

# TRIP OUT

**January 2025**

The new year brings new regulations from the MCA which are likely to further reduce the number of passenger boats. Some historic vessels, including the CONNAUGHT in London and PRINCESSA in Falmouth, had their surveys before the December deadline so will be able to run next summer, but may not be able to continue as passenger boats after that. The next twelve months will involve difficult decisions for boat operators.

Geoffrey Hamer, 75 Burket Close, Southall, UB2 5NT

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## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich Trips will run from 30 March to 2 November. The longest is a 3-hour cruise to off Felixstowe.

Sailing Barge Victor, Ipswich Afternoon and evening cruises are scheduled for 26 dates from 1 June to 29 August.

## THAMES

Thames Clippers (Uber Boat) A new electric catamaran ferry for the Rotherhithe service, the ORBIT CLIPPER, is being built by Wight Shipyard. She is due in service this year, replacing the TWIN STAR.

Capital Pleasure Boats The GOLDEN SUNRISE has been advertised for sale. Built in 1957 as the ferry SHIPDOCK XIX taking workers to the Amsterdam shipyard, she came to London in 1990 as the MIYUKI MARU and was renamed GOLDEN SUNRISE in 2011.

French Brothers Short trips from Windsor are at weekends until 14 February then daily until 2 November. Two-hour cruises are daily from 5 April to 28 September then at weekends until 2 November. Runnymede-Windsor sailings are daily from 5 April to 28 September. Maidenhead-Windsor runs on Tuesdays to Saturdays 27 May to 27 September. The LUCY FISHER offers her usual 45-minute cruises from Runnymede. Steamboat trips between Runnymede and Windsor will be on 18 May, 15 June and 21 September. One-hour steamboat trips from Windsor are on most Saturdays in June and August and Sundays in July.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Trips from Reading are at weekends from 5 April to 26 October and daily in school holidays, except between 18 and 26 August when the boats work at the Reading Festival. Trips to Goring are on 12 June, 31 July, 14 August and 18 September. Cream tea cruises to Sonning or Pangbourne are on 11 dates.

## SOUTH COAST

Gosport Ferry This year's cruise programme includes day trips to Lymington on 7 and 21 June, and 12, 13 and 19 July, and afternoon cruises to Southampton on 14 June and 4 July.

Hythe and Southampton Ferry Company Repairs to the pontoon at Hythe are said to "require substantial further investment". The company will "evaluate all options" by late February.

The Solent Steam Packet, Southampton Public cruises are scheduled for 19 dates from 24 May to 14 September. There will be no visit to Poole as there will be no Bournemouth Air Festival.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

DFDS To serve Jersey, DFDS will use two fast ferries, the LEVANTE JET and TARIFA JET, currently running across the Straits of Gibraltar, and the STENA VINGA, built in 2005 as the HAMMERODDE and originally a sister of the DUEODDE, now CONDOR ISLANDER. The fast ferries will run from Poole and St-Malo while the STENA VINGA will sail from Portsmouth to Jersey by day, returning overnight.

Guernsey Coastal Cruises The GLAD TIDINGS is due to begin her third season of cruises from St Peter Port on 5 April.

Jersey Duchess The season starts on 26 April.

Manche Iles Express The GRANVILLE will run from 18 April to 28 September. There are nine sailings from Diélette to Alderney.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Coastal cruises will now start on 18 April and the first trip to Dawlish is on 20 April.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The PRINCESS MARINA is beyond repair after the fire on 27 November. She was built in 1936 and had been owned by the Rackley family for 40 years after running at Falmouth and in the Isles of Scilly. The owners hope to get another boat to continue trips from Dawlish.

WEST WALES

Dale Sailing Company, Marloes The new DALE PRINCE arrived on Milford Haven on 3 December.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Newark Castle Line The SONNING has been sold after being laid up last summer, and will reportedly return to the Thames after 41 years on the Trent. She was built by Salters in 1902 and was owned by them until 1983 when she went to Newark.

NORTH WEST

'Judith Mary II', Whaley Bridge The JUDITH MARY II made her last trip on the Peak Forest Canal on 20 December and was taken by her new owners, Georgie's Canal Cruises, to arrive at her new base on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal before Christmas.

Mersey Ferries Services are suspended from 1 to 9 January for "planned maintenance".

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE was chartered by Stena Line from 16 December to carry freight between Dublin and Heysham following damage to the port of Holyhead. This is expected to last until at least 15 January.

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# TRIP OUT

**February 2025**

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## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE is again being chartered by the RSPB for seabird cruises; there are 27 dates, with the first on 4 May.

## EAST ANGLIA

West Lynn Ferry, King's Lynn The service was suspended on 14 January because of the condition of the steps at West Lynn which are owned by the Borough Council. Repairs are expected to take several weeks.

Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe & Rowhedge Ferry The Trust is appealing for money to buy a boat to replace the present boat, dating from 1992.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours There will be trips from a new landing stage in Rochester at Limehouse Wharf, starting with a day trip to Southend on 18 April.

Capital Pleasure Boats The PRIDE OF LONDON, acquired last September, went to Chatham for her refit and returned to London on 3 February as the GOLDEN SPIRIT.

Woods' Silver Fleet The SILVER STURGEON was surveyed at Lowestoft in January.

Thames River Boats Richmond to Hampton Court sailings resume on 13 April and Westminster to Kew starts on the 14th.

London Shell Co, Paddington, has ceased running the restaurant boat PRINCE REGENT after nine years cruising on the Regent's Canal.

Salter's Steamers The Oxford to Abingdon service will again run for a short season, from 21 July to 28 August on Mondays to Thursdays.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The ST CLARE went to Falmouth on 25 January. Because of maintenance at the Portsmouth terminal, the Fishbourne ferries used the International Port between 27 January and 2 February and did not take cyclists or foot passengers.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON returned from Falmouth to Southampton on 5 February after three months in the shipyard. There is a reduced Red Jet service from 26 January to 16 February while the RED JET 7 is off for maintenance.

Hythe and Southampton Ferry Company A new pontoon is needed at Hythe at an estimated cost of £250 000.

The Solent Steam Packet, Southampton, announced on 13 January that the SHIELDHALL will visit Poole, sailing from Southampton to Poole on 8 August, doing coastal cruises on 9 and 10 August, and returning to Southampton on the 11th.

National Trust Brownsea Island will be open to visitors from 15 March to 2 November.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries (Brittany Ferries) The CONDOR LIBERATION's last scheduled sailing is on 23 March, and Condor's last sailings from Jersey will be on 27 March.

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DFDS The STENA VINGA from Portsmouth and TARIFA JET from St-Malo start running to Jersey on 28 March. The LEVANTE JET opens the Poole-Jersey service on 17 April.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The replacement for the burnt-out PRINCESS MARINA will be the FAITHFULL SERVANT II from Portsmouth. Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co Totnes sailings are from 1 April to 30 October with two round trips on up to six days a week.

Plymouth Boat Trips Trips to Calstock are on 29 dates from 9 April to 18 October. Cruises to the river Yealm are on 26 dates from 6 April to 27 September. The breakwater cruise is now advertised as a 2-hour coastal explorer cruise, offered on 23 dates. Services from the Barbican to Cawsand, Royal William Yard and Cremyll, and from Royal William Yard to Saltash are daily from 1 April to 2 November.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III went into the Penzance dry dock on 14 January.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Ferry Boats The JUNO has been rebuilt since arriving from Stockton-on-Tees in November 2023 and is now ready to run in Bristol with a wheelhouse in the bow.

#### NORTH WEST

Tameside Canal Boat Trust has an urgent appeal for donations to enable it to continue operating.

Mersey Ferries There was a keel-laying ceremony for the new ferry on 10 January when her name was announced to be ROYAL DAFFODIL.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society Public cruises are scheduled for 36 dates, starting in Liverpool on 2 May and finishing on 20 October. As well as cruises on the river Weaver, there are cruises on the Manchester Ship Canal to and from Mode Wheel Lock, Salford, on 14-15 June.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE finished her Heysham-Dublin sailings for Stena Line on 15 January when the port of Holyhead reopened.

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# TRIP OUT

**March 2025**

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Waverley Excursions Timetables have been published for the WAVERLEY's Scottish sailings and for cruises between 29 May and 1 June from Holyhead, Llandudno, Seacombe and Liverpool. On 26 February the Marine Accident Investigation Branch published a report into the WAVERLEY's accident at Brodick on 3 September 2020. It found "the engine was slow to provide astern propulsion due to the engine becoming 'locked' at top dead centre".

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

Nexus The evening ferry crossings which were cancelled in November because of crew shortages resumed in January.

Whitby Coastal Cruises The SUMMER QUEEN began her season on 26 February.

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE's cruises are scheduled from 3 May to 21 September and include occasional 3-hour cruises to Filey Bay.

## THAMES

Thames River Sightseeing The service will be half-hourly from 31 March to 2 November.

Terrible Thames Tour The fifth season of "Horrible Histories" cruises begins on 3 April.

Thames Rockets have been running speedboats since 2006 carrying up to 12 passengers. New this season is the 26-passenger ROCKET REBEL, built by Diverse Marine of Cowes. Trips leave from the London Eye Pier.

Thames River Boats On 8 and 9 March there will be 45-minute cruises from Richmond, then Richmond to Hampton Court sailings will be at weekends from 5 April. Westminster sailings start on 14 April.

## SOUTH COAST

Littlehampton Ferry has not run since 2022 and the 12-seat boat has been sold, being taken away by road last August.

D & P Faithfull, Portsmouth The late-night ferry between Portsmouth and Gosport has ceased following the sale of the FAITHFULL SERVANT II. Gosport Ferry runs until midnight.

Wightlink The ST CLARE returned from Falmouth on 9 February. The Portsmouth-Ryde service will be run by the ALI CAT or SOLENT CAT, chartered from Solent Cruises, between 4 and 11 March.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON returned from Falmouth on 5 February after three months in the shipyard. She returned to service allowing the RED OSPREY and RED EAGLE in turn to be dry-docked in Falmouth. The RED OSPREY needs more work so there will be a reduced two-ship ferry service between 22 April and 19 May.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole The PURBECK PRIDE has rejoined the fleet after being leased to City Cruises for three seasons. Greenslade will be running the Poole-Brownsea service this year. Boat tickets will be sold by Greenslade on Poole Quay instead of by the National Trust.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries (Brittany Ferries) The CONDOR ISLANDER arrived in Gdańsk on 26 February for a refit.

DFDS The TARIFA JET has been reregistered in Dover. The LEVANTE JET finished running on the Straits of Gibraltar on 3 March. Both were still in Algeciras on 5 March. The STENA VINGA is running in the Baltic between Ventspils and Nynäshamn until 10 March.

Islands Unlimited This new operator plans to run a passenger service between Guernsey and Jersey this summer using a 200-passenger vessel. The Guernsey government is offering financial support of £150 000.

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DE SERK went to Fowey on 5 February for a refit by Toms of Polruan, including new engines.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Funfish Trips, Brixham There are doubts over the future of the business owing to a personal disagreement between the two partners.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cremyll slipway was repaired by 20 February, allowing the ferry to return to normal service after nearly four months. On 2 March the slipway at Stonehouse was found to be unusable so the Cremyll ferry has been running from Royal William Yard.

Torpoint Ferry The LYNHER is due to be towed to Falmouth for dry docking on 24 March.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III came out of the dry dock on 13 February. Her season starts on 17 March.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Newark Castle Line The SONNING has been noted in Hull Marina but her ultimate destination is unknown.

Boston Belle River & Sea Trips 4½-hour sea trips are advertised for 14 dates from 19 April to 30 October. On a further 12 dates, the BOSTON BELLE is chartered by the RSPB for 5-hour seal and bird watching cruises.

NORTH WEST

Splash Tours, Liverpool, began sightseeing trips last August with a 34-passenger purpose-built amphibious craft. Trips start from the Albert Dock and last one hour, including a cruise in the southern docks.

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry has been suspended since 19 December for maintenance.

MISCELLANY

Clyde Marine Services' CLYDE CLIPPER has been refitted at Killybegs in County Donegal and renamed COASTAL VIBES with Weymouth as a port of registry. Her new owners and their plans are unknown.

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# TRIP OUT

**April 2025**

It's hard to remember another year when operators were faced with so many problems, with ships needing repairs or having extended refits while piers and other landings have been closed. From Red Funnel's ferries to the little WYRE ROSE at Fleetwood, repairs have disrupted services, while both the SCILLONIAN III and OLDENBURG had to cancel their first sailings of the season. In Scotland, Caledonian MacBrayne's services are disrupted by repairs to ferries and delays to new ships. Ferries at King's Lynn, Hythe and Plymouth have been affected by damaged piers and slipways. We can only hope for better news in the summer.

Geoffrey Hamer, 75 Burket Close, Southall, UB2 5NT

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Waverley Excursions Timetables for the Bristol Channel and West Wales were published on 11 March. There is a cruise from Milford Haven on 2 June, then Bristol Channel trips until a sailing to Tenby and Milford Haven on 24 June and a cruise from Fishguard on 25 June. The WAVERLEY will again visit Cornwall and south Devon, with sailings from Penzance, Falmouth, Fowey, Plymouth, Dartmouth and Torquay between 28 August and 1 September. The WAVERLEY went to Greenock for dry-docking on 1 April.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours The season is now due to start on 3 May with a day trip from Southend to the new pier in Rochester and 1-hour cruises from Rochester for the annual "Sweeps Festival".

Thames Clippers (Uber Boat) The new electric ferry ORBIT CLIPPER arrived in London on 6 March, towed from Cowes by the tug PAUL D. The pier at Rotherhithe closed from 17 March for five weeks while a new pier is installed; alternative services run between Greenland Pier and Canary Wharf. The MARS CLIPPER went to Cowes on 27 February for a refit lasting three weeks.

Colliers Launches The PRINCESS FREDA is due to take part in events in Dunkerque in May to mark the 85th anniversary of the 1940 evacuation.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON was out of service from 8 to 17 March with an engine fault, leaving the RED OSPREY to run alone with sailings every three hours. The RED EAGLE arrived back in Southampton on 24 March after her refit in Falmouth. The start of the summer car ferry timetable was delayed to 5 April because of the refit delays.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Condor Ferries (Brittany Ferries) The CONDOR ISLANDER returned to Portsmouth on 23 March after a refit in Gdańsk, renamed ISLANDER and wearing Brittany Ferries' colours. She has been running to Guernsey as scheduled. The CONDOR VOYAGER, running from St-Malo to Guernsey and Poole, will also be renamed. The CONDOR LIBERATION made her last sailing from Poole to the islands on 23 March then went to lay-up in Le Havre on the 28th.

DFDS The STENA VINGA arrived in Portsmouth from Latvia on 14 March, carried out trials in St Helier on 18-20 March and entered service from Portsmouth on 28 March as scheduled. The TARIFA JET arrived in Portland from Spain on 15 March but is not ready to start running to Jersey. The STENA VINGA made trips to St-Malo on 29 and 30 March while a Portsmouth sailing was cancelled. The Newhaven-Dieppe ferry CÔTE D'ALBÂTRE began running from Portsmouth to Jersey on 3 April so that the STENA VINGA could serve St-Malo. The LEVANTE JET is still in Spain.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth The PRIDE OF EXMOUTH went to Polruan in Cornwall for her annual refit.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The FAITHFULL SERVANT II is being renamed MOLLY R before running trips from Dawlish.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Cremyll ferry continues to run from Royal William Yard because of damage to the slipway at Stonehouse. The start of the service to Saltash has been delayed to 24 May because of repair work on the Jubilee Pontoon at Saltash.

Fal River Sailings from Falmouth to Trelissick and Malpas are from 5 April to 1 November, and this year there is a bus service between Malpas and Truro. On eight dates with high tides there is a trip to land at Truro.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was at Falmouth from 10 to 21 March for repairs to her port propeller shaft. Her first three sailings of the season had to be cancelled and she made her first trip to Scilly on 22 March.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG arrived back in Bideford on 19 March after 19 weeks at Sharpness. The start of her season, scheduled for 1 April, has been delayed.

Bristol Packet has not yet published a timetable for Avon Gorge cruises "due to updates in government legislation ... We hope to open up bookings from April."

Bristol Ferry Boats The commuter service from Netham to the Centre resumed on 31 March.

#### NORTH WEST

Wyre Council The Knott End ferry remains suspended because of delays in getting parts for the WYRE ROSE.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA runs from 3 April to 2 November.

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# TRIP OUT

**May 2025**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY returned to Glasgow on 16 April after dry docking in Greenock. South coast schedules for sailings between 1 and 23 September were announced on 14 April. Sailings from Weymouth resume but passengers use tenders at Portsmouth and Ryde as well as Gosport. On 23 September there is a single trip from Eastbourne and Folkestone to London. Remaining schedules, for the Thames, running until 12 October, were announced on 29 April and include trips from the new Limehouse Landing in Rochester on 26 September and 3 October.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

P Richardson, Bridlington The YORKSHIRE BELLE was dry-docked in Hull and returned to Bridlington on 11 April. She is now in her 79th season of trips from Bridlington.

## THAMES

Lee & Stort Boat Co On 20 April there was a trip from Ware to land in Hertford, the first time this has been possible since 2019. Regular trips will start in May.

Thames Clippers (Uber Boat) Plantation Wharf pier was renamed St Mary's Wandsworth on 7 April. The new Rotherhithe Pier opened on 17 April and the ferry to Canary Wharf will be run by the TWIN STAR until the new electric ferry ORBIT CLIPPER starts.

London Party Boats The LONDON BELLE has been withdrawn from service. Built by the Rowhedge Ironworks in 1948, she has run in London since then and became the first boat in the fleet of London Party Boats in 2003.

Thames River Boats Sailings from Westminster to Kew and Richmond started on 14 April but boats were unable to go to Hampton Court until 20 April as Teddington Lock was closed for repairs.

Colliers Launches The owners have decided not to take the PRINCESS FREDA to Dunkerque this year.

Turk Launches The NEW SOUTHERN BELLE is to be a houseboat and sailed to Chatham on 24 April. She had been with Turks at Kingston since she was built in 1982.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA will offer public trips from Bourne End on Bank Holiday weekends, 24-25 May and 23-25 August.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink Both WIGHT RYDERS were out of service between 4 and 6 May, and Solent Cruises' ALI CAT ran between Portsmouth and Ryde to a revised timetable.

The Solent Steam Packet, Southampton The SHIELDHALL was in Falmouth for dry docking from 25 April to 3 May.

National Trust The service from Sandbanks, offered in recent years by the BROWNSEA ENTERPRISE, is not advertised this year.

Carlin Boat Charter, Weymouth, are the owners of the COASTAL VIBES (ex CLYDE CLIPPER) which arrived in Portland on 12 April, but her future service is unclear. The company also runs the 12-passenger catamaran CHANNEL CHIEFTAIN VI.

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CHANNEL ISLANDS

DFDS The TARIFA JET went from Portland to St-Malo on 11 April via St Helier and began running from St-Malo to Jersey the next day. The STENA VINGA then returned to the Portsmouth route, allowing the COTE D'ALBÂTRE to return to Dieppe. The LEVANTE JET arrived in Portland from Algeciras on 7 April and was reregistered in Dover before opening the Poole-Jersey service on 17 April.

Islands Unlimited The vessel chosen for the new service between Jersey and Guernsey is the SAN PAWL, a 316-passenger air cushion craft built in 1990. The service is due to start on 30 May.

WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross The Starcross-Exmouth ferry resumed on 17 April.

Western Lady Ferry Service The first day trip to Dartmouth from Torquay and Brixham was on 30 April.

'Porpoise Princess', Brixham After the split in the Funfish business, the TORBAY CLIPPER has been renamed PORPOISE PRINCESS and has started running cruises from Brixham and Torquay for John Ford, one of the partners in Funfish Trips.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The season began on 29 April.

Mevagissey Ferries The service to Fowey starts on 12 May and runs until 3 October.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's first trip of the season was on 8 April after the first three sailings had to be cancelled. Her first Bideford-Ilfracombe coastal cruise was on 2 May and the next is on 19 May.

NORTH WEST

Conwy Boat Trips has bought the GOLDEN MARIANA from Orkney and she arrived in north Wales on 28 April. The business is run by the Craven family with a long history running boats from Conwy but recently with 12-passenger boats. The GOLDEN MARIANA was built in 1973 and originally ran from Padstow but has been in Orkney for nearly 50 years.

Daniel Adamson Preservation Society The steamer began her season as scheduled on 2 May. The Society has started an appeal to raise £150 000 for work needed to comply with new regulations.

Wyre Council The ferry resumed on 18 April after a break of four months.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co Sailings between 9 and 15 April needed to be rescheduled to avoid low water at Douglas before dredging was carried out. Some Liverpool sailings have also been rescheduled because of silting at the new berth there.

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# TRIP OUT

**June 2025**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY carried out trials on the Clyde on 7-8 May. She had a private cruise on 15 May and her first public trip the next day. After completing her Scottish sailings, she went from Oban to Holyhead, arriving on 28 May. She sailed in North and West Wales but the Bristol Channel trips on 3 and 4 June had to be cancelled because of a boiler valve problem. Her next sailing is an evening cruise from Clevedon on 6 June.

## EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon The start of the season has been delayed.

## THAMES

Tower of London River Tour The THAMES EXPLORER, being built in Falmouth for Woods, will offer 40-minute sightseeing trips from Tower Bridge Quay, starting on 15 September.

London Party Boats Two vessels are joining the fleet. The THAMES PRINCESS originally ran in the Netherlands and was bought by Thames Cruises in 2002. The PENTLAND VENTURE was built for John O'Groats Ferries in 1987 by Hepworth at Paull on the Humber and later went back there to be lengthened by 6.6 m. She was laid up in Wick after John O'Groats Ferries' last season in 2023 and sailed to Fraserburgh on 25 May for some work. She will be rebuilt and renamed before working as a party boat in London.

Turk Launches The NEW SOUTHERN BELLE was refitted at Chatham after being sold as a houseboat and is now at her permanent mooring in Chiswick. The JEFF has been sold and sailed from Ramsgate to Dunkerque on 21 May with a fleet of boats marking the 85th anniversary of the wartime evacuation. She was then taken by road to the new owner in the Netherlands. She was built in 1923 for Joseph Mears and ran on the Thames until being laid up in recent years.

Thames Steamers The ALASKA's refit was delayed and she was not able to offer public trips at the spring Bank Holiday.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries Continuing maintenance work on the RED OSPREY has further delayed the resumption of the summer three-ship service until 10 June; until then sailings are every hour and a half.

Greenslade Pleasure Boats, Poole The first Wareham trip was advertised for 31 May.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

DFDS The STENA VINGA made a day trip from Jersey to Guernsey for a sports event on 17 May, replacing a return service to Portsmouth which was cancelled at short notice.

Islands Unlimited The SAN PAWL was transported from Malta aboard the cargo ship EEMSLIFT HENDRIKA, arriving in Guernsey on 17 May. The start of her service to Jersey has been delayed to 5 June.

Manche Iles Express The VICTOR HUGO was re-engined and renamed GUY TIROLIEN in Cherbourg before leaving aboard the cargo ship SAMPOGRACHT on 13 May for her new owners in the Caribbean.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Dittisham Ferries, Dartmouth Boats now also run to Noss on Dart Marina, on the site of the former Philips shipyard.

Plymouth Boat Trips The service between Royal William Yard and Saltash resumed on 23 May after repairs to the pontoon at Saltash. Tamara Landscape Partnership began a ferry at Calstock in May with a 7-passenger electric boat. The service was last run in 2015. There are also river cruises and trips to Cotehele. Telephone mobile 07783 432280.

Fal River The MOYANA is doing an afternoon cruise to the Helford River on 6 July.

BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet is still unable to offer Avon Gorge cruises.

WEST WALES

Thousand Islands Expeditions, St David's The normal departure point, St Justinian's lifeboat slipway, is closed so trips are in RIBs and are dependent on tides.

MIDLAND WATERWAYS

National Waterways Museum Gloucester The QUEEN BOADICEA II's passenger certificate has not been renewed and she will not be running this year. She was built by Thornycroft in 1936 and ran in London, Dartmouth, Plymouth and, since 1991, Gloucester. In recent years she has been used only two 45-minute trips each day.

NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon, aim to start the QUEEN OF THE SEA's season on 15 June.

MISCELLANY

The fleet of "little ships" which sailed to Dunkerque on 21 May included former passenger vessels NEW BRITANNIC and WATCHFUL (ex CORONIA). The replica of the paddle steamer MEDWAY QUEEN was towed to Ramsgate for the event but did not cross to France.

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**July 2025**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY suffered paddle damage on the evening of 22 June and the next day's sailing was cancelled while the ship was repaired in Avonmouth. The sailing on the 24th to Tenby and Milford Haven was unable to operate because of the sea conditions. After a sold-out cruise from Fishguard on 25 June, the WAVERLEY returned to Glasgow via Campbeltown. Her Clyde sailings continue until 25 August and she is then sailing from Falmouth on 28 August.

## THAMES

London Party Boats The PENTLAND VENTURE left Fraserburgh on 9 June and sailed directly to Gravesend, arriving on the 11th. She went from Gravesend to London on 27 June.



London Party Boats' picture of the PENTLAND VENTURE after her arrival on the Thames (by Fraser Gray/The Liquid Highway).

Tower of London River Tour The new sightseeing boat will be named SILVER RAVEN, not THAMES EXPLORER as originally announced. She is now afloat in Falmouth being fitted out.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED OSPREY returned to service by 2 June, replacing the RED EAGLE. The full three-ship service resumed on 10 June.

Quay2Quay ('Coral Star'), Yarmouth The CORAL STAR has gribble worm in her keel and has failed an MCA survey. The KRAKEN has been unable to start running regular trips.

National Trust Plans for a new jetty and slipway at Sandbanks have been approved so a service from Sandbanks to Brownsea can resume next year.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

DFDS The TARIFA JET carried out trials in St Peter Port on 12 June. From 16 June until 25 August she makes a weekly return trip from Jersey to Guernsey on Mondays. DFDS has bought Condor's redundant freight ferry COMMODORE GOODWILL which has been renamed CEASAREA TRADER (from the Roman name of the island, Caesarea); she will replace the ARROW, chartered from the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

J & M Rackley, Starcross, plan to start trips from Dawlish in the MOLLY R on 10 July.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE returned to service on 1 July and will run until 4 September.

Plymouth Boat Trips The slipway at Admiral's Hard, Stonehouse, has been repaired and the Cremyll ferry returned to run there from 20 June.

Torpoint Ferry The LYNHER II returned to service on 27 June after her refit in Falmouth.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The PRINCESSA is advertised to do afternoon cruises to the Helford River on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co is now taking bookings for 2026. The SCILLONIAN III (or IV) will run from 16 March to 31 October.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Bristol Packet announced dates on 13 June for Avon Gorge cruises, but bookings were paused on 24 June because of a problem with the lock gates at the Cumberland Basin. Repairs to the lock are expected to be completed by the end of July.

#### NORTH WEST

E W & R J Jones, Caernarfon The QUEEN OF THE SEA's first trip of the season was on 4 July.

Anderton Boat Lift The lift is closed all this year for repairs. The site remains open to visitors and the EDWIN CLARK offers 1-hour cruises on the river Weaver.

#### MISCELLANY

The RIVER ESCAPES LATIS is being broken up after being laid-up on the Tyne for years. She was built in 1961 as the Tilbury-Gravesend ferry CATHERINE with sisters EDITH (now a houseboat) and ROSE (now KEPPEL in Malta).

The former paddle steamer COMPTON CASTLE is being broken up in Truro. She was built in 1914 and ran on the river Dart until 1962, being replaced by the motor vessel CONWAY CASTLE. She had been in static use in Truro for many years with her appearance greatly altered.

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# TRIP OUT

**August 2025**

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Waverley Excursions Tickets are still available for all the WAVERLEY's sailings in the south from 28 August except for the sailing on 23 September from Eastbourne and Folkestone to London. Some Thames sailings are already sold out

## EAST ANGLIA

West Lynn Ferry, King's Lynn The service is due to resume on 11 August after repairs to the landing at West Lynn. It had been suspended for seven months.

## THAMES

Salter's Steamers As usual there will be 40-minute cruises with live music from Wallingford on 30 and 31 August as part of the annual Bunkfest.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The RED EAGLE broke down on 23 July and had to be towed into Southampton. She returned to service the next day.

Blue Funnel Cruises The OCEAN SCENE will again offer 20-minute cruises for visitors to the Southampton Boat Show on 19-28 September.

Carlin Boat Charter, Weymouth Cruises planned for the COASTAL VIBES (ex CLYDE CLIPPER) include breakfast cruises, lunchtime cruises with a cream tea or brunch, and evening cruises with food and/or entertainment. So far schedules only show evening cruises on Mondays with fish and chips, and on Thursdays with live music, with the first sailing on 7 August.



(Picture from the owners' website)

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Isle of Sark Shipping Co The CORSAIRE DE SERCQ returned to Guernsey from Fowey on 17 July after a refit lasting over six months, and is now back in service to Sark.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Go Boat Trips is the new name for the operator of the PORPOISE PRINCESS (ex TORBAY CLIPPER) from Brixham and Torquay. There are wildlife cruises on most days and day trips to Teignmouth or Exmouth are planned.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co The KINGSWEAR CASTLE has a fund-raising cruise to Totnes on 4 September, the last day of her season. Tickets can be booked with the PS Kingswear Castle Trust.

Tiverton Canal Co The owners, Philip and Jacqui Brind, plan to retire and are looking for a new owner for the horse-drawn boat trips on the Grand Western Canal.

Yealm Community Electric Transport took over the ferry services from Newton Ferrers in 2023 from Mr Gregor who retired after 31 years. A new electric boat was built in the Netherlands. Telephone mobile 07399 067942.

Fal River The KINGSLEY II has returned to service this year after being laid up for some years. On 21 July she had trips to land at the Pandora Inn on Restronguet Creek and this will be repeated on 19 August.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Repairs to the lock gates at the Cumberland Basin in Bristol are expected to last all summer so neither Bristol Packet nor the MATTHEW will be able to offer Avon Gorge cruises.

Cardiff Cruises The SHEPHERD LASS is making additional sailings between Mermaid Quay and the city centre this summer, taking 35 minutes as she is slower than the regular HYDRO 1. The restaurant boat SEREN Y BAE has been advertised for sale for £165 000.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Foxton Boat Services have decided to sell the VAGABOND II after this season because of rising costs. The trips on the Grand Union Canal had run for 55 years, with the original VAGABOND being replaced by the current boat in 2014. The VAGABOND II, originally the HARRY STEVENS in Guildford, is for sale for £30 000.

#### NORTH WEST

T Hughes, Conwy The QUEEN VICTORIA was scheduled for a 3½-hour cruise to Puffin Island on 19 July.

National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port The DIANA MARGARET makes 30-minute trips on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

National Trust (Enterprises), Coniston The GONDOLA is not sailing on Thursdays or Fridays since 24 July. Thursday sailings resume on 4 September.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANANNAN's sailings were cancelled on 27 and 28 July because a generator needed repairs.

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# TRIP OUT

**September 2025**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Clyde season on 25 August and left for the south but because of the weather forecast went round the north of Scotland, calling at Kyle of Lochalsh, Dundee and Tilbury for fuel, and reached Dartmouth on the 30th in time for a short cruise with the KINGSWEAR CASTLE. Sailings on 28, 29 and 31 August were cancelled. She took passengers from Dartmouth and Torquay to Weymouth on 1 September but was stormbound there while trips on 3 and 4 September were cancelled. She sailed to the Solent on 4 September ready for a trip from Portsmouth and Southampton on the 5th.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses The SERENITY III has been advertised for sale for £425 000.

## EAST ANGLIA

'Viking Saga', Maldon The VIKING SAGA has not run this year but the owners hope to be running next year.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours The last trip of the season from Rochester is planned for 13 September. There will be day trips from Southend to Chatham Dockyard on 20 and 21 September for a "Salute the 40s" event. Trips from Queenborough to Southend continue on Fridays and Saturdays until 1 November.

Sailing Barge Will The WILL visited Holland between 15 and 24 August for the "Sail 2025" event in Amsterdam, sailing via Harwich. She was back in London on 27 August.

Terrible Thames Tour This was the final season of the "Horrible Histories" cruises, with the last trips on 3 September. The SILVER SOCKEYE had run the trips for five seasons, beginning in July 2021.

Tower of London River Tour The SILVER RAVEN is still in Falmouth where she was built and the first trips are due on 6 October, three weeks later than originally planned.

London Boat Cruises, a new party boat operator, has bought the CHAY BLYTH from Crown River Cruises. Her first cruise was in August.

Thames River Boats The COCKNEY SPARROW now calls at Chiswick Pier on her trips between Westminster and Kew. Her trips continue to 31 October. Sailings to Richmond and Hampton Court are on certain dates until 22 October.

## SOUTH COAST

Red Funnel Ferries The two-ship winter timetable for the East Cowes service runs from 4 November to 27 March.

Coastline Cruises, Weymouth Only the MY GIRL has been running this season while the ENCHANTRESS needs restoration. The season ended on 24 August owing to the skipper's illness.

Coastal Vibes, Weymouth The COASTAL VIBES made her first public cruise on 7 August, a sold-out evening cruise with live music.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brittany Ferries Guernsey Sailings from Poole are suspended for the CONDOR VOYAGER's refit between 3 November and 4 December and are then twice weekly for the rest of the winter. During the CONDOR VOYAGER's absence, the COMMODORE CLIPPER and ISLANDER will offer sailings between St-Malo and Guernsey.

DFDS The last Poole sailing of the season is on 2 November. Sailings to Jersey from Portsmouth and St-Malo continue all year.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Plymouth Boat Trips Harbour cruises are daily until 2 November then on Thursdays and Saturdays in winter.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN IV will not enter service until March 2027 owing to delays "including global supply issues and the delivery route via the Cape of Good Hope". The present ship will therefore run for the whole of the 2026 season. The new cargo ship, MENAWETHAN, is expected to arrive in May 2026.

NORTH WEST

Ullswater 'Steamers' The winter timetable, starting on 26 October, has three sailings daily from Glenridding to Howtown with two continuing to Pooley Bridge.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The MANXMAN was out of service on 19 and 20 August owing to an electrical fault; the BEN-MY-CHREE replaced her but also suffered delays. The MANANNAN's season ends on 26 October and the MANXMAN sails to Liverpool at weekends in winter as usual. The MANXMAN has return trips to Belfast on 21 and 28 December.

MISCELLANY

The fast catamaran which Harland & Wolff planned to run to the Isles of Scilly last year, the ATLANTIC WOLFF, has been sold by her owners, Damen, to FRS Express des Iles to run from Guadeloupe in the Caribbean. She will be renamed TOPAZE EXPRESS.

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# TRIP OUT

**October 2025**

The weather is an important factor for most boat operators, deciding whether the boat can sail and whether any passengers will want to go. The past summer was warmer and drier than average, though often unsettled. That changed in late August and then September brought much wet and windy weather.

This year's new regulations have been another concern for many. Some boats had a delayed start to the season while boats were modified. Others had surveys before last winter's deadline so were able to run this year under the old rules. The full impact of the change will not be known until next year.

Geoffrey Hamer, 75 Burket Close, Southall, UB2 5NT

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Waverley Excursions At Portsmouth the WAVERLEY berthed in the International Port and passengers were taken there from Gosport and Portsmouth in a Gosport ferry and from Ryde in the SOLENT CAT. Several sailings were affected by the weather. On 10 September the WAVERLEY went to Southampton instead of Poole, on the 11th she couldn't get to Yarmouth or Swanage, on the 14th she couldn't go round the island, the 16th was cancelled, and on the 17th started from Southampton instead of Shoreham. After her sailing from Southampton to Swanage on 21 September, the WAVERLEY went to Newhaven for bunkers then anchored overnight before sailing from Eastbourne and Folkestone to the Thames on the 23rd. She was unable to call at Clacton on 24 September nor at Southwold or Clacton the next day when she started from Ipswich instead. On 2 October at Southend a fault was found in the port paddle wheel and she was towed to Chatham Docks for repairs. Sailings on the next three days were cancelled and on the 6th she started from Rochester instead of Whitstable.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses The SERENITY III has been sold and will be replaced by the SERENITY V, a sister of the SERENITY IV, built by Blyth Catamarans.

## THAMES

Jetstream Tours Additional sailings in October include trips from Rochester on the 19th and evening trips from Queenborough to see Southend fireworks on some Saturdays.

Tower of London River Tour The SILVER RAVEN left Falmouth on 19 September and took 37 hours to reach Gravesend, including a stop in Southampton. She sailed up to Tower Bridge Quay on 21 September. Trips are due to start on 18 October.

Thames River Boats Teddington Lock will be usable only at weekends this month, so the last trip of the season from Westminster to Hampton Court will be on 19 October and last from Richmond on the 26th.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT SKY was at Falmouth for dry docking from 16 to 29 September.

Red Funnel Ferries A new company, Vectis Ferries Ltd, owned by former Red Funnel directors and the founder of Wight Shipyard, proposed a takeover of Red Funnel but it was rejected. On 29 September private-equity company Njord Partners were announced as the new owners of Red Funnel.

Blue Funnel Cruises From 1 October all public and private cruises leave from Shamrock Quay on the river Itchen instead of Town Quay.

Isle of Wight Council The Floating Bridge was suspended between 22 September and 3 October for a refit. A passenger service was provided by a boat chartered from Solent Cruises.

Quay2Quay ('Coral Star'), Yarmouth The KRAKEN began regular sailings on 2 October. There are currently three return trips a day (only Monday to Friday), starting at 0925 from Yarmouth and finishing with a 1535 departure from Lymington.

Mudeford Ferry The service is suspended this month for repairs to the pontoon at Mudeford Beach.

Coastal Cruises Poole From 1 November Harbour cruises are daily except Mondays and Fridays until 24 December and from 15 February.

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Islands Unlimited The Guernsey-Jersey service continues until 2 November and the 2026 season begins on 20 March.

#### WEST OF ENGLAND

Western Lady Ferry Service The Torquay to Brixham service will continue on selected dates in October.

J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The PRINCESSA is to be retired after this season after running from Falmouth since 1987.

#### NORTH WEST

ChesterBoat Half-hour cruises are daily until 21 December then resume on 14 February.

Windermere Lake Cruises Winter sailings are daily with the SWIFT running between Bowness, Brockhole and Ambleside with smaller launches which also serve Lakeside.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The new Liverpool terminal needs more work to allow ships to berth at low tide. The MANXMAN's sailings on 1 and 2 November will be diverted to Heysham.

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# TRIP OUT

**November 2025**

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Waverley Excursions The WAVERLEY completed her Thames sailings on 12 October and returned via Weymouth to Glasgow, arriving on the 15th. She made her last trips of the season on 18 and 19 October from Glasgow. She had operated for 123 days and the number of passenger journeys, 161 950, was the highest since 1996. Winter work is expected to cost over £1.3 million, including over £400 000 for a new sprinkler system.

## NORTH EAST and YORKSHIRE

A & T Douglas, Seahouses The new SERENITY V made her delivery voyage from Canvey Island via Lowestoft, arriving in Seahouses on 18 October.

City Cruises, York The ELEANOR ROSE is for sale for £33 000. She was built in 1971 to run from Westminster to Greenwich and went to York in 2021.

## THAMES

City Cruises The winter timetable started on 27 October and has sailings between Westminster and Greenwich every 40 minutes.

Thames River Sightseeing The winter timetable from 3 November and sailings every 40 minutes as usual.

Absolute Party Boats The ROYALTY made her last charter cruise on 4 October after running in London for 112 years.

London Party Boats The PENTLAND VENTURE will be renamed RUBY OF LONDON.

Tower of London River Tour The SILVER RAVEN's cruises began on 11 October.

London Waterbus Co, Little Venice Trips between Camden and Little Venice continue in winter with breaks for Christmas and the New Year. Some sailings are in the ALFRED LEROY with a bar.

French Brothers Short trips from Windsor run at weekends in winter (except 27-28 December), then daily from 14 February.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT LIGHT left for Falmouth for dry docking on 22 October.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brittany Ferries Guernsey The CONDOR VOYAGER went to Cherbourg for refit on 3 November and is expected to be renamed before returning to service.

Islands Unlimited The last sailing of the season was on 29 October as the rest of the schedule was cancelled by the weather.

## WEST OF ENGLAND

Stuart Line Cruises, Exmouth Next year's Exeter Canal cruises are on 11 May, 23 June, 8 and 22 July, 21 September, 5 October and 3 December.

J & M Rackley, Starcross The MOLLY R's trips from Dawlish continued until 29 October and the owners hope to start at Easter.

Western Lady Ferry Service The last Torquay-Brixham sailings of the season were on 22 October.

Dartmouth Steam Railway & River Boat Co River cruises from Dartmouth are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays this month.

Greenway Ferry The service from Dartmouth to Greenway will run at weekends in winter using the 12-passenger HERCULE. The Dittisham-Greenway ferry runs every day.

Kingsbridge Salcombe Ferry Co The LADY MARY ended her season on 30 October.

Plymouth Boat Trips The Admiral's Hard slipway will be closed for further repairs from 10 November and the ferry to Cremyll will run from Royal William Yard. Three-hour bird watching cruises are on 22 November and four other dates this winter.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III's season is due to end on 9 November. The new cargo ship MENAWETHAN was launched in Vietnam on 31 October.

#### BRISTOL CHANNEL

Lundy Company The OLDENBURG's season ended on 21 October as the sailing scheduled for the 24th was cancelled by the weather forecast. Her 2026 passenger sailings are from 31 March to 23 October.

#### MIDLAND WATERWAYS

Canal and River Tours, Stratford, plan to run in November and December, weather and passenger numbers permitting.

#### NORTH WEST

Coniston Launch Trips are daily until 23 November then most weekends until 31 January when daily trips resume.

Keswick Launch Co Trips are daily until 16 November, then at weekends in November and from 7 February until 14 March when daily trips resume.

Ullswater 'Steamers' Owing to work on Pooley Bridge Pier, from 3 November to 28 February, sailings are only from Glenridding to Howtown with four daily trips.

#### IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE made a trial call at Larne on 22 October. She left Douglas on 31 October and will be chartered to Stena Line until 10 December, running between Fishguard and Rosslare from 4 November. She can return to the Steam Packet if needed.

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# TRIP OUT

**December 2025**

Best wishes to all readers for a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. Let's hope we can look forward to some interesting sailings in 2026.

Geoffrey Hamer

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Waverley Excursions Both masts and most dining saloon windows need replacing so an appeal has been launched to raise the £135 000 needed. The total cost of this winter's work is £1.5 million. The 2026 season begins on the Clyde on 8 May and the WAVERLEY sails from Oban and Kyle of Lochalsh between 12 and 19 May.

## EAST ANGLIA

Orwell River Cruises, Ipswich The first trip of the season will be on 2 April 2026.

## THAMES

Parr Boats, Kingston The TILBURY HOPE has been sold and has been noted at Maidenhead. She was built in 1993 as the WALTON MINSTREL and began running for Parrs as the TILBURY HOPE in 2000.

Thames Rivercruise, Reading Public trips will be at weekends and school holidays from 28 March to 1 November, except between 24 and 31 August when the boats serve the Reading Festival. Day trips to Goring will be on 13 May, 10 June and 8 July. Cream tea cruises to Sonning or Pangbourne are on seven dates.

## SOUTH COAST

Wightlink The WIGHT LIGHT arrived back in Lymington on 7 November after her refit in Falmouth; she was followed by the ST FAITH which was there from 7 to 20 November.

Red Funnel Ferries The RED FALCON was in Falmouth from 7 to 22 November.

The Solent Steam Packet, Southampton Next year the SHIELDHALL is advertised to sail on 20 days from 23 May to 13 September. She visits Poole on 13-17 August.

National Trust Brownsea Island will be open for visits from 14 March to 1 November 2026.

Coastal Vibes, Weymouth Cruises continue on various dates until 31 December and are due to resume in May.

## CHANNEL ISLANDS

Brittany Ferries Guernsey The CONDOR VOYAGER was renamed VOYAGER and painted in Brittany Ferries' colours during her refit in Cherbourg before resuming service from St-Malo on 3 December. The CONDOR LIBERATION, laid up in Le Havre since 28 March, has been sold and renamed OVERVIEW. Between April and October, Brittany Ferries carried over 120 000 passengers between the UK and Guernsey; this is said to be the first season when Guernsey is more popular than Jersey.

DFDS The TARIFA JET went to Dunkerque for refit on 20 November, leaving the LEVANTE JET to run between St-Malo and Jersey.

WEST OF ENGLAND

Plymouth Boat Trips has bought the LEGEND OF LOCH NESS from Cruise Loch Ness and she arrived in Plymouth on 18 November. She was built in 1999 as the CATALINA OF TENBY and ran there until 2004 then ran briefly in Plymouth before going to Loch Ness in 2006 as the JACOBITE LEGEND then in 2015 becoming the LEGEND OF LOCH NESS. She will be renamed LEGEND OF PLYMOUTH. She will replace the PLYMOUTH VENTURER which has been bought by Cruise Loch Ness and left Plymouth on 25 November; she reached the Tyne on the 27th but has since been sheltering in North Shields.

There will be a service from the Barbican to the Christmas markets at Royal William Yard and Cremyll on 13 and 14 December  
J & F Pill (Falmouth Pleasure Cruises) The PRINCESSA has begun a refit and the owners expect to run her again next year.

A Thomas, Penzance, has bought the naval tender S D NEWHAVEN from Serco. She is an 18.3 m catamaran built in 2000 and was based at Plymouth. She arrived at Penzance on 30 September and is being renamed MERMAID.

Isles of Scilly Steamship Co The SCILLONIAN III was at Falmouth from 10 to 22 November for work on a gearbox.

NORTH WEST

Anderton Boat Lift Repairs to the lift will continue next year and it will not reopen for boats until 2027. The EDWIN CLARK will continue to offer one-hour cruises on the River Weaver.

Mersey Ferries Evening cruises are scheduled for 43 dates next season. Daytime cruises will not be scheduled until the spring because of uncertainty over the new ROYAL DAFFODIL's completion date and entry into service. She was launched by Cammell Laird on 6 November.

IRISH SEA

Isle of Man Steam Packet Co The BEN-MY-CHREE ran for Stena Line between Fishguard and Rosslare then from 20 November for Irish Ferries between Holyhead and Dublin until 6 December.

Next year there will be more sailings to Northern Ireland, and Larne will be used instead of Belfast. The last Belfast sailings are on 21 and 28 December. Larne sailings start on 1 April and from 23 July the BEN-MY-CHREE will run to Dublin or Larne up to five times a week, allowing the MANANNAN and MANXMAN to offer more sailings to Liverpool and Heysham. The BEN-MY-CHREE will continue to serve Larne next winter.

MISCELLANY

The catamaran intended for a service to the Isles of Scilly in 2024, the ATLANTIC WOLFF, was refitted in the Netherlands and renamed TOPAZE EXPRESS, then transported across the Atlantic to arrive in Guadeloupe on 30 November.

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