



Founded 1948

# Thames Sailing Barge Trust

Handsel House, Walden Close, Gt. Totham, Maldon CM9 8UJ

## General Information about the Trust's Self catering Charter sailing trips on s.b.Centaur.

Welcome to sailing with The Thames Sailing Barge Trust. We run 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 are able to 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.

The following information is for your guidance but feel free to ask questions if anything is unclear.

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 canvas that power the barge along. Of course, if you would prefer, just sit back and watch the world go by.

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 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.

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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

You can board between 19:30 and 20:00 on the evening before sailing, usually a Friday. As soon as you board make yourself known to the Mate. If you subsequently want to go ashore let the Mate know and make sure you know the time you need to back on board ahead of sailing.

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

The first on-board meal of a weekend is breakfast on Saturday. On Friday evening 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 alone.

Don't forget your sleeping bag, pillow, a torch, warm clothes, your camera, wellies if you have them and a bottle

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of wine for the evening meal if required. A full Checklist of things to bring can be found on the last pages of these guidelines.

If the barge has just returned with a charter party on-board please do not board until they are totally clear, cleaned up and have left – but feel free to help them get their baggage ashore.

## **Safety.**

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 crew before sailing and the Do's and Don'ts for safe sailing will be explained.

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



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## Catering

**Please note these Guidelines are only intended as a general guide.** Quantities are based on 2 days sailing, i.e. 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 evening meal for a full barge of 15 people. Remember it is always better to take a little more than you may actually need. If you run short at sea just popping into Tesco may be a little difficult!

The skipper and mate (plus Third Hand if allocated) will eat with you so you need to factor that into your planning.

You will need to cater for two breakfasts, one evening meal for the Saturday night and two lunches. (Most groups eat in a local pub/restaurant on Friday evening) A cooked breakfast is usually appreciated, with a lighter lunch and a more relaxed evening meal. Sometimes breakfast and lunch need to be eaten in shifts if the barge is underway; but the skipper will give you guidance on this. You only have to ask! The galley has ample cooking facilities, dishes, pans, crockery and cutlery but, unless cordon bleu is your thing, it is generally best to keep it simple and filling. Most charter groups find it helpful to operate some form of watch system to share out the catering duties otherwise it can easily fall to the same people by default, and they can then miss out on sailing time.

A suggested basic shopping list and a draft Catering Rota is included at the end of these guidelines.

You can either leave your party to sign up for a watch or put them into watches yourself. Also, it is helpful if you are in the clearing up watch so you can collect any leftover stores or equipment brought and check the galley has been left as you find it.

It is important to check whether anyone in your party has any special dietary requirements or food allergies.

You may wish to bring your own tea towels for the galley; 10 – 12 is usually sufficient and hand towels for the toilets. We do have a large stock of clean tea towels in the Galley if you wish to use them. Cleaning materials are provided to ensure they are environmentally friendly and appropriate to the type of toilets fitted.

## Accommodation

The accommodation is situated in what used to be the cargo hold and is divided into cabins, galley (kitchen) and saloon for relaxing. There are 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. Please note that it may not always be possible to accommodate parties together, and where appropriate separate “ladies” accommodation is reserved.

This is not luxury accommodation but the bunks are comfortable which is important after a day on the water. You need to bring your own sleeping bag and pillow. 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). 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.

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If it is very chilly there is a wood burning stove in the saloon. (The skipper and mate have separate cabins in the stern and bow of the barge). The galley has cooking facilities, gas rings/ovens powered by bottled LP gas. There are two small domestic 12 volt refrigerators.

## Saloon and Galley:



Cooking is by Calor Gas utilising full size “domestic” cookers onboard. Please note that when using the ovens, these will cook at a slightly slower rate than a domestic cooker at home, and extra time needs to be allowed to ensure food is cooked through. 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 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 onboard should anyone suffer heart failure.

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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. The barge is mostly dry when sailing, but a waterproof jacket is advisable just in case, and sensible shoes and wellies a good idea. All of the berths have a foam mattress but please bring a sleeping bag and pillow.

## Itinerary

The 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.



## Barge Sailing:

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Thames Sailing Barges are a delight to sail for all, whether experienced sea goers, or first time afloaters. 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.

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 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.

## **Where to find the barge(s).**

### **How to get to 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, take the left-hand fork along Church Street. At the bottom of the hill, you will find the Hythe where the barges are berthed.

### **Parking at Maldon:**

Standing on Hythe Quay, facing the river, our barges are usually at the right-hand end of Hythe Quay – nearest the road entrance 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.

### **How to get to 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.

**NEW PARKING CONTROLS** have recently been introduced. University Avenue is now covered by parking cameras. There are some disabled parking bays if you have the appropriate "badge".

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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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## Checklist of things to bring:

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
- 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!)
- Any medication you need.

## Suggested Basic Shopping List

For a two-day charter (pro-rata for longer trips):

***These quantities are averages based on experience gained over many years. However, the requirements of each charter group will vary considerably depending on the mix of people within the group. The Charter Organiser should involve members of the group when drawing up the food plan. It is always better to take a little more than you think you might need, if you run short of provisions at sea popping round to Tesco may be difficult.***

## General Items

Juice – 3 litres

Tea – 80 bags

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Coffee – 2 x100g  
Hot chocolate (optional)  
Sugar – 500g  
Marmalade  
Honey  
Marmite  
Jam  
Baked beans - 6 tins  
Tomato ketchup  
HP sauce  
Soup for lunches (if cold) 5-6 tins per day  
Mayonnaise 1 Chutney  
Mustard  
Salt  
Pepper  
Nibbles – nuts, crisps, etc  
Cheese biscuits - mixed box plus another of choice  
Sweet biscuits and Cake- your choice  
Squash 2 litres (less if weather is cool)  
Small oil for cooking  
Loo rolls 4 pack  
Kitchen roll 2 pack  
Foil or cling film (optional)  
Matches (long) 1 box  
Milk 6 x 2 pts semi skimmed (Not enough for breakfast cereals)  
Butter – 2 x 250 gm tubs  
Spread – 2 x 250 gm tubs (Or one of each)  
Cheese – your choice; cheddar if for rolls for lunch plus a mixture for after dinner  
Bread –6 loaves (more if not buying rolls)  
Rolls – 60 (mixture brown/granary and white)  
Fruit - Salad stuff for lunch: lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, peppers.

## **Breakfast:**

Toast, both cookers have grill pans which take 4 slices.  
Eggs – allow 2 per person per day (more if you want to scramble)  
Bacon - allow 2 rashers per person per day  
Sausages allow 1 per person per day.  
Tomatoes, mushrooms, black pudding can also be included if you want the Full Monty!

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Cereals are best avoided because of the quantity of milk you will need.

**Lunch:** choose from

Ham, pork pies, sausage rolls, tuna, corned beef, cheese and soups.

**Dinner:**

Suggestions: Shepherd’s pie, pasta with bolognaise or chicken; casserole with jacket potatoes, sausage and mash, fish pie.

Some charterers choose to pre-cook the dinner and bring it frozen but others find it is fun and part of the experience to cook on board. Probably depends on how much you enjoy cooking! Remember there is the washing up to do as well! 2 kilo of mince does a good bolognaise or shepherd’s pie for 14. Frozen vegetables are an easy option. There are plenty of good prepared deserts to choose or just fresh strawberries (with cream and shortbread) when available or a fruit crumble and custard.

Remember you need to bring your own alcohol. Beer, wine or cider depending on your tastes!

**Suggested Catering Rota**

Each watch does the preparation and clearing up for one meal each day otherwise they are free to be on deck. Since lunch is the lightest duty of the day that watch will provide teas and coffees etc throughout the day.

***Sign up 4 people per watch***

<u>Port Watch</u>	<u>Starboard Watch</u>	<u>Anchor Watch</u>

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Saturday		
Port Watch	Anchor Watch	Starboard Watch
Breakfast	Daytime Drinks & Lunch	Dinner
Sunday		
Anchor Watch	Port Watch	Starboard Watch
Breakfast	Daytime Drinks & Lunch	Final Clear Up

Have an exciting and memorable trip.

**David Gibson**

Sailing and Charter Secretary  
Thames Sailing Barge Trust

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