

## ANCHORS AWAY

After many years of boating for fun in the UK and holding down a 'proper' job, the decision was taken in 2005 to turn a hobby into a livelihood and follow a dream.

The 1st minor detail was to move 'Sloopy' a 37 foot sailing boat from Chichester to the Med. The original idea of the destination was always a bit vague; 'somewhere in the south of Spain' was what was said when asked! It was always hoped that it would become clear on the way and anyway on the dull grey day of departure, anywhere in the sun seemed a better place to be!

After crossing the English Channel to Le Havre, the mast was taken down and Sloopy temporarily became a canal boat. We entered the River Seine and made our way to Paris which is a very special place to be in your own boat and we were almost expecting someone to tell us to move on. From Paris the route became the canal system of central France with its 350+ locks and eventually the rivers Saone and Rhone to the coast. It was a bit of an adjustment to

take to sea again but the inviting blue Mediterranean made it an easy transition.

To cut a long story short, the trip onwards to the south of Spain was ended at Tarragona when it was realised just what Catalonia had to offer. We might not have the spectacular coastline of say the eastern Med but there is a lot more and Tarragona makes a great base for the business we wanted to run.

In 2006 we finally gained the final documents necessary to run 'Sloopy' as a commercial vessel and for me to operate as a professional skipper. Since then we have been running day trips and holidays and more recently we have received approval to run internationally recognised training courses.

In a day it is possible to spend the time just sailing or take a break anchoring in one of many beautiful bays. The crystal clear warm waters are perfect for a snorkel or just a swim. A day can also provide a great introduction to sailing. It is enough time to see if it is really something you would like to do or take the first steps in gaining a qualification. A very popular option has been celebratory

trips where we have been happy to lay on additional surprise treats.

When more time is available, the Costa Dorada coast offers a wide choice of destinations. Up the coast, Villanova and Sitges provide welcome breaks on the way to Barcelona where a stay is a special treat. It is possible to enter this major port passing the yachts of the super rich and moor in a delightful marina situated as close to the end of the Ramblas and its attractions as it is possible to get. For those wishing to put in more sailing miles, the Costa Brava and its spectacular coastline beckons beyond Barcelona.

Heading down the coast from Tarragona we include such stops as Cambrils and L'Ametlla de Mar. You might think you know these places but they appear so different when entering on a boat. L'Ametlla for example looks like it was designed to be seen from the sea. As you approach the harbour you are greeted with the image of a traditional Mediterranean harbour that time seems to have forgotten, a view quite different from the approach by road..

For the more adventurous and those wishing to spend



above on the canals through France

more time at sea, we have the Balearic's, a 24 hour sail away with an unlimited number of anchorages and stunning coastline.

*For more information on the trips available or if you would like to discuss the training program then contact Malcolm on 670544116 or go to [www.spanishsailing.com](http://www.spanishsailing.com)*

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[www.spanishsailing.com](http://www.spanishsailing.com)  
Costa Dorada/Tarragona/L'Ametlla de Mar  
birthdays & celebrations a speciality

Day Trips 75 Euros/day  
(per person including lunch.)  
Learn to sail a yacht or just sit back and enjoy the day. Maybe you would like to include a lunch time stop in a secluded bay with a swim and snorkel, the choice is yours.....  
See web site or contact Malcolm on 670544116 or e-mail [spanishsailing@gmail.com](mailto:spanishsailing@gmail.com)

