

People these days are keen to know what's on the toy list before they choose the yacht for charter

Vaniese Baldacchino, Charter Broker





LEISURE

The ultimate toy box


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With every yachting season, the fun and games from the ever inventive world of the superyacht playground are more imaginative and compelling; from riding, or flying to skimming across the water to your very own aqua park, the opportunities for fun are endless.

Having fun on board a superyacht is in fact one of the most important and memorable factors of a cruising experience. Last year *The State of Wealth, Luxury and Yachting* researched trends in yachting, and one of the trends that came up time and time again was the importance of water toys.

To this end, the toy inventory on a yacht that is chartering needs to be continually updated as the demand for the latest gadgets increases. “People these days are keen to know what’s on the toy list before they choose the yacht for charter,” says charter broker Vaniese Baldacchino. “We see new trends in toys every year. In addition to the traditional jet skis, SeaBobs are very popular, as are the inflatable slides that can hook onto the side of yachts,” she says. “Trampolines – in fact anything that floats and flies around.”

Increasingly varied and exotic, a superyacht’s ‘toy box’ is likely to include a selection of inflatables, diving equipment, water sports equipment and powered toys. The latter can range from PWCs (personal watercrafts), SeaBobs, flyboards and electric surfboards, to the more adventurous end of the water toy spectrum where mini-submarines or amphibious jeeps can often be found on board the larger, expedition yachts.



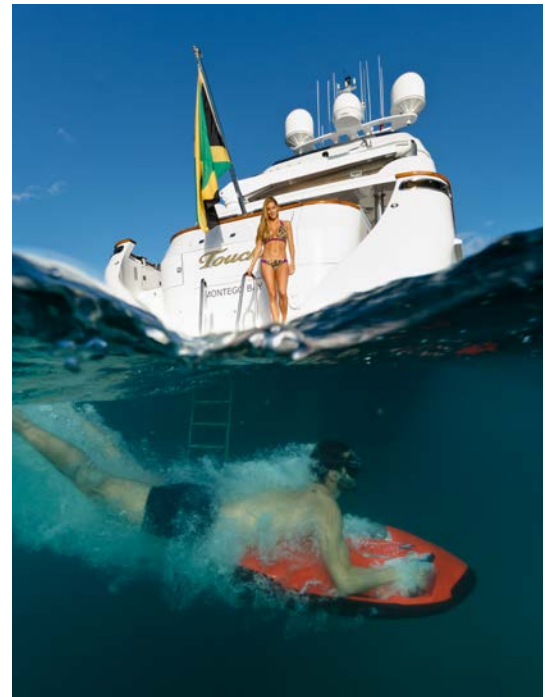
Whether your preference is for a sedate snorkel, a burst of speed, or to learn a new skill, there is a water toy in the toy box to delight every guest

Even the toys intended for children can become the most popular pastime for adults on board. These include blobs, water slides and trampolines, and most superyachts are likely to include a selection of towable inflatables. Then there are the towable toys such as water-skis and wakeboards. Most yachts have tenders that are powerful enough for all abilities, whether the guest is an experienced wakeboarder or a novice water-skier.

By their very nature most cruising grounds feature fabulous snorkelling and diving opportunities and being on board a yacht means that you can access some of the world's most exclusive reefs. All yachts will carry masks and fins in all shapes and sizes for snorkelling. Many of the larger yachts will have a full complement of scuba diving equipment on board which is available to those with experience and the appropriate certificates. Others offer rendezvous diving. A handful can even offer guests the opportunity to learn to dive with their own PADI dive centres on board. This can be of particular interest when in an outstanding diving area such as Indonesia or the Maldives.

The 'toy box' really depends on the yacht and the cruising area, as it does for many of the water sports activities on offer. Jet skis, for example, cannot be used in several cruising grounds as maritime authorities throughout the Mediterranean, Caribbean and further afield have become more stringent over their use, and PWC's are only allowed in authorised areas, if at all. The British Virgin Islands, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Anguilla have all banned PWC's, whilst many of the Caribbean islands, Greece, France, Italy, Montenegro, Spain, Turkey and Croatia only allow their use a certain distance from the shore. In almost all cruising grounds you need an appropriate licence if driving a Personal Watercraft. A number of yachts are RYA Training Centres and can offer the PW Safety Certificates on board to guests or crew after appropriate training. Many of the crew will be proficient in instructing on the basics of sailing dinghies, windsurfers and kite surfers and can teach you during your time on board.

Whether your preference is for a sedate snorkel, a burst of speed, or to learn a new skill, there is a water toy in the toy box to delight every guest.



TOP Elevating the rider through the air, the JetLev is one of the latest additions to the superyacht 'toy box'
MIDDLE An 11-metre water slide that deploys from the top deck provides an aquatic playground for adults and children
BOTTOM Explore the underwater world with one of the SeaBobs on board *Touch*

Recent additions to the superyacht 'toy box'

1 Amphibious Vehicles

Capable of speeds of up to 30mph on the water and on land, amphibious vehicles can carry up to six passengers. The Quadski Amphibious Vehicle is the latest in a line of amphibians. Equally agile on land and water, a simple touch of a switch allows for a quick and easy transition from land to sea and vice versa.

GIBBSAMPHIBIANS.COM

2 Climbing Wall

The climbing wall is an addition to the water slide that has become one of the most popular toys on board yachts in the last few years. Not only is the wall an adventurous way to get back on board after using a slide, but it also provides different levels for climbing races (all while developing those core muscles).

FUNAIR.COM

3 Yacht Blob

An inflatable water launcher, the Blob will send you flying through the air before touching down into the water below.

SUPERYACHTTENDERANDTOYS.COM

4 Submarines

Submersibles are all the rage for exploration yachts. With depth capabilities of up to 300 metres, guests (two) and a pilot can stay submerged for up to six hours in the latest Super Yacht Sub from U-Boat Worx.

UBOATWORX.COM



5 Electric Surfboards & Wakeboards

Powered by lithium-ion batteries, the latest power boards slice through the water. Fast, agile and lightweight, you can reach speeds of up to 30mph when riding the waves. (Pictured Radinn Electric Wakeboard).

RADINN.COM

6 Flyboards

A water jet powered board which connects to a jet ski, a flyboard can levitate and propel you 15-metres above the water.

FLYBOARD.COM

7 Schiller Bikes

A water bike that allows for a different kind of transportation on the water's surface.

SCHILLERBIKES.COM

8 Jetlev-Flyer

Powered by a 4-stroke engine, JetLev is essentially a jetpack with controls, worn on the back of the rider, which is attached to a 10m long hose that pumps water to elevate the rider through the air for up to three hours.

JETLEV-FLYER.COM

9 Quadrofoils

All-electric hydrofoiling PWC's, the Quadrofoil flies above the waves at a top speed of 21 knots. Great for exploring shallow and protected bays.

VENTURAEUROPE.COM

