



Thank you for booking the Jaggy Thistle! We look forward to welcoming you soon. Here is some information you may want to plan your day.

Planning your day

Vouchers

If you have received a voucher please get in touch at your own leisure to book your day. You can book any day that is available at the time of booking. Either email info@goforthandclyde.org.uk or go to <https://goforthandclyde.org.uk/book-a-boat/> click the date you would like and please state in the 'notes' section that you have a voucher.

On the day of your booking

Please arrive at Go Forth and Clyde's base at Lock 16, Falkirk beside the Union Inn, (FK1 4QU). Your day on Jaggy Thistle begins at 9:00am with a 30 minute induction followed by setting off towards the Falkirk Wheel and cruising on the Union Canal. You must have returned to the top locks by 4pm in order to finish your day at 5:30pm.

Arriving by car –

Directions from Edinburgh

- Take the A8 for Glasgow and the West.
- At Newbridge roundabout take the M9 West for Stirling.
- Take the slip road off for Falkirk (**Junction 5**).
- Signs on the M9 indicate you should continue straight ahead for the Falkirk Wheel, **but if you do not leave the motorway at junction 5** you will end up at the wrong side of the canal.
- Once off at junction 5, follow the signs for the Falkirk Wheel/Mariner Centre, which will take you past Falkirk Football stadium and an ASDA distribution centre. · This will eventually bring you to the Rosebank Beefeater restaurant. · At the roundabout take a left and then at the mini roundabout turn right. · The canal should now be on your right hand side. Continue straight through the next roundabout.
- At the next roundabout, turn right towards the canal.
- Turn first left before the bridge to park alongside the Union Inn.



Directions from Glasgow

- Take the A80, to the north of Castlecary and join the M876 towards Stirling.
· Exit at Junction 1 and follow the signs for Falkirk – (it is a 'severe' left hand bend) take left at the junction.
- You will almost immediately come to a large roundabout and again follow the signs for Falkirk A883 (straight through).
- Approximately 4 kilometres on and you will see the new Falkirk Wheel Park & Ride area to your right and the new roundabout.
- Continue to drive through into Camelon until you reach the Mariner Centre (on left) and a large roundabout about 100 yards further on. From here drive straight on towards Falkirk town and until you reach the Rosebank Beefeater restaurant/ Premier Inn on your right.
- At this roundabout turn right then immediately right at the next roundabout, the canal should now be on your right hand side.
- Continue straight through the next roundabout
- At the next roundabout, turn right towards the canal.
- Turn first left before the bridge to park alongside the Union Inn.

Train

There is a frequent train service to Falkirk from both Edinburgh and Glasgow (Queen Street station) the closest station is Camelon but there is a more frequent service to Falkirk High.

Skipper for the day

At the start of the hire the two designated drivers will be given full instructions on how to safely operate the boat.



Important information to remember

- Please check the time when you reach the top locks, you need to make sure you return back to this point by **4pm** to transit back down the Falkirk Wheel.
- Keep note of how far you travel and how long it takes, you will have the same journey back!



Route and mooring information

- Once you pass through the top locks, cruise for approximately 15mins until you reach the aqueduct, pass over and turn right (available mooring area)
- Travel onwards towards the Falkirk Tunnel (approximately 30min cruising time) remember to turn on the **navigation light** and watch out for the water dripping from the tunnel roof – you might get wet!
- Next set of moorings are just past bridge 57 opposite towpath.
- If you need supplies, Tesco Superstore is just past bridge 56
- Large winding hole and mooring rings located just before bridge 52
- Bridge 51 – Vellore Road Bridge – Picnic Area
- **THIS IS THE FURTHEST POINT OF YOUR JOURNEY!**
- Approx time back to the top locks is 2.5hours

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Booking

The booking contract is between you (the hirer) and Go Forth and Clyde Ltd (the company) and is made under Scots Law. The contract is effective once a completed booking form signed by the hirer, together with full payment, is received by the company and a booking confirmation is issued.

Prices and Payment

The booking confirmation is not an invoice, which you will receive separately. Full payment must be made at the time of booking.

A £100 refundable damage deposit will be taken, either at time of booking or in cash on arrival and held against any damage to the boat and/or contents.

Deposits will be refunded not more than 3 working days after your booking, provided the boat is returned on time and without any breakages or claims and in a clean and tidy state. Late return will be charged at £35.00 per hour or part thereof. Hirers must be 21 years or over.

Cancellation by You

Notice to cancel your day hire booking must be given at least 14 days prior to the date of your boat hire to receive a full refund.

If your notice to cancel your day hire booking is received within 14 days we are only able to offer a full refund if we are able to re-let the boat.



To transfer your day hire booking to another date will incur an administration charge of £20.00.

Notify us by telephone and in writing if for any reason you wish to cancel your booking. Your cancellation will be acknowledged by us in writing.

Cancellation by Us

If for any reason we require to cancel your booking, we will refund all payments made by you towards the boat hire in full, and the hirer shall have no further claim against the company.

Letting to Minors

The company will not let narrowboats to a person less than 21 years of age.

No person under 18 years of age may control the boat, unless under the direct and constant supervision of a responsible adult member of the party.

Damage Deposit

A deposit of £100 will be taken at the time of booking or on arrival in cash. In the event of any damage, loss or accident to your boat or its inventory during your hire an appropriate deduction will be taken from the damage deposit.

Exclusions to the damage deposit scheme are damages resulting from excessive speed (reported or witnessed) - the limit is 4 miles per hour; malicious, negligent or intentional damage to the boat, its equipment, the waterway, other boats or structures; damage to the rudder or skeg due to cill damage in locks; and return of the boat in an unclean condition. In the case of any of the above being reported, we shall claim the full cost of repairs, replacement or compensation.

Security

Whenever you leave the boat, you should make sure that all doors are securely locked and all the contents left inside the secure cabin of the boat.

Repairs

Repairs are our responsibility and should not be put into the hands of others without our authority.

Delays

The company shall not be liable for any matters arising from any cause beyond the company's negligence or wilful defaults, including (without limitation) death or personal injury of hirers, their crew and passengers, loss or damage to property; non-fulfilment or interruption of the booking or delays; breakdowns; mechanical problems; defects damage; restriction on cruising; obstructions; repairs or damage to waterways; non-availability of routes; navigational works; storms; floods; drought; loss or shortage of water or other weather conditions; rationing, shortage or non-availability of fuel; or in respect of any consequential loss, damage, expense, injury or claim.



Insurance

Hirers are recommended to take out personal insurance to cover against injury/loss of belongings.

Handover

It is a requirement of Scottish Canals that boat handling instructions are given to at least two competent members of the crew who will be shown that the boat is in good working order. These two competent people will be required to sign off a handover sheet on completion of the instruction session at the start of the hire stating that they understand the procedures for safe operation of the boat.

Safe Navigation

Whilst in charge of the boat, the hirer is expected to take all reasonable care to ensure its safe navigation.

The appropriate navigation by-laws must be observed at all times, including those related to speed limit (4 m.p.h.) and cruising after dark, which is strictly forbidden. In the event of an accident, the hirer must immediately inform the company with full details, together with names and addresses of witnesses, and the name of any other boat involved. In no circumstances should any member of the party admit liability.

Towing

Under no circumstances will the hirer allow the boat to be towed by any other boat, or use the boat to tow any other boat.

Hirer's Vehicles and Property

Free parking is provided for the convenience of customers, but we must emphasise that we can accept no liability for loss or damage to customers' vehicles or their contents, unless proven to be caused by the negligence of Go Forth and Clyde Ltd.

You are particularly advised not to leave valuables or readily portable items in your vehicles. Any items not wanted on the boat should be securely locked out of sight in your boot. Property left on boats can only be returned after receipt of agreed postage and packaging charge. (Minimum charge £10).

Accommodation Boats cannot carry more than the licence permits – 8 people.

Pets

Well behaved pets are welcome.

Hire Period – Collection and Return of Boat

The hire period commences at 9.30am (30 mins after your induction) on day of hire and ends at 5.30pm on the same day.

Hirer's Special Responsibilities

If there are any infirm or disabled members in the party, it is the hirer's responsibility to enquire from the company, when booking, as to the suitability of



the boat or waterway. The company cannot guarantee that it will be able to help in every circumstance, but all practical consideration will be given.

Fuel, Gas, Pump Out Etc.

The cost of diesel fuel is included in the price.

The boat is supplied with two bottles of gas, the cost of which is included in the price. Toilet tanks, when used in accordance with the relevant instructions in the boat manual, should have sufficient capacity for your hire.

Bar-B-Q's

To comply with safety regulations, no Bar-B-Q's are to be used either inside or on deck.

Alcohol

When skippering the boat avoid excessive consumption of alcohol.

Smoking

Do not smoke inside boat.

Company Reservations

We reserve the right to refuse to hand over the boat to any person whom, in our reasonable opinion, is not suitable to take charge of it. Examples for which the company may consider a person not suitable are age, ill health, disability, or suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In this event, all money will be refunded in full and the hirer shall have no further claim against the company.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Unfortunately the weather is outwith our control - if the management feels it would be unwise to sail due to adverse weather conditions we will give you as much notice as possible and offer to reschedule your trip or refund your fee.

Complaints Procedure

It is the company's policy to respond to any complaint or problem which may arise, as soon as possible. Should a problem arise at the start of or during the course of your holiday, please contact the company immediately (you will be given a contact number which is available seven days a week).

Company Policy

The company is proud of the fact that it operates to a very high standard and encourages customers to report any problems promptly. For health and safety reasons particularly, we encourage you to report problems as soon as possible. If any problem is not noticed when you take over the boat, you should telephone the company about this as soon as possible.

Late Return

We will charge £35 per hour or part thereof for late return or late handover of the boat at the end of the hire.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Can we change the route to go down to the Kelpies?

Although it is technically possible to sail the Forth and Clyde canal down towards the Kelpies – and many boaters on longer trips do – we don't recommend this for a day hire due to the long string of locks between our base at Lock 16 and the Kelpies at Lock 2. Another important part of Go Forth and Clyde's work is to provide lock-keeping with our dedicated volunteer team along this stretch – and although we love doing it, spending an entire day in lock gates is not the most relaxing way to spend a boat trip!

Can I change the times of my hire?

We may be able to accommodate a later start or earlier finish, but that will cut into your time on board. The trip is limited by the necessity of returning to the top of the Falkirk Wheel for 4pm so you can make the final rotation of the day back down to the Forth and Clyde canal. This will not alter the cost of day hire.

How far along the Union Canal can I get on my trip?

Canal boats have a top speed limit of 4mph, which makes for a leisurely sail, but means the furthest you will make is the Bridge 51 which is before the Avon Aqueduct, and Linlithgow. If you would like to experience these there are pleasure cruises run by the much bigger passenger boats from Linlithgow and if you have good weather and an extended stay – we'd recommend these for another day!

Are there places to stop for lunch?

There is a picnic site at but unfortunately no pubs or cafes along the stretch you will travel. A packed lunch to be enjoyed on board is recommended, and the kitchen can be used for tea and coffee. The kitchen has mugs, cutlery, tea and coffee. It does not have plates or pots and pans.

If you have any other questions please get in touch on info@goforthandclyde.org.uk or call 07497 159059 during working hours.