

## Safety

### Preparing a Risk Assessment and Safety Plan

For a larger tour, just as you would for any public event, you will need to do a risk assessment and Safety Plan. If your tour is on an unfamiliar water, consult any local rowing, canoeing or sailing clubs and ask their advice.

Here are some examples:

[Risk Assessment](#)  
[Safety Plan](#)

When compiling a safety document, you will need to cover:

- A river survey that identifies hazards and road access points for emergency vehicles
- Information from local water users such as rowing clubs and lock keepers
- Whether you will need a safety launch and what the weather and water conditions will be like
- Where the local medical and other emergency services are
- Insurance cover for participants and equipment
- Briefing for participants
- Means of communication

### Environment and other river users

As with any shared space, when on the waterways and riverbanks, keep to paths and shut gates, and don't leave any litter behind. Bear in mind other water users – rowers, canoeists, sailors, boaters etc. as well as those on the bank – walkers, cyclists and anglers. Mark any mooring stakes clearly and don't put them where they could trip passers-by.

### Wildlife

River banks can house nesting birds and waterways are often rich in all sorts of wildlife so keep a distance if possible and be careful when mooring the boat.

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