

The New York Times

The Seas as the Ultimate Coronavirus Isolation? Not. So. Fast.

Folks who live on boats face off with land they can't set foot on, staring down logistical hurdles, ethical issues and social media harshness.

Yachts With Everything but Guests

One of the few superyachts still in the British Virgin Islands is the 155-foot motor yacht [Loon](#), which is anchored in North Sound bay.

The crew of 10 has the usual array of water toys, plenty of fuel and several months' worth of expensive food and wine. The only thing missing? Guests, because the local lockdown means nobody can reach the vessel.

"The next charter on our books that hasn't canceled is May 11 in the Bahamas, but right now I'm not sure that we are going to be able to get there," said Paul Clarke, the skipper.

The last guests aboard were a three-generation family of 10 from Chicago, who spent a week aboard until March 21.

"They were supposed to fly down commercial, but for the safety of the crew I requested that they don't expose themselves to commercial travel so they ended up chartering a jet down to the vessel," Mr. Clarke said. "Being at anchor on a superyacht anywhere in the world right now is one of the safest places you can be, but you have to get here first."

Mr. Clarke, who is 37 and from Australia, said the Chicago family concentrated on letting their grandchildren enjoy the water but the adults were glued to news reports of the coronavirus. The tension rose, he said, as the week went on.

“We tried to make sure they had as much fun as possible, but they were obviously worried about what was going on back home, just like everyone in the crew,” he said. “We are not concerned about our own safety because we have been so good with self-isolating but we are all a little worried about friends and family.”



The Loon, a luxury yacht now anchored in the British Virgin Islands. It is stocked with crew and supplies but is nearly impossible for guests to reach. IYC Yachts

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