Go Canoeing from Burnage Rugby Club

Directions

Burnage Rugby Club. Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey. STOCKPORT SK4 3EA. We meet up by the grey containers on the main car park.

Car Parking

There is ample car parking available within the site. On occasions, when other large events are on, parking may overflow into the industrial estate on the way in.

Changing facilities

Changing facilities are available but can on occasions be limited depending on other events.

Accessibility

The club facilities are accessible for all and Venture Out will be as accommodating as possible within its physical limits to work with all people who have the desire to come canoeing. Access to the riverside is possible for wheelchairs however the access to the river is a steep rake of steps. Please contact us to discuss any individual needs.

Personal Competence

No experience is required to paddle down the River Mersey. We have worked guiding groups down the river from 2009 and welcome all. With a variety of boats (we can even raft canoes together) we will work with you so you'll have a fun and safe time whatever your level. We have no age limit and do not set swimming as a pre-requisite….we just need to feel water confident and trusting in our ability to look after your needs.

What time to arrive

Please arrive 5 minutes before the agreed time having where possible been to the toilet before-hand. It might sound strange for us to say 'don't come early' but we might be getting another group ready and our focus will be on them.

(Sometimes if you arrive early you may find us still locked up as we may be cycling back up after having left a car and trailer at the end destination….don't worry and only ring if not there at the expected time).

What to wear

Please consider carefully what you come in depending on the weather and the air temperature.

DON'T WEAR JEAN OR BRUSH COTTON, if possible, as these, if wet, absorb and hold onto water.

COME IN QUICK DRYING OUTDOOR SPORTY TYPE CLOTHES, good shoe/trainers that more than likely will get wet.

We offer strong salopettes to hire for £2 a pair (please bring £2 in cash) between May and September and offer these as part of the hire between October and April. (or at our discretion if a wet cold day).

THEY ARE NOT DRY PANTS BUT ARE SUBSTANTIAL IN DENSITY AND KEEP YOU PREDOMINANTLY DRY (unless you swim).

We will provide extra waterproof tops if needed to individuals as well.

WE DO NOT OFFER/PROVIDE WET SUITS.

What type of boat?

Sit on Top Kayaks - we use Perception Sit on Top Kayaks. These are available to 'hire only' or can be part of a guided trip. They are very safe and if you should capsize then we know you will be straight into the water. Simply flip the boat over and climb back on. We have a mixture of single and double kayaks.

Canoes – adults are best paddling in 2's but young people sometimes go in 3's. We only let canoes go out with a coach to ensure that if there are any capsizes that the boat can quickly be emptied.

Rafted Canoes - for groups of younger children we may raft canoes together. We do this for two reasons; to stop them from having any chance of capsizing but mainly to help them with paddling in a straight line and getting somewhere in time.

(WE CAN DO THIS FOR ADULTS & FAMILIES BY REQUEST ESPECIALLY IN THE COLDER WINTER MONTHS)

The River Trip

The section of the River Mersey that we use is managed heavily by the Environment Agency. In 2008 an access agreement was negotiated between all landowners granting 365 day access. The river is graded as between I and II. It is mainly a flat touring river but every so often there are a few 'rubble weirs'…these present themselves as small riffles which give some excitement but do not need any change of direction to safely pass through them. At Northenden there is a sliding weir which under usual conditions we paddle down. There is good portage around it for those that don't want to or if the conditions mean that we all do. There are three different trips and all vary only by distance and are all suitable for novices.

Burnage Rugby Club to Northenden (Mill Lane M22 4HJ)

Spend the first 10 mins at the top of the river familiarizing yourself with the canoe and then set of down to Northenden, going under the Wilmslow Road Bridge, skirting along past the Galleon Hotel and on under the A34. We then head on down to Didsbury and then round a big meander past the end of Stenner Woods/Fletcher Moss, underneath Simon's Bridge and then on to Northenden. Get out just above the weir or in the right conditions enjoy the thrill of shooting the weir. About one and a half hours on the water.

BRFC to 'Jackson's Boat' Pub (Rifle Road M33 2LX)

As above but then canoe on down and around another big horse shoe bend between Northenden and West Didsbury and then past Chorlton Water Park and on to Jackson's Boat. Approximately two and a half hours down from BRFC.

Jackson's Boat is located 12km from BRFC and serves hot and cold food all day with a wide choice of good quality beer, wine and soft drinks.
www.jacksonsboat.co.uk

BRFC to Trafford Metrovick Rugby Football Cricket Club (Finny Bank Rd, Sale M33 6LR)

Canoe on from Jackson's Boat Pub another 50 mins and you will arrive at Trafford Metrovick where there are changing facilities before a return trip back to the start. This will be just over 3 hours and a most enjoyable trip taking in all the variety of the Mersey.

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