

Key Information

This is an unusual and pleasant trip right in the centre of a major city, taking a circular route down the River Exe, and back up the Exeter Ship Canal, which was built to enable sailing ships to reach the city centre. It is less than 2 miles long, and gives great views of the city to the east.

Start/Finish: Haven Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 8BP

Portages: 2
Time: 0.5 - 1 hours
Distance: 2 miles
OS Map: Explorer 114 Exeter & The Exe Valley



For more information scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/2HapdEd



1. Start at Exeter Quayside (south side). A walkway leads down to the quay where there is a paved area between the river and the canal. Put in on the river and turn right, downstream.

2. Almost immediately you will come to Trews Weir. If you would like to avoid the weir, paddle down the canal for about 100m, and carry over to the river below the weir. There are slipways both sides above the weir.

3. The weir is shootable at most water levels. When low a diagonal fish run will provide sufficient depth. Whatever you choose, keep to the right side of the river below it as the weir pool and river are affected by the tide and are an important salmon fishery.

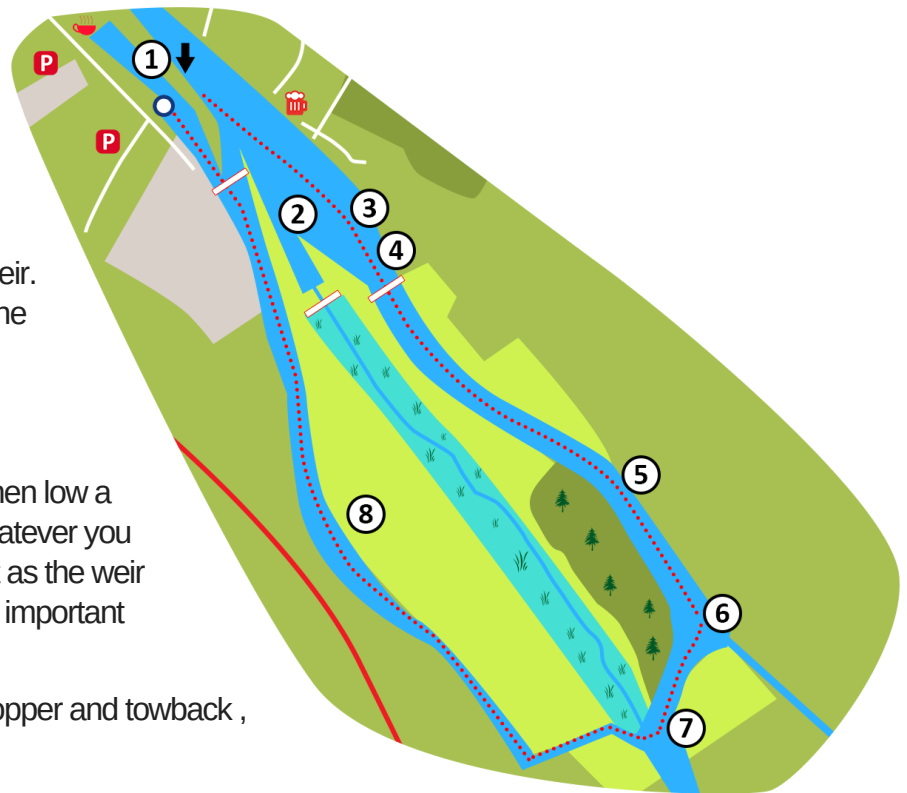
4. When the river is high beware of the strong stopper and towback, which runs most of the length of the weir.

5. The building you now see on the left is known as the Old Match Factory and was built in 1774. Continuing you will pass Belle Island Park. Keep well to the right and you will reach St. James's Weir.

6. St James's weir may need portaging. As of March 2019 it was being repaired by the Environment Agency so caution is needed. Beware of kayak sized holes in the weir and when the river is high there is a strong stopper and towback.

7. The weir can be portaged on the right bank via a platform and back down the steps. Shortly afterwards is the way off the river, up a flood relief channel which looks like a set of steps. The portage is 150m with the way onto the canal at a landing stage by the side of the car park

8. You will see a landing stage, on your left side, near to Water Lane car park. The canal then leads the paddler back to the start at the canal basin.



Find out more information at: gopaddling.info

This loop is one of four on the River Exe and Exeter Ship Canal. You can combine all four loops to make a scenic 10.5 mile day trip. There are Waymarker points at get in/out locations with a canoe on them.

All weirs can be dangerous and you should only shoot a weir if you are confident of your ability to do so. An inspection should be made of the weir to assess conditions, If you are unsure of the conditions for you and fellow paddlers, use the portage point and do not attempt to shoot the weir.

Many centuries ago Exeter was an important wool trade exporter, until a dispute arose with the owner of Topsham and a weir was built to divert trade.

The Exeter Ship Canal is one of the oldest artificial waterways in the UK. First built in the 1560's it underwent many improvements over the centuries and finally fell out of commercial use in the 1970's. It runs from the centre of Exeter out to the river Exe estuary.

On the Quay in Exeter is A/S Watersports - a canoe shop - and they are more than happy to help you with canoeing information in the area. There is also Haven Banks - and outdoor education centre.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

britishcanoeing.org.uk

aswatersports.co.uk

visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-quayside

Licence

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe. Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

Paddle Responsibly. Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterways on this trail don't require you to have a licence to paddle on them. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of British Canoeing. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on British Canoeing membership please click here.

