

## Get the most out of your trip to Henley Royal Regatta and Henley Festival

If you plan to visit Henley Royal Regatta or Henley Festival by boat, we hope you have a fantastic time. The Environment Agency is working in partnership with a number of agencies including the emergency services, local councils and the Henley Royal Regatta and Festival organisers to deliver safe events. You can help us all do that by following the tips below:

### 1 Check river conditions before you set off

We monitor river conditions 24 hours a day and have a warning system in place to alert boaters when they are hazardous or unsafe. You can check river conditions here: [River Thames: current river conditions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-current-conditions).

### 2 Check if river restrictions or closures will affect your journey

An up to date list of all river restrictions and closures, and other issues affecting navigation, can be found here: [River Thames: restrictions and closures - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-restrictions-closures).

### 3 Check lock staffing levels and facilities

We have fewer temporary lock and weir keepers working for us this summer, so more locks will have a lock and weir keeper working at them for just part of the day. If no lock and weir keeper is on site, or is busy carrying out essential tasks such as operating the weir, you will need to operate the lock yourself, following the instructions on the lock pedestals. We publish lock staffing levels for each week here: [River Thames: lock keeper service - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-lock-keeper-service). You should expect locks near the Henley stretch to be busy, so expect delays and please be patient and courteous to our staff and fellow boaters.

We have facilities at and between our locks which may be of use to you on your trip, including toilets, showers, drinking and bulk water points, chemical toilet disposal points and sewage pump-outs, recycling points and short stay moorings. A list of all facilities can be found here: [River Thames: locks and facilities for boaters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/river-thames-locks-facilities).

### 4 Observe the Harbourmaster's Notices

The notices set out the navigation rules in force for both events, which have been developed and agreed between the event organisers and the Environment Agency to ensure the safety of all river users:

[Henley Royal Regatta 2024: river restriction notice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/henley-royal-regatta-2024-notice)

[Henley Music Festival 2024: river restriction notice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/henley-music-festival-2024-notice)

### 5 Navigate with great care at all times

Move slowly to avoid any wash. Ask any passengers and crew to help you keep an eye out for other river users and be considerate of other boats which may not be as manoeuvrable as yours.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

## 6 Follow instructions without delay

Act immediately on the instructions of any marshals, stewards, emergency services or Environment Agency officers – whatever they are asking you to do is to keep you or others safe from harm.

## 7 Avoid navigating in darkness or poor light if you can

But if you must, display all appropriate navigation lights. If you're in an unpowered boat, you must still show an all-round white navigation light. These can be bought at chandleries and marine stores. Have a torch as back up but use it with care - avoid dazzling other boaters.

## 8 Think if you've had a drink

Please remember that even a little tippie can impair your judgement and reaction times and increase the potential for an accident when navigating a boat.

## 9 Ensure all crew and passengers wear lifejackets when on board

Please. Just in case.

## 10 Don't swim in the river

Lots of boats plus strong currents and surprisingly cold water all mean it's far too dangerous. If you do get in the river and start struggling, float in a starfish shape on your back, don't panic, get control of your breathing and call for help or swim to safety if you're able. More info on #FloatToLive here: [Float To Live – What To Do In An Emergency – RNLI](#).

## 11 Service your engine before you set off

That will reduce the risk of a breakdown. Ensure you fill up with enough fuel to last your trip if possible, and ideally avoid carrying any spare fuel. There's lots of great fuel and other safety advice available from the Boat Safety Scheme at [BSS | Boat Safety Scheme | Go Boating - Stay Safe](#).

## 12 Have numbers of boat rescue and repair companies with you

They'll get you out of trouble if you break down or run aground. Only call 999 in a genuine emergency.

## 13 Swot up if you're rusty on the rules

If you've not used your boat for a while (possibly since visiting Henley last year!) you might want to get reacquainted with the advice and guidance in this publication: [The boater's handbook: basic boat-handling and safety - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## 14 Embrace and enhance the ambience

You're boating on one of the most beautiful stretches of arguably the most historic and culturally significant river in the world, at a time when it's at its most vibrant. Enter into the spirit of things by being courteous and considerate to others at all times. Relax. Enjoy. Have fun. Stay safe.

Thank you.

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