

£2.50

ROUTE

2

# Beaulieu River

Type of trail: Sea water – Tidal river

Region: South Hampshire



DIFFICULTY RATING  
3 PADDLES

# INSPIRING

canoeing



## SPORT

HAMPSHIRE & IOW

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**12 miles** Approximate distance:  
 Up river from launch and recovery point. **12 miles** Round trip

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4 hours

2 hours up river and  
 2 hours return

Time depends on wind and tide.  
 Paddling against wind and tide  
 slows journey time and requires  
 greater effort.

### General Information

The Beaulieu is a wonderfully attractive tidal river tucked away within the confines of the New Forest National Park. The river itself is very unusual in that it is one of a very few private rivers in the world, with the ownership having been given to the Monks of Beaulieu Abbey. The rights have now passed to the Montagu family and their stewardship has ensured that the rivers development has been largely controlled keeping this a haven which is unusual for rivers in the area. As a result of this it is both a National Nature reserve and a site of Special Scientific Interest. Extra care on the river should be taken to avoid wildlife disturbances.

### The Trail

**1 Lepe** once you have launched off the beach turn to the west and up the river you will notice the Millennium Beacon on your right built in the year 2000 to celebrate the millennium and help guide boats into the river.

**2 Gull Island** is not actually an island but a spit, is home to a colony of Black Headed gulls and other rare species of sea birds. There is no landing on Gull Island.

**SZ4397 SO451AE**

**3 Needs Ore Point** is the base for the Beaulieu River Sailing Club and is also the site of a short cut into the river known in the 18th

Century as Bulls Run. It was closed by an Act of Parliament in 1986.

**4 Coast Guard cottages** These were built in the 1860's for Coast Guards based there to prevent smuggling. The Coast Guards were rotated regularly to avoid the possibility of them participating in the illegal acts! The coastguard station closed in 1922 but the cottages are now owned by Beaulieu Estate.

**5 Salt Pans** Over the top of the bank you will see an area of water. This was reclaimed from the sea to harvest salt which was a valuable commodity. There were special officers based on the river to check on the amount of salt produced. In autumn and winter this area provides an important feeding area for wildfowl such as Brent Geese.

**6 Gins** nowadays is a base for the Royal Southampton Yacht Club but in the past was the site that the Monks from Beaulieu Abbey unloaded their craft and kept their fishing boats. **SZ4198 SO42 7XG**

**7 Fiddlers Reach** This was where the hulls of ships were anchored before being taken to Portsmouth to be fitted out.

**8 Mulberry Dock** Components for the Mulberry harbour that were used in the D Day invasion were built here along with an experimental floating dock.

**9 Gilbury** This is Exbury's estates' access to the river. Exbury is the site of a famous garden with a stunning collection of azaleas and a narrow gauge steam railway. **SU4100 SO45 IAG**

**10 Bucklers Hard** This was where Nelson's favourite ship was built and is now the centre of boating activity on the river. Liquid Logistics run Canoe and Kayak courses and trips on the river from here. There is also a pub and a hotel. The Beaulieu River Harbour Master is also based here and can be contacted on 01590 616200.

**11 Baileys Hard** From the river you can see a tall brick chimney. This is the site of the estate brick works, used between 1790 and 1935. It was here that the first naval vessel built on the river was constructed.

**12 Curtle Meadows** This was used as a stand-in for a sixteenth century Thames in the film 'A Man for all Seasons' in 1966.

**13 Beaulieu Village** This picturesque village has a good variety of shops including a chocolate shop, garden centre, tea rooms and pottery. **SU3802 SO42 7UW**



### Additional information

The Beaulieu is a tidal river and along with the Solent has the advantage of a double high tide. This corresponds to the ebb being quicker than it may otherwise have been. The section above Baileys Hard is difficult to paddle at low tides and may become impassable at the top end of the river.

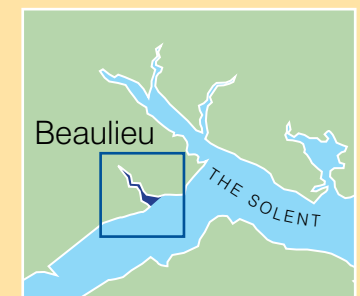
**Portages**  
 No portages, weirs or lock gates.

**Licences**  
 Tidal River; no licence or Harbour dues. If launching or recovering at Bucklers Hard please call the **Harbour Master** 01590 616200 or email river@beaulieu.co.uk  
**Canoe Trips on the River and other providers:** Liquid Logistics run Open Canoe and Kayak trips on the river plus other courses please phone 01590 612377 for details.

**Difficult: Do not attempt trail with wind of Force 4 or greater.**

**Accessibility**  
 Easy access to launch and recovery point.

**Ease of access to the water**  
 Car Parking within 50 metres easy walk of launch and recovery point. Car Parking charges apply for Lepe Car Park. Access to water at all states of the tide.



Maps covering the area:  
**OS 1:25,000:** New Forest

**START**  
 Lepe Beach  
 OS Grid Ref:  
 SZ 465 985  
 SO45 1AA

**S** Lepe Beach

**Entrance to The Solent**

**S** **Start**  
 Lepe Beach  
 Southampton,  
 Hampshire:  
**SO45 IAA**  
 (Car parking charges apply)  
**OS Grid Reference:**  
**SZ 465 985**

**F** **Finish**  
 Round trip return to start or shuttle from Bucklers Hard although prior permission should be sought from the Harbour Master 01590 616200.

**Road access**  
 Car parking and easy walk within 50 metres of launch and recovery.

Car parking charges apply for Lepe Car Park.

Access to water at all states of the tide.

**Car shuttle required?**  
 No round trip.



## Paddling Safety

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great workout and spend time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules.

### Wear appropriate clothing

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90% of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, additional dry clothing, towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

### Know the weather forecast

Find out the weather forecast before you set out on your Canoe Trail. The Met Office, BBC Weather and Local Marina Offices will have an up to date forecast.

### Local area

Familiarise yourself with the local area, its sensitive places and protected areas.

Be sure to:

- Leave the environment as you find it.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.

- Canoe a safe distance away from wildlife

### Check your equipment

Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

#### Checklist:

- 1 Boat
- 2 Paddle
- 3 Bailer/sponge
- 4 Buoyancy Aid
- 5 Small First Aid kit
- 6 Penknife
- 7 Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag)
- 8 Fresh drinking water
- 9 Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
- 10 Light waterproof/jacket
- 11 Footwear



## Beaulieu

### Centre details

Liquid Logistics  
SO42 7YF  
01590 612377

### Refreshments

The Master Builder's House Hotel



Buckler's Hard,  
Beaulieu Estate



Hampshire, SO42 7XB  
0844 815 3399

The Masters Builder's House Hotel  
OS Grid Ref: SU 366 025



**ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.**

## INSPIRING canoeing



## Other canoe trails



For more information on other canoe trails go to our website:  
[www.canoe-england.org.uk](http://www.canoe-england.org.uk)

## Downloads



Go online and download the routes:  
[www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk](http://www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk)

Contact:  
[info@sporthampshireiow.co.uk](mailto:info@sporthampshireiow.co.uk)  
0845 603 5638