



Founded 1948

Thames Sailing Barge Trust

Handsel House, Walden Close, Great Totham, CM9 8UJ

A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 04726591

A non-profitmaking organisation –

Registered Office as above

Registered Charity No. 1102840



PUBLIC CRUISES

These notes provide useful information and guidance when preparing for a sailing trip on the Trust's barges.

Trips are listed in date order on the Trust's website

www.bargetrust.org "Our cruises"

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If you cannot find the information you need within these Notes please contact us on

bookings@bargetrust.org or call 07840 862685



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1. Introduction

Welcome to sailing with The Thames Sailing Barge Trust. We operate two historic sailing barges; Centaur – built in 1895, and Pudge – built in 1922. These are old cargo-carrying vessels which have been converted to carry passengers. They are sailed by our skipper and mate (and sometimes a third hand) who will manage the barge; but if you wish to assist with the sailing your involvement will be welcomed. The skipper and mate will give you all the instruction needed and you must follow their directions.

As an individual or with a few friends you can join others on one of “**Our Cruises.**” That we run throughout the Summer months. (If you are a group of up to 12 you can hire/charter the whole barge for your private use. See section on Charters.)

Because we carry a maximum of only 12 passengers we like to maintain a “Club” atmosphere on board. If you fancy having a go at setting the sails or taking a turn on the wheel our friendly crew will “Show you the ropes” when safe to do so. If you just want to sit on deck and watch the experts that’s fine with us! On the longer trips when it comes to the domestic stuff we provide the provisions and everyone mucks in with some simple cooking and of course clearing up afterwards.

Whether you are seasoned Barge trust members, or new to barge sailing, we are sure that you will enjoy the experience and hopefully learn a little about the history of these wonderful craft. We also hope that you will join in and experience the sailing skills required to handle the 3,000 sq ft of sail that power the barge along. Of course, if you would prefer, just sit back and watch the world go by.

We specialise in **weekend** or longer trips where you stay in our on-board accommodation. Occasionally we also sail on **Full Day** and **Half Day** trips.

TSBT Sailing & Charters Ltd publish the sailing programme in good faith. All sailing trips are subject to the prevailing weather, wind and tide conditions, and the Skipper will take all these factors into account on the day.

Boarding will normally be between 19:30 and 20:00 on the evening before sailing. Our Bookings Secretary will confirm your boarding time by email a few days before you sail. As soon as you board make yourself known to the Mate. For all accommodation/domestic problems once on board please refer to the Mate in the first instance. The Mate will allocate a cabin and bunk to you and also agree the rota for food preparation and cooking etc.

On the evening of boarding the Crew may go out as a whole to a local pub or you could get something from a local take-away, the choice is yours, but make sure the Mate knows you have arrived and check what time the barge is leaving before you go off. The first on-board meal is breakfast on Day 1. Don’t forget your sleeping bag, pillow, a torch, warm clothes, your camera, wellies if you have them and a bottle of wine for the evening meal if required. A full Checklist of things to bring can be found on page 8 of these guidelines.



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If the barge has just returned from another trip please do not board until the group have cleaned up and have left – but feel free to help them get their baggage ashore.

Finally, we ask that all the public areas of barge are left in a clean condition ready for the next group.

2. Safety on Board.

A trip on a Thames Sailing Barge should be a safe and enjoyable experience, but as they are traditional vessels designed in the 19th century with heavy gear and equipment you do have to apply common sense and take reasonable care.

The mate will carry out a formal safety briefing with the group before sailing and the Do's and Don'ts for safe sailing will be explained.

During the safety briefing, the Mate will explain the safety features and potential hazards aboard.

Remember this is a piece of Victorian designed industrial heritage, and as such, demands care when moving around. The Mate will explain hazards to avoid and demonstrate the use of lifejackets. Normally it is not mandatory to wear a lifejacket on deck unless you are a non-swimmer, but you are welcome to wear one at any time should you choose.

Life jackets must be worn on deck at night, if we use the small barge boat to transfer passengers ashore for any reason or if the Skipper deems it necessary at any other time, due to weather or another safety reason.

When going below deck you must always walk down facing the steps i.e. backwards, also holding onto the handrails.

Watch out for the many trip hazards – both above and below decks, especially the keelson at the bottom of the steps on Centaur.

A copy of the Trust's Safety Policy can be viewed on our website www.bargetrust.org You will find a document link on the Boarding Advice tab near the foot of the page.

The Trust runs a highly successful crew training scheme to preserve traditional skills and bring on the next generation of bargemen to keep the barges going. We will usually have a trainee (3rd hand) possibly two on your trip. Although they are learning, they will be sharing duties with the Mate and are there to make the trip enjoyable.

Please remember to bring any medication that you will need during the trip. If you suffer from any condition that could flare up, please make the Mate aware. All Skippers and Mates have been first aid trained, and first aid kits are carried aboard. The barge has a defibrillator on-board should anyone suffer heart failure.



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3. Accommodation

a. Cabins

The accommodation is situated in what used to be the cargo hold and is divided into cabins, washrooms, galley (kitchen) and saloon for relaxing. All of the berths have a foam mattress, but please bring a sleeping bag and pillow.

The skipper has a cabin in the stern, adjacent to the engine room, and the mate and third hand in the fo'c'sle in the bow.

s.b.Pudge has new accommodation fitted as part of her deck replacement project. There are six 2 berth cabins which have been fitted with longer and deeper mattresses. There are 3 washrooms, each with a toilet and one with a shower cubicle. A boiler has been installed which provides hot water for the washrooms, galley and heating in the winter months. All the cabin internal bulkheads have been constructed with sound insulation materials to reduce noise. The 3 washrooms each have a sea toilet (heads). The use of the shower will be managed given that we have a finite supply of fresh water on board. The Mate will provide guidance on its use.

s.b.Centaur has 4 cabins on board – 3 with four bunk beds and 1 two berth cabin. The cabins do not have any dedicated storage space, but there is room to place a small holdall under the bunks. This is not luxury accommodation but the bunks are comfortable which is important after a day on the water. Each cabin has a wash basin with cold running water (kettles provide the hot water). There are no shaver sockets and only one phone charging point. There are two sea toilets (heads).



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b. Galley and Saloon

Cooking on board is with full sized domestic cookers powered by bottled gas. Please note that these ovens cook at a slightly slower rate than a domestic cooker at home and need extra time and higher temperatures to ensure food is cooked through. There are two small domestic low voltage refrigerators, one fridge has a small freezer compartment.

The Galley is equipped with a range of cooking utensils, pots, pans and kettles. There is crockery and cutlery for up to 18 people. Under the worktops there is adequate storage space for your tins and other dry goods.

Alcohol may be brought aboard and consumed during the trip. Please remember that this is a sailing vessel and safety is a priority at all times.

Please recycle your used tins, glass, paper and plastics where possible.



c. Toilets (Heads) The Mate will explain the operation of the heads and demonstrate how to use them. Whilst being very efficient, please be aware that sea toilets are very sensitive to blocking, and it is important that no wipes, paper towels or other products are disposed through the toilet. Bins are provided for all other waste.

Please do not use bleach-based toilet cleaners as these corrode the rubber valves in the pumping units.

4. Sailing on a Thames barge

Thames Sailing Barges are a delight to sail for all, whether experienced sea goers, or first time sailors. They tend not to heel over (lean with the wind) very much, and generally have a relaxing motion while at sea. It is unusual for passenger to suffer any sea sickness, but please bring a suitable remedy if you are concerned.



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The crew will be keen to get passengers involved in the sailing of the barge and will give guidance and instruction on what needs to be done. Please pay particular attention to instructions for your own safety. Some loads on ropes and winches can be very high. Always ask twice if you are not sure about an instruction.



It is advised to bring warm clothing, preferably nothing too smart, as it is easy to brush against grease from the winches, tar from the rigging, or mud from the anchor.

From time to time we need to sail or motor at night. Passengers are welcome on deck during night sailing, but extra care must be taken and careful attention to the crew's instructions are essential. Bear in mind that at night it can be very cold on deck. Life jackets must be worn at night.

The barge is mostly dry when sailing, but a waterproof jacket is advisable just in case, and sensible shoes with a non-slip sole and wellies are a good idea.

The sailing plan for the weekend will be wind and weather dependant. The skipper will make his decision at the time. It is usual to leave just before high water on Friday evening/Saturday morning and return on the rising tide on Sunday afternoon. You should be on board at least 2 hours before high water. The Crewing Secretary will email you the final timings, including the return time, about 5 days before the trip.

6.How to find the barges

Maldon CM9 5HN

Follow the A414 road into the centre of Maldon High Street. Follow through the High Street when the road bends to the right, just past the Black Rabbit pub, take the left-hand fork along Church Street. At the bottom of the hill, you will find the Hythe where the barges are berthed. Standing on Hythe Quay, facing the river, our barges are usually at the right-hand end of Hythe Quay – nearest the road entrance



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and you have to walk across our lighter 'SAILORMAN' to get to board the barge. You can drive your car onto Hythe Quay to unload, but you must park elsewhere for the weekend.

There is street parking in Downs Rd a short walk away from the Queens Head.

If you wish to leave a vehicle in one of the Maldon Council car parks you can stay up to 7 days by using the **Ringo** parking app. The **Ringo** app can be downloaded from Play Store to your smart phone. You are advised to set up the app and to book and pay for parking in advance of your visit.

By Public Transport

If travelling from the London direction take a train to Chelmsford and then bus route 31 to Maldon High St. From Ipswich direction take a train to Witham and then 90 bus route to Maldon High St. Note the 90 bus does not run on Sundays. Train and bus times can be found on the operator's website.

Ipswich Wet Dock. IP3 0FR

Our barges moor in Ipswich Wet Dock normally on Orwell Quay or sometimes on Custom House Quay, the Crewing Secretary will advise mooring position ahead of the weekend sail.

Please note, there is a one-way traffic system operating around the Ipswich dock area.

If you wish to get a vehicle near to Orwell Quay for loading/unloading access is via Duke St (B1548) then turning onto University Avenue. There are some disabled parking bays if you have the appropriate "badge".

If not, you need to pay for 1 hour of parking in the large pay and display public car park behind Orwell Quay which is accessed from University Avenue. Check local signs for length of stay and rates. If you park near the quay you can get within about 50 metres of the barge mooring.

After loading/unloading vehicles can be parked for free on the west side of the Wet Dock in Haven Marina, post code for Sat Nav is IP3 0EA. To park in Haven Marina, you MUST have a permit, your barge Mate will provide you with one if required.

To get to Haven Marina leave University Ave, turn left onto Duke St then left at traffic lights on to A1156, left again onto the one-way system, left again onto the ring road (A137) and first left onto New Cut East, and the car park is sited along the left side before reaching the Haven Marina office. You will need to allow about 15/20 mins to walk back to Orwell Quay via the north side of the dock. The car park is controlled by a third-party operator so you need to display a dated Haven permit.

You can travel to Ipswich by rail. Ipswich station is about 20 minutes' walk away, just south of the river. Leave the station, turn right along Burrell Rd; after passing some traffic lights the road bends left crossing the river on Stoke Bridge. When on the north bank cross to the right-hand side of Bridge and follow the road along the north side of the river into the old Dock area. This quayside walkway follows the north side of the Dock past several restaurants and bars, then the Old Custom House before curving right along Neptune Quay passing the University buildings and on to Orwell Quay.



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Annex 2 Things to bring with you

Old comfortable clothes are best as a barge is a working boat and good clothes may get marked. Sensible foot wear is essential - flat shoes with a non-slip sole. Sailing shoes, trainers or lightweight walking boots are fine. If the weather is fine sandals with non-slip soles can be worn but remember toes will be vulnerable. Even when sunny it can be cooler in the wind so take layers for warmth. Please remember to bring with you the following for each person, as well as the usual clothes and toiletries:

- A sleeping bag and pillow(s) plus an extra blanket if the nights are cold
- Waterproof gear - trousers as well as a jacket
- Warm headgear (for chilly nights) and sun hat (for sunny days)
- Sun glasses (It is recommended to attach a lanyard)
- Good stout footwear - trainers/deck shoes are usually suitable, if the forecast is for wet weather you may find wellies or waterproof boots are useful.
- Towel and flannel (wet wipes are sometimes a useful extra, but they must not be disposed of in the toilet)
- A torch - to help you find the toilet at night.
- Camera
- Binoculars – especially for birdwatchers
- Any medication you will need for the weekend
- Sun tan lotion – the ultra-violet is stronger at sea
- Ear plugs and an eye mask (not essential but depending on your group can aid a good night's sleep!)