

**DEAR PARENTS,**

Every year we create “summer holidays” for the younger generation – no easy task, as it involves not just looking after them – that’s just a drop in the ocean – but much more besides.

We want our teens to experience something new, have fun, be active, learn languages, discover other countries and get to know young people from different cultures. Computers and mobiles take a back seat here, because the focus is on stocking up on energy and consuming plenty of natural vitamins by eating healthily. Supplemented by sport, exercise and increased independence and tidiness.

“Wow!” we hear you say. But how does it work? Well, we ourselves are parents of four teens (our boys are 11, 13 and 14, and our daughter is 17) and we have already tried lots of things, starting from all-inclusive hotels, moving on to houses from Airbnb and finishing with language camps in Switzerland, England and France. We were never really satisfied. If we ask our teens today which of the holidays they would be happy to repeat any time, we always get the same answer: Let’s go sailing again! Since 2003 we have regularly sailed on cruising catamarans together with our children in a wide variety of destinations all over the world. It simply makes us happy to see the positive effects these experiences have on the kids time and time again, and how happy they are on this kind of holiday in the heart of nature.

We have been organising sailing trips for adults for a long time, and have recently come up with two ideas: to bring in a new type of catamaran with a sustainably eco-friendly concept, and to introduce teenagers to sailing trips on which they can conquer the land from the water. A change of perspective that leaves a lasting impression.

**From next year (2020) there will be something very special for teenagers.**

Together with our kids, we have developed an extremely exclusive programme in the island world of the northern Sporades, where your teens will have an unforgettable time. A combination of sailing, excursions and English, on a route with numerous islands, an optimal programme and delicious recipes that will delight not only you, but above all your teens ...

 **WHO WE ARE**

We are Svetlana and Nicolas, the parents of four great, successful teenagers. Nicolas has been sailing as the skipper on cruising catamarans for over 20 years, and Svetlana, who is now also a skipper, has been involved since 2003. It is our job to plan the trips in detail and create added value in situ so that this experience becomes unforgettable for your children. Naturally, we will accompany your youngsters on this trip, and will ensure that everything runs perfectly. All the adults accompanying the sailing trips must prove that they are suitable to look after children and teenagers, either by means of the so-called “extended certificate of good conduct” or by having passed the official aptitude test.

 **WHERE WE SAIL**

In 2020 the focus for teenagers is on the Northern Sporades region. These islands are located between Athens and Halkidiki and form the largest marine conservation area in Europe, which is the indigenous habitat of the threatened monk seals and various dolphin pods. Unlike many other places in Greece, these islands are covered with luxuriant pine forests, so they offer the ideal habitat for numerous species. Your children will travel directly to the Sporades by flying to Skiathos airport, and we will pick them up at the airport.

### **THEN THINGS GET GOING**

The weekly sailing trips take place during the school holidays and start at Whitsun in 2020. You can also book several weeks in succession: we vary the excursions to avoid repetition. Naturally, the highlights (dolphins and monk seals) are included every week, as you can never get too much of them.

### **THE YACHT**

We always sail on sparkling white cruising catamarans. A cruising catamaran is a multihull yacht (catamarans have two hulls), with the cabins and bathrooms located in the hulls. Each hull offers space for two double cabins, each with their own bathroom (WC/shower/washbasin), and a skipper's cabin in the bow. Between the hulls (above the waterline) is the closed saloon, which mainly houses the kitchen and the seating. Meals are eaten in the cockpit, a half-open area adjoining the saloon. The yacht is rounded off by the steering position and the deck (with a net between the bows) with the mast and sails, offering plenty of space for everyone on board. Naturally, a yacht also has a dinghy with an outboard motor, so that we can explore the close surroundings of the mooring point.

### **OUR PRACTICE**

We only speak English. This removes any shyness about using another language, expands the teenagers' vocabulary, and practises and consolidates everyday phrases. We will not be running any courses, but will usually have a native-speaker mentor from the UK on board. The marine biologists accompanying us and the excursion leaders on land will also provide their explanations in English. We will ride the waves under sail whenever possible. In just a few days your child will learn the basics of this form of transport and will take part responsibly: hoisting and lowering the sails, anchoring and berthing, steering the yacht, planning our course and much more. There will be daily activities on land or at sea, during which we will also introduce the teenagers to the Sailing4Future project, and raise their awareness of their natural surroundings and the organisms living there. Together we will plan a marine protection campaign. In a weekly campaign we might, for example, collect refuse on a beach and thus actively help to improve the situation.

### **IT WORKS**

Words cannot fully describe the effect a trip like this has on teens. However, we have observed how their self-awareness is increased just as markedly as their spatial thinking, orientation skills in natural surroundings, their ability to interpret the weather, tidiness and persistence, as well as a sense of responsibility, the ability to think ahead, patience and courage. We greatly hope that our programme for a maximum of eight teenagers per yacht will inspire your teens to go on an amazing journey into the fabulous world of nature, history and flora and fauna.

**We look forward to your enquiries!**