

Halcyon's 2010 Cruise Circumnavigation of the UK

The classic charter Yacht Halcyon is planning to do a virtually complete clockwise circumnavigation of the UK during her 2010 charter season. She will be visiting some spectacular locations in Pembrokeshire, Ireland, the Scottish Isles, and the east and south coasts of the UK with the added bonus of a Caledonian Canal transit through the highlands of Scotland. In addition the capital cities of our islands will all be visited, Cardiff, Belfast, (Dublin), Edinburgh and London as well as great ports such as Milford Haven, Cork, Oban and Inverness. We think that there should be something for everyone in her 2010 schedule, some interesting offshore passages, some fabulous cruising grounds and some great daysail locations for groups or corporates, as well as alongside opportunities in some of our greatest cities.

Halcyon plans to leave Tommi Nielsen's shipyard in Gloucester, her winter base immediately following their start of season spectacular when all the vessels that they have been looking after put on their gladrags and show off. On the weekend of 21st/22ndth March, it is intended that ships such as Cornubia, Kotchee, Olga and Cairiad all pilot cutters, Johanna Lucretia, a schooner and Halcyon will be open to the public showing off the standards of workmanship for which these wooden classic vessels and Tommi Nielsen's yard are legendary.

Halcyon will then begin her season, by transiting the Sharpness Canal and feeling once again the open waters of the Bristol Channel under her keel on a passage to Cardiff. In Wales' capital city Halcyon will be available for corporate entertaining opportunities and daysails around Easter time before heading off westwards to the crystal clear waters of Pembrokeshire. In Milford Haven for the middle of April she will be available for long weekends and daysails in the waters made famous in her 2009 DVD, available on our website. Blue seas, blue skies and golden beaches will probably tempt the first swim of the season out of her crew.

A passage cruise to Southern Ireland is again planned for this year, following up on our successful visit to the Royal Cork Yacht Club home waters in 2009. This 4-5 day cruise will include visits to the Pembrokeshire islands of Skomer and Skokholm and an overnight passage to the southeastern corner of Ireland before coast hopping to Cork. We plan daysail opportunities out of Cork in late April/early May and a longer

coastal cruise westwards towards the glorious harbours of south west Ireland, Kinsale, Castletownend and Baltimore are all within reach of her on an easy cruise with great sailing almost guaranteed! With her prices in pounds sterling and the current exchange rate this could be a brilliant opportunity for Euro based customers to avail themselves of her legendary hospitality.

The middle of May will see Halcyon move up the Irish Sea on a passage cruise, calling possibly at some of the smaller ports, Arklow and Aberystwyth as well as Holyhead, Dublin, Douglas on the Isle of Man and Belfast. This would involve some longer offshore passages, maybe a couple of overnight sails as well as nights in some of these spectacular ports, allowing a mix of exciting distance sailing but access to Halcyon's legendary onboard cuisine. In late May, Halcyon should arrive in the Clyde for a few weeks cruising out of a convenient port of embarkation (for Glasgow airport) at Largs. The Kyles of Bute, Arran and the Firth of Clyde are wonderful cruising areas at this time of year, where the weather has consistently in the past few years surprised us by turning dry and sunny. No guarantees of course, for this is Scotland, but Halcyon is equipped to cope with all types of weather, her crew, her wood burning stove in the saloon and her galley and wine cellar see to that!

In late June Halcyon will double back down the Irish Sea, calling in at some of the ports she might have missed on the way up before basing herself in Milford Haven for the 2010 Seafair Haven event in early July. This should be a fabulous festival, twinned as it is with the Morbihan festival in France, when over a 100 classic vessels from square riggers to rowing/sailing skiffs, explore the Pembrokeshire waterways. Whilst in Milford Haven this would be a great chance for Halcyon to cruise to the Isles of Scilly. The Isles of Scilly in Mid summer could be a magical cruise and are easily reachable from Milford Haven, providing a summer gale is not forecast!

In mid July Halcyon heads off for the Western Scottish Isles to revisit some of her favourite cruising grounds, Oban, Mull, Skye, Mallaig, Jura, Canna, the Correyvreckan, the list is long, evocative and truly magical. A week spent here with family and friends will be a week long remembered. The anchorages, the food, the wildlife and the romance of remote communities making their living but surprisingly connected and influential in the great events of the outside world. Iona is a perfect example, St Columba came here in 563 to bring Christianity to Scotland, and many Scottish kings made

this their burial place. Dolphins, whales, basking sharks, seals and golden eagles can all be expected to be encountered as Halcyon sails among these fabulous islands.

By mid August it is time for Halcyon to cross to the east coast of Scotland using the splendid engineering feat of Thomas Telford's Caledonian Canal. A cruise from Oban, up Loch Linnhe to the start of the Canal at Corpach, the climb up the locks of Neptune's Staircase, after waiting for the Jacobite steam train to clear the swingbridge is then the start of a gentle week's passage through the Great Glen. Anchorages in Loch Lochy and Loch Ness allow one to sample the magnificent stillness and remoteness of the highlands, perhaps the Osprey's nest will have chicks again this year. A visit to Castle Urquart is a must for history enthusiasts, it changed hands many times in the turbulent history of the highlands and now sits a romantic ruin standing silent guard on the shores of Loch Ness. Finally the canal follows the river Ness down to Inverness and the end of Halcyon's adventure afloat in freshwater.

A cruise from Inverness along the Moray Firth coast with its own sunny microclimate before turning the corner and heading south for Edinburgh, should allow Halcyon to visit ports that hitherto we have missed (heading as we have for Norway in 2007 and 2008). This time the capital of Scotland is our destination for the end of August. Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth have seen some magnificent vessels in her time and we feel Halcyon will fit right in. Edinburgh festival and daysail opportunities could make a wonderful and memorable series of opportunities to charterers wishing to make the most of this capital city.

Halcyon is heading south now and a serious offshore passage is contemplated here to get her down to London for an appearance at St Katharine docks in the shadow of Tower Bridge in a reprise of her January 2006 appearance there. Hopefully the weather will be more clement this time, late summer in London could be a terrific opportunity for our London based clients to see her again, and sample some of her alongside entertaining opportunities. In 2006 we did champagne breakfast events, lunchtime buffets, evening cocktail parties and spectacular 4 course dinners. All of which she is perfectly set up to repeat in mid September. School holidays are over, the city is springing back to work after the August break and our many London based clients could see Halcyon as a haven of quality and sophistication in their busy lives.

In late September Halcyon will leave London for a cruise to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, calling in at a port in Northern France, just to stock up on some interesting cheeses. Cowes to South Wales is her next cruise and the first time in the 2010 season that she will transit Land's End. Usually she has done at least a couple each year, sometimes more. She is planning to finish her season at the end of September/Early October with a visit to Cardiff, or maybe Newport to coincide with the Ryder Cup at the Celtic Manor resort, when the eyes of the golfing world will be focused on South Wales to see if Europe can retain the trophy. Events in harbour or daysails will allow Halcyon to entertain golfing widows and/or widowers whilst being part of what will surely be a most memorable event.