

The Beaulieu is a wonderfully attractive, tidal river tucked away in the New Forest Park. This trail is for the more experienced paddler. **Note: This is a tidal trail. Check tide times before you set out. The harbour master will provide you with a map and tide table when you pay your launch fee.**

Key Info



Scan or visit
bit.ly/beaulieu-1
to find the map
in Mapometer and
download the GPX file

Start and finish: Bucklers Hard,
Beaulieu, New Forest
SO42 7XB

Distance: 8.5 miles
Time: 2.5 - 4.5 hours
Locks/Portages: None
OS Map: Explorer 22 New Forest

1

Setting off from Bucklers Hard, turn right, down the river. You pass salt pans and various historic boat building areas. Take care especially around the Harbour and stay out of the main channel in so far as possible.

2

On your right after about 2km, is the base for the Royal Southampton Yacht Club—Ginn's Farm.

3

After the next stretch you reach Needs Ore Point, home of Beaulieu River Sailing club. The river then tracks to the left, down towards Lepe Beach. You will notice the Millennium Beacon on your left, which helps guide boats on and off the river.

4

Pass Gull Island, a spit, home to a colony of black headed gulls and other rare birds. Do not land here, this is a highly sensitive conservation area.

5

Reach Lepe Beach, on your left, as you exit the river. At low tide Lepe can be very muddy. Lepe Beach has great views over to the Isle of Wight.

6

Rest and explore at Lepe Beach before heading back to your start point at Bucklers Hard.

Find more
paddling trails at:
gopaddling.info



Permissions are in place to access the River from Buckler's Hard only. Access via slipway. Please pay for access & parking at Harbour Master's office prior to launching. Toilets, cafe and pub at Bucklers Hard. Further facilities at Lepe beach.

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 especially at springs. The section above Bailey's Hard is not a nice paddle at low tides and may become impassable at the top end of the river.

The Beaulieu River has several areas that are designated SSSI please do not land unless you are sure of authorised access. There are many boats and jetties on the river care should be taken to avoid these, also the river is used by fishermen please avoid their lines. When on springs the tide can drop very quickly, and can either carry you further than you want or trap you against obstacles.

Along the route:

- * Beaulieu River is unusual in that it is one of very few private rivers in the world, with the ownership having been given to the Monks of Beaulieu Abbey back in the mists of time. The rights have now passed to the Montagu family and their stewardship has ensured that its development has been largely controlled, keeping this a haven.
- * Salt pans were widely used in the area to reclaim the sea and harvest salt. Many are now nature reserves and important areas for many wild birds.
- * Buckler's Hard has been essential to boat production for hundreds of years. The Master Shipbuilder, Henry Adams, and his sons built ships such as Agamemnon, Euryalus and Swiftsure, all of which fought at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
- * Liquid Logistics run canoe and kayak courses and trips from here. On the opposite side of the river are Exbury Gardens.
- * The National Motor Museum at Beaulieu houses one of the world's finest collections of cars.

Winter Warmer: At the end of the Buckler's Hard high street you'll find The Master Builder's House Pub & Hotel. Enjoy a meal in their Yachtsman's bar and garden, with dedicated table service from their Breton-clad shipmates or treat yourself to a fine dining experience in their River View Restaurant. www.hillbrookehotels.co.uk/the-master-builders/



Useful information:

Lepe Country Park - hants.gov.uk/things/todo/countryparks/lepe
 Beaulieu River - beaulieuriver.co.uk/
 Bucklers Hard - bucklershard.co.uk/
 Beaulieu Motor Museum - beaulieu.co.uk/

Beaulieu River Harbour Master can be contacted on 01590 616200 email river@beaulieu.co.uk

Safety and Licenses

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe:

Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & sunscreen!

Paddle Responsibly:

Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

#DontDrinkandDrown

www.rlss.org.uk

An important campaign by the RLSS encourages people to remember the effects of alcohol and the potential implications around water safety. 'Don't drink and drown' reminds people to be mindful of their alcohol consumption which is especially important for paddlers to remember too.

Licences: The waterways in this trail do not require a license, however if you paddle regularly, you should consider British Canoeing membership which includes a full annual license for British waterways as well as Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. British Canoeing membership is available from www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

Visit our website
britishcanoeing.org.uk
 for more information