermen and slow down when approaching them.

Always pass slowly and at a good distance from moored boats.

Some banks are private so do not stop and go ashore just anywhere.

Respect speed limits. To ensure you are not going too fast, glance at your wake, your wash must not be breaking against the bank.

Do not push ahead of a commercial barge if by doing so you will delay it at the next lock. Remember the barge skipper is working and his time is precious.

Occasionally on rivers you will go past youngsters in canoes, sailing boats and rowing skiffs. Stay well clear of them as they are often quite inexperienced.

MORNING BRIEFING

With a nice cup of coffee in hand, get together early to plan the day's program.

With your navigation guide and card in hand, plan your day of cruising.

A little tip: 3 hours of cruising a day are fully enough to fully enjoy yourself.

Furthermore, good planning ensures that you will not arrive late in the evening and allows you to avoid bad weather and strong winds.

LOCKS

When approaching a lock, stay at least 100 metres short to enable a boat coming out of the chamber sufficient room to manoeuvre.

If there are several boats waiting, each one should go into the lock in the order of arrival. Official boats (navigation service, fire boats or customs vessels) as well as duly authorised passenger boats have priority over leisure craft.

You should also let commercial barges go ahead of you. The lock-keeper is sole in charge of his lock. You must at all times follow his instructions.

Stay at a good distance from the lock gates: too close to the upstream gates in a descending lock, and your rudder could sit on the sill. In an ascending lock, the bow could get caught in the gate's beams... with disastrous consequences!

Put the ropes through the rings or around the bollards on the lock surface and bring them back to the boat with one turn around the cleat. A crew member on each line then holds the boat tight against the lock wall.

Restrictions in your cruising region

There may be some navigation restrictions which might limit your navigation. Such restrictions could include the closure of a particular waterway, or a lock, due to essential maintenance, industrial action or unnavigable water levels.

Conditions and circumstances can change without notice. Please check the restrictions that are in place, and the information related. In case you need more details please contact your office or your departure base.

CHECK HERE FOR ANY RESTRICTIONS ON WATERWAYS

Time to Check Out

On the last day of your cruise, you must hand the boat back by 09:00 unless you have pre-booked a late check-out. In this case you can sleep far from the base and enjoy half more day of holiday.

If you wish to leave the boat early in the morning, you should come to the reception office the previous evening before 5pm so that we can complete the necessary formalities and finalise fuel payments and refunds.

CLEANING FEE

The boat must be given back in a clean state. Please bag up all rubbish following the recycling rules, remove items for recycling, mop the floor and wash and put away the dishes. If you opted to pay a boat cleaning fee in advance then we will take care of the final cleaning for you. All you need do in this instance is wash and store all kitchen utensils and crockery and remove rubbish.

Your boat

Every boat has a boat-specific user manual on board. This gives very clear explanations about all the main features of your boat and how they work. It is written in English, German and Italian. You will be shown this manual when you arrive and a member of the team will go through it with you in detail. The details below are given to help you familiarise yourself with what you will need to know about living on a boat.

FUEL

Your tank will be filled before your departure, and this is normally sufficient for one week's cruising. For longer cruises, your instructor will indicate where you can refuel. Prior to departure your fuel gauge will be read so that fuel consumption can be calculated on your return.

WATER

The water tanks have huge capacity. This is sufficient for two to three days depending on the number of people on board and your water usage rate. We recommend you fill up the tank at every opportunity (water points are indicated in most cruising guides and are generally found in towns, marinas or canal sides where there are shore power facilities).

You will find a water key on board to open the filler cap, as well as a 20 metre water hose. In some boat harbours you will be charged for drinking water. An electrical pump distributes the water to the different taps. Hot water is produced by a heat exchanger which is part of the engine cooling system. The engine needs to run for about 1 hour to heat the water. It will remain hot for up to 8 hours after you stop the engine.

SHOWER

As you take your shower, waste water collects in a tray underneath the duck boards. The capacity of the water tanks on your boat is limited. Make sure you use as little water as possible each time you turn on the taps or take a shower.

TOILETTES

Boats are equipped with electric saniflow toilets. Push the button several times.

To avoid any problems with marine toilets, you should ask all your crew members to respect the following basic rules:

- Put nothing into the bowl that could block the system.
- Use as little toilet paper as possible.
- Use plenty of water when flushing.

If during your cruise you encounter a blockage problem and call the base, this problem will not be considered an emergency. A technician will help as soon as possible. If the toilet becomes clogged due to your negligence, you will be billed for the service costs.

ELECTRICITY

12V electrical power

12V electrical power Electricity on board is provided by 12 volt batteries, recharged by the engine or by shore power. To ensure that the batteries remain properly charged the engine must run three to four hours each. All boats are equipped with a 12 volt cigar-lighter type-plug. You can connect your adaptor lead for a mobile phone or any other low power equipment with the appropriate connection.

220V electrical power

Boats are equipped with 220 volt transformers for electric razors, plug in a mobile telephone charger or any other low power appliance but nothing else. Do not use them for hair dryers

or irons, as inverter do not provide power enough. Boat can connect to a power point on the quay via a shore power cable. This provides 220V power to the boat's domestic equipment and recharges the batteries.

REFRIGERATOR

Do not make a single huge provisioning stock, for the entire duration of the holiday. It may not fit in the onboard fridge, which is smaller than your fridge at home. Buy a few things, day after day. You can thus test many different specialties, and always have space on board where to store food.

HEATING

Most of our boats are equipped with hot air heaters, and the air is distributed by an electric fan system and will therefore consume energy. Never leave the heater on unnecessarily when you are away from your boat or during the night during the night.

AIR CONDITIONING

The system can operate for a limited number of hours. You cannot leave the system always on, otherwise a security system will interrupt it. Use it wisely, following the instructions of the staff, and do not waste energy. In this way it'll properly operate when it is useful. And of course, turn it off if you have doors or windows open.

GAS

If your boat is fed by a gas bottle, it's generally located outside the boat. It's normally used just for the hobs and the oven. If you suspect a leak, close the gas bottles, the battery cut-off switch and the main gas cut-off switch, turn off all electrical appliances and do not let anyone smoke. Open all doors, windows, hatches, etc. to ventilate the cabins, evacuate the boat and call for assistance immediately.

SECURITY EQUIPMENT

Your boat is equipped with fire extinguishers and one fire blanket. To avoid having to use them, you should respect basic fire safety advice and never leave a flame unattended and keep curtains or any other inflammable material away from the stove.

LIFE JACKETS

There is a life jacket on board for every passenger and smaller life jackets for children are available – please ask at reception before you depart. You are advised to wear a life jacket especially if you are not a confident swimmer and You do not feel safe when boarding and down boarding.

BREAKDOWNS AND REMEDIES

If something on board is not working, do not hesitate to call our breakdown service. However, there are some small incidents which you may be able to solve yourself guided at the phone by our expert technicians.