

## Key Info

### Start & finish:

Haunted Haven Road, Exeter  
EX2 8DP

On street, pay per hour parking

Time: 1 hour

Distance: 2 miles



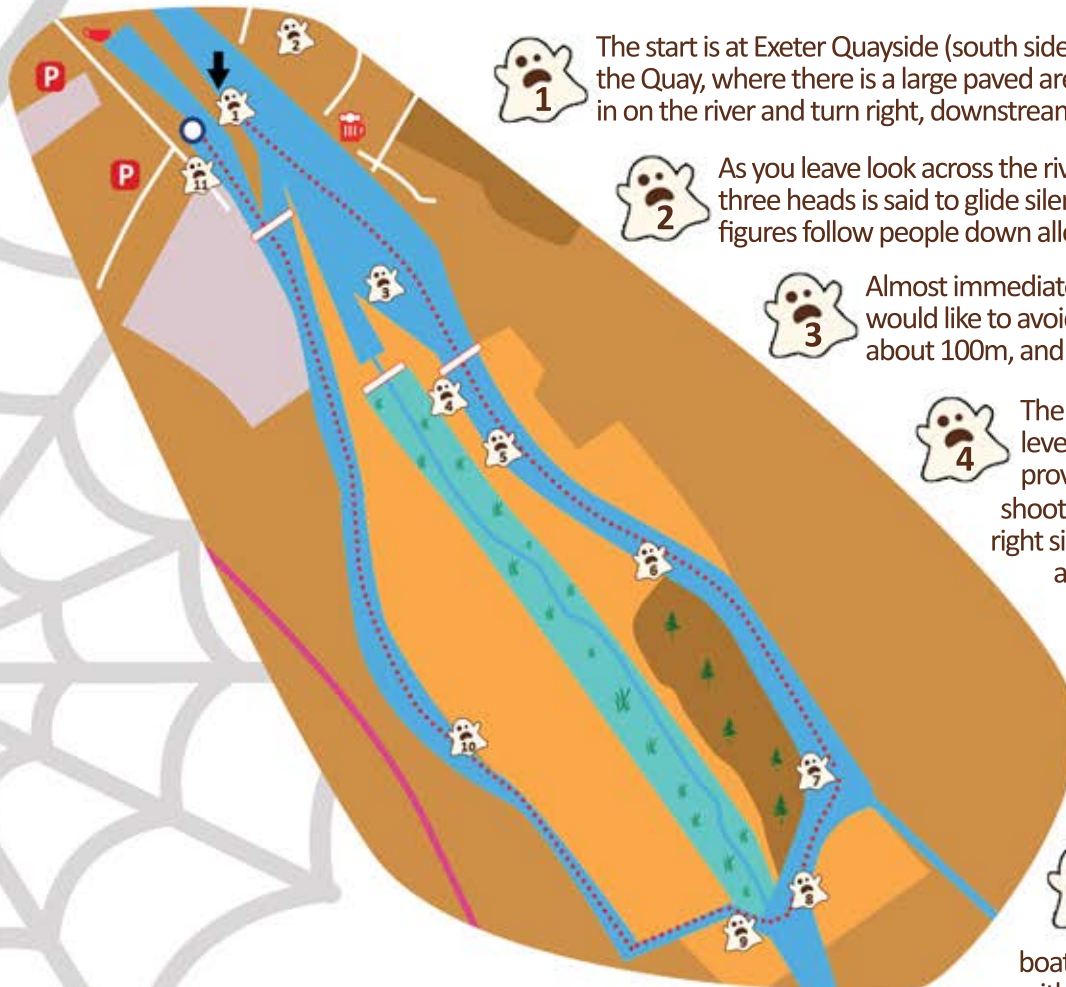
Scan or visit  
[bit.ly/Exe-loop-1-trail](http://bit.ly/Exe-loop-1-trail)  
to find the map  
in Mapometer and  
download the GPX file

**Locks/Portages:** Two weirs, which can be shot or portaged, and one portage from river to canal.

**OS Map:** Explorer 114 Exeter and the Exe Valley

Take a short trip on the waters of the fourth most haunted city in the UK. Will historic phantoms block your path?!

There are Waymarker points at get in/out locations with a canoe on them.



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



2 As you leave look across the river to Exeter Cathedral. A man with three heads is said to glide silently across the cathedral green and dark figures follow people down alleyways.



3 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.



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



5 When the river is high beware of the strong holding stopper and tow back, which runs most of the length of the weir.



6 As you travel along the river watch out for a Viking long ship heading your way. This boat is said to travel the Exe, complete with angry fighter on board.



7 A second weir can be avoided by a short portage of 50m, on the right bank, off the river via a platform, and back on down steps. Look out for the lamprey eels, often seen here.



8 Before leaving the river keep a keen eye out for the humanoids said to reside in these waters. Many years ago a 4ft long beast, resembling a human but with duck like feet and a tail protruding from its back was caught here.



9 Shortly afterwards is the way off the river, up a flood relief channel which looks like a set of steps, just before it joins the river. The portage is 150m, with the way onto the canal at a landing stage by the side of a car park for the playing fields.

Find more  
canoe trails at:

[britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing)  
/go-canoeing





On your return journey keep your eyes peeled for the forlorn, ghostly figure of Sir Francis Drake. He is said to wander the area attempting to gain admission to his favourite pub once more.



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



## Discover More



This is loop 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.

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, either use the portage point or do not attempt to shoot the weir.

Exeter was an important wool trade exporter from centuries back, until a dispute arose with the owner of Topsham downriver, a weir being built to divert off 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.

In addition there is also Haven Banks – an outdoor education centre.

Exeter Quayside (both sides of the river), have ample facilities and many eating places. There is the canoe shop also between the river and canal.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

[www.exeter.gov.uk/](http://www.exeter.gov.uk/)

[www.exeterviews.co.uk/](http://www.exeterviews.co.uk/)

[www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/)

[www.friendsofexetershipcanal.co.uk/](http://www.friendsofexetershipcanal.co.uk/)

## Safety and Licences

***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!

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.