

CBC Six Ferries - Instructions

Please note start time of 07:30 at Highcliffe. Main ride is roughly 73 miles (back to Highcliffe) excluding ferries.

We usually aim to have separate Slow/Medium and Medium pace groups (ranging from 11 to 13 mph).

This wonderful ride was brought to the club by John Hayter many years ago and has become a CBC classic. However it is not for the faint-hearted and is a long ride returning in twilight; so please bring lights. Please don't hang about – when the leader says a time to leave by please be ready by then. Some of the tracks used are not tarmac – however many have ridden them before with narrow tyres. For the gravel stretch there is an alternative.

A map of the main route (via Cowes chain ferry) is overleaf, gpx file of this is also available in the Rides Library. Note that this gpx is a guide - ride leaders are free to make their own route between tea stops / ferries. The route from Lymington to New Milton is for reference only. All please be prepared to self-navigate e.g. if not ready in time after lunch stop ;-) Remember to buy bike ticket on ferries that need them or you'll get left behind!

- Meet at Highcliffe cliff car park by **07:30** for staggered start for groups, or Hythe (see below).
- Optional toilet stop at Brockenhurst if open in time. Note that the standard route now avoids right turn into Beaulieu village.
- Coffee **BeBe's cafe** Hythe, or nearby shops. Suggest: *order food, buy ferry ticket (including bike), eat food, catch ferry.* Note: Hythe Ferry often does bulk discounts – consider ordering as a group.
- Leave **09.55** for 10:10 Hythe Ferry. *Allow 10 mins for walking down long pier or 15 mins if buying ticket. **Look out for the CBC-sponsored plank on the pier, situated between lamp-post 13-14 alongside the passenger walkway handrail.*** Car-assist riders can park in Lymington and cycle to Hythe.
- Itchen ferry only takes around 10 passengers and bikes - i.e. one group at a time; pay on-board.
- On the way to Titchfield Haven there is a **gravel track** – if you don't want to use this there is a self-navigated road alternative (carry on towards Titchfield town and take first right to Meon) shown in green.
- Option: Lunch near Titchfield Haven (**packed lunch** on picnic benches by the sea, or nearby café if time) – **however** it is recommended to have lunch on the Portsmouth-Fishbourne ferry to save time.
- Shortly after Titchfield, towards the end of Salterns Road there is a car **Park** straight ahead on the bend – go through the car park to the end and up the path to the cycle track alongside Marine Parade and follow track all the way to the roundabout on the edge of Gosport.
- Gosport ferry – keep (return) person **and bike** tickets, since you can re-use the following year!
- Book **return ticket** for the Portsmouth-Fishbourne ferry, since you can use the ticket for the Lymington crossing; refreshments available.
- The ticket machine for the Cowes chain ferry* does not issue change but does however accept overpayment; therefore it would be beneficial to have the correct money (£1.50 for a cyclist)
- Watch for the sharp left hand turn by the church, soon after the traffic lights on the A3054 at Shalfeet – this picks up the IOW cycle route after a bit and avoids the busy A-road – especially useful if at rush hour.
- Refreshments on Yarmouth-Lymington ferry and/or fish and chips in Lymington (or Yarmouth if long wait for ferry), then home.

* This can't operate at certain tides – if so, there is substitute ferry, however this tends to not take much more than 10 bikes. **See Further Information overleaf.**

Ride leaders: worth swapping phone numbers with their group members and the leaders of the other groups – this has proved useful on a number of occasions! All riders to bring emergency contact/medical details – e.g. on CBC lanyard. Also consider carrying a first aid kit, just in case.

Further Information (correct as Jan 2019 – 2022 update for Wightlink ferries)

You should aim **at the very latest** to get the 15.20 ferry from Portsmouth to Fishbourne and the 19.05 from Yarmouth to Lymington.

Don't forget to ask for tickets to include bike! And bring last year's Gosport ticket if you have one left.

Hythe Ferry 10 and 40 minutes past the hour.

Prices including bike: £7 senior, £9 adult **Note:** they have given discounts for groups of cyclists so worth asking about block booking. Also to note sometimes they put on a small ferry if the main one is being serviced, which only takes 10 or so bikes.

Hamble Pink ferry no timetable but visible from shore, goes Warsash and back until 6pm. 10-12 bikes & passengers max. Fare £1.75 with bike. **Worth phoning in advance to let them know if more than 10 riders arriving within 30 minutes:** Duty Ferryman: 07827 157154 (else 023 8045 4512 or 07720 438402). There are toilets the Warsash side of the Hamble.

Lunch/toilets at Titchfield Haven, Lee on Solent. Picnic benches by the sea. Don't be tempted to stop for lunch at Warsash, not enough time - pub busy and slow.

Gosport/Portsmouth ferry every 15 minutes

Prices £2.50 senior, £3.60 adult, **plus** £1.30 bike (return ticket only but **you can keep the other half for next year!**)

Portsmouth to Fishbourne ferry 13.20, 14.00, 15.20, 16.00, 45 minute journey [times/prices updated for Jun22]
Price £14 senior, £18.60 adult for **day return which includes return** via Yarmouth/Lymington). Bikes free.

Cowes Chain Ferry East to West Cowes. £1.50 for cyclists. www.iwfloatingbridge.co.uk 01983 293041

Note: **On low spring tides the floating bridge is not able to operate.** During these times a passenger launch (access is about 100m downstream - pay on approach) will be provided instead – this takes bikes but generally not much more than ten per trip. Alternative is Cycle Route 22 from Fishbourne up to Newport, joining the main route west of Cowes back on to the Six Ferries route.

There are public toilets (with water tap) as you come away out of Cowes on left along promenade road.

Yarmouth to Lymington Ferry (prices see above) 40 minute journey

16.05, 17.05, 18.05, 19.05, 20.50 [times updated for Jun22]

Supper Fish and chip shop in Yarmouth (various) or Lymington (one towards bottom of high street), depending on time available.

Maps overleaf.

David Orme

CBC Six Ferries 2022 v1.docx



