

## Florida Yacht Charter; Top Five Marinas to Dock Your Yacht

Contributed by Shannon DeFries

Today's upscale marinas are offering more than just dockage, they are now providing a full range of amenities that enhance the yachting experience. With new acquisitions, multi-million dollar renovations and some of the finest amenities, most upscale marinas are making the Florida Yacht Charter into a grand experience. Since Labor Day has passed, the majority of luxury vessels will be migrating south to the Florida Region. For those booking a Florida Yacht Charter, some of the ports of call are just as important as the boat itself. Listed below are the top five marinas in the state that cater to the most elite ships on the water.

**Rybovich Marina, Palm Beach FL** The Rybovich name has been a cornerstone in the South Florida luxury sport fishing industry since the 1940's. The name has been synonymous with some of the sport's most innovative vessel construction and design. The facility located in Palm Beach has been a pillar in the Palm Beach & Riviera Beach community for decades. The facility has recently completed a \$100 million dollar renovation that built a state-of-the-art mega-yacht service facility and marina. The marina will boast a 600 Ton Marine Travelift making it the only one of its kind on this side of the hemisphere. The lift has the capability of hauling vessels up to 240' feet in length. It is the largest transient dock in Florida with high-speed fuel. The marina also has a waterfront restaurant, retail shops and available commercial office space for lease. The marina features floating concrete docks up to 230' feet with dockage for vessels up to 250' feet. The facility is open 7 days a week and is secured by a staff 24 hours a day. There are concierge, laundry, restroom and shower facilities on site as well as trade shops, which feature the latest technology. This marina is the ideal location for travelers, captains and crewmembers to relax.

**Sunrise Harbor, Ft. Lauderdale, FL** Westrec is one of the largest owner operators of marinas in the U.S. It has an impeccable proven track record when it comes to efficient marina management, and Sunrise Harbor in Fort Lauderdale is no exception. Sunrise Harbor offers the mega yacht community a state-of-the-art marina with amenities, services and leisure activities for the entire family. This upscale marina includes several areas for families to kick back and relax poolside. The health center includes top of the line fitness equipment with sauna and therapeutic massage facilities. Once you dock at this marina you are within steps of Fort Lauderdale beach, first class resorts, luxury shopping on Las Olas or the Galleria Mall and fine dining at five star restaurants such as Seasons 52, Capital Grille and the Blue Martini. This marina has everything you'll need on land or sea to enjoy your Florida Yacht Charter vacation.

**The Galleon Resort & Marina, Key West, FL** The Galleon Marina is one of the finest places in the keys to dock. The resort and marina offer exclusive amenities for their guests including a pool, private beach, sauna and exercise room. This marina is also located in one of the most highly protected harbors in the Keys. The Galleon Marina is breakwater shielded and provides specially engineered docks for maximum protection. This facility is proud to host some prestigious races such as the World Championship Power Boat Races, the Clearwater to Key West Yacht Race, and Audi/Yachting Race Week. For those who want to be in attendance for the action may charter and book to dock during one of the race weeks or any other festivities that Key West has to offer.

**Old Port Cove Marina & Yacht Club, Palm Beach, FL** Old Port Cove Marina is one of the major marinas in Palm Beach, Florida. The Marina recently went under major renovations to its facility that allow it to accommodate vessels from as small as 30-feet to mega-yachts up to 190 feet in length. The marina is reopening this Fall for dockage. The renovation plans for the marina include the replacement of all current docks, piers and pilings with beautiful new state-of-the-art hard wood decked floating docks. The marina features new power pedestals with electric, cable, phone, WIFI, and the convenience of in slip pump-out. It is located just off Coast Guard Channel north of the Palm Beach Inlet, the marina is minutes from some of the finest fishing and cruising grounds in Florida and is an excellent "jumping-off" spot to the Bahamas. In addition to the phenomenal dockage facilities the Old Port Cove Yacht Club is ideal for guests to dine and be entertained. This five star establishment has first class service that hosts formal evenings on a regular basis.

**The Harborage Yacht Club & Marina, Stuart, FL** This marina is located in one of Florida's most serene locations. There are over 150 yacht slips available. Complimentary valet service is provided for guests from their slip to the yacht club or spa. This stunning facility combines beauty and elegance with necessity and security. Located in Florida's Sailfish Capital, the Harborage provides a complete suite of luxury amenities that cater to the most discerning yachtsmen. Noted as one of the gems along the Treasure Coast, this marina attributes to the ultimate Luxury Yacht Charter experience. For those looking to couple luxury with the adventure of Florida's lively waters. The Harborage is an optimum retreat from life on the water.