South East Coast Canoe Trail

Stretching more than 500km north along the south coast of Northern Ireland and the County Louth, this coastal trail offers some of the most scenic and popular canoeing areas in Ireland. The trail is divided into sections, providing a variety of routes for canoeists of all abilities.

The south east coast of Northern Ireland is characterized by a series of sheltered bays, calm waters, and sandy beaches, making it an ideal location for canoeing. The trail begins in Bangor and continues southwards towards the Mourne Mountains and Dundrum Bay.

Winds and Weather

Weather conditions can vary considerably along the trail, with strong winds and rough seas possible in certain areas. It is important to check local weather forecasts andconditions before setting out on the water.

Non-emergency contacts

Non-emergency contacts: 101

Emergencies

Emergency contacts: 999 (in the UK) or 112 (in the Republic of Ireland) and contact Gardaí, the Coast Guard, and any other emergency services.

Harbour contact details

North Down Harbour - 028 4437 4118
Millisle Marina - 028 4269 8400
Murlough Bay - 028 4252 3232
Dundrum Bay - 028 4437 2462
Portaferry - 028 4769 2723
Pembroke West - 028 4575 2678

Maps, charts and pilot books

Maps: The National Trust provides a series of maps for the trail. These can be obtained from the local tourist information centres or online.

Charts and pilot books: The Irish Sea pilot books are essential for canoeing on the coast. They provide detailed information on the local tide times, currents, and hazards.

Tips for canoeing

1. Always check the weather and local conditions before setting out on the water.
2. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather conditions.
3. Carry a map and a compass or GPS device.
4. Let someone know your route and estimated time of return.
5. Be aware of the local wildlife and follow the guidelines for minimizing disturbance.

Happy Paddling!