



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER About the Author – Vaughan Poynter

History

- Vaughan Poynter has been an active deck officer in the Luxury yacht industry for the last 12 years and has worked on a number of luxury yachts in that time.
- He started his career in commercial shipping in 1994 where his first position was as a cadet (deck) on vessels such as car carriers, container ships, bulk carriers, and VLCC's (Very Large Crude Carriers).
- He gained his commercial marine qualifications in 1997 and joined the luxury yacht industry in 1998. Though he entered the industry by chance Vaughan has worked on Luxury yachts since that time.

Successes

- Vaughan's most recent position was that of 2nd officer Navigator on Motor Yacht (M.Y.) Dubai – the largest and most expensive privately owned yacht in the world. M.Y. Dubai is owned by the Crown Prince of Dubai and positions on this yacht are highly sought after.
- Other luxury yacht postings include:
 - M.Y. Double Haven a US Owned 51 metre Feadship
 - M.Y. Aussie Rules a 69 metre Oceanfast for an Australian Golfer
 - M.Y. Samax a Russian owned 55 metre Feadship
- Having fulfilled his ambitions abroad, Vaughan returned to Cairns in 2009 and has decided to share his knowledge with intending crew members to improve the status for employment in the industry - The DeckCrew Guidebook is one tool intended for this purpose.

Memorable Challenges

- While not a career 'highlight', surviving the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami (that struck the Indian Ocean) is one of Vaughan's greatest and most memorable challenges at sea. It was an important learning curve that could only be obtained through first-hand experience.
- When the Tsunami hit, Vaughan was onboard the M.Y. Samax and was at anchor in Patong Bay, just offshore the island of Phuket in Thailand. The day after the Tsunami hit he (and the rest of the crew) assisted in the recovery of victims on the nearby island of Phi Phi.
- The lessons learnt have fuelled Vaughan's passion to educate others – particularly in regard to managing themselves, their fellow crewmen and their guests in the face of a maritime disaster.

Career Highs

- America's Cup 2000, Auckland, New Zealand
- Launch and Maiden Cruise on M.Y. Dubai
- Cruising the South Pacific
- Diving with Giant Manta Rays

Favourite Locations for Cruising

- Palau, Micronesia
- Komodo, Indonesia
- Louisade Archipelago, Papua New Guinea
- South Pacific

Over the course of his Luxury Yacht career, Vaughan has visited 300 cities in 59 countries (as illustrated on the map below).



Personal Vision

- To create a unique publication that will inform and provide specific information for both novice and professional candidates who wish to work onboard the worlds ever-growing luxury yacht fleet.
- To promote the industry and the potential career opportunities that it provides, with a particular focus on deck crew roles and responsibilities.

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