

£2.50

ROUTE

5

Portsmouth Harbour North into Fareham Creek

Type of trail: Sea water – Natural Harbour
Region: South Hampshire



DIFFICULTY
RATING
2 PADDLES

INSPIRING

canoeing



SPORT

HAMPSHIRE & IOW

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3.7 miles

Approximate distance:
Up river from launch and recovery point: **7.4 miles**
Round trip



DIFFICULTY RATING
2 PADDLES

3 hours

1.5 hours up harbour and 1.5 hours return

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



Start
Hardway, Gosport, Hampshire:
PO12 4LQ
OS Grid Reference:
SU611018



Alternative start
(high tide only) for one way only (north to south):
Lower Quay, Fareham, Hampshire:
PO12 4LQ
OS Grid Reference:
SU579056



Finish
Depends if one way or round trip – see above.

Road access
No agreement, but need to comply with harbour by-laws, particularly staying more than 50m from any MoD establishment or vessel.

www.qhportsmouth.com/home/

www.qhportsmouth.com/regulations-dppo/



Car shuttle required?
No - round trip.
Yes, if one way only.

3.7 miles

Approximate distance:
Up river from launch and recovery point: **7.4 miles**
Round trip

General Information

Trip may be made one way in either direction or as a round trip commencing at Hardway, Gosport.

Best to aim to be at Lower Quay Fareham at High Tide as not readily accessible (muddy estuary) at low tide. If you are making a one way trip, leave either Fareham Lower Quay within one hour of high tide or Hardway, Gosport approximately 2 hours before high water.

For a return trip going up and back down with the tide, leave Hardway, Gosport approximately 2 hours before high water. For those wishing to explore other areas of Portsmouth Harbour, launch from Hardway. Paddlers should be aware of rules of navigation at sea and of navigation markers indicating channels. Easy to get caught on mud flats with falling tide. If paddling within 2 hours either side



of high water all areas should be safe from being stranded.

Portsmouth Harbour is very busy with commercial and recreational craft. Need to be vigilant and aware of other water users. Open canoes in particular beware of wake from fast or large moving vessels. Adequate buoyancy including centre air bag for tandem recommended.

The Trail

As you leave the slipway at Hardway paddle out through the moored yachts to the edge of the main channel. Looking right (south east) will give a view of the Harbour; the Spinnaker Tower near the harbour mouth, warships berthed in the dockyard and the coming and going of the cross channel ferries. Proceed north/north west up the harbour keeping the shore you launched from on the left hand side. Ahead you will see Portsdown Hill with a large white scar where chalk was quarried to create Horsea Island and lake in the harbour.

Throughout the trail there will be a range of marine pleasure craft both moored and underway. Occasional seabirds can

be viewed and if paddling at a low tide birds may be observed on the mud flats.

Higher up into Fareham Creek the trail narrows to a width of one to two hundred metres. Beyond Lower Quay Fareham you can paddle as far as the multi-arched railways viaduct at Fareham.

Additional to the trail

Trail may be one way or a round trip. Possible to extend the trail by 1 km up stream of Fareham Lower Quay to limit of navigation at Fareham Railway Viaduct.

For those with knowledge of tides and marine charts, trail may be significantly extended to cover several of the boating channels within the harbour and a trip up to Portchester Castle.

Additional information

No readily accessible toilets are available at each end of the trail, although there are pubs within 100metres at each end. (The Castle in the Air at the Fareham Quay and the Jolly Roger at Hardway). Lower Quay to limit of navigation at Fareham Railway Viaduct.



IMPORTANT
Portsmouth Harbour is very busy with commercial and recreational craft. Be vigilant and aware of other water users.



Important:
Your safety comes first **always** wear a Buoyancy aid.

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

Additional trails
Fareham Viaduct
Portchester Castle

Accessibility

Easy access to launch and recovery point at each end of the Trail, but tide dependent, see access to water.

Ease of access to the water

Car parking and easy walk within 20m of launch and recovery at both ends of trail.

Hardway (southern end): Free parking close to slipway. Access to water at high tide from slipway, at all other states of the tide access from the public pontoon.

Fareham Lower Quay (northern end): Limited free parking on road, otherwise parking in the marina car park.

Maps covering the area:

- OS 1:25,000:** Explorer 119: Meon Valley, Portsmouth, Gosport & Fareham
- OS 1:50,000:** Sheet 196: The Solent
- Admiralty Chart: 5600.13** Approaches to Fareham Lake



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:

- I 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



Portsmouth

Centre details

Portsmouth Outdoor Centre,
PO3 5LY
023 92 663873



Refreshments

The Jolly Roger
Priority Road
Gosport Hampshire
PO12 4LQ
023 922 582584

The Jolly Roger
OS Grid Ref: SU 611 017

The Castle in the Air
49 Old Gosport Road
Fareham
PO16 0XH
01329 280320

The Castle in the Air
OS Grid Ref: SU 748 471

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

Downloads



Go online and download the routes:
www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk

Contact:
info@sporthampshireiow.co.uk
0845 603 5638