

How long can I hire Jaggy Thistle for?

Jaggy Thistle is a day boat, equipped with seating, limited kitchen facilities and a toilet. She is available for day hires between 1st April until 31st October – though your chances for good weather are better earlier in the year! Hires generally start at 9:30 (arrival at 9am for familiarisation with our Boat Team), and finish at 5:30.

How much does a trip cost?

A trip on the Jaggy Thistle costs £300 for a day. She can take up to 8 passengers (regardless of age) but no more, due to her size.

What does my fee cover?

Hire fees cover use of the boat, familiarization with our boat team, a trip up the canal to the Falkirk Wheel and on along the Union Canal, fees for the Wheel trip, fuel and insurance. Go Forth and Clyde is a charitable organisation and all proceeds from Jaggy Thistle hires go towards our charitable work in Falkirk – you can find out more about us here www.goforthandclyde.org.uk

What is the route we take?

From the base at Lock 16, you travel up towards the basin of the Falkirk Wheel. Here you take a trip up the only boat lift in the UK based on an Archimedes screw, and sail along the Union canal. You will return the same route.

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!

Did you know? Lock gates on Scottish canals are operated for you – either by Scottish Canals staff or on Locks 20 – 2 on the Forth and Clyde, by a team of at least four volunteers (managed by us at Go Forth and Clyde).

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.