

# Warm Weather Cruising & Fishing Charters

by Beth Crabtree

As the mercury heads south, perhaps you should too. Whether you're dreaming about doing some big-time fishing, or just catching a little R&R on a luxury charter yacht, boaters of all stripes will enjoy these gems. Go ahead—indulge your blue water fantasy.



Sea of Cortez. Photo courtesy of Tailhunter International

## The Sea of Cortez

- Also known as the Gulf of California, this body of water separates the Baja California Peninsula from mainland Mexico.
- Angling excursions for marlin, sea bass, sierra, yellowtail, and grouper.
- Try one of the many fishing charter companies based out of Cabo San Lucas.
- Hike and explore 37 volcanic islands, many of which are uninhabited.
- Calm bays and quiet coves provide secluded anchorages.
- White-sand beaches and gorgeous turquoise water.
- Snorkel, scuba, swim, kite surf, sea kayak, and more.
- Beautiful desert scenery and amazing forests of towering cacti.
- Bountiful marine life, including whales, dolphins, and sea lions.

## British Virgin Islands

- Excellent snorkeling, plus scuba, kite surfing, sea kayaking, and more.
- Plentiful shallows for first-rate fly fishing.
- Offshore angling for marlin, wahoo, and more big fish.
- Explore numerous bays and harbors with access to marinas and services.
- Short passages between islands in clear turquoise water.

## Find Charter Companies

- Among the hundreds of companies large and small offering powerboat charters, here are a few in the locations mentioned here:
- The Moorings [moorings.com](http://moorings.com)
- TMM Charters [sailtmm.com](http://sailtmm.com)
- Virgin Traders Motor Yachts [virgintraders.com](http://virgintraders.com)



A remote bay in the Caribbean. Photo by Michaela Urban

## Belize

- Just a two-hour flight from Miami and situated on the western edge of the Caribbean Sea, Belize lies between Mexico and Guatemala.
- Home to the Mesoamerican Reef, which stretches 350 nautical miles and shelters more than 400 islands and cays.
- Enjoy an unspoiled, natural setting that's less crowded than other parts of the Caribbean.
- Similar to cruising the South Pacific Islands, but closer to home.
- First-rate fishing for king mackerel, wahoo, tuna, marlin, and bonefish.
- Inland excursions to archeological sites of the Mayan culture.
- Lots of kite surfing, swimming, paddleboarding, and other watersports.
- Travel 45 miles inland to experience the Great Blue Hole, a large submarine sinkhole, where visitors dive or snorkel to view marine life plus stalactites and stalagmites.
- Explore the coast and shoreline by hiking, kayaking, or canoeing.

## St. Vincent & the Grenadines

- 32 beautiful islands, some uninhabited, form a 65-mile chain of unspoiled islands on the eastern side of the Caribbean.
- Snorkel and scuba over coral reefs.
- Kayak, surf, kite surf, and other watersports.
- Angling for tuna, wahoo, marlin, sailfish, and barracuda.
- Crystal-clear turquoise water, white-sand beaches, lush tropical rain forests, stunning waterfalls, and sheltered coves and bays for peaceful anchoring.
- Plenty of marinas for provisioning and service.



Now that's a fish. Photo courtesy of Tailhunter International



Happy anglers. Photo courtesy of Tailhunter International

## The Bahamas

- The Commonwealth of the Bahamas begins just 50 miles east of the Florida Keys and is composed of hundreds of low, flat islands and cays.
- The Exumas, Grand Bahama, the Abacos, and New Providence (Nassau), and Paradise Island are ideal spots to start exploring.
- Excellent angling for marlin, sailfish, tuna, mahi-mahi, barracuda, and wahoo.
- Easy access to deep water big-game fishing, renowned flats, miles of shallows for fly fishing, and plentiful reef fishing (known locally as bottom fishing).
- Numerous harbors and marinas are easily accessible, with services such as electrical hook-up, fuel, Internet access, and provisioning.
- Excellent sites to snorkel, scuba, swim, paddleboard, and sea kayak in beautiful indigo water and tranquil coves.
- Join in the exciting Nassau nightlife or choose to stay at a quiet anchorage.