

CREW PROFILE

TAIBA



A dedicated team of superyacht crew are on hand to provide a charter experience to remember.

FIRST CLASS CREW

Seamlessly working together to provide levels of service that go beyond the realms of even the best hotels, they make sure that every last detail is covered whether it is the welcome drink, setting up water toys for a day of adventure, or organising the best on-shore excursions not to mention operating the yacht. And with an exceptional culinary experience that is designed just for you on top of it all, the crew are the architects of your perfect getaway.

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SHAUN MONGIE

CAPTAIN

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Born in Durban, South Africa, being on the water is second nature to Shaun. He has many years of experience in watersports, from surfing to wakeboarding, and over the last thirteen years kiteboarding. Excelling at sport at school, he represented his province in both cricket and rugby. Following school, he graduated from university with a degree in economics and moved to London, which is now where he considers home.

Shaun had a career in finance and banking for eight years before deciding to travel for a couple of years to see what the world had to offer. He stumbled into the yachting industry and discovered that his love for the water and zest for travel could both be fulfilled, and he could still call it work. Nine years later, having been privileged enough to work on a few world cruising yachts ranging from 50 – 72 metres, covering six of the seven continents as well as obtaining his Master CoC licence, his best moments still come from cruising and the solitude that the ocean brings, especially with morning sunrises.

Shaun is up for any adventure, especially if it involves motorcycles, but his most challenging adventure to date was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. He has his sights set on another prolific mountain range in the near future.



ALEKSANDRA CVETOSENKO

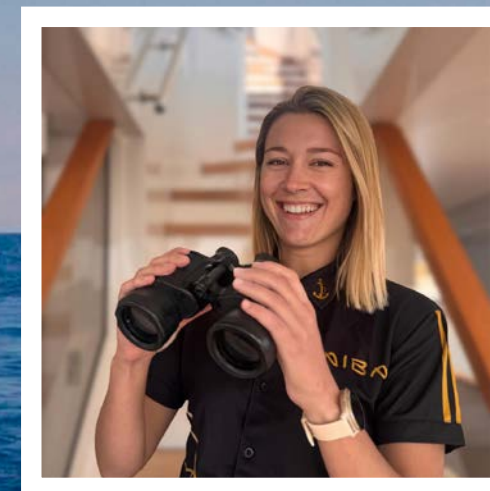
CHIEF OFFICER

NATIONALITY: LATVIAN
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, LATVIAN

Originally from Latvia and now based in the South of France, Aleksandra has experience on charter yachts over 50 meters. She grew up by the sea, which shaped her natural connection to the ocean from an early age. Before entering yachting, she studied and worked as an accountant but ultimately chose to fully change her career and follow her passion for life at sea. She worked her way up from deckhand, developing a calm, hands-on approach and a strong focus on delivering an exceptional guest experience.

Fluent in English, Russian and Latvian, she enjoys creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere on board. She's passionate about water sports, especially kitesurfing, and as a Jet Ski Instructor and PADI Advanced diver, she loves helping guests make the most of their time on the water.

Active and curious by nature, she also enjoys motorbiking, climbing, martial arts and travel. She is currently working towards her goal of becoming a Captain, while ensuring every charter is smooth, safe and truly memorable.





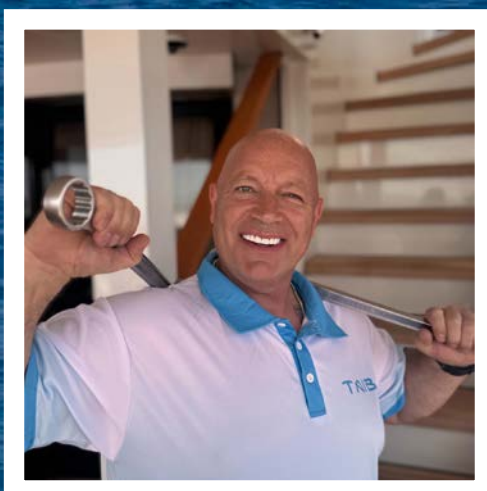
RICHARD COLLINGS

CHIEF ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Richard is from Cornwall, UK, and grew up in and around the water, dinghy sailing from a young age. He spent his youth dinghy racing at both regional and national level in the UK. Originally trained as an electro/electronic engineer, Richard later graduated with a degree in Marine Navigation, funding his education by teaching sailing and powerboating to both adults and children. He has worked all over the world as a Marine Engineer and has served as Chief Engineer on superyachts for the past 15 years. Whilst not on board, he enjoys family life and gardening, aiming to be self-sufficient and live off-grid. In any spare moments, Richard can be found tinkering in his workshop, working on his latest project, from classic Land Rovers to scale model making.



PAUL ROBINSON

SECOND ENGINEER

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Originally from Hull in Yorkshire, Paul swapped the North Sea breeze for the sunshine of the South of France 15 years ago, moving there with his wife and children. Before yachting, he worked in management, but a new home inspired a new direction and, thanks to family connections, he found his way into the yachting industry. He has now been part of Taiba for nearly a decade, and she truly feels like a second home to him. Over the years, Paul has come to know her inside and out, quite literally, meaning guests are in safe hands when it comes to keeping everything running smoothly. When off duty, Paul can usually be found indulging his passion for motorsports or riding through the beautiful Esterel hills on his motorbike. Most importantly, he values time with his family and takes great pride in watching his children grow; both have even followed in his footsteps and spent time working onboard Taiba themselves.

JUAN RAMOS

BOSUN

NATIONALITY: SPANISH

LANGUAGES: SPANISH, ENGLISH, PORTUGUESE

Originally from Madrid, Spain, and having also lived in Mexico and Brazil, he has fostered a strong appreciation for different cultures and meeting people from around the world. Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English, Juan enjoys connecting with guests and helping everyone feel at home during their time on board. He grew up surfing, fishing, and spending as much time as possible near the sea, making a career on the water feel entirely natural. The ocean has been a central part of his life from an early age, and that passion continues every day in his role. As Bosun, Juan takes pride in ensuring everything runs smoothly, safely, and professionally, while helping to create an unforgettable experience for guests. Whether preparing for water activities, assisting with adventures, or simply sharing his enthusiasm for the sea, he is dedicated to making every charter as enjoyable as possible.



HENDRIK CRONJE

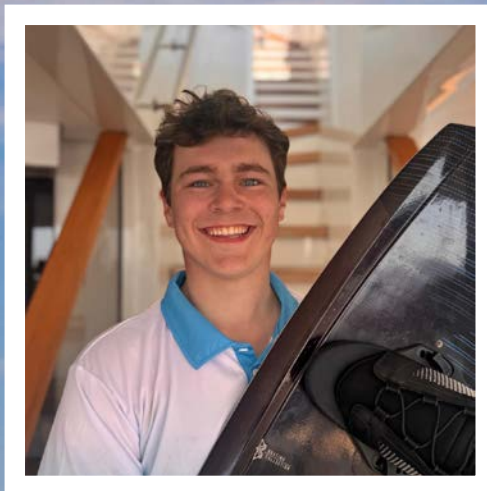
DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, AFRIKAANS

Hendrik grew up on a farm near Zastron in South Africa's Free State, where he developed a strong work ethic and an appreciation for wide-open spaces. He is fluent in both Afrikaans and English, allowing him to connect easily with a wide range of guests. He has a passion for tennis and padel, along with a creative side that he expresses through poetry, photography, and videography. On board, Hendrik particularly enjoys time on the jet skis, combining his love for adventure with being on the water. One of his most memorable experiences was a multi-day hiking and camping trip through the Drakensberg Mountains, and his favourite place in South Africa remains the Wild Coast, admired for its raw, untouched beauty. What he enjoys most about yachting is the opportunity to explore new destinations, meet new people, and experience different cultures.





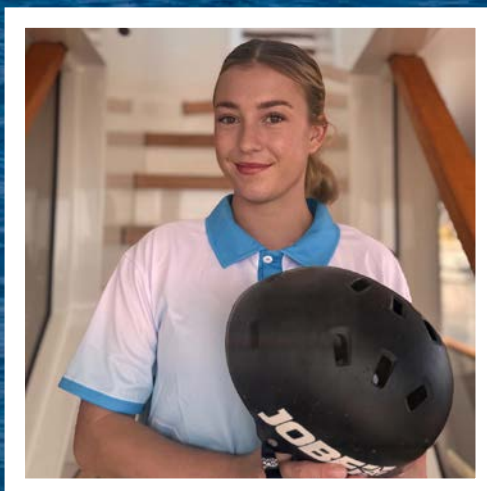
MATTHEW KNAUER

DECKHAND

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Having grown up by the ocean, Matthew has a strong connection to the sea. After finishing high school, he began his yachting career and gained valuable experience working on a 42m charter yacht last year. He takes pride in maintaining the exterior to a high standard and enjoys working with all the water toys on board. Before yachting, Matthew spent most of his time exploring, fishing and playing golf, interests he still enjoys whenever he can. He has travelled to several places, with China being his favourite destination so far, and his biggest adventure to date was a Caribbean holiday. Friendly and hardworking by nature, Matthew enjoys meeting new people and being part of a great team.



DEIA WOLFE

DECKHAND / STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: NEW ZEALANDER

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

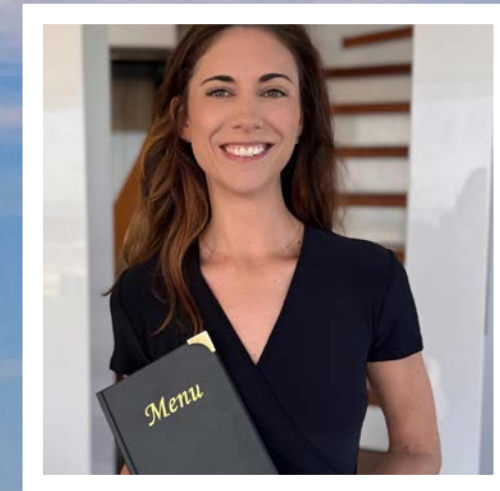
Deia is originally from Wanaka, New Zealand, where growing up surrounded by lakes and mountains sparked her love for the outdoors and the ocean, naturally leading her into yachting. She has been in the industry for two years, starting as a stewardess and now working in a dual stew/deck role. She has cruised unique destinations including the Maldives and the wider Indian Ocean, gaining a diverse range of experience across different environments. Before yachting, Deia worked as a qualified personal trainer and continues to enjoy an active lifestyle through surfing, snorkelling and staying fit. She also loves to travel, with Bali being a favourite place to unwind. What Deia enjoys most about yachting is the variety and the people, creating a relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere on board and ensuring guests leave with truly memorable experiences.

MARINE BEAUCAMPS

CHIEF STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: FRENCH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, FRENCH

Marine is originally from the north of France and now based in the south of France. She also spent three years living aboard a sailing yacht, an experience that shaped her passion for life at sea. With 18 years of experience, she brings strong leadership and a deep commitment to delivering seamless, memorable guest experiences. Fluent in French and English, Marine takes pride in managing and guiding her team while creating a warm, personalised atmosphere on board. She enjoys caring for others and ensuring every detail is thoughtfully tailored to exceed expectations. In her free time, Marine loves travelling, water sports and meeting new people - and if there's a dog on board, she may become slightly less efficient... but much happier!



HANNAH JOHNSTONE

SECOND STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: BRITISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Originally from Blackpool, England, Hannah has been working in the yachting industry for the past two years, including just over a year and a half on board Taiba. She holds a degree in Psychology and originally entered yachting for a gap year, but quickly discovered a passion for the lifestyle and decided to make it her long-term career. Prior to yachting, Hannah worked as a support worker with children, an experience she found incredibly rewarding and which helped shape her calm, patient and positive approach to working with others. Naturally outgoing, Hannah enjoys meeting new people, and one of her favourite aspects of life on board is connecting with both crew and guests from around the world. She is very active and loves keeping fit, regularly training and running marathons. Hannah also enjoys travelling, and in her downtime she likes playing the piano, dancing, and singing karaoke. Recently, she completed a wine course, which sparked a strong interest in wine, and she enjoys learning about different grape varieties, regions, and styles, with plans to continue developing her knowledge in this area.





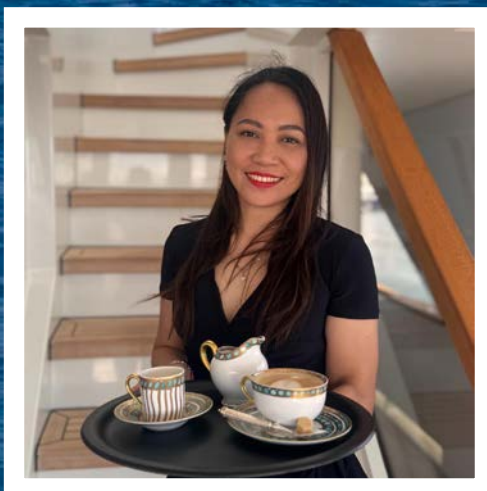
LUCY MACKENZIE

STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Lucy is a 22-year-old stewardess from the UK. She recently completed a degree in Accounting & Finance, but after a year working in wealth management, she realised that a desk job was not for her. Drawn by her love for travel, new experiences, and meeting new people, she made the move into the yachting industry. Friendly and outgoing, Lucy brings a positive, can-do attitude to everything she does. With a background in customer service and housekeeping, she takes pride in attention to detail and in creating a welcoming environment on board. She is excited to begin her first season on Taiba, eager to learn as much as possible, and committed to helping create unforgettable experiences for guests.



DILINETA MARANAN

STEWARDESS

NATIONALITY: PHILIPPINO

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Mae, often called Maemae by family, friends and colleagues, was born in the Philippines and has been living in Europe for the past 18 years. She brings five years of experience in the yachting industry, during which she has developed a strong passion for delivering exceptional service while continuing to learn and explore new opportunities. Known for being independent, resilient and highly motivated, Mae approaches every challenge with positivity and professionalism. She is enthusiastic about the upcoming summer season and looks forward to contributing her skills and energy to create outstanding guest experiences on board.

DIDI BALABAN

HEAD CHEF

NATIONALITY: TURKISH
LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, TURKISH

Didi was born and raised in Turkey, where her connection to food began in a culture that views meals as a true expression of generosity and togetherness. From an early age, she understood that food is not just nourishment, but an experience that brings people together. She later refined her skills at the Humber Institute of Technology in Canada, training in culinary arts and restaurant management.

With over 15 years of experience, including nearly a decade in the yachting industry, Didi has worked in Michelin-level kitchens and as a sole chef on luxury yachts ranging from 40m to 65m. These experiences have shaped both her technical precision and her ability to adapt seamlessly under pressure, while also developing a strong awareness of timing, atmosphere and guest preferences.

Her cuisine is rooted in Mediterranean flavours, with Turkish, French and Asian influences. She focuses on clean, healthy dishes alongside elevated comfort food, always aiming to create balanced, elegant plates tailored to each guest. Whether for an intimate dinner or a busy charter, Didi takes pride in anticipating needs and delivering a relaxed, memorable dining experience on board.





MATT ACTON

SOUS CHEF

NATIONALITY: SOUTH AFRICAN

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH

Originally from South Africa, Matt brings a chilled, easy-going energy to the galley, while taking his food seriously. He is passionate about keeping things fresh and interesting, using local ingredients and mixing flavours depending on the destination and guests' preferences.

Working closely with the head chef, Matt helps keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes, ensuring standards remain high without the stress showing. Whether it's a relaxed lunch on board or a more unique dinner experience, he focuses on making sure the food consistently meets guest expectations.

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