

# INTERVIEW WITH VICTORIA

## **What surprised you the most about working as a sailing instructor in the U.S.?**

What surprised me the most was how easy they made everything and how much they helped me adapt to my new job, not only my coworkers but also my students.

## **How was the experience of teaching sailing in a different environment from your home country?**

I'm a returning instructor; last year, I was in Maine, and this year in Los Angeles. The first year was much harder for me to adapt because my English was limited, and I didn't know the nautical terms. Both experiences were equally good, but in the second one, I enjoyed it more right from the start.

## **What challenges did you encounter, and how did you overcome them?**

In my first year, the biggest challenge was the language; I could barely understand what they were saying, and they couldn't understand me either. But after a week of studying every night, I got a handle on all the nautical expressions, and the students and I started to connect.

## **How has this experience influenced your career or personal growth?**

Both experiences were different but amazing. In both, I've grown a lot as a person; now I know I can achieve anything I set my mind to, and my English has improved a lot.

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

I'll just say that I'm planning to return next year. These were the two best summers of my life. I encourage everyone to step out of their comfort zone and take the leap—it's totally worth it.

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

They treated me very well, and from day one, they were always there for me. Whenever I had a question or problem, they solved it. Knowing they had my back gave me peace of mind.