

PARTS OF THE RIG

Now that you know your way around the deck, it's time to look up. The rig includes sails (mainsail and jib), spars (mast and boom), supporting wires (standing rigging) and sail controls (running rigging).

Forestay

The part of the rigging that is attached to the bow of the boat that keeps the mast from falling backward.

Jib

The forward sail that is attached to the forestay.

Spreader

Struts that extend from the side of the mast that keep it from bending sideways.

Telltails

Pieces of cloth, yarn, or tape that indicate wind flow over a sail.

Shrouds

Rigging wires extending up from the sides of the boat to the mast that keep the mast from falling to either side.

Boom

The horizontal spar extending back from the mast. The foot (bottom) of the mainsail is attached to it.

Mast

The vertical spar in the middle of the boat from which the sails are set.

Mainsail

The sail hoisted on the back side of the mast and attached to the boom.

Batten

A slat of fiberglass, plastic or wood inserted into a pocket in the sail to help it hold its shape.

Telltails

Backstay

The part of the rigging, attached from the top of the mast to the stem of the boat, that keeps the mast from falling forward.

