

## travel

## sail on the high seas



Bodrum Marina



Nisyros Volcano

### Our Enthusiatic Return on Jelka – Oli Franzen

Emma and I loved the SCIC experience so much that we didn't just tell our mates about it - we came back with a boat-load of family and friends in July! We exclusively chartered one of SCIC's smaller eight guest yachts, the Jelka.

Starting from Bodrum we sailed and motored some 100 miles round the southern Turkish coast, enjoying a treasure island-like adventure as we leisurely explored the plethora of beautiful bays.

The Jelka, a beautiful 60ft wooden ketch, offered the same superb standard of comfort and service as Naviga I thanks to our capable captain Murat, wonderful chef Ramazan and helpful young crew Yugel.

While Jelka was smaller than Naviga I it was still enormous by our standards, roughly the same size as the Broads Wherry Albion, and having the whole boat with its attentive crew at our disposal made us feel

like millionaires.

It also meant that we could enjoy life in the slow lane and linger longer in our favourite bays, only pulling up anchor when we really wanted to.

The turquoise water was simply mesmerizing and tearing ourselves away from a bay, even to hoist sail and find our next private Shangri-La, often proved a challenge. But, as we moved from bay to bay, Mother Nature delighted us again and again with the most stunning picture-perfect landscapes.

Largely we were content to while away the days diving off the side of the boat to swim and snorkel in the crystal clear waters, while back on deck we also enjoyed spending hours of unforgettable quality with family and friends.

I also got a regular injection of excitement learning to windsurf on the Jelka's board, which was kept on the side of the boat and willingly set up and slipped into the water by the crew.

After a few tips from Captain Murat I was soon exploring every bay the Jelka moored in with the

windsurfer. It was a priceless experience and I soon gained confidence. And when the wind blew hard and I skipped along on the plain, buzzing with excitement, I felt a huge sense of achievement.

I also had brilliant male bonding sessions with my friends Sam and Owen. Like us, Captain Murat and our chef Ramazan were also keen anglers and after exchanging fishing tales we landed a kaleidoscope of colourful fish with the help of their local knowledge. The real highlight though was when Ramazan helped fulfil a childhood dream by taking us fishing for the ferocious barracuda in a small dingy. Although we never connected with this giant predator, just trying made our day! Chartering our own yacht also meant that every meal time was like a family dinner party, only without the washing up.

And the privacy of having our own boat also meant that at the end of each day, if we wished, we could comfortably sleep out on deck under a sparkling vista of stars in the night sky.



Captain Murat on Jelka



Jelka

### Late deals

with Derek James



#### From Norwich

**Corfu.** Sept 21. 7 nights, b&b, 3\* hotel, Roda, from £326.

**Majorca.** Sept 24. 7 nights, half-board, 3\* hotel, C'an Picafort, from £434.

**Crete.** Oct 2. 7 nights, half-board, 3\* hotel, Stalis, from £406.

**Malta.** Oct 6. 7 nights, half-board, 4\* hotel, Qawra, from £430.

**Turkey.** Oct 23. 7 nights, b&b, 2\* hotel, Marmaris, from £435.

Call TNA on 01603 428800.

#### Deal of the Day

From Norwich

**Austria.** Sept 23. 7 nights, half-board, 2\* hotel and resort allocated on arrival, from £299.

Call TNA on 01603 428800.

#### Viva Las Vegas

Book a 3\* triple-centre holiday to LA, Las Vegas and San Francisco with Travelbag.co.uk ([www.travelbag.co.uk](http://www.travelbag.co.uk), 0871 703 4240) from only £679.

Price includes three nights accommodation at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Los Angeles, three nights at the Excalibur in Las Vegas, three nights at the Renoir in San Francisco. The flights are with United Airlines from Heathrow.

The offer is valid for travel during September.

#### Half-Term African adventure

The Gambia Experience is offering more flights to the West African country from Gatwick this half-term. Flights will be on October 23 and 30.

The children will love a trip to the "smiling coast" and the opportunity to experience a different culture and the chance

to meet Gambian children.

Prices are from £599 for 7 nights, b&b, in a 2\* hotel. With a flying time of under 6 hours, it's a short flight away for a tropical destination and it's on the same time zone so there's no jet lag.

Call 0845 330 4567 or visit [www.gambia.co.uk](http://www.gambia.co.uk)

#### Turkish Delight

Norwich Airport will be offering holidaymakers more choice next summer thanks to Thomson, who has added Dalaman to their 2010 programme and will be flying from the city. Flights will leave on a Thursday between May 6 and October 28.

Other destinations next year include Menorca, Malta, Majorca, Corfu, Bulgaria and Ibiza.

For more information call 016030 428700, log on

[www.travelnorwichairport.co.uk](http://www.travelnorwichairport.co.uk) or visit the shop at Castle Mall.

#### Romantic Rome

netflights.com is offering two nights at the 4\* Flaminio Village residence in Rome with breakfast for £159. Price includes return flights with British Airways from Gatwick. Valid for departures in November.

For more details visit [www.netflights.com](http://www.netflights.com) or call 0844 493 4944