

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Self-Drive Boat Hire (UK)

These Terms and Conditions (“Terms”) apply to the hire and use of self-drive boats provided by **REECE’S RAFTS LIMITED** (“we”, “us”, “our”). By booking or using one of our boats, **YOU** (the Hirer) agree to be bound by these Terms.

1. Eligibility & Legal Requirements

1. The Hirer must be **at least 18 years of age** and provide a valid photographic ID and proof of address. Groups of children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by at least two adults.
2. The Hirer confirms they are **competent to operate the vessel safely** and comply with all applicable UK maritime laws, including but not limited to:

Canal & River Trust / Environment Agency rules (where applicable)
3. No formal license is required unless stated, but we reserve the right to **refuse to hire** if we believe the Hirer is not competent or poses a safety risk.

2. Booking & Payment

1. All bookings are subject to availability and confirmation.
2. If available, bookings can be made on the day at location or by phone/email/website.
3. Full payment/deposit must be made prior to departure.
4. **A refundable security deposit of £150.00.**
The security deposit will be refunded following inspection of the vessel, provided there is no damage, loss, excessive cleaning requirement, late return, or breach of these Terms.
5. Reece’s Rafts Limited reserves the right to charge a security deposit of up to **£250** in addition to the hire charge for certain parties.
These groups can include Parties:
Carrying excessive quantities of alcohol
Single Sex groups (e.g. Stag/Hen dos)
6. A deposit is required at the time of the booking to confirm your hire.

7. Payments can be made by: Bank transfer/ payment link / cash (only at location on the day of hire)

3. Cancellations & Refunds (UK Consumer Law)

1. Cancellations made more than **3 DAYS** before the start time will receive a full refund, minus any administration fee.
2. Cancellations within **3 DAYS** are non-refundable but can change date under certain circumstances; changes can only happen once without the chance of a full/partial refund.
3. We reserve the right to cancel or shorten a hire due to adverse weather, safety concerns, mechanical issues, or instructions from authorities. In such cases, a full or partial refund will be issued at our discretion.
4. In case of bad weather/ poor river conditions the hirer may ask for a full refund or reschedule for another available date.
5. Nothing in these Terms affects your statutory rights under the **Consumer Rights Act 2015**.

4. Use of the Boat

1. The boat must be used **FOR LEISURE PURPOSES ONLY** and within designated operating areas.
2. The Hirer must not:
 - a. Operate the boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs
 - b. Allow anyone else to operate the boat without our permission
 - c. Exceed the maximum passenger or weight limits
 - d. Tow other vessels, swimmers, or objects
 - e. Race, behave recklessly, or cause nuisance or danger to others
3. The Hirer must comply with all instructions given during the safety briefing.

5. Safety Obligations

1. The Hirer is responsible for the safety of all passengers during the hire period.
2. **Life jackets/buoyancy aids** must be worn when instructed or where required by law or local authority.
3. Children must always be supervised.

4. The Hirer must immediately report any safety incident, collision, or near-miss to the company.

6. Damage, Loss & Liability

1. The Hirer is responsible for **any damage or loss** to the boat, equipment, or third-party property caused during the hire period, except for fair wear and tear.
2. Repair or replacement costs may be deducted from the security deposit. Additional costs remain payable by the Hirer.
3. The Hirer agrees to indemnify us against any claims, losses, or expenses arising from misuse of the vessel or breach of these Terms.

7. Insurance

1. The boat is insured in accordance with UK legal requirements.
2. Insurance does **not** cover reckless or negligent behaviour.
3. The Hirer is liable for any insurance excess and for any uninsured losses.

8. Breakdown or Accident

1. Any accident, grounding, collision, or mechanical failure must be reported to us **immediately**.
2. The Hirer must not attempt any repairs without the company's knowledge.
3. Continued use of a damaged vessel is prohibited and the hirer will be liable for any further damage.

9. Late Return

1. The boat must be returned by the agreed time. If you are going to be late, please let us know.
2. Late returns may incur charges of **£25 per hour or part of your deposit if not told beforehand (a grace period is given)**.

10. Weather & Water Conditions

1. The Hirer acknowledges that boating involves inherent risks, e.g. (serious injury and death)
2. We are not liable for delays, discomfort, or early return due to weather, tide, current, or water conditions.
3. We reserve the right to restrict or cancel hire if conditions are deemed unsafe, with the possibility of a refund or booking on another available date.

11. Termination of Hire

We reserve the right to terminate the hire immediately, without refund, if:

- These Terms are breached
- The Hirer behaves dangerously or irresponsibly
- Safety of people or property is at risk

12. Personal Property

Personal belongings are carried at the Hirer's own risk. We accept no liability for loss or damage.

13. Data Protection

Personal data will be processed in accordance with the **UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)** and the Data Protection Act 2018. See our Privacy Policy for more details.

14. Governing Law & Jurisdiction

These Terms are governed by the laws of **England and Wales**, and the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

15. Acceptance

By securing your booking with the security deposit and/or taking possession of the boat/ or signing the waiver, the Hirer confirms they have read, understood, and agreed to these Terms and Conditions.

16. Alcohol policy

We **do not** allow excessive alcohol on board and may refuse to hand over the boat if we believe alcohol will be an issue.

There must always be **at least two people** on board who are within the legal alcohol limit. Anyone else drinking must do so responsibly and remain able to behave safely.

If a crew is reported for causing disruption or unsafe behaviour, they will be removed from the boat, and **all payments and security deposits will be forfeited**.

In short: if you're planning a booze cruise, please do not book a self-drive boat.