

INTERVIEW WITH FRAN

What surprised you the most or caught your attention while working as a sailing instructor in the U.S.?

What surprised me the most about working in the U.S. were the good working conditions, how well I was treated, the housing they provided, and how integrated and valued I felt from day one. The education and friendliness of the people in San Francisco.

How was the experience of teaching sailing in an environment different from your home country?

The first thing was learning the geography and meteorology there: the strong currents in the bay, the depths to know where to anchor, and the areas of steady winds and pressures. You could find areas with barely 4 meters of depth and very close to them, depths of over 60 meters. All of this influenced whether the goal was to set up a buoy course. Additionally, the very strong currents and boat traffic of all kinds had to be taken into account at all times.

What challenges did you face, and how did you overcome them?

My first big challenge was the language, which was not easy. My method consisted of using a notebook where I wrote down all kinds of frequently used words. Then, I reviewed them at home and the first days before giving any instruction. Being forced to learn helped me get more comfortable faster.

How has this experience influenced your career or personal growth?

I have proven to myself that I am capable of working in another language and an unknown environment. I have also learned about another culture and a different teaching methodology. It has been continuous learning in every way.

Would you recommend this experience to other instructors? What would you tell them?

Of course, I would recommend it; it's something everyone should try at least once. I would tell them it will be one of the most important experiences of their lives. Be brave, go for it, and make the most of that opportunity.

How would you rate your experience with Work and Sail? What aspects of the program would you highlight?

My experience with Work and Sail was a dream come true. They supported and advised me throughout, and they found me an incredible job offer in a beautiful area. I felt cared for and lucky, and I can only say thank you.