

Solent Rib Charter Day



With Europe's largest fleet of Ribs, Solent Rib Charter is the market leading provider of Rib events. In the UK, we run more Rib events than all of our competitors combined. With our years of experience, we are accomplished at providing unashamedly high quality days out on the Solent for reward, marking significant events or just for fun.

Overview

The Solent is Europe's busiest waterway, providing endless entertainment for every taste from the tranquillity of National Trust owned Newtown Creek to the thriving world centre of yachting in Cowes.

On any given day, you are likely to witness serious racing, warships, liners, oil tankers and tall ships on the water. You will also enjoy landmarks like the Needles, historic forts all around the Solent,

beautiful ports, for example Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight and major sights such as the naval dockyards in Portsmouth.

Pace is our watchword. We keep days moving along with a fast moving schedule; everybody will be truly exhausted by the end of the day. Best of all though, we guarantee the day will be judged an unqualified success! (continued overleaf)

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Overview (continued)

It is useful to set this wider context because for many the real draw is just the Rib itself. It is almost impossible to have more fun! Renowned as 'go anywhere' sea boats, Ribs are capable of traversing mountainous seas in complete safety, as well as turning sharply at high speed and steep angles generating face stretching G forces.

We have an unblemished safety record and will always be respectful of the prevailing conditions but we have not forgotten that our clients are partial to some fun! Our skipper will take guidance from the charter party as to exactly where in the spectrum your party wants to be from sedate to high excitement!

Arrival

Although it is possible to start in Southampton, Portsmouth or Poole, Lymington is the favoured meeting point. Lymington is an unspoilt Georgian Town in the heart of the New Forest National Park handy for evenings in both Bournemouth and Southampton.

Lymington Yacht Haven marina has plenty of free parking and an excellent Bistro with a balcony overlooking the Solent.

Most groups aim to arrive some time between 09.00 and 11.00. The day is yours, the boats are yours, the time of arrival is entirely at your discretion – there is nothing 'production line' about the day.

Briefing

Once the whole party has assembled, the skippers will spread out some charts and talk through the options geared to the prevailing winds and tides. You are entirely free to choose where to go and what you do.

Lunch

Typically we will have suggested somewhere for lunch in advance of the day so that you have a confirmed booking. Recommended lunch spots include:

- George Hotel, Yarmouth – overlooking the Solent – excellent food
- Folly Inn, Cowes – accessed by a private pontoon – pub grub with a view
- Tiffins, Cowes – just off the marina – great baguettes and puddings, low cost

Weather

Although you may have blue skies and sunshine in mind, the weather to hope for is a low pressure system. An unsettled sea state and wind will make the conditions much more exciting and provide a real edge to the day. High quality breathable oilskins are available to hire for a very modest fee (must be booked in advance).

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The Ribs

We own the Ribs we operate. They are fast, fun, safe and immaculately presented. The Ribs are Coastguard coded and surveyed and properly insured. The skippers are fully qualified, commercially endorsed, and we carry significant public liability insurance.

The boats are powered by V6 3.8 litre Suzuki outboard engines. The performance is breathtaking.

Activities

Most groups find the Ribs such an extreme and exciting activity in their own right, especially with so many places to call into and things to see, that additional activities are not really necessary.

If you have a competitive group who will only be happy in pitched battle, then adding the fiendish Rib Treasure Hunt works well providing there are two or more boats.

Alternatively we are able to run kayaking and bicycle treasure hunts for those who thrive on physical exercise.

Après water

There are a range of excellent waterside bars for a celebratory Pimms prior to leaving us. The most popular time to finish the day and still leave everybody with enough energy for the journey home is around 5.30pm.

Health

Participants will need a reasonable level of physical health rather than fitness. This event is unsuitable for those with knee, hip, back, neck or weight problems. Please contact us to discuss how to include members of your party who may be pregnant.

Age

There are no age limits. We have lifejackets to suit children of all ages. If your party is mixed, talk to us how we can configure the day to suit both the adrenaline junkies and those hoping for something more sedate.

The Island is an excellent resource for dropping off shore parties in interesting locations whilst we 'spin up' the hardy.