

Gloucester Boat Hire Handover Instructions



1. You and your Crew

As the “captain”, you accept responsibility for ensuring that all members of your “crew”, act in a safe manner and in accordance with the terms and conditions of hire.

Lifejackets must be worn, the canal is up to 18ft deep.

Never put anything in the canal (including litter and your body!)

Remain seated unless boarding and disembarking while moored at a suitable location.

Never leave the boat unattended.

2. Alcohol

The captain must not drink or be drunk for the duration of hire. Crew are allowed to consume a moderate amount of alcohol (2 pints of beer, large glass of wine, 2 canned cocktails, or similar). Your hire will be canceled or terminated immediately and without refund if excessive alcohol consumption is evident.

3. Operating the Boat

The speed and steering of the boat are controlled using the outboard tiller handle of the electric motor, this will quickly become intuitive.

The propeller power is controlled by twisting the handle on the tiller, the further anti-clockwise you twist; the more power the faster you will travel.

To turn right, push the tiller to the left, this will send the rear of the boat to the left and point the front of the boat around to the right. The opposite is true for turning left.

Power and steering adjustments should be made as smoothly as possible to avoid damage.

4. Rules of the Waterway

Keep to the middle of the canal, the edges can be shallow which could damage the engine, and overhanging bushes and trees could damage the boat or injury passengers.

Pass oncoming vessels to the right, there is usually plenty of space to do so on the canal, no need to move too far over.

5. Bridges

The bridges are operated by bridge keepers and use a traffic light system.

You can pass under all the bridges without them opening, but you must just check that it is clear and safe to do so.

Flashing Red Light- STOP. Bridge Keeper is operating the bridge.

Green Light- Proceed through the bridge.

Red light- Proceed with caution. **DO NOT** travel under a moving bridge.

If there are no lights at the bridge this means it is not currently manned, you may proceed to pass underneath if clear and safe to do so.

6. Mooring

You may moor the boat anywhere along the towpath that is safe, paved, and not otherwise restricted. Mooring on the opposite side to the towpath is not allowed.

1. Identify a safe mooring spot.
2. Slowly come alongside the edge before coming to a complete stop.
3. Let a crew member step off with rope in hand.
4. Tie the rope to a suitably strong point (ring, bollard, or Armco).
5. Ensure craft is securely tied on before disembarking.

7. Breakdowns, Incidents, and Emergencies

In the event of breakdown, use the paddle provided to safely get to the bank of the canal before calling us for assistance. (It's easiest to paddle from the bow of the boat).

In the event of an incident (crash, injury, etc), safely get to the side of the canal before calling us for assistance. Please record all details including any other craft involved.

In a genuine (threat to life) emergency call 999, you should then call us.

Person Overboard:

Cut power to the propeller immediately by turning the throttle to neutral or removing the key, this will prevent injury caused by the spinning propeller. Throw a rope to the person and use this to help pull them to the side of the canal, do not attempt to pull them directly back onto the boat. Call us immediately to report the incident and for further instruction.

8. Extra Charges

You must return the boat in the same condition as you receive it. Additional charges will be added if the boat is returned damaged or in an excessively dirty state.

Adults are equipped with automatic inflating lifejackets; **wrongful inflation is charged at £30.**

You will be told your return time when departing the hire base, if for any reason you will be late returning you must call us before you're due back. If you would like to extend your time, we may be able to accommodate this, you should call before reaching the halfway point.

Unauthorised extensions will be charged at £30 per 15-minute delay.

Phone: 07762741972

I have read and understood the handover instructions and the terms and conditions of hire.

I accept liability for any additional charges that result from late return, mess, or damages.

Name _____

Date _____

Signed _____

- I consent to Gloucester Boat Hire Ltd using photos or videos taken during the hire for their promotional purposes and social media (subject to GDPR).