

Cardiff Harbour Authority Bay User Guide





Welcome to Cardiff Bay

Cardiff Harbour Authority Bay User Guide has been published since 2004. Distributed nationally, this popular publication has assisted hundreds of thousands of people visiting Cardiff Bay to stay safe on the water and enjoy their trip to the Welsh capital.

This guide provides information about the first class facilities available to you during your visit to Cardiff Bay and the wider city region.

The operation, maintenance and management of Cardiff Bay Barrage and navigation within the Bay, including the rivers Taff and Ely are of our primary concern. This publication features everything you need to know to use the Locks and navigate the Bay safely. We offer day and overnight moorings, in conjunction with the local yacht clubs and marinas on the edges of the 200 hectare freshwater lake. Why not come, stay and explore?

Cardiff offers an annual calendar of events; from national competitions to international arts and cultural celebrations. Why not plan your trip to coincide with one of these fantastic occasions? Investors and visitors continue to be attracted to this area, building on the positive momentum of the previous decades of development in the Bay.

We welcome you to Cardiff Bay.





Cardiff Harbour Authority

Queen Alexandra House, Cargo Road, Cardiff. CF10 4LY

T: 029 2087 7900

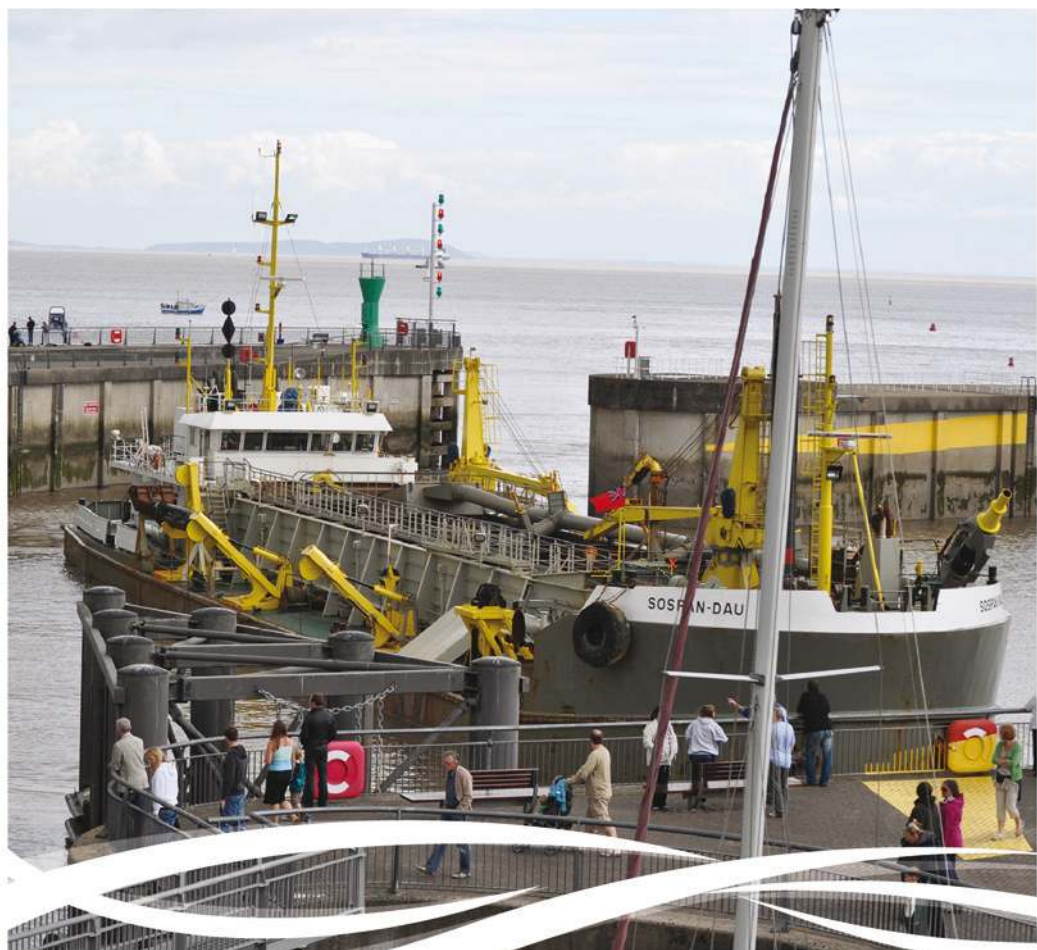


Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Contact Barrage Control: Tel. 029 2070 0234 or VHF Channel 18



Arriving in Cardiff by Sea

When approaching Cardiff you should use the following publications:

- Admiralty Charts 1182 and 1176 (also contained in the Bristol Channel Admiralty Leisure Folio)
- Admiralty Sailing Directions - West Coasts of England and Wales Pilot

There is also up to date navigation information on www.cardiffharbour.com

The information in this guide may be subject to change, and mariners should use all available aids to navigation when at sea. It is important to keep a proper look out for vessels approaching or leaving Cardiff Docks, as they are constrained by their draft. You should also maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 68 South Wales Radio (Associated British Ports, Cardiff) in this area.

When on your final approach to Cardiff Bay Outer Harbour you should call Barrage Control on VHF Channel 18 to request a lock in. They will advise you of the next available lock and give instructions regarding entry to the Outer Harbour and locks. However, on occasions it may be necessary to restrict access into the Outer Harbour. See page 11 Barrage Locking Procedure for further details.

Navigation Notes

Approaching Cardiff Bay by Day

Approaching from the South, the RANIE Buoy (port hand lateral) marks the extremity of the rocks and sand spit off Lavernock Point. SOUTH CARDIFF Buoy (south cardinal) marks the southern extremity of the Cardiff Grounds. From a position between the two buoys make a course for the OUTER WRACH Buoy (west cardinal). Follow the Wrach Channel and then the buoyed minor channel into Cardiff Bay Outer Harbour.

Approaching Cardiff Bay by Night

Approaching from the South, leave the RANIE Buoy (FL(2)R.5s) to port and SOUTH CARDIFF (FLQ(6) + LFL.15s) to starboard. Steer a course for the OUTER WRACH (FLQ (9) 15s). You will pick up the SECTOR LIGHTS for the Wrach Channel (Oc 10s WRG). Once you have passed the OUTER WRACH Buoy, look for the SECTOR LIGHT bearing 298°T (Dir LFL. WRG. 5s) which indicates the minor channel to port. Follow the buoyed channel into Cardiff Bay Outer Harbour.

NOTE: Vessels coming from Kings Road (Avonmouth) are advised to enter the Wrach Channel from the South.

Please note when the traffic lights on the outer arm are lit, please refer to page 12

Cardiff Harbour Authority recommend that you always wear a lifejacket when afloat.



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Using the Locks

Barrage Control operates the locks and sluices that regulate the level of the water in Cardiff Bay and the fishpass allowing migrating fish to enter the Bay. The safety of all Barrage users is of primary importance. Please follow these guidelines:-

1. Listen to and follow instructions given to you by Barrage staff.
2. Keep clear of closing/closed lock gates and moor your vessel securely in the lock. Large volumes of water are discharged or used to fill the locks causing turbulence.
3. Always read and follow the instructions/ advice on the lock signage.
4. In event of an emergency contact Barrage Control immediately on VHF Channel 18 or Tel. 029 2070 0234.
5. The lock ladders are for emergency and staff use only.
6. Do not refuel or pump bilges whilst in the locks.
7. Turn your engine off when in the lock.

The following provides additional information including the dimensions of the Barrage locks, the operation of lights and signals and advice concerning navigation in the Outer Harbour. For general enquiries regarding the locks, please visit www.cardiffharbour.com or contact Barrage Control.

Tidal Access

Under normal circumstances, for vessels with a draught of under 2.0m, full tidal access is possible. However, occasions will arise when siltation within the Outer Harbour will reduce access. Relevant information can be obtained from 'Barrage Control' if the need arises.

Occasionally, there may also be restrictions in locking, due to the lack of water flowing into Cardiff Bay down the rivers Taff and Ely. These restrictions are communicated on VHF, can be imposed at short notice and are most likely at high water. If long term restrictions are likely, mariners will be advised in local Notices to Mariners. Please visit www.cardiffharbour.com for further information.

Outbound locks will run on the hour and half past the hour. Inbound locks will run quarter past and quarter to the hour.

Lock Dimensions

Lock 1- Pontoon length = 36m, Lock entrance width = 10.5m, Outer cill height = +2.3m above CD

Locks 2 and 3 - Pontoon length = 36m, Lock entrance width = 8m, Outer cill height = -0.7m below CD

The lock inner cills are variable and are often raised to minimise saline intrusion. Under normal circumstances access is available for vessels up to 3.1m draught. A cross section/ plan explaining cill depths can be found on www.cardiffharbour.com/harbourmaster



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Barrage Locking Procedure

The locking procedure for the Barrage is as follows:-

1. Vessels with a draught over 2.0m should contact Barrage Control on VHF Channel 18 well in advance of arrival at the Barrage.
2. Outbound locks will run on the hour and half past the hour. Inbound locks will run quarter past and quarter to the hour.
3. Request an inbound or outbound passage through the locks via VHF Channel 18. Communications through the Barrage Control VHF base station are recorded for operational, training and health and safety reasons.
4. Listen on VHF Channel 18 for instructions on how to enter the lock. Observe and comply with the light signals displayed and any instructions given.
5. Enter the lock and moor as far forward as possible on the end cleat using appropriate fenders and mooring lines. Use at least 2 lines, fore and aft, and turn off your engine. You may be required to raft up to another vessel and for this reason it would be beneficial to rig lines and fenders to both sides of your boat.
6. Once inside the Bay, mariners should maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 16 and Channel 18.
7. Vessels leaving the Bay should monitor VHF Channel 16 and VHF 68 South Wales Radio, once they exit the Outer Harbour.



WELCOME TO CARDIFF BAY

For your own safety and that of others during locking, please abide by the following:

1. Listen to and follow instructions given to you by Barrage Control staff.
2. Keep clear of closing/closed lock gates and moor your vessel securely.
3. Turn off engines once safely tied up in the lock – exhaust fumes can kill.
4. In the event of an emergency contact Barrage Control immediately on VHF Channel 18 or 02920 700234.
5. Lock ladders are for emergency and staff use only.
6. On entering and navigating in Cardiff Bay please keep a listening watch on VHF Channels 16 and 18.

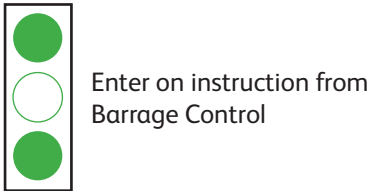
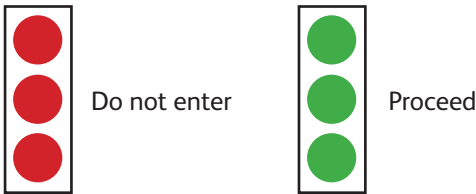
Cardiff Harbour Authority recommend you always wear a lifejacket when afloat

A video showing the passage of a vessel through the locks can be viewed on www.cardiffharbour.com/harbourmaster

Barrage Locking Procedure

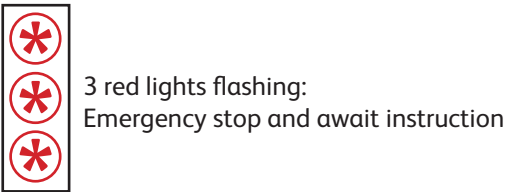
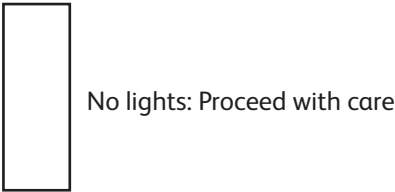
Lights and Signals

A series of lights will be displayed at the Barrage lock entrance. The relevant lock number is shown beneath the light signal.



Outer Harbour

The light signals to the left may also be displayed at the entrance to the Outer Harbour and have the same meaning for inbound traffic. In addition, the following signals may be used at the Outer Harbour entrance.



Vessels may not anchor in the Outer Harbour without permission from Barrage Control. On occasions parts of the Outer Harbour may be dry at low water, so caution is advised.



Pont y Werin Bridge

Pont y Werin Operations

The Bridge spans over the River Ely, connecting Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan for pedestrians and cyclists. The centre section lifts for navigation and boat operations. It is managed by Barrage Control who can be contacted on **VHF Channel 18**

Permitted Navigation

1. Vessels may pass under the fully lowered bridge if there is sufficient air draft.
2. When the **3 vertical red lights are extinguished** either side of the bridge you may proceed. **The decision to proceed always rests with the Master of the vessel.**
3. Air draught boards are placed on both the downstream and upstream sides of the bridge to help mariners in their decision to proceed.
4. Orange lights are illuminated under the lifting span at night to confirm that it is closed.



Restricted Navigation

1. When the Bridge is being prepared to open or close, the lights on either side of the channel (both upstream and downstream) will show fixed red - **No Vessels are to Proceed.**
2. Navigation lights will **flash red – If emergency action is required.** (Maintain a listening watch on VHF Channel 18)



Requesting Bridge Operation

1. A request to lift the Bridge can be made on **VHF Channel 18 to Barrage Control.** They will confirm the next available opening time.
2. During the day, from 7am to 7pm, the Bridge may be lifted on request with a maximum wait of half an hour dependant on the time of the last lift and other operations at Barrage Control.
3. At night, from 7pm to 7am, the Bridge may be lifted on request with a maximum wait of an hour dependant on the time of the last lift and other operations at Barrage Control.



Navigation in Cardiff Bay

As you enter Cardiff Bay, having passed through the locks, you will find yourself in a non-tidal fresh water environment that is replenished by the rivers Taff and Ely. The immediate landmarks you will see are Penarth Quays Marina to port and the River Ely in front of you. As you enter into the Bay you will note Cardiff Bay Yacht Club on the headland slightly to starboard.

Bye-Laws

The Harbour Bye-Laws can be accessed on www.cardiffharbour.com or a copy may be obtained from Cardiff Harbour Authority (see address on page 4).

Speed Limits

During water-based events, temporary speed restrictions may be established throughout the Bay. These will be notified through local Notices to Mariners as well as by Harbour Authority staff managing the event.

Bay Level and Depths

Water levels in the Bay (the height of the water surface) are referenced to Ordnance Datum, and will generally be given as a height above this datum – AOD. Levels may vary between 4.0m and 7.5m AOD. The level at any given time may be obtained from Barrage Control.

The depth of water within Cardiff Bay is generally 2.5 metres or greater. Care should be taken when navigating around the wetlands area adjacent to the St Davids’s Hotel where port hand lateral marks indicate safe water. More information on water depth can be found on the Harbour Authority website.

Navigation within the Bay is relatively straightforward. However mariners should note that due to potential strong currents in front of the barrage sluices, vessels should keep to the correct side of the West Cardinal Mark.

Mariners should also be aware that the area directly downstream of the sluices outside of the barrage is an exclusion zone as high flows present a serious health and safety risk. Under no circumstance should mariners enter this area.

Navigation in Cardiff Bay

On the River Ely

When navigating on the River Ely you should note that there is a 5 knot speed limit. You should also exercise caution when passing under bridges, and keep a look out for paddle craft and for vessels emerging from mooring areas.

The next landmark is Pont y Werin, located about half way along Cardiff Marina's moorings. Please refer to information on page 13 for details of bridge operation.

A road bridge, the Cogan Spur, is a short distance above Pont y Werin.

It is possible for small boats to navigate further upstream, but you are advised to be especially aware of your air draught. Cardiff Marine Village lies approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the river entrance, just beyond the Penarth Road Bridge.

On the River Taff

Mariners should be aware that approved Harbour Authority Licensed passenger carrying vessels are permitted to travel at a maximum of 7 knots in the River Taff, whereas the speed limit for all other vessels is 5 knots.

When navigating on the River Taff you should exercise caution when passing under bridges. The river can also be subject to fast flows.

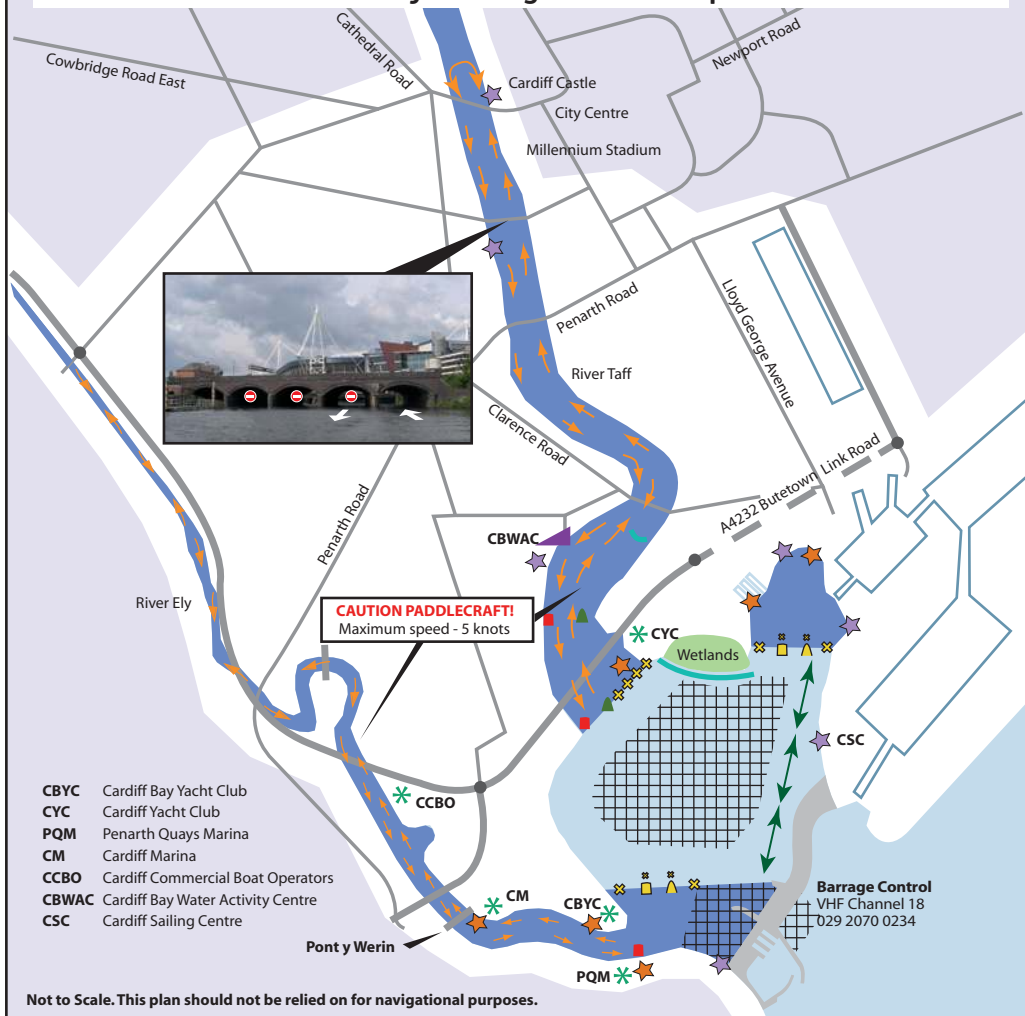
As you travel upstream, the Butetown Link road bridge is clearly marked on either side by port and starboard markers; no other arches are navigable.

Please be aware of canoes and rowers in this area. Your wake can seriously affect light sculling craft, so be vigilant. There is also likely to be other river traffic in this area.

The depth of water beyond Wood Street bridge is less than 1.5m in many places, and navigation for pleasure craft beyond this bridge is NOT ADVISABLE.



Cardiff Harbour Authority - Navigation and Speed Limited Areas



Not to Scale. This plan should not be relied on for navigational purposes.

Safety on the Water

If you observe a life threatening situation, dial 999 and ask for the Coastguard or call on VHF Channel 16.

Lifejackets

Cardiff Harbour Authority recommends that you wear a lifejacket when afloat.

- Purchase a lifejacket suitable for your activity, ensuring it has a whistle, light and reflective strip, and conforms to European Conformity (EC) guidelines.
- Learn how to use your jacket or buoyancy aid, checking regularly in accordance with manufacturers instructions.
- Remember buoyancy aids DO NOT have the same capacity as a lifejacket, but can assist in keeping a person afloat. Remember the advice - Lifejackets are 'Useless Unless Worn' - at all times.

Local Notices to Mariners

Local Notices to Mariners are issued by Cardiff Harbour Authority frequently. These should be available at yacht clubs and marinas. Copies are available either from the Harbourmaster or on cardiffharbour.com. It is recommended that Bay users check the latest information before arrival.

Harbour Authority Patrol Boat

Boat owners are asked to cooperate with the patrol crew to ensure safe navigation within the Bay

Using your Tender

Distribute weight evenly and do not overload your tender. Tenders and alcohol can be a lethal combination.

Cardiff Harbour Authority recommend that all leisure boats contact the RNLI for Sea Safety advice

Training

How safe are YOU on the water? Cardiff Harbour Authority recommends that every skipper should undertake training appropriate to their vessel. For more information contact **Cardiff Sailing Centre Tel: (029) 20 877 977**
Email: wateractivity@cardiff.gov.uk
Web: www.cbwac.com



Safety on the Water

Advice Onboard

The RNLI offers a free, friendly and confidential service that looks at the safety aspects of your boat. Conducted by one of our highly trained volunteers, Advice Onboard is a personal, face-to-face safety advice service that takes place on board your craft. You set the time and we tailor our visit to your vessel and the type of boating you do.

Whether you're a newcomer or an experienced boater, our unique one-to-one service will give you an opportunity to ask any niggling questions on equipment or emergency procedures.

Other benefits include:

- a free, independent discussion on boat safety equipment
- an opportunity to discuss safety matters, tapping into a wealth of knowledge and experience
- your copy of the completed form, which is a written summary of the main points discussed.

The whole Advice Onboard service, even the phone call to book, is free. The service is available in all parts of the UK and the RoI, at your convenience and to anyone who goes to sea in almost any type of leisure craft.

Email: seasafety@rnli.org.uk

T: (Freefone UK) 0800 328 0600

Weather

- Check the forecast before going afloat.
- Keep a weather eye - don't get caught out.
- Know your own, your crew's and your vessel's limits.

Water Quality

The water quality in Cardiff Bay is strictly monitored and graded from excellent to poor. In all open freshwater in the UK there is a risk of catching various infections and diseases, and in particular for those persons who suffer from reduced immunological response. Download the Bay Safety leaflet at: www.cbvac.com/pdf/Bay_Safety.pdf

Types of infections that are common include minor gastro-intestinal complaints, eye, ear and throat infections, typhoid, dysentery, and infectious hepatitis A. The risk is greatly increased by ingestion of the water. Sports with an increased risk of immersion, such as water skiing, windsurfing and triathlons are strictly managed and permitted only when authorised by the Harbour Authority and are water quality dependent.

Whilst immunisation can reduce the risk of contracting certain diseases, there are others for which there is no vaccine protection available e.g. Weil's disease (leptospirosis). Weil's disease is rare and the risk of contracting the disease is very low but it can cause serious, even fatal, illness.

Safety on the Water

What should I do?

If you feel off colour following contact with open water, then see your doctor immediately.

What can be done to reduce the risks?

The risk of contracting serious illness is low but by taking sensible precautions, the risk of infection can be further reduced. You should cover cuts with a water proof dressing; wear footwear to protect feet from cuts; avoid ingestion of water and avoid unnecessary immersion, especially of the head. If you have been in contact with the Bay water, wash or shower afterwards using soap and freshwater especially before eating and drinking. To find out more information on all potential water-borne illnesses please visit the following website www.nhs.uk

Communication and VHF

VHF Channels

Please take note of local VHF Channels for Cardiff Bay.

Channel	Allocation
16	Distress , Urgency and Safety
18	Cardiff Bay Barrage Control (Duplex)
68	South Wales Radio
70	Digital Selective Calling (DSC)

For inter ship traffic, the following Channels are preferred: 8, 72 and 77.

Whilst in the Bay all vessels should monitor VHF Channels 16 and 18.



Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre (CBWAC)

With a reputation for providing high quality training courses for beginners through to elite, watersports fans of all ages and abilities can enjoy...



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wateractivity@cardiff.gov.uk

www.cbwac.com



Marine Facilities

Throughout the year we host a varied programme of events, in Cardiff Bay and across the City. Cardiff Bay offer short stay and overnight moorings so why not plan to visit the Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival in July and the annual Harbour Festival on August Bank Weekend. Visit our full calendar of forthcoming events on www.cardiffharbour.com and look at the details about moorings below.

Short Stay Visitor Moorings

The Harbour Authority provides short stay visitor pontoon moorings within the Inner Harbour which operate on a first-come first served basis. These are located adjacent to Roald Dahl Plass and within the Graving Docks. Vessels must display a valid ticket for the time they are berthed. At present the minimum cost of a pontoon berth is £2 for the first two hours, plus £1.00 for each additional hour up to a maximum of 24 hours. Use of these pontoons is subject to the terms and conditions displayed.

Note: Water and electricity are not provided.

On occasions, access to these pontoons may be restricted because of activities and events that take place in the Bay, but the local Yacht Clubs and Marinas also offer long stay visitor moorings:

Cardiff Bay Yacht Club

Cardiff Bay Yacht Club is situated on the River Ely Peninsula. These facilities are available to members or affiliates only. Visitors should call in advance and ask for the club manager to arrange their stay. T: (029) 2022 6575 www.cbyc.co.uk

Cardiff Yacht Club

Cardiff Yacht Club is situated on the Hamadryad Peninsula. These facilities are for the benefit of members or those affiliated through the RYA and CYC by prior arrangement only. T: (029) 2046 3697 www.cardiffyachtclub.org

Penarth Quays Marina

Penarth Quays Marina is situated within the historic basins of Penarth Dock and offers safe, sheltered and secure berthing. With professional friendly staff on duty at all times, visiting vessels are always welcome. T: (029) 2070 5021 www.quaymarinas.com

Cardiff Marine Group

Cardiff Marine Group operates Cardiff Marina, which offers moorings on the Ely River. In addition Cardiff Marine Services offer a complete range of specialist boat servicing, treatments and repairs. T: (029) 2034 3459 www.cardiffmarinegroup.com

Public Access Slipway

Slipway access to Cardiff Bay is available to the general public at Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre (see map on page 20). For access and details please contact T: 029 2035 3912. www.cbwac.com



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Management of Cardiff Bay

The Harbour Authority operates a number of specialist workboats within the Bay. These carry out tasks including bay surveys and environmental monitoring, debris collection and aeration maintenance, as well as more traditional harbour functions such as moorings maintenance and patrol. Bay users should navigate with caution around these vessels, and follow any directions given by Harbour Authority staff on the water

Waste Disposal

You can help ensure the cleanliness of the Bay environment by using waste bins provided or taking your litter away with you. If you use a boat within the Bay, your yacht club or marina should provide facilities for the disposal of all boating waste, including oil and batteries.

Noise

Please keep engine and other noise to a minimum at night. Where appropriate, please tie halyards and other lines to prevent them slapping against the mast.

Environmental Monitoring

The Harbour Authority has installed a number of environmental monitoring buoys within the Bay. These are yellow, and can be distinguished by the prominent solar panels on top which power the monitoring equipment. They have no navigational significance, but it is an offence against the byelaws to interfere with them.

Pumping Out

Please do not pump bilges or waste holding tanks into the Bay. A bilge water disposal facility and toilet waste pump out facility are provided by the Harbour Authority near the water bus stop opposite the entrance to Penarth Marina.

Invasive Species

Zebra mussels and Killer shrimps are present in Cardiff Bay. These invasive species were probably introduced into the freshwater lake by a visiting vessel. Zebra mussels reproduce rapidly, and can cause problems to vessels and equipment if appropriate care is not taken.

Killer shrimps can cause serious ecological damage to freshwater ecosystems. It is the responsibility of all Bay users to help prevent the further spread of these species. It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) to allow these species to transfer to another body of water, and every measure should be taken to prevent this from happening. Guidance on how to protect vessels and equipment and prevent the spread of these species can be found at www.cardiffharbour.com.





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Visit Cardiff Bay



Visit

- 1 Pierhead T: 0845 010 5500
- 2 Y Senedd T: 0845 010 5500
- 3 Challenge Wales T: 029 2125 1040
- 4 Techniquet T: 029 2047 5475
- 5 Pedal Power T: 07775 616411
- 6 Wales Millennium Centre T: 029 2063 6464
- 7 World of Boats T: 07971 055 811
- 8 The Cardiff Bay Barrage T: 029 2087 7900
- 9 The Boathouse 'Self-Drive Boats Hire' T: 029 2078 7198
- 10 Norwegian Church Arts Centre T: 029 2087 7959
- 11 Butetown History & Arts Centre T: 029 2025 6757
- 12 Makers Guild in Wales - Craft in the Bay T: 029 2125 1040
- 13 Doctor Who Experience T: 0844 801 3663
- 14 Cardiff Boat Tours T: 07445 440874

Business

- 15 Cardiff Waterside T: 029 2045 3691

International Sports Village (ISV)

- 16 Cardiff International White Water T: 029 2082 9970
- 17 Cardiff Ice Arena T: 029 2038 2001
- 18 Cardiff International Pool T: 029 2072 9090
- 19 Pont y Werin
- 20 Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre T: 029 2035 3912

Eat, Shop, Relax

- 21 Mermaid Quay T: 029 2048 0077
- 22 The Red Dragon Centre www.thereddragoncentre.co.uk
- 23 Sayers Amusements www.sayersamusements.co.uk
- 24 The Mission to Seafarers T: 029 2048 7634
- 25 Natuzzi T: 029 2048 8698

Stay

- 26 Holiday Inn Express T: 029 2044 9000
- 27 The Urdd City Sleepover, Wales Millennium Centre T: 029 2063 5678
- 28 The St David's Hotel & Spa T: 029 2045 4045
- 29 A Space in the City T: 08452 60 70 50

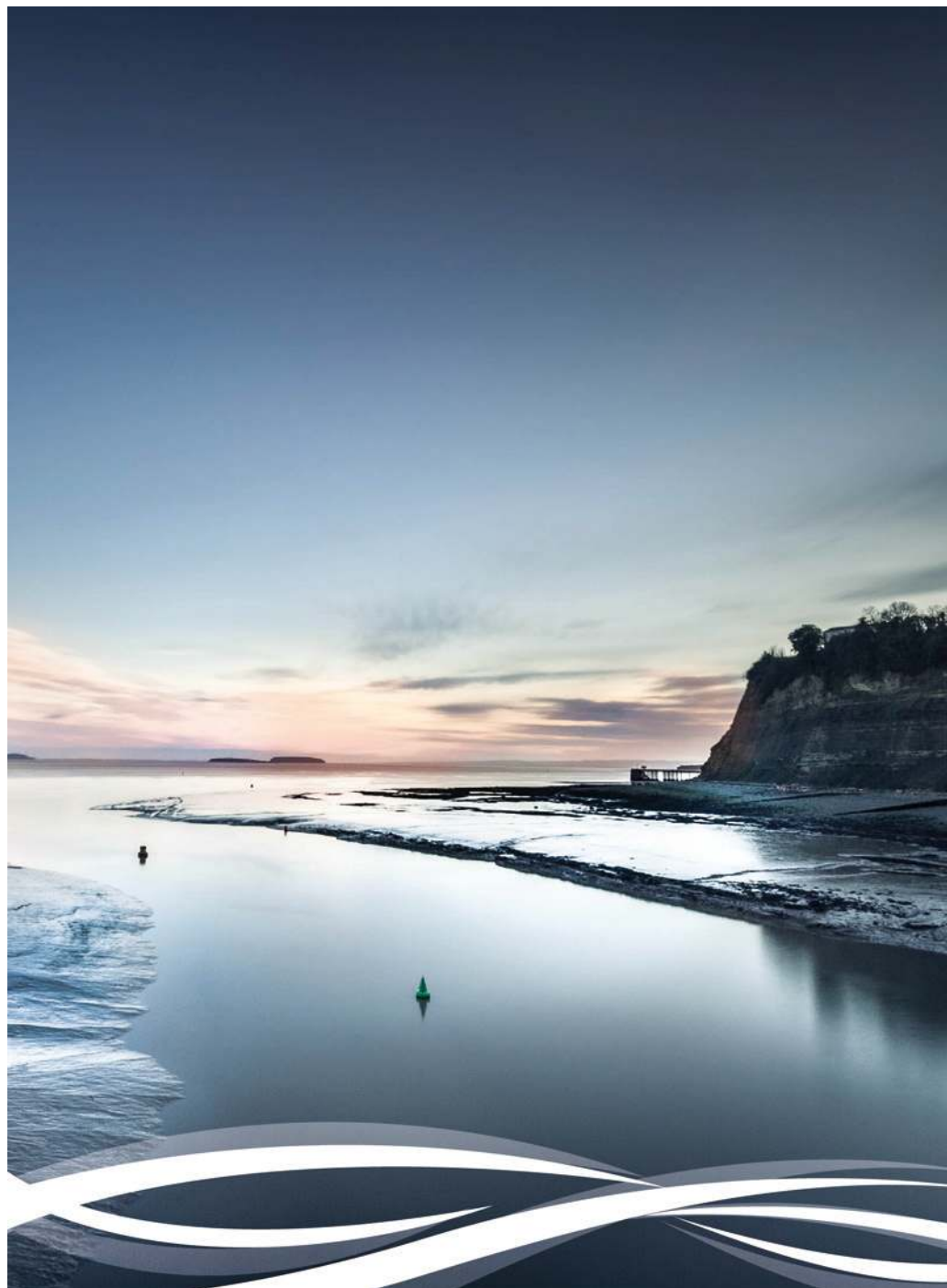
Travel

- Cardiff Bus Contact Traveline Cymru T: 029 2063 5678
- Cardiff Waterside Car Park T: 029 2047 2691

Information

- Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre T: 029 2087 7929

- /CardiffBayOfficial
- @VisitCardiffBay
- www.visitcardiffbay.info



Contact Us

Cardiff Harbour Authority

Reception - Cardiff Harbour Authority	029 2087 7900
Harbour Master's Office	029 2087 7936
Barrage Control	029 2070 0234
Cardiff Bay Visitor Centre	029 2087 7927
Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre	029 2035 3912
Cardiff International White water	029 2082 9970
Norwegian Church	029 2087 7959
Environment (Water Quality)	029 2087 7940

Marine Information

Coastguard Emergency	01646 690909
Coastguard - General Enquiries	01792 366534
Natural Resources Wales	0300 065 3000
HM Customs and Excise Action Line	0800 595 000
Marine Leisure Association (MLA)	01784 223 640
Registration of Pleasure Craft (MCA)	029 2044 8800
RNLI SEA Check	0800 328 0600
Royal Yachting Association	023 8060 4100

Images received with thanks from: Kiran Ridley, Nick Treharne and Huw Evans Agency

This document has been produced in English and Welsh.

If you cannot see a Welsh copy please contact Cardiff Harbour Authority on T: 029 2087 7900.

Cynhyrchwyd y ddogfen hon yn Saesneg a Cymraeg.

Os na allwch weld copi Cymraeg cysylltwch ag Awdurdod Harbwr Caerdydd ar Ffôn: 029 2087 7900.



The information in this guide is correct at the time of going to press. January 2015.
Produced by Cardiff Harbour Authority T: 029 2087 7900 | www.cardiffharbour.com