

YOUR SAFETY

Your safety is the most important thing to us at Ferry Marina, so please take some time to read through this section.

The Skipper

One person is responsible for the vessel. This will usually be the person who booked the holiday, but you can choose a different nominated person.

- The skipper will be responsible for the boat, the crew and any accidental or wilful damage done.
- The skipper will have signed the boat off during the handover
- Should there be any incidents, hopefully there won't be, the river authority will ask for the skipper.
- Regardless of who is in control of the vessel at the time, the skipper will always be responsible.

Crew Safety

- Always wear a life jacket when on deck, or getting on and off the boat.
- Keep an eye on children, especially when under way, they may slip off the boat without being heard.
- Do not sit on the roof at anytime.
- It is best not to move around the deck when underway.
- Never try to swim in the water, it is not pleasant. The tides can be unexpectedly strong and also weed and mud make it especially dangerous.
- Never jump off the boat to moor up - just step when it is close enough.
- Never use your body to stop the boat from hitting anything else, it can crush.

Crew Responsibilities

The crew should all take care to prevent accidents from happening.

- Make sure appropriate footwear is worn.
- Ensure you wear your lifejackets.
- Keep the walkways and decks clear.
- Follow the rules of the river.
- Help the skipper follow the rules of the river.

Water Borne Diseases

There is a very small chance of contracting water borne diseases such as Leptospirosis, hepatitis A or giardiasis.

- Don't swim in the water
- If you fall in, shower immediately afterwards, paying particular attention to washing any cuts or grazes
- Avoid getting river water in open wounds, grazes, eyes and mouth
- Symptoms of Leptospirosis usually develop 7 to 14 days after exposure, so watch out for symptoms including: fever, chills, headaches, nausea, muscle pain

Rules of the River

- Keep to the right.
- Give way to sailing boats, always try to go round the back of them.
- Give way to commercial vessels, barges and boats on tow.
- Stick to the speed limits.
- Try to avoid fishermen and their lines.
- Keep within marked channels where necessary.
- Keep out of shallow water.



Boat Safety

- Keep the ropes on board so they don't get tangled in the propeller.
- Plan your route to make sure you have enough time to moor up before dusk.
- Stick to the speed limits and use the reverse gear to slow down.
- Always approach mooring slowly to avoid a collision.
- Perform the engine checks as required.
- Use the gas safely and turn off at the bottle when not using it.
- Navigate bridges with care - you must use a pilot at Wroxham and Potter Heigham. (There is a charge for using the bridge pilot)

Shallow Water

- Be careful not to get too close to the edge
- Under water tree roots should be avoided as they can tangle round the propeller
- Some Broads have shallow water towards the edge, these are usually marked with green or red marker posts.
- Stay between the channels when crossing Breydon Water
- Don't run the engine if you get stuck on shallow water

Weather Conditions

The Broads is generally a peaceful place and Norfolk is the county with the lowest rainfall, but sometimes poor weather conditions can effect your holiday.

- **High winds** - boats are vulnerable to high winds, which can push the boats over the water, stop you from effectively steering the boat and hold the boat against the bank. The best thing to do is stay mooring up until the wind has died down
- **Fog** - this mainly appears in the early morning and nearly always burns off by 10am. Do not try to move in these conditions
- **Heavy Rain** - although this doesn't need to stop you cruising, it can hamper vision, so it is best to moor up and wait for it to pass.

Man(woman)(child)-Over-Board

Make sure everyone is aware of the procedure

- First thing to do it stop the engine - to ensure the propeller is not moving
- Signal other boats nearby to stop
- Throw the lifering near the person not at them
- Keep hold of the rope, so you can pull them back to the boat
- Be careful when helping someone reboard, remember you can hurt them by pulling them up by the arms
- The coldness of the water can shock and/or kill. Hitting the cold water can cause a sudden intake of breath, which is why it's so important to be wearing a life jacket at all times.
- Don't jump in the water to help someone - there could quickly be two people in trouble
- Make sure you wash thoroughly after falling in, especially any broken skin
- Be aware of hypothermia. Keep an eye on anyone who has fallen in and seek medical attention if needed

Alcohol

Everyone wants to have a good time on holiday and that can often include a couple of drinks. Please don't let alcohol ruin your's or someone else's holiday.

- Alcohol will impair decision making and reaction time
- Being drunk around open water is a dangerous combination, slipping becomes more likely and swimming difficult
- While drinking and driving a boat is not an offence, you must not be drunk in charge of a vessel. You must be in competent control of the vessel.

Drinking water

The water on the boats is held in a tank(s) and filled from hoses on shore.

- The tank water is considered non-potable, therefore must be boiled before drinking. So fine for cooking or tea/coffee.
- All hoses used for filling the tanks are for non-potable water.
- Ensure all drinking water is bottled water.

