

## HOW TO VICTUAL FOR A CRUISE

I have recently been reading a very useful book called 'How to Organize a Cruise on the Broads' written by ER Suffling in 1897. I thought that the information in Chapter 2 might be useful to those planning a holiday today and the 'List of Requirements' for provisions is:

<i>Articles Required</i>	<i>For Party of Four Persons.</i>	<i>For Two Persons.</i>		<i>Cost</i>	<i>For 4</i>	<i>For 2</i>
Meat-						
Beef, fresh	7 lbs	6 lbs. Beef, or			£35	
Mutton do	5 lbs	sm. shoulder	B		£30	
Pork do	5 lbs	Mutton			£15	
Fowls	1 pair	a Fowl	B		£11	
Ducks	1 pair		B		£30	
Tinned Meat		1 4-lb tin.				
Rabbit or other		1 4-lb tin beef or mutton	M	Rabbit £2.50 ea		
Ox Tongue	1 tin		B		£10	
German Saus	2 lbs.	1 lb.		£1.40/100gm	£12.70	
Bacon	4 lbs.	3 lbs.	B		£16	
Various, tinned Meats	4 2-lb. tins	3 2-lb. tins	W	C beef £7.68/kg Ham £8.89/kg Spam £7.45/kg	£29	
Soup, tinned	2 4-lb. tins	2 2-lb. tins	W	21.3-23p/100g	£8	
Eggs	2 score	1 score	W	24.6p ea	£9.80	
Tea	1 lb.	½ lb.	W	80p/100g	£3.60	
Coffee	1 lb.	1 lb.	W	£1.15/100g	£5.20	
Cocoa	1 lb.	½ lb.	W	£1.56/100g	£3.50	
Extract Coffee (Branson's)	1 bottle	1 small bottle	W	£1.32 for 241ml bottle	£1.50	
Milk, Cond	2 tins	2 tins	W	£1.44/tin	£2.90	
Moist Sugar	4 lbs.	2 lbs.	W	90p/100g	£16.30	
Loaf do	2 lbs.	1 lb.			£8.20	
Flour	4 lbs.	½ lb. for thickening	W	£1.50/kg	£2.70	
Cheese	3 lbs.	1 lb.	W	£10.45/kg	£14.20	
Sardines	1 box	1 small box				
Dried Haddocks	2 ditto	1 ditto				
Potatoes	½ bushel	14 lbs.	W	65-80p/kg	£8.60 (27 lb)	
Onions	3 lbs.	2 lbs.	W	90p/kg	£1.20	
Fresh Fruit	wherever procurable					
Tinned Pines	2 small	1 small	W	£1.10	£2.20	
” Pears	1 tin	1 tin	W	84p	£0.80	
Vinegar	½ pint	small bottle	W	17.3p/100ml	£0.50	
Mustard	¼ lb. tin	2 oz. tin	W	£2.13/100g	£2.40	
Pepper	1 oz.	½ oz.	W	31.5p/10g	£0.90	
Worcester sauce	1 small bottle	) 1 small bottle	W	£1.25	£1.20	
Ketchup	1 ditto	) of either	W	£1.50	£1.50	
Pickles, Picallili	1 small ditto	1 small bottle	W	£3.50	£3.50	
Bread (as required)	14 2-lb. Loaves	7 2-lb. loaves	W	£1.30 for 800g loaf	£20.70	
Biscuits, Plain	2 lbs.	1 lb.	W	21p/100g	£1.90	
” Fancy	1 lb.	1 lb.	W	81p/100g	£3.60	

Cake	1 2-lb.		W	£2.30/360g-415g	£5.80 / £5.00
Butter (in jars)	2½ lbs.	1½ lbs.	W	£6.40/kg	£7.30
Marmalade	1 jar	1 jar	W	£1.50	£1.50
Oil for Lamp	3 gallons (for cooking)	2 gallons (for cooking)			
Lemons	1 dozen	½ dozen	W	34p ea	£4.10
Drinkables-					
Lemonade	1½ dozen	)	W	55p/l	£5.60 (pts)
Soda Water	1 dozen	) 1 dozen		50p/l	£3.40 (pts)
Lime Juice	1 bottle	small bottle	W	84p	£0.90
Ale, Bottled	1½ dozen	)	W	£3.40/l	£34.80 (pts)
Stout	1 dozen	) 1½ dozen		£2.87/l	£19.60 (pts)
Beer, draught	)				
Spirits	) According to				
Wine	) fancy				
Herbs Matches Fusees Soap Tobacco Cigars					

So, if you follow these recommendations remember to book a dinghy to carry everything!

Other recommendations are:

‘Bacon, as a rule, is not good in Norfolk; some of the “home-cured” being really not endurable by town dwellers. A supply should, therefore, be brought from whatever town the *voyageurs* hail from.’

‘The provision bill for a party of four will come to about £4 to £5, while the party of two should not exceed from £2 2s to £2 10s for everything’

‘Take only a very small bag or trunk aboard, for huge travelling trunks are a nuisance, and quite out of place on a yacht. What is really necessary can be packed in a very small compass’ That is still good advice and his recommended kit list is given - but that can be another story.

£4-5 to feed a party of 4 does not sound much but the value of money was very different then. Based on the retail price index since 1897, the cost today would be about £350-£440 but based on the increase of average earnings it would be £1,480-£1,840 (wow!). So the next task was to price everything as best I could from the local shops and supermarket and the result was about £400 so the rpi calculation was spot on. (£396.6)