The River Exe

Exeter
Quayside slipway
• Carry boat from landing stage to heights bridge with landing stage & carpark on the left hand side.
• Paddle back up the canal
• Paddle downstream under MS bridge.
• Start at Exeter Quay/Canal Basin

*Downstream always yachts whilst looking downstream.

When describing the river, left and right are to get back on the canal.

Restrictions

Increased hazards may occur due to increased boat activity near Topsham, and accurate, no warranty is given that information prior to using it. Not to be used for navigation: the channel is susceptible to change over time, for up to date information on navigation shall be at the sole risk of the user.

Para chart notors, there are pontoons opposite the pub and a steep slipway on the river right.

Increased hazards can include wind, waves, currents, and other craft. It’s safer to paddle under the MS bridge.

The shorter loop: 1.1 km after paddling under the MS bridge there is a metal slipway on the river right, just beyond Topsham Lock Cottage this must not be left unattended in the water or on the ramp.

Portage past the pub to access the canal. Paddle northwards on the river approx. 1.5km. Use the river approx. 1.5km after bridge there is a steep slipway on the river right.

Paddle downstream under MS bridge.

Access the river via the slipway on the sewage works access road.

The longer loop: 2km into the estuary, the ferry takes priority and boats must not be left unattended in the water or on the pontoon.

Portage past the pub to access the canal. Paddle northwards. The ferry takes priority and boats must not be left unattended in the water or on the ramp. Paddle back up the canal.

Paddle downstream (southwards) under MS bridge.

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Increased hazards can include wind, waves, currents, and other craft. It’s safer to paddle under the MS bridge. Increased hazards on the estuary can include wind, waves, currents, and accurate, no warranty is given that information prior to using it. Not to be used for navigation: the channel is susceptible to change over time, for up to date information on navigation shall be at the sole risk of the user.

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The River Exe & Canal

At the top of the Exe Estuary, the River Exe and Exeter Ship Canal link the estuary to Exeter Quayside.

This waterway is steeped in history and is a fantastic place to watch wildlife.

This guide is aimed at visitors using watercraft in the river and canal area, and outlines how to make the most of your visit whilst undertaking activities safely and with respect to other visitors and wildlife.

Canoe & Kayak Loops

The Canoe & Kayak Loops are a series of self-guided circular canoeing / kayaking trails on the river and canal.

There are two loops which can be paddled from different access points and in different combinations.

Head down the river and back up the canal and join up loops for longer trips. It takes most people 5-6 hours to paddle each loop and the complete circuit from Exeter Quay to Turf Locks and back is 17km, which can take a full day.

To cross between the river and canal and avoid weirs and lock gates, it is necessary to carry craft overland. See map for routes and locations of access points (look out for way marker posts with a canoe symbol).

Watch Out For Wildlife

There are a number of Nature Reserves along the river and canal which provide feeding and resting areas for these protected species.

To make sure the site can be enjoyed by future generations please:

- Give wildlife a wide berth and pass quietly – disturbance can affect their survival.
- Avoid areas where birds are feeding, resting or breeding, keep to the main river channel and avoid entering the reed beds of the Nature Reserve.
- Avoid lingering in river pools or below fish passes on weirs (where migratory fish rest).

Although they are quiet, non-powered craft such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboards can cause disturbance. Enjoy watching the wildlife but keep at least 100m away.

- Kingfisher - Black-tailed Godwit

Plan A Safe Trip

Activities undertaken at the river and canal can be hazardous and are undertaken at your own risk. Follow the below code of conduct when visiting.

- Check conditions beforehand via weather reports, river levels and tide tables.
- Make your own assessment of dangers based on your knowledge, experience and the conditions.
- Let someone know your plans and expected return time.
- Carry a suitable means of communication for emergencies.
- Carry the relevant safety equipment, e.g. personal flotation device.
- Be visible: make sure lights are used at night.
- Only use recognised public access points and landing places, keeping access clear at all times.
- Watercraft should keep well away from anglers – pass quietly by the opposite bank.

Do not exceed the 10 knot speed limit within the river and 5 knots within the canal.

Want To Know More?

EXE ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP
Exe Estuary Officer 01392 382236

SAFETY
- Coastguard Emergencies ONLY 999
- Police (non emergencies) or VHF Ch16 101

HARBOUR AUTHORITY (River & Canal Office)
Office hours 01392 265791
Out of hours emergency 0845 3511060

WILDLIFE
Natural England – Devon Office 0300 060 3900
SEDHRP Mitigation habitatmitigation@eastdevon.gov.uk
Officers

VISITOR INFORMATION
Custom House Visitor Centre 01392 271611