



FUND BRITAIN'S WATERWAYS

THAMES TIDEWAY CAMPAIGN CRUISE - WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2024

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Dear Cavalcade Boater,

The Campaign continues in 2024.

1. As many of you know, cruising the tidal Thames in convoy is always special, and in 2024 there's a very good reason for joining the adventure. The Fund Britain's Waterways Steering Group is committed to continuing the campaign with a greater intensity to ensure Parliament recognises just how much people care about our inland waterways. Campaign activity made an impact in 2023 with cruises in Birmingham, Gloucester Docks and to the Palace of Westminster (PoW) but much more needs to be done throughout the country.
2. In support of the campaign, the Canalway Cavalcade dispersal cruise in 2024 will include a Palace of Westminster element. Commensurate with navigational safety, the more participating boats and crews, the stronger we make our point. Do please join us if you're able to, and help make the case to Parliament, whilst enjoying this spectacular cruise through the nation's Capital.
3. To enable boaters to demonstrate their views, the cruise will take place on Wednesday 8th May, whilst Parliament is sitting. Favourable daylight tides allow for two cruise options:

Option 1

A cruise from Limehouse Basin, through the Thames Barrier to Margaretness on the ebbing tide. On the first of the flood, we retrace our route, pass Limehouse, and continue upriver to the PoW. Following this brief stop, we continue upriver to Brentford and Teddington.

Option 2

As Option 1 passes Limehouse on their return transit, boats join the convoy to the PoW, and then continue upriver to Brentford and Teddington.

4. In outline: we will be welcomed in CA House, home of the Cruising Association (adjacent to Limehouse Lock) for the mandatory safety brief at 1900 hours on Tuesday 7th May. This is followed by a communal supper and drinks, which is always a jolly occasion.

5. On Wednesday 8th May, weather permitting, we'll go boating in convoy, keeping Thursday 9th May as a back-up, if necessary. The approximate timings and routine for the day are:

Option 1 - Outbound

- a. Last locking departs Limehouse no later than 0730 hours.
- b. Transit time to the Thames Barrier is 1 hour and 15 minutes, and 5.5 miles.
- c. Transit time from the Barrier to Margaretness is 30 minutes, and 2.5 miles.
- d. Stem the last of the ebb at Margaretness for between 30 and 60 minutes.
- e. Low water North Woolwich is at 0900 hours.

Option 1 - Inbound

- f. Transit time from Margaretness to Limehouse is 2 hours 30 minutes, and 8 miles.
- g. Transit time from Limehouse to PoW is nominally 45 minutes, and 4 miles.

Option 2 – Inbound

- h. Boats selecting Option 2 lock onto the Thames from circa 1130 hours and join the convoy as it passes Limehouse.
- i. Transit time from Limehouse to PoW is nominally 45 minutes, and 4 miles.

Options – 1 and 2 inbound

- j. Convoy speed will be adjusted to arrive off the PoW at the end of Prime Minister's Questions between 1230 and 1245 hours.
- k. Transit time from PoW to Brentford is 2 hours +/-, and 12 miles.
- l. Transit time from Brentford to Teddington is 1 hour, and 4 miles.
- m. High water Brentford and Teddington is at 1600 hours.

6. If you'd like to register an expression of interest in joining the cruise, please email or telephone, using the contact details above, as soon as you're able to, and no later than Wednesday 31st January 2024, so we can continue with the detailed planning. Please include:

- a. Your preferred option, as set out above.
- b. Your preferred destination (Brentford or Teddington).
- c. Your boat name.
- d. The boat length including fenders, beam and air draft (Imperial or metric).
- e. Your preferred contact telephone number.

7. We're also pleased to answer any questions you may have about preparing crew and boats for the cruise.

8. The Port of London Authority (PLA) hosts a website for recreational boaters which can be found here: <https://boatingonthethames.co.uk/>. This includes an interactive map so you can trace the route of the cruise. They also operate the Tidal Thames Navigators Club, a free to join club which provides up to date information and some very useful freebies. For smartphone users there's also the free PLA app found here: <https://boatingonthethames.co.uk/pla-tidal-thames-app-boating-on-the-thames-port-of-london-authority/>.

Kind regards,

Frances and Andrew

FBW Steering Group

*The campaign cruise to the
Palace of Westminster –
Tuesday 14th November
2023.*

