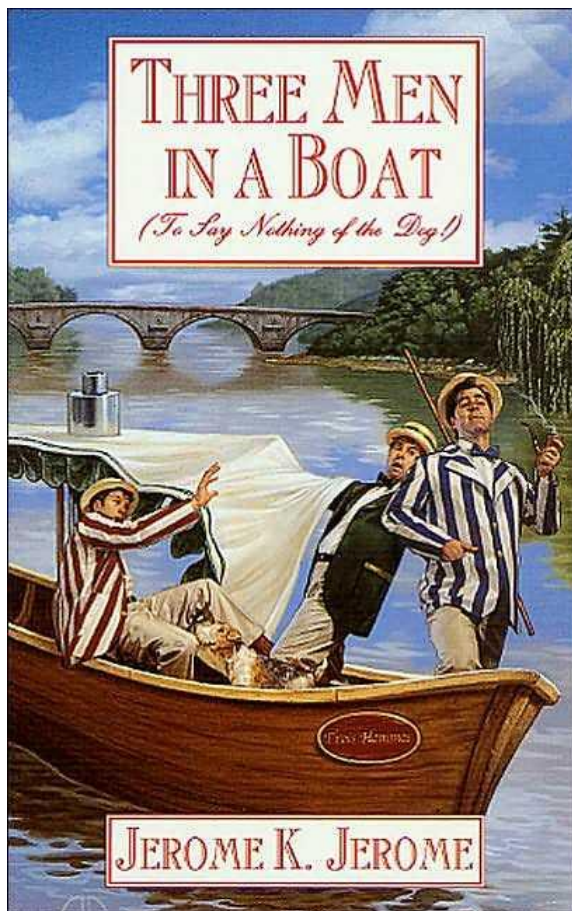


Introduction

Do you feel there should be more to rowing than competing? Do you feel adventurous? Would you like to improve your technique and your fitness but not be wedded to a racing training programme? If so, you should probably try touring rowing. Touring rowers, like their competitive friends, aim to improve their skills and get fit, but their horizons are wider.



The concept of a non-competitive oarsperson is not new. The Victorians were great 'social boaters', taking family outings on canals and rivers throughout the country. The spirit of this is there to read in the immortal trip of 'George, Harris and I', those 'Three Men in a Boat'

.Many clubs in this country already have a strong social side and throughout Europe social rowing is a long-established tradition. In countries such as Denmark and Germany, recreational rowers outnumber their competitive counterparts and at weekends crews row to neighbouring clubs for conversation over drinks and lunch.

Touring can be enjoyed by anyone, whatever their age, skill level or fitness. You're free to plan your own rowing holiday so you can make it as arduous or as luxurious as you choose! Stay in nearby hotels or camp; take a leisurely pace or challenge yourself; go down a well-rowed route or explore off the beaten track.

Think out of the box - as well as rivers, there are many canals, lakes and even coastal areas where you can tour. Even if there isn't a rowing club where you are thinking of going, consult the local canoeing, sailing or even motor boat clubs for tips on where to go and what places are best avoided.

Touring rowing in the UK expanded greatly in 2018 thanks to the generous sponsorship of [Charles Stanley Wealth Management](#), who funded two packages each comprising a trailer and four touring quads with blades, one located at Goring Gap RC near Oxford and the other at Isle of Ely RC near Cambridge. These are available for clubs and tour organisers to hire - see the chapter on Logistics.

[Message from Charles Stanley Chief Executive]



For a shorter tour or day trip, it doesn't have to be a precision planned operation. With touring, and especially on tours with a smaller number of people, one of the great pleasures is being able to be flexible and stop off somewhere whenever you feel like it.

The longer your journey and the larger the group, the more planning is required. A large tour with a big group of boats is a lot of work to organise but it's very satisfying when everyone says they've had a great time and want to do it again.

However, probably best to start small and work up to the larger scale events!

This guide will set out some basic skills that can be applied to most tours. We have divided into sections so you can choose the topics which are of interest to you.

