Contact Us

Scottish Canals
Canal House, Applecross Street
Glasgow G4 9SP
T: 0141 332 6936

Bowling Sea Lock
T: 01389 877969

Carron Sea Locks 1 and 2
T: 01324 483034 or 07810 794668

Assisted Passage (24hr advanced booking/
Winter – 48hr advanced booking
T: 07810 794 467

Falkirk Wheel Basin Control
(please give 24hr notice)
T: 01324 676912

Scottish Canals

Crinan Canal
Pier Square, Ardrishaig
Argyll, PA30 8DZ
T: 01546 603210

Caledonian Canal
Seaport Marine
Muirtown Wharf
Inverness, IV3 8LE
T: 01463 725500
E: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk

Skipper’s Guide
Forth & Clyde and
Union Canals

£2

Find out more at
scottishcanals.co.uk
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**BOATERS HANDBOOK**
All licence holders are entitled to a free copy of our Boaters Handbook. Keep it on board the boat and encourage all crew members to follow it. Please ask for a copy at the sea lock or at the waterway office. The handbook contains information common to inland waterways generally, not locally specific information.

**OPERATING TIMES**
Opening times can vary throughout the season. For all the latest operating times go to www.scottishcanals.co.uk or call 0141 332 6936. Last lockings are half an hour before closing; late locking can be arranged for a fee.

**MAXIMUM CHANNEL DIMENSIONS**
All measured from the water surface. Add 10cm (inches) to your sea water draught to compensate for reduced buoyancy in fresh water, and allow for the weight of extra equipment, fuel and water which may increase your draught.

Leave a safety margin for underkeel clearance and for fluctuating water levels, which may affect channel depth and headroom. The headroom at the railway bridge below Lock 9, and at Merrie’s Bridge between Locks 7 & 8, may be reduced due to increases in water flows from locks in operation upstream.

**Forth & Clyde**
- Max. Boat Length: 19.2m (63ft)
- Max. Beam: 6m (19ft 6in)
- Channel Depth: 1.83m (6ft)
- Maximum Headroom: 3m (9ft 10in)

**Helix Cut & Sealock**
- Max. Boat Length: 20.47m (67ft)
- Max. Beam: 5m (16ft 4in)
- Channel Depth: 1.78m (5ft 10in)
- Maximum Headroom: 3m (9ft 10in)

**Union Canal & The Falkirk Wheel**
- Lock Length: 21.3m (70ft)
- Width: 3.5m (11ft 6in)
- Channel Depth: 1.06m (3ft 6in)
- Maximum Headroom: 2.7m (8ft 10in)

**The Falkirk Wheel Locks**
- Channel Depth: 1.5m (5ft)
- Maximum Headroom: 2.7m (8ft 10in)

**Golden Jubilee Lock** (Lock 3: F&C into basin)
- Length: 21.30m (70ft)
- Width / Beam: 3.81m (12ft 6in)
- Channel Depth: 1.5m (5ft)
- Max headroom: 2.74m (9ft)

**SHOWERS, TOILETS, WATER, REFUSE POINTS, SHORE POWER**
Available at locations throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities grids. Access is via a Scottish Canals passkey, which is available from the Waterway Office or the sea locks. A refundable deposit is required.

**PUMP OUT FACILITIES**
The use of sea toilets within the waterway is prohibited. Vessels with holding tanks can use the pump-out facilities (chargeable) located throughout the waterway. Please refer to canal facilities information.

**FUEL**
Marine diesel is available at Bowling, Auchenfrysty, Carron Sealock 2, the Falkirk Wheel (on F&C) and at Mansfield Road Basin, Linlithgow and Edinburgh Quay. Petrol & Derv can be obtained from local garages.

**CANAL LICENCES**
All craft using the canals must have an up to date licence on display at all times. Further information please visit www.scottishcanals.co.uk or contact the Waterway office 0141 332 6936.

**PASSAGE TIMES - A GUIDE**
The Forth & Clyde Canal is 57km (35 nautical miles, 35 statute miles) from the River Carron Sea Lock on the Firth of Forth, to Bowling on the Firth of Clyde, and there are 40 locks to negotiate.

**EMERGENCIES**
In the event of an emergency summon assistance by whatever means is available – such as mobile phone, public telephone, or by enlisting the help of others.

**FALKIRK TUNNEL**
The tunnel is narrow with room for one way traffic only. Please comply with the safety information displayed on the signs located at the tunnel entrances, and with the light signals.

Please consult the diagram and notes in this guide.

**ROUGHCASTLE TUNNEL**
As above, but as SC staff are on hand at this location, please accept their verbal instructions.

**SKIPPER’S GUIDE - NOTE**
This document is for the general guidance of waterway users, and should not be treated as Navigation Rules or By-laws. General or local instructions published by SC, and directions given by SC staff, should be followed.

**EMERGENCY AND ACCESS NUMBERS**

**Emergency Number (inc Coastguard) 999**

Emergency Out of Hours Contact
0800 072 9900

Other Useful Numbers:
- Lowland Canals Waterway Office 0141 332 6936
- Falkirk Wheel Basin Controller 01324 676912

**DO NOT PHONE THESE NUMBERS FOR ASSISTED PASSAGE**
SAFETY INFORMATION

GENERAL CREW SAFETY
Canals are potentially hazardous environments, and care should be exercised at all times. Skippers should maintain safety awareness at all times. Have an adequate number of competent crew on board. Single-handed passage is possible, but not recommended, and may be subject to delays and additional costs depending on staff availability.

BOAT SAFETY SCHEME
All long-term users of the waterway must have an up-to-date Boat Safety Certificate and provide evidence of insurance for £1,000,000 (one million Pounds Sterling) Third Party Liability.

An information pack is available from the Waterway Office, Sea Locks or from the Boat Safety Scheme website: www.boatsafetyscheme.com.

Craft entering the system by sea and berthing for no more than 28 consecutive days do not require a Boat Safety Certificate. Instead, they may be subject to a Dangerous Boat Check of gas and fuel systems, and will be required to complete a boat condition declaration.

SWIMMING
Although the canal may look inviting, please do not swim in it, as there may be underwater obstructions, and the banks can be steep.

VHF
Sea Locks: VHF Channel 16 / 74.
Call signs: "Bowling Basin" and "Carron Sea Lock".

VHF coverage on inland reaches is not consistent.

RADAR
Skippers must ensure that radar scanners are switched off while craft are in the canal, and when entering sea locks.

SPEED LIMIT
All craft must observe the 4mph speed limit on the waterway to avoid bank erosion by excessive wash. Please minimise disturbance to others by passing moored craft at DEAD SLOW speed.

CAUTION - MAST PROJECTION
Skippers of sailing craft are reminded that mast投影 will project beyond bow and stern. Care should be taken to leave side decks or larboards as possible to avoid collision with the lock gates. Please keep extra care on bends whilst on passage.

LOCKS and BRIDGES

FORTH & CLYDE CANAL
All locks are operated by Scottish Canals staff, and/or licensed users. Sufficient boat crew is required to provide assistance.

MAIN OPENING BRIDGES
Erskine Ferry, Sylva Way Footbridge, Old Basin Basculle Bridge, Hillhead, Twechar, Kerse Road Bridge and Bonnybridge bridges are hydraulically operated by Scottish Canals staff. Bridge openings will not take place during peak road traffic times on week days. Automated road bridge operation is required to take in the region of 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the number of vessels.

UNION CANAL LOCKS and BRIDGES
Scottish Canals staff operate the two locks above The Falkirk Wheel. Contact number: 01326 476812. Mooring ropes must be used in both locks.

Scottish Canals staff operate Leamington Lift Bridge near Lochrin Basin, Edinburgh by prior arrangement. Call 07977 827712 to arrange bridge operation.

USE OF LOCKS by PORTABLE CRAFT
Portable craft, including canoes and kayaks, must use round lock on safety and water economy reasons. Where unpowered and portable craft are considered too large for the lock, they may transit through the locks. They must be overhung on ropes with no-one on board.

THE ENVIRONMENT
Scottish Canals operates a Port Waste Management Plan, agreed with the Marine Coastguard Agency and SEPA.

Please help us to keep the Lowland Canals tidy by disposing of rubbish in a thoughtful manner. In particular, plastic bags thrown overboard could block water intakes, or foul propellers.

It is an offence to discharge oil, or only bilge water, into the canal, or its adjacent waters. Any contravention of this rule will be reported to the Marine Coastguard Agency. If you require to empty bilges please contact Scottish Canals, who may be able to arrange for specialist contractors (at additional cost).

ROWING
Rowing clubs use the section of Union Canal from Slateford (Prince Charlie) Aqueduct to Hanover Park (between Ashley Terrace Bridge and Harrison Park Bridge). Signs cautioning boaters have been erected 500 metres east and west of this section. Please refer to the diagram and procedure detailed overleaf.

SAFETY AT GRANGEMOUTH
The River Carron comes within the safety zone for the Grangemouth Petroleum and Chemical Complex.

In the event of a major escape of toxic gas public warning sirens will be sounded, as follows:
The Alert Siren will have a two-tone sound operating continuously for 5 minutes, followed by 1 minute off. This alert cycle will be repeated for as long as it is considered necessary.
The All Clear will be a Single Tone Sound and will last for 5 minutes.

Anyone hearing the sirens, or without warning, is affected to the point of discomfort by any gas, should immediately extinguish all naked lights and go inside shutting all doors, windows and vents.

If you are under way on the River Carron, proceed to the nearest mooring point (see sailing instructions) and then follow the above procedure.

The Skipper has sole responsibility for the safe navigation of the vessel in his or her charge through the canal. Specifically, the skipper is responsible for the safe passage of the vessel under bridges, and through tunnels and locks. No warranty, assurance, undertaking or representation is given or made by or on behalf of Scottish Canals regarding the safe passage of a vessel through the canal. This does not affect your statutory or common law rights.

RIVER CARRON TIDEST:
- At spring tides the mid-tide level is rising at around 1.5m per hour and the ebb will fall at up to 2.0m per hour. The combination of rapidly changing levels and strong currents makes accurate timing of your passage, especially during spring tides, important.
- At neap tides the pattern is similar, but the range is less.
- At high water ( HW) the mid-tide level is rising at around 1.5m per hour and the ebb will fall at up to 2.0m per hour. The combination of rapidly changing levels and strong currents makes accurate timing of your passage, especially during spring tides, important.
- The current in the river may be up to 4 knots on a spring flood and more, depending on river conditions on the ebb.

GOING UPSTREAM
- Neap tides: (less than 5.0m, HW around 0900/2100 UT)
- The optimum tide level will probably occur between 1.5 and 2.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 1.0 hour after HW. Tidal current will be slight. As a general rule skippers should begin the up-river passage on a flood tide as soon as they consider that there is sufficient depth.
- Spring tides: (more than 5.0m, HW occurring around 0300/1500 UT) The optimum tide level will probably occur between 3.0 and 3.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 2.0 hours after HW. Tidal current will be strong. For more information consult the Carron Tidal information.

RIDING:
- Spring tides: (more than 5.0m, HW occurring around 0300/1500 UT) The optimum tide level will probably occur between 3.0 and 3.5 hours before HW, and again approximately 2.0 hours after HW. Tidal current will be strong. For more information consult the Carron Tidal information.
Pilotage Notes
- Passage from the River Carron entrance to the Forth & Clyde Canal Sea Lock is restricted by depth and overhead obstruction. Consult the Tides and Currents Information below, and the Tidal Predictions for Carron Sea Lock.
- Once the Carron access time window has been established, allow sufficient time for the passage (10 miles from Forth Road Bridge/Port Edgar) to the river mouth, and then to the Sea Lock (a further 2.5 miles).
- Passage from Port Edgar/Forth Bridges to the Torry Beacon may be made either on the north or south side of the main shipping channel.
- West of the Hen & Chickens the north side must be used.
- Vessels should monitor Grangemouth Docks on VHF Ch 14, but do not need to report, except in case of emergency or urgency.
- Ships may cross the mouth of the River Carron on their approach to the Western jetty.
- If tugs are wanting in the fairway, a large vessel may be due. Keep well clear and beware of wash.
- Small craft may anchor in the positions shown, or in the mouth of the River Carron as depth permits, to await the tide.
FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL
BOWLING HARBOUR NAVIGATION
Sealock Tel: 01389 877 969

ESTUARY INFORMATION
- Vessels intending to proceed to or from Bowling Harbour via the River Clyde are required to contact Estuary Control (VHF Ch 12 or 01475 726221).
- Clydeport’s Marine Leisure Guide (free from marinas etc) contains comprehensive information. Arriving from seaward: Contact Estuary Control (EC) prior to arriving at No 1 River Busy off Greenock Container Terminal. Arriving from any other location on the River Clyde east of No 1 buoy (ie between Greenock and Glasgow): Contact EC before leaving your berth or before entering the River Clyde Channel. Departing Bowling Harbour: Contact EC prior to departure.
- Keep to the buoyed Clyde navigation channel, and maintain a look out for shipping.
- Monitor VHF Ch 12.
- Charts: Admiralty Chart 2807 and 4233. Imray Chart CE3. Pilotage CCC: Pilots of Clyde Sailing Directions: Jimmy Youngman’s Pilot - Clyde to Colonsay

BOWLING INFORMATION
- Radio VHF Ch 16/74 “Bowling Basin” during sealoek opening hours 2h-HM/h2 only. Otherwise telephone: 01 389 87796. Locking should be booked in advance.
- The western part of Bowling harbour is hazardous due to a large number of unmarked wrecks. The eastern part has been cleared (see diagram).
- Follow lock keeper’s instructions when entering lock, normally mooring on the port side. Two long warps and 3-4 fenders will be needed. A canvas sheet between the fenders and the hull will help reduce scuffing. SC staff will operate the lock.
- SC operated mast crane available at Bowling. Boat crew must carry out all mast work.
- Boat safety checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- For further details see General Information section.

CAUTION: These charts are for guidance - do not scale or use for navigation.
FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL
RIVER CARRON NAVIGATION
Sea Lock Tel: 01324 483 034 / 07810 794 468

PILOTAGE NOTES
- Passage must be booked in advance with SC Sealock
  Keeper (07810 794668).
- Sea Lock - 4 hrs before to 2hrs after HW, 0800-2000
  and daylight hours.
- Craft on passage cancel the Sea Lock on VHF Ch 74,
calling "Carron Sea Lock". (Forth Ports radio Ch 77)
- Consult the Carron Tidal Information page before
  planning your passage up or downstream.
- SC operated mast crane (500 kgs) available at Session
  No 1, Boat crew must carry out all work.
- The Carron area is LW. The boat is flat gravel; the banks
  are steep, soft mud.
- Temporary beasting at Grangemouth YC (only by
  arrangement), or at the refuge posts nearby.
- SC staff will be available to assist and direct craft on
  passage.
- Boat Safety Checks will be carried out at the Sea Lock
  pontoon prior to entry.
- Canal Licences can be purchased at the Sea Lock.
- Canal dimensions for the Helix canals extension are:
  1.8m (deep), 5.0m (wide) and 3.0m (air draft), Carron
  Sealock.

ADDITIONAL PILOTAGE NOTES
SEA LOCK 2
- Passage must be booked in advance with SC Sealock
  Keeper (07810 794668) specifically advising access to
  Lock 2.
- See Lock - 4 hrs before to 1hr30 after HW, 0800-2000
  and daylight hours.
- Navigation is constrained by the headroom under the
  fixed bridges over the River Carron; and by the depth
  at shallow points between the sea and the sea lock.
- Masts must be unstepped before navigating upstream of
  Sealock 1.
- The Kerse Bridge has approx. 5.0 metres (16.3ft)
  from river bed to bridge underside, and the highest
  point of the river bed is at +2.3CD. It is the critical
  point in the navigation.
- Tide and headroom gauges in the River Carron refer
  to the Kerse Road Bridge. Their tops are level with the
  underside of the Kerse Road Bridge.

CAUTION: These chartlets are for guidance - do not scale or use for navigation.
**FORTH & CLYDE CANAL**

Assistance through locks and bridges 07810 794 467
Advance booking required – 24hr notice.

---

### FORTH & CLYDE CANAL Facilities and Distances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitor Mooring</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shower</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Refuse disposal</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parking</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Toilets</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shower</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bilge Disposal</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pump-out</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Slipway</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel (diesel)</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pub (nearby)</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Boat hire</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Info Sheet</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilities</strong></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mileages

- **Miles to Grangemouth**: 35 32 30 27 25 27 28 21 20 19 14 13 10 8 6 4 3 2 1 0
- **Miles to Bowling**: 0 3 5 8 10 12 13 14 15 16 21 22 25 27 29 31 32 33 35

*Check availability*
The Falkirk Tunnel is a narrow tunnel with room for one way traffic only. Please comply with the safety information signs and the light signals displayed at each end of the tunnel.

**PREPARATION**
Switch on your headlight, navigation lights and some interior lights. Wherever steering should have a waterproof torch and put on some waterproof clothing.

**TRAFFIC LIGHTS**
- **Fixed Red**: Tunnel clear of traffic. Proceed towards the entrance with caution.
- The light will change to **Fixed Yellow** as you pass the sensor, confirming that you are clear to proceed.
- **Flashing Red**: A wall or several boats, approaching in the tunnel. Wait, (moored) clear of the entrance.
- The light will turn to **Fixed Green** when the opposing traffic has cleared the tunnel. When entering the tunnel always check if it is clear.

**APPROACH**
Approach slowly on the towpath side. You have to wait for your turn, stay well clear of the entrance. As you go in, sound one long blast on your horn.

**IN TRANSIT**
Steer by looking at one side of the tunnel only and keep to a moderate speed. Note the tiler or wheel of little as possible. It's a common illusion to feel that the boat's being pulled to the side. Keep at least 2 minutes (at normal cruising speed), or about 160m, behind any boat in front of you. You must not stop in the tunnel.

---

**UNION CANAL INFORMATION**

**CASH POINTS, POST OFFICES, SHOPS**
- **Within 10 minutes walk**
  - Falkirk Town Centre: 1.2km from Walkers Bridge (F2), or bus from Falkirk Wheel
  - Tesco: E of Bridge 55
  - Brightons - S of Bridge 54
  - Linlithgow - N of Monse Rd Basin
  - Winchburgh High St (N of Br 32)
  - Port Buchanan (S of Br)
  - Ratho
  - Wester Hailes Shell Garage S of Road Bridge
  - N of Ashley Terrace Bridge

**CANAL SIDE SHOP**
- Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS): Treasoum, Gift Shop and Museum at Monse Road Basin. (open 7 days July & August; otherwise 2-5pm Sat & Sun), 01506 842539

**Pubs/Restaurants Within 10 MINS WALK**
- Falkirk: Many pubs, cafes and restaurants in town centre
- Polmont & Brightons: Cadgers Brae; The Black Bull; Clamont Inn; Bridge 45; Bistro
- Linlithgow: The Star & Garter Hotel; The Auld Hote; The W; The Four Marys; Perk Farm; Park Bistro; other cafes & restaurants nearby

**UNION CANAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH LOCKS AND BRIDGES**
07810 794 467
Advance booking required - 24hr notice

---

**WINNING HOLES**
Turning places on the Union Canal are shown by a white circle with the available length indicated in metres. [Diagram]

---

**UNION CANAL INFORMATION**

**CASH POINTS, POST OFFICES, SHOPS**
- **Within 10 minutes walk**
  - Falkirk Town Centre: 1.2km from Walkers Bridge (F2), or bus from Falkirk Wheel
  - Tesco: E of Bridge 55
  - Brightons - S of Bridge 54
  - Linlithgow - N of Monse Rd Basin
  - Winchburgh High St (N of Br 32)
  - Port Buchanan (S of Br)
  - Ratho
  - Wester Hailes Shell Garage S of Road Bridge
  - N of Ashley Terrace Bridge

---

**UNION CANAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH LOCKS AND BRIDGES**
07810 794 467
Advance booking required - 24hr notice

---

**WINNING HOLES**
Turning places on the Union Canal are shown by a white circle with the available length indicated in metres. [Diagram]
Rowing clubs use the canal between Slateford (Prince Charlie) Aqueduct and Harrison Park Bridge. There are caution signs 300m E & W of this section. Craft can transit this section of the canal except between 3.15pm and 5.15pm, September to June, Monday to Friday. No restrictions during July and August. Craft can arrange transit during rowing time, but must call 07795 827712 in advance to arrange passage.
CARRON SEALOCK 2

HELIX CUT & SEALOCK MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS:

Length – 20.47m (67ft)
Beam – 5m (16ft 4in)
Depth of Water – 1.8m (6ft)
Max headroom – 3m (9ft 10in)

See Pilotage Notes for specific navigational information.
Contact Sea Lock Keeper on 01324 463034 or 07810 794488 in advance to book passage.
Find out more about The Kelpies and The Helix at www.thehelix.co.uk
VOYAGING THROUGH THE FALKIRK WHEEL

1) There is no extra charge for SC licence holders who wish to take their craft through the Wheel.
2) You should contact the Basin Controller on 01324 676 912 up to 24 hours in advance to book your time. Giving us notice will speed your transit.
3) Skippers approaching the Union Canal should phone 01324 676 912 to re-confirm when entering the Falkirk Tunnel and indicate if continuing E or W on the F&C Canals. This will enable Locks 1 & 2 to be prepared.
4) Skippers approaching from the F&C Canal should phone to re-confirm when leaving Lock 16 (westbound) or Bennybridge (eastbound).
5) Pre-booked transit of the Falkirk Wheel are available. Please check opening times as these vary throughout the year.

Route options for licence holders are from one canal to the other, either direction.
Reddocks must contact Basin Controller for advice and instructions on transit through the Falkirk Wheel or Roughcastle Tunnel.

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS

GOLDEN JUBILEE LOCK 3
(From Forth & Clyde Canal to Basin)
Length: 21.3m (70ft)
Width: 3.38m (11ft 6ins)
Depth: 1.5m (5ft)
Headroom: 2.74m (9ft)
Water levels fluctuate - allow adequate draft tolerance.

UNION CANAL AND FALKIRK WHEEL
(From Forth & Clyde Canal to Basin)
Length: 21.3m (70ft)
Width: 3.5m (11ft 6ins)
Depth: 1.06m (3ft 6ins)
Wheel & Roughcastle Tunnel Depth: 1.5m (5ft)
Water levels fluctuate - allow adequate draft tolerance.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY
All gangways and movable items must be secured.
For your own safety you must obey the instructions given by the SC staff who manage the site equipped with CCTV, traffic lights, radio and PA systems to help them.
The locks and swing bridge are normally operated by SC staff and will be locked when unattended. Staff will guide users into the Gondolas and during the 15-minute rotation you must not leave the vessel.
Assistance may be available from SC staff.

POINTS TO NOTE
- Each Gondola is controlled by an operator, whose instructions must be followed.
- The operator will select vessels to make optimum use of Gondola capacity.
- Have your stern and bow lines ready to control the vessel in the Gondola.
- Do not allow anyone near the bow or stern when these are adjacent to the north end of the Gondola.
- Do not leave the vessel except if directed, or in an emergency.