

BR 4th European Tour

8-10 September 2023

BERLIN

Grosse Wannsee and River Havel to Potsdam

SAFETY PLAN

Description of Tour

This year's tour is planned to take place from the 8th - 10th September on the Grosser Wannsee and river Havel near Berlin. Participants will make their own travel and accommodation arrangements with most staying at hotels in Potsdam.

The rowing routes will all start and finish at Berlin Ruder-Club and be:

Friday circuit of Grosser Wannsee following East side to Ruder-Union Arkona and returning via West side (22km)

Saturday Griebnitzkanal to Potsdam Innenstadt, across Templiner See to Braumanufaktur Templin and return (35km)

Sunday West side of Grosse Wannsee past Pfauen Insel to Schloss Cecilienhof, under Glienicke bridge and return via Griebnitzkanal (16km)

The full itinerary and route maps are at Annex A and B

There will be a total of approx 70 UK participants who will be experienced oarsmen and women ranging in age from mid thirties to late seventies.

There will be a local participant who knows the water in most boats

British Rowing membership for UK participants is a requirement for the event.

There will be approx 12 touring boats (typically "C" gigs) taking part, configured as 3x-, 4x-, 4x+, 5x-, 6x+, 8x+ and 8+

These are stable boats with sufficient freeboard for expected conditions.

Organisation

A sub-group of the British Rowing Recreational Committee (RRC) is organising the tour in conjunction with Berliner Ruder-Club who are providing equipment, local participants and safety management.

The tour will abide by local safety requirements and follow BR RowSafe guidance, in particular tour guidance - Annex C

Key roles are:

Tour Coordinator	Malcolm Hingle	+44 7798 882377
Deputy Tour Coordinator:	John Turnbull	+44 7771 807993
Safety Adviser	Jörg Hahne	+49 171 303 5326
Deputy Safety Adviser	TBA	

A Safety and Emergency information handbook with details of crews, route, key contact details and emergency procedures will be prepared

Boat Captains

The Organisers will appoint appropriately experienced participants as Boat Captains. Each will be responsible for a nominated boat during the Tour.

They will be required to:

- ensure that their boat is in a safe condition at all times
- determine the crew order
- manage crew welfare during rowing by ensuring provision of water, suitable rest periods and checking for injuries
- ensure whoever is coxing navigates the boat in accordance with the agreed instructions and with due regard to hazards and conditions
- communicate with the designated Tour Coordinator in the event of emergencies afloat
- attend briefings daily or as circumstances dictate to receive guidance from the Safety Manager on the itinerary, route, hazards and other safety matters.

Captains will be issued with a set of laminated maps for each stage of the tour route, showing waterway information and land access points

Captains will ensure that there is a mobile phone with European roaming operational and accessible in a waterproof container in their boat.

Captains will be provided with a summary of their duties and emergency procedures (Annex D)

Participants

All UK participants will be required to:

- be members of British Rowing with related third party insurance cover
- certify that they are fit to cover the distances involved and are competent rowers - verified as appropriate by their Club Captain
- declare any medical conditions that might affect them or require attention
- sign a waiver in relation to any injuries or damage arising from participation

All participants will be provided with joining instructions which will include tour safety guidance reflecting the risk assessment together with a checklist of what to bring.

Communications

Mobile phones will be used for communication between the participating boats and the tour organisers and support team. European roaming will be required

Each boat will carry at least one mobile phone with numbers held by organisers.

Emergency Procedures

A Safety and Emergency handbook will be prepared and will include the following:

- procedures
- the itinerary
- list of participants and crews with mobile phone contact numbers
- navigation information and maps
- contact numbers and location information for local medical services
- emergency service contact numbers
- the Risk Assessment

Any accident or emergency on land or on water should be reported to the Safety Adviser and Tour Coordinator

In the event of a serious medical problem the emergency services can be called directly on **112**

For incidents afloat, Boat Captains should notify the Safety Manager by phone of the nature of the problem and the boat location. If urgent help needed and no alternative support Boat Captains should call the DLRG "Wasser-Lebens-Rettungs-Dienst" on **112**

DLRG rescue stations will be shown on maps provided.

General Navigation Considerations

The Großer Wannsee is a large body of water which is heavily used by sailors, leisure boats and ferries and has some open swimming areas. Wind conditions are typically benign in early September but waves and wash from other traffic can be experienced, particularly in the afternoon.

Similar considerations apply to the Templiner See.

Care is needed with regard to other traffic which may cross the rowing route.

Life jackets or buoyancy aids should be worn by coxes at all times on the water in accordance with BR rules. Rowers are encouraged to carry them and wear as appropriate according to conditions.

Weather and wind conditions will be checked using:

[Wind & weather forecast Greater Wannsee - Windfinder](#)

Briefing / Training

As well as reading the safety procedures, participants will be advised to familiarise themselves with the "Touring Handbook" available on the recreational rowing website [Recreational Rowing Committee \(recrowing.org.uk\)](http://recrowing.org.uk)

An online briefing for participants on the event and preparing for tour rowing will be conducted before the tour.

Boat captains will be briefed at the start of each day's rowing on the water and weather conditions and any known hazards, which they should pass on to their crews.

Risk Assessment

Assessment Methodology

Hazards have been considered based on the nature of the event and expected conditions. Risks have been assessed using the classification table below:

RISK	SEVERITY		
PROBABILITY	Low	Medium	High
Unlikely	1	2	3
Fairly Likely	2	4	6
Very Likely	3	6	9

Risks scoring

1 or 2 are acceptable (green).

3 or 4 are acceptable with mitigation (yellow).

6 or 9 are unacceptable and measures to reduce them to a lower category are needed (red).

An assessment for the event is given in the attached table below but there are specific risks associated with the section of river and canal along which the tour is passing and which deserve their own consideration and mitigation.

Specific risks and mitigations associated with water conditions and traffic

General

- Watch out for buoys, swimmers, drift wood, other traffic and wind conditions
- Bridges and narrow passages -: watch traffic and stop and wait, if large boats are coming. Excursion boats pass the narrow passages too.

On Grosser Wannsee

- Ferry from pier near Wannsee S-Bahn station to Alt-Kladow crosses route, frequency once per hour
Crews briefed to watch out, large boat easily visible
- Strandbad Wansee public bathing area approx 2km from Berlin Ruder-Club
Show on map and brief crews to avoid and watch out for swimmers
Bathing areas are marked with yellow buoys
- Many sailing clubs at southern end of Grosser Wannsee
Crews briefed to watch out for sailing boats
- Potential for many leisure motor boats
Brief areas and need for caution

Havel, central Potsdam

- Narrow passages - bridges, channel between Griebnitzsee and Tiefer See, Alte Fahrt in Potsdam.
Watch for traffic and stop as necessary
- Channel between Griebnitzsee and Tiefer See
Stop and wait if you see an excursion boat or freight boat. It's wide enough, if normal motor boats approaching you.

- Alte Fahrt in Potsdam: It's forbidden for motorboats but there can be SUPs and pedal boats with not experienced „captain“. Move carefully and reduce speed.
- Auf dem Kiewitt to Hermanswerder chain ferry may be operating
Brief crews to watch out and not attempt to cross ferry when it is moving as chain could rise under the boat
- Potential for a lot of motor cruiser or ferry traffic
Show on map and brief to watch out

Templiner See

- Hermanswerder peninsula railway embankment blocking end of lake but with bridge at northern end (starboard side going downstream from Potsdam)
Show on map and brief crews on route

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Risk Assessment - general

Hazard	Risk	Initial assessment	Control Measures/ Mitigation	Assessment after mitigation.
Boat handling	Muscular strains/sprains	2	Group is experienced and will assist each other	1
	Slips, trips and falls	2	Boating areas are at established rowing clubs with even terrain. Everyone will be advised to keep areas tidy and remove loose items from boating areas.	1
	Cuts / grazes on sharp objects	2	Participants advised to wear suitable footwear if required to wade in the river. Clean open wounds, such as blisters or calf abrasions with an anti-bacterial substance. First aid kit available for minor injuries.	1
Weather & water conditions	Extreme heat	2	Participants instructed to bring suitable clothing e.g. hats and sunscreen and carry water. Rest periods allowed in schedule	1
	Cold / wet	2	Participants instructed to bring suitable clothing. As event in summer no extreme conditions likely	1
	Heavy wash from other boats	4	Coxes briefed on dealing with wash Boats not easily swamped and would remain afloat Bailers carried and places to land briefed Emergency response available in exposed areas	2
	Winds cause rough water	4	Boats not easily swamped and would remain afloat Bailers will be carried and places to land briefed. Weather forecast will be checked each morning and rowing route rescheduled if dangerous conditions expected. Canal sections sheltered. Emergency response available in exposed areas	2
	Thunderstorm	3	Safely Adviser to check weather conditions and instruct crews to land, deboat and seek shelter until conditions improve, applying the "30/30" rule (wait 30 minutes after a 30 second gap between lightning and thunder).	1

Hazard	Risk	Initial assessment	Control Measures/ Mitigation	Assessment after mitigation.
Navigational accident	Collision with other craft	3	Hazard areas will be briefed and shown on maps Crews and coxswains are experienced therefore risk is low. Boats are more robust than racing craft and not easily damaged. Capsize or sinking considered very unlikely	1
	Grounding	2	Water / bank conditions such that any damage unlikely	1
	Accident while climbing onto bank	2	Participants warned that beaches/banks uneven and advised to wear water shoes	1
Equipment failure	Broken blade	2	Spares available via support from land or by boat. Large crew boats able to carry on with other members sculling/rowing Communications available by mobile phone to call help. Equipment checked for defects before boating	1
	Damage to rigger/ gate	2	Robust and unlikely to break. Spare gates and fixings available. Equipment checked for defects before boating	1
	Damage / loss of rudder	2	Sculled and crew boats can proceed using oars to steer	1

Hazard	Risk	Initial assessment	Control Measures/ Mitigation	Assessment after mitigation.
Minor rowing injuries	Blisters and sores	2	Participants instructed to protect hands with tape or gloves before boating if sensitive. First aid kits available from land support.	1
Medical emergencies	Extreme exhaustion	3	Distances reasonable relative to age, experience and weather expected. Arrangement of crews will allow for balancing strength. Spare man available for crew change if necessary, Sculled crew boats can carry on with a member resting. Help can be called by mobile phone or from other boats in flotilla.	1
	Serious illness	3	Any known conditions declared and allowed for beforehand. Checks made each morning as to condition of party. Emergency situations to be reported by mobile phone to Safety Adviser and/or directly to emergency services on 112.	2
	Weil's disease (leptospirosis)	3	Precautions will be advised in accordance with RowSafe section 8.4, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover any open wounds with waterproof dressings • Avoid contact with river water to eyes and mouth • Wash hands or use sanitiser after contact with water and especially before eating. • Seek medical attention if any flu-like symptoms develop 	1