

Tips for boating on the Canal.

The most important tip is to travel slowly. The limit is 4 miles per hour, if you try to go any faster you will just drag the bottom, disturb weed and mud and end up clearing your weed filters more often than need be.

Published Navigation Dimensions: Length of locks 18.5 m, Beam of Locks 3.9m, water draft 1.2m, air draft above waterline 2.75m.

The canal is not built for speed; chill out watch the temperature gauge, the scenery and wildlife and the walkers as they overtake you.

When mooring keep your stern off the bank so that you don't expose the rudder and prop to the shallow bank. Put your bow in and get a crew member ashore and then pull the stern in alongside.

Ensure your fenders are correctly placed when mooring to jetties and in locks.

The canal banks normally slope gradually so the water depth at the banks can be shallower than in the main canal so caution should be used when mooring, passing and turning.

Remember below a lock that is emptying there will be a strong force of water coming from the lock while the lock is being emptied, ensure boat is secure at jetty or hang back in midstream well away from the lock.

Details of how to use the locks are included in the canal guide. An online version is available at <http://www.iwai.ie/maps/grand/contents.html> a newer version is available at the IWAI online shop. www.shop.iwai.ie

Lock keepers are located along the system with designated locks in their area, they will assist and advise on order of boats in the locks etc.

Weed can cause problems in two ways. It can block your raw water intakes or it can entangle you prop. Watch your temperature gauge and check your weed filters regularly.

You can usually hear or feel if something gets caught on your propeller. If this happens give the engine a quick reverse immediately (this effectively unwinds the prop) and this will often clear it.

If concerned about your water draft (depth of boat below water line) consider travelling with light fuel tanks and water tanks.

If concerned about your air draft (height of boat above the water line) consider travelling with full fuel tanks and water tanks baring in mind the above.

A set of mooring pins and a two metre plank can be useful on the canal if you wish to moor along the bank where mooring facilities do not exist.

Accelerating hard drops the back of your boat and exposes your prop etc to more wear.

A Visitors Permit for Combined Mooring and Passage is available free for 4 weeks travel on the canal, Combined Mooring and Passage Permits for longer passage may be purchased from Waterways Ireland and should be displayed on the wheelhouse window for external inspection.

Life jackets should be worn, it's a legal requirement for children under 16 to wear a lifejacket.
Safe Boating !

IF YOU GO EASY ON THE CANAL

THE CANAL WILL GO EASY ON YOU !!