

LH Viking - PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- At least one Coast Guard approved device per passenger and a minimum of two on board.
- An additional throwable device is required.
- Explain the location and use of all PFDs to passengers and crew that may be new to the vessel.

Sound Producing Devices (Whistle)

- Must have a horn capable of producing a four-second blast audible for at least 1/2 mile.
- If a portable air horn, have a spare can of air or an alternate device.

Lights and Shapes

- All navigation lights as required.
- Instrumental lights working.
- Flashlight on-board.

Distress Signals

- Accessible flares, day signals, etc., stored in a dry location. Carry signals at all times even if not required by the USCG.
- Inform the crew and passengers of their location and their use.

Tools and Spares

- Basic toolbox on-board.
- Box of spares aboard, e.g., fuel filter, light bulbs, head parts, through hull plugs, etc.

Ventilation

- On any powered vessel or auxiliary powered sailboat, or vessels using LPG for cooking or heat, check that all interior spaces are well ventilated before departure.
- If fuel smells are detected before ventilating, check after running the blowers for several minutes before starting.
- If odor persists, stop and look for the source of the leak.

Fire Extinguishers

- Accessible fire extinguisher. Do you have at least those required by the U.S.C.G.?
- Check to be sure mounts are secure and functional before departure.
- Take the time to point out locations to passengers and crew.

Fuel and Oil

- Are your tanks topped-off?
- If not, have enough fuel to provide a reasonable margin of safety for your return.
- Check the engine oil and coolant level.

Bilges

- Check to be sure bilges are reasonably dry and that pumps are not running excessively.
- Clean up any spilled oil or waste in bilges so as to prevent overboard discharge.

Battery Care

- If you have a dual charging system, is the selector switch in the proper position?
- Is the power on to the entire vessel?
- Spare batteries for accessories such as a handheld radio, flashlight, portable navigational aid, etc.

Weather Forecast

- Did you check the weather forecast?
- Radio on board to receive weather updates.

Docking and Anchoring

- At least one anchor set up and bent-on to your anchor line.
- Two or three extra dock lines in case of unusual conditions dockside.
- Visually inspect the lines you use for chafe or wear.
- At least two fenders on-board for docking or towing if required.

Documentation

- Have the ship's papers, radio license, fishing permit, etc. on board.
- Have the chart or charts for the area you intend to cruise in, regardless of your level of local knowledge.