



Hovercraft Cruising Site – Port Glasgow

Location:

Newark Castle, Castle Road, Port Glasgow. Boatlaunch Link :
<http://www.boatlaunch.co.uk/default.aspx?page=display&nodeid=2153&preferredfilterid=2949>

Directions:

From Glasgow, take the M8 onto the A8 dual carriageway toward Greenock. Turn right (3rd exit) at the second roundabout on the A8 onto Castle Road. Turn immediately right and continue past the castle for approx. 300m through parkland until you reach the parking area and slipway

Ramp/access Description:

Concrete slipway ramp adjacent to pier with full tidal access. Long at low tide with rocks either side.

Charges:

None – slip and parking is free.

Suitability:

Care needs to be taken hovering down the slip at low tide – the lower surface is covered with slimy seaweed making stopping difficult. Craft can be de-trailerred in the car park. Parking is limited but it's not usually very busy. Local boat club uses site and also occasional jet skiers.

Facilities:

None - Port Glasgow is only 1/4mile from site.

Access restrictions and other permissions:

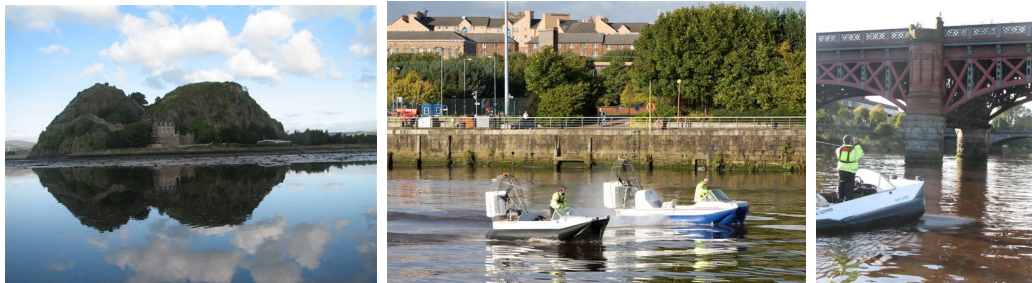
Open all year round. Launches directly into River Clyde deep shipping channel so care is required (although the lane isn't busy).

Navigational Hazards:

Estuary is under Clyde Port Authority control. Very little small or large ship traffic. No significant navigational hazards although weather and water conditions can change quickly (tidal flows can cause very rough water in some areas). Keep clear of the Greenock Container Terminal to the west. Entrance to the Gareloch (submarine base) is heavily patrolled by police launches and the 12knot speed limit is strictly enforced in this area. Large sewage outlet on north side of river approx two miles east of Erskine bridge

Cruising Area:

There is a huge range of interesting destinations in the estuary. Glasgow city centre is around 15miles east, Helensburgh 8 miles north west, Dunbarton and River Leven (has a public right of navigation) leads to Loch Lomond, Loch Long – 25miles, Dunoon – 10 miles, etc, etc.



Youtube clips:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1Wo13qxyNg>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXdjO_VJuVU

Possible recovery sites with road access

Slipway at Greenock, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Greenock (rough track at end of beach). Dunbarton. The Erskine bridge old ferry slip (south side) and the Yoker ferry slips in Glasgow can be used in an emergency (there are no other slipways on the river east of the Erskine Bridge)

Other Considerations:

At low tide, large mudflats are exposed to the east of the launch site – they can be populated by large numbers of feeding birds – keep clear.