

## Cayman Islands – Not Just a Name on the Transom

EVER WONDERED WHY so many yachts are flying the Cayman Islands flag?

No longer a mystical haven for pirates and money launderers, the Cayman Islands have become home to a large, international base of white collar professional experts dealing with clients around the globe. The country has been through a remarkable transition since it was almost flattened by one of the strongest hurricanes on record – the Category 5 Hurricane Ivan, which brought winds of over 200mph and a tidal surge that engulfed the (mostly flat) islands in 2004. Since then the islands have experienced an unprecedented reconstruction and building boom. It is indisputable that the one silver lining to the hurricane that hit was the “clean slate” that forced businesses to re-build, update and improve.

The financial services sector in the Cayman Islands, already widely recognized as a worldwide center for offshore finance, has continued to progress and develop at a rapid pace. The Cayman Islands may fly the Union flag in the canton (top left corner) and drive on the left, but the culture and standard of living is very much based on high net worth American expectations and convenience.

The Cayman Islands Shipping Registry is a Category 1 British registry, hence can register vessels of any size and type provided that they meet international standards. It maintains the majority global market share in large-yacht design and construction advisory services for vessels more than 50 meters in length through its Cayman Islands Large Yacht Services department. These vessels are often not only flagged through the Cayman Islands but will be owned by tax neutral Cayman Islands-based companies.

For more information about the Cayman Islands, check out the charter itinerary on page 46. – JEREMY CHANNON, Diamond Law Associates, [www.dla.ky](http://www.dla.ky)

## Stop Asking Me When...

FOR THOSE OF YOU MISSING the *Dockwalk* website, have faith. We're coming back bigger and better than ever. Our site is currently under construction and we promise it'll be an indispensable tool for both your professional and personal crew life.

To this end, we're now searching for an experienced web editor to assist in conceptualizing and managing content. Ideally, we're looking for a yachtie who's also a talented journalist with strong content and line-editing skills and an eye for web-friendly writing. The full-time position entails working with freelancers to produce compelling daily content and building an online community through user-generated content. Interested candidates can contact *Dockwalk* Editor Kate Lardy at [kate@dockwalk.com](mailto:kate@dockwalk.com).

## Crew Input Required!

TRAINING OPTIONS in Fort Lauderdale are plentiful. But not so much when you head north into Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties. Palm Beach Yachts is looking to make that change, but it needs your input to do so. If you're crew based on a yacht that frequents the Florida counties north of Broward, do them a quick favor and send in your opinions to their questions.

- Do you think that crew training is needed or would you use such courses in the West Palm Beach area?
- If yes, what courses exactly would you like to see offered in the area?
- What other service would you benefit from that is not presently in the West Palm Beach, Florida, area?

Just think, you really could make a difference with this one. Send email responses to Donna MacPhail at [donna@yachtcrew.com](mailto:donna@yachtcrew.com).



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