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# Rugged Tenders

WORDS Mark Upton

## How do I find the perfect robust tenders to complement an expedition superyacht?

**E**xpedition yachts are a growing sector of the market and also represent a certain number of yacht owners who want to be able to cruise to virtually any location with their yacht. But what type of tender would you carry onboard an expedition yacht planning to visit the more remote locations of the world?

Expedition yachts travel to the icy waters of the Arctic and Antarctic, the rugged islands of the North Atlantic, the outer islands and reefs of the Seychelles, and the unspoiled Pacific archipelagos. What is required to get your guests ashore in the icy Polar waters or across the sharp coral reefs of the Pacific and Indian Ocean islands? To navigate in the iceberg-infested waters of Greenland or the seas of Far Eastern Russia is very different from what is used to get ashore in Portofino or Antibes.

This type of tender is not only limited to expedition yachts but, due to their rugged nature and in many cases extreme levels of build quality and strength, they often represent a sensible choice for yachts operating in the more popular locations of the world. Not only are they strong and built to last but they often still manage to maintain high levels of performance and are able to carry heavy loads and large numbers of passengers.

Some of the well-known manufacturers of extreme tenders

include Zodiac (military boats), Humber (well known for their use in the offshore industry) and Halmatic (who build RIBs for the RNLI). All are extremely strong boats that are built to be used continuously in very heavy conditions without cause for reliability concerns. They still remain as high performance boats and are also the last word in "military cool". You can even build a Zodiac Hurricane to military specifications if needed and add an almost unlimited amount of extras as you would with any other yacht tender. The only downside of these boats is that they do not offer the same standards of seating, upholstery and creature comforts as your usual tender; however, they can be used in literally any conditions. If comfort and durability are both must-haves there are still options which are quite possibly the last word in "go-anywhere" tenders.

SAFE Boats International is a well-known company in the US because it sells the majority of its boats to the US military including the Navy, Marines and US Coast Guard. These boats are extremely strong due to the fact that they have reinforced tubes and aluminum hulls making them ideal pursuit boats and for use in remote expeditions. They have a proven track record and continue to be supplied in large numbers to the military. They can be specified to a yacht standard and, despite the fact that they are not the best looking boats, they are built

to last and will generally last twice as long as a normal tender, even under extreme use.

Naiad is a New Zealand-based company that refers to its boats as the "4WD" of the sea. These aluminum boats were originally built to deal with some of the harsh conditions experienced around the coastline of New Zealand. They are well known for their use as pilot boats, search and rescue, and patrol craft. They also operate boats inside the Arctic Circle for the US Government. Naiad has also recently introduced a superyacht tender range, which perfectly bridges the gap between a rugged, offshore boat and a luxury tender suitable for transporting guests in comfort.

Whilst none of the tenders mentioned above is a budget option, they each offer what is considered by many to be a cost-effective alternative to the run-of-the-mill tender. This is due to the fact that they are so much more practical, durable and easy to repair and work on with readily available spare parts. They are also likely to turn heads in the more popular charter destinations whilst offering safety, security and comfort in some of the more remote marine environments visited by today's expedition yachts. ■

*Mark Upton works for EYOS tenders, which offers bespoke guidance, project management and support on superyacht tender selection. [eyostenders.com](http://eyostenders.com).*