



## ***CARIBBEAN CHARTER GUEST INFO***

**Luggage - Pack lightly! In soft-sided bags!** Dress code is the casual side of casual. If you don't change for dinner, it will not be a conversation topic when you turn in for the night. A regular comment when guests leave is "Why did I bring so much stuff?" A few T shirts, maybe something short sleeved with a collar in case you go out one evening, and a few pairs of shorts. The warmest clothes you will need will be the ones you arrive and leave in. For your time in the water, 2-3 swimsuits, as well as a Lycra top for sun protection is a good idea. You'll go barefoot on the boat. A pair of flip-flops or open sandals for onshore is the norm. Don't forget a hat and sunglasses, pharmaceuticals, personal items and your passport. In reality, you could do it with hand luggage. We have towels and *Kiehls* toiletries in your cabins. Storage space on-board is very limited so be sure to pack in soft-sided luggage.

**The Sun.** It is strong in the Caribbean and is magnified by reflection from the water and sand beaches. Make sure to bring plenty of your favorite sunscreen. We recommend SPF 30 or higher, especially for your first few days in the sun. Please only bring lotions as sunscreen oils and gels will stain fabrics on the boat.

**Preference Sheet.** Too much emphasis cannot be put on this document. You cannot be too detailed. Once the charter starts, provisioning opportunities are scant. If you ask for tofu burgers and have not put this on the preference sheet, a morning spent vainly hunting them down is a morning not spent sailing and snorkeling.

**Communications.** Your GSM cell phone (all European and U.S. AT&T and T-Mobile, but not Verizon or Sprint phones) will roam in many anchorages if you have activated international roaming before leaving home, but at a steep price. A few anchorages have WiFi for Internet access, and if required you can go ashore to an Internet café. *Aurora* has a satellite phone (+1-401-314-0189) which can be reached 24/7, and interfaces with the ship's e-mail service ([aurora@sailaurora.com](mailto:aurora@sailaurora.com)) for daily e-mail downloads. Use of satellite communications is an additional charge so don't promise Granny you'll be emailing each other pictures.

**Entertainment.** The captain has a repertoire of rib-cracking jokes, and the boat has a varied library of books and DVDs. You can plug your iPod into the boat's sound system and charge cameras, phones and other devices anytime on the boat's 120V system. Limited 220V can also be accommodated. Playing cards and board games including Backgammon, Monopoly and Scrabble, are also aboard. Join the *Aurora* Scrabble Challenge: Beat the crew and win a bottle of champagne!

**Gratuities.** These are a substantial portion of the crew's compensation and allows you to reward a crew that has provided outstanding service. We're frequently asked for tipping guidelines. As with most fine North American restaurants and resorts the typical range of tips is 10% to 20% of the charter fee and expenses. If you feel the crew has done a good job, 15% is a good tip - by giving 10%, you are telling the crew that things were OK, but not perfect. Exceptional service should be rewarded with higher amounts. Since checks can be difficult to cash, particularly for a boat cruising in a different area, tips are generally given to the Captain in cash or travelers checks who shares it amongst the crew. To accommodate guests who don't wish to carry large amounts of cash, you may deposit funds with Windlass Yachts prior to your cruise. At the end of the charter with a call or e-mail to our office, we can disperse these funds to the crew at your direction and refund any balance to you.

**Cash & Credit.** You will need some cash for any on-shore purchases. Depending on our itinerary local currency may be U.S. Dollars, Euros or Eastern Caribbean Dollars (EC's). Most islands will accept US Dollars. Larger shops may accept Visa or MasterCard. Amex is not widely accepted. Some cities may have ATMs that are part of your bank's network, but don't count on it. You will also need U.S. Dollars to settle any charges incurred on board for special requests, wines, local cruising taxes, communications and similar charges.