



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



PRIVATE CHARTERS

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

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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. 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. In these notes where we use the word “Crew” we include the Skipper, Mate and the Charter party.

Boarding will normally be between 19:00 and 20:00 on the evening before sailing. Our Charter 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 queries once on board please refer to the Mate in the first instance.

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. If you would all want to eat together it is essential to pre-book. The first on-board meal is usually breakfast on Day 1.

Don't forget your sleeping bag, pillow, towel, a torch, warm clothes, your camera, wellies if you have them and maybe wine or beer for the evening meal as these are not provided. A full Checklist of things to bring can be found on page 10 of these guidelines.

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

Finally, we ask that at the end of your charter all the public areas of the 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 charter party 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



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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.

Pudge is our main Charter barge with Centaur being used for shorter trips.

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).

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.



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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. Catering

Please be aware the following Notes are only intended as a general guide.

Quantities listed here 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 them into your food 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 Mate will give you guidance on this.

The galley has ample cooking facilities, dishes, pans, crockery and cutlery but, 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 on pages 6 and 8 of these guidelines.



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

5. 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.

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.



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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 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".



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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.

Annex 1 Suggested Basic Provisions List

The mate and third hand will be able to show you how things operate in the galley and be happy to advise if it feels daunting to be cooking for 15.

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) Drinks may need to be adjusted according to the needs of your group.

Coffee – 2 x100g) Experience has shown that you drink more tea than usual while afloat!

Hot chocolate (optional)

Sugar – 500g

Marmalade

Baked beans - 6 tins

Tomato ketchup



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HP sauce

Soup for lunches (if weather is cold) 5-6 tins per day

Mayonnaise

Chutney

Mustard

Salt

Pepper

Nibbles – nuts, crisps, etc

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)

Possibly 1or2 litres of long life as a back up

Butter – 2 x 250 gm tubs

Spread – 2 x 250 gm tubs

Cheese – your choice; cheddar if for rolls for lunch

Bread –6 loaves (more if not buying rolls)

Rolls – 60 (mixture brown/granary and white)

Fruit – apples, bananas, oranges, grapes

Salad stuff for lunch: lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, peppers.

Breakfast:

Toast, both cookers have grill pans which take 4 slices.

Eggs – allow 1 per person per day plus a few for big appetites (more if you want to scramble)

Bacon - allow 2 rashers per person per day

Sausages allow 1 per person per day.

Tomatoes allow ½ -1 per person or tinned if preferred

Mushrooms, black pudding can also be included if you want the Full Monty!

Remember to allow extra milk if having cereal.

Lunch: choose from

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



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Dinner:

Suggestions: Shepherd's pie, pasta with bolognaise, 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 from, or simply fresh fruit or maybe 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!

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!)



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Annex 3 Catering Rota pro-forma

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>

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