

HINTS & TIPS



There is a lot of information available for those who want to explore Scotland's canals. The following hints and tips tell you how to get the information you need.

Hints and tips are published on the Scottish Canals Website and are constantly being added to and updated. If you cannot find the information you need below, then please [post your question on the Scottish Canals website](#) or [email enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk).

Boat Safety Scheme

The Boat Safety Scheme was jointly established in 1997 by the Environment Agency and British Waterways to promote safety on the inland waterways with respect to boats, their installations and components. In order to obtain a navigation licence you must meet these Safety Standards - all craft on the Scottish Canals must comply.

For more information [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser
<http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org>

To find and examiner for your area please [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser
<http://www.boatsafetyscheme.org/boat-examination/arranging-the-examination/find-an-examiner>

Insurance

All boats must possess Third Party insurance to the minimum value of £1,000,000. We advise that this includes recovery in the unfortunate event of submersion. All commercial craft must also have suitable Public Liability insurance.

Skippers Guides

Skippers Guides for the Caledonian Canal and Forth & Clyde and Union Canal are available online or in hard copy from the local Scottish Canals offices. They contain a map of the waterways and show the facilities along the canals, along with lots of general information for the boater. They are the complete reference guides to boating on these unique canals.

To download the Skippers Guide for the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
<http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/996517/skippers%20guide%20a4.pdf>

To download the Skippers Guide for the Caledonian Canal [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
<http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/93260/caley%20sg%202011%20web%20version%20standard%20update%20dec%202011.pdf>

Boaters Handbook

All licence holders are entitled to a free copy of the Boaters Handbook. This can be downloaded from the Waterscape website or a hard copy can be obtained from the local Scottish Canals office. The handbook contains information common to inland waterways generally and should be used in conjunction with the local Skippers Guide (*see above*). Please keep it on board the boat and encourage all crew members to follow it.

To download the Boaters Handbook [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
<http://www.waterscape.com/media/documents/1784.pdf>

Navigation

Navigation on the Caledonian Canal is on demand within canal operating hours, although at peak hours road traffic is given priority and the bridges cannot be opened to boats. Boaters should speak to the local lock keeping team to arrange transit through the locks.

Navigation on the Forth & Clyde and Union Canal is by a series of locks and bridges. These have to be booked in advance by phoning the Boat Movement number: **0845 676 6000**.

General Navigation rules for Scottish Canals can be found on the Long Term Licence and Mooring Fees leaflet. [Click here to download the Long Term Licence and Mooring Fees leaflet](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
<http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/93351/new%20long%20term.pdf>

The Boaters Handbook (*see previous page*) gives general information on how to navigate and manoeuvre your boat on a canal and waterway environment.

Book your passage

You must book assisted passages through the locks and swingbridges between Falkirk and Kirkintilloch, and between Maryhill and Bowling. To book your passage, call Scottish Canals on **0845 676 6000**.

Passages through the Falkirk Wheel to the Union Canal are free to Scottish Canals licence holders. Book at least 24 hours in advance by calling the Basin Controller on **01324 676912**.

Environmental

The Green Blue Booklet is an innovative environmental programme for everyone who enjoys getting out on the water. To help you think and act in a more environmentally conscious way the Green Blue book is designed as a simple guide packed with advice and tips on various issues, including how to:

- Use fuels and oils
- Cut noise and exhaust fumes
- Appreciate wildlife
- Clean your boat
- Reduce your wash
- Watch your waste
- Use resources sustainably
- Avoid spreading invasive species
- Spot waterways wildlife

To download the Green Blue Booklet [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
<http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/external-links/the-green-blue>

To see how environmentally friendly your boat is you can download the Green Blue checklist, [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser: <http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/1075617/green%20blue%20boat%20checklist.pdf>

Health & Safety

Due to their historic character, it has been impossible to make the canals completely safe without ruining what should be conserved. As a result, there are inherent risks for those that use them. For the safety of those who work or live near the canals it is essential that you and your crew are aware of the possible dangers and act in a way which minimises the risk of harm to people and property.

For further information regarding works, accidents and incidents and your responsibilities, [click here](#) or copy the following URL into your browser: <http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/93351/new%20long%20term.pdf>

Security Map

A map of contact details for the Forth & Clyde Canal has been produced in case you require emergency services.

[Click here to download](#) or copy the following URL into your browser:
http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/media/992297/4947_001.pdf

Click-let Water

Take the next step. Call our marketing agent Click-let Water on

0845 220 2727

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