

KEEPING SAFE



Please read and abide by the following safety guidelines to reduce the risk of accidents and injury while on board. We want you and your crew to have a safe and enjoyable time on board. Before you set off, all crew members should watch our safety video and nominate a captain and a 2nd-in-charge' who will be responsible for everyone's safety and can take charge in case of an emergency. These persons must receive a briefing session by a Le Boat technician who will show them how to safely control and navigate the boat. Their signatures are required on the pre-departure paperwork to confirm this has been adequately received.



When driving, be alert and pay attention at all times. Stay within marked channels and always refer to your waterways map to identify navigational hazards (weirs, shallows, strong currents, swimming areas, bridges, tunnels and locks) and pass them SLOWLY and with caution. Always obey local speed restrictions.



Take care and SLOW DOWN when navigating under bridges. ALL crew members should be warned when approaching a low bridge, and everyone should move to the railed confines of the sundeck or stay inside. And remember to take down your bimini sunshade/parasol.



Children under 16 are not allowed to operate the boat.



If your boat has two steering stations, we recommend you use the outside station as a preference. To switch control to another station, make sure there is time and space to do so safely and that the boat is bought to a complete stop or preferably moored. Before setting off again, ensure the throttle lever is properly engaged, with both forward and reverse working.



Boating under the influence of drink or drugs is dangerous, significantly increases the likelihood of serious accidents and is not permitted by law. Even once you have safely moored, drink in moderation to avoid accidents when getting on & off and moving about the boat.



Please do not navigate after dark. Do not attempt to navigate in high winds or in poor visibility. If in doubt, please contact our base team for guidance.

Do not sit with your arms or legs hanging over any side of the boat while it is moving.



You should not attempt to stop a boat by using the mooring ropes. Use the engine to bring the boat to a safe and steady stop.



There is an increased danger of injury when passing under bridges. To reduce the risk, you should not use sun beds and stay within the railed confines of the sundeck when passing under a bridge.



Never wrap the mooring lines around hands, wrists or ankles.



Take care not to place any part of your body between the mooring lines and a mooring bollard or the quayside.



Don't try to stop the boat by placing any part of your body between the boat and a lock wall or quayside, or by using your mooring lines. And don't 'fend off' with hands or feet, or using your boat hook.

RESPECT THE WATER



Be alert when passing through locks and, if there is a lock keeper present, follow his/her instructions without question. To steady the boat, loop mooring lines around the bollards / drop cables and hold loosely. Never tie them.

We strongly advise all passengers to wear life

jackets* while on deck, particularly when inside

locks (compulsory in some locks/regions) and when

mooring where the risk of accidents is greater.

Children and non swimmers are also at greater risk.



If someone falls overboard, throw a life ring (not directly at them) and be mindful of their proximity to the boat's main propeller and bow thruster. Cut the engine immediately if in doubt.



Children should be supervised at all times and with even greater vigilance when passing through locks.

SWIMMING

Swimming is fun, but it can be dangerous. Be sure to follow the below advice and abide by local rules. If in doubt – stay out of the water!



Please ask your base team if and where it is safe to swim. Do not swim in canals, near locks, bridges, weirs, marinas and in busy stretches of water where other boats pose a danger.



Only strong swimmers should enter the water. If you have a medical condition, you should seek medical advice before swimming. Ensure you are fit and able to exit the water safely (i.e. the swimming ladder is lowered) and that the life ring is accessible, before entering the water.



Swimming at night and/or under the influence of drugs or alcohol is not permitted.



When swimming, your boat should be safely moored and at least one adult should remain on board the boat. In some regions (ask the base team) you can swim from your boat in open water. Ensure the engine is switched off and, if advised you can by the base team, the anchor is lowered.

IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

If you have an accident, please contact your departure base immediately and complete an Accident Form, which can be found at the back of the onboard Boat and Navigation Manual.

For serious injuries or life threatening situations, call the emergency services on 112 (911 in Canada)

* Life jackets for adults are provided on all our boats and, if not already on board, children's life jackets will be available at reception.

FIRE AND CARBON MONOXIDE



Charcoal barbecues (even once they are extinguished), smoking, candles and other naked flames are not allowed anywhere on the boat. If smoking on the towpath, ensure cigarettes are properly extinguished.



Everyone on board should be comfortable operating the fire safety equipment provided on board and the location of escape hatches.



If you smell gas inside your boat, extinguish all naked flames, shut off the gas at the gas tank, ventilate your boat, and contact our base at your first opportunity. Gas should be shut off at the gas tank when not in use and at night.



COLLISIONS

Attempt to avoid collisions by changing your

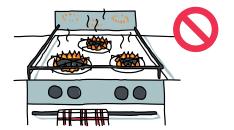
course or speed, but only if it is safe to do so. If

a collision is imminent, quickly alert everyone on

board. Do not try to fend off or protect the boat.

Instead you should move to a safe place if there's time, hold on, and brace yourself.

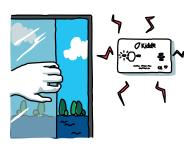
You should never use any cooking appliance while cruising as hot food or liquids can splash, spill and cause injury should you have a collision.



Never leave ovens, burners/hobs or barbecues unattended.

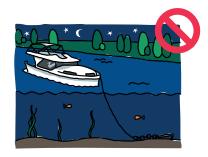


Your boat has been maintained to safeguard against carbon monoxide poisoning in accordance with local regulations. However, carbon monoxide is odourless and invisible, so please ensure your crew is familiar with the danger signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning (see your onboard Boat Manual).



Where fitted, test your carbon monoxide alarms on arrival. If it sounds at any time, or if you have any concerns, ventilate your boat, shut off all fuelburning appliances and contact our base at your first opportunity.

CROSSING OPEN WATER



No anchoring. Overnight in ports/marinas only.



Consult your waterway guide/navigation chart before crossing open water. Follow the advice given and know where you are heading. Always stay within marked channels and do not navigate in the open sea.



Do not navigate in the open sea.



Find out the weather forecast from lock keepers and do not attempt to cross open water in high winds or in poor visibility. If in doubt, please contact our base team for guidance.



Do not attempt to moor or attach your lines to buoys or channel markers.

SLIPS & TRIPS



Mooring lines should never extend across the towpath. Keep mooring stakes and ropes as close to the water's edge as possible.



Steps between the saloon and sundeck can be steep. Always face the steps when ascending and descending them, and use the handrails.



Take care when walking around the boat, especially in wet weather or at night. Look out for open hatches, cleats and other trip hazards. Always use the railings to steady yourself and wear securely-fitted, non-slip footwear. Flip-flops are not adequate.



Take particular care when getting on and off the boat, especially in wet weather or at night.

Never jump on or off the boat. Step with care and be mindful that trip hazards along towpaths might not be visible.

REFUELLING



If your diesel tank needs refilling, always ask for help. In some regions refuelling must be done at a marina by qualified marina staff as you are not allowed, by law, to fuel boats yourself.

ANCHOR



In most regions, your anchor should only be used in emergency situations – please follow any advice given by the base teams during your departure briefing. Anchors are not allowed to be used, for any reason, on canals.