



## CAPTAIN'S HANDBOOK

### BOATING HOLIDAYS ON THE BODROG, ON THE TISZA AND ON LAKE TISZA

DEAR TRAVELLER,

We would like to thank you for choosing to spend your holiday on one of our Nicols boats. We hope you will have a fantastic cruise and that the weather will be great too.

In order to help you prepare for the voyage properly, we have produced this handbook, which should hopefully answer any questions that you might have.

Please, read this handbook carefully and should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Our colleagues will be happy to help you in any matters.

For ease, this handbook is arranged in the order of what will happen on your holiday from picking up the boat to returning it and covering everything in between.

**WARNING:** the information provided in this document is not contractual. Characteristics may vary depending on the boat and the areas where you'll navigate.

Have a pleasant journey.

MAHART Boating Holidays Team

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## 1. PREPARE FOR YOUR BOATING HOLIDAY

### WHAT IS ON BOARD?

Our boats come fully equipped with everything you will need during your boating holiday.

#### KITCHEN

Our boats have a vast living room with a 360° panoramic view. The kitchen includes lots of equipment and has everything you will need: wide work top areas and plenty of storage space, 220l fridge with a freezer compartment, ring-hob and oven. The kitchenware supplied on board will be enough for the number of passengers travelling.

#### CABINS

The bedding (sheets, duvets, pillows) provided will be sufficient for the number of passengers travelling on board.

#### TERRACE

To make the most of the outdoor areas, our boats are equipped with on board garden furniture and either a sun awning or parasol depending on the boat model.

#### CLEANING KIT

A cleaning kit is provided, consisting of most necessary items (rubbish bin, washing-up liquid, broom and dustpan).

#### FIRST AID

Before you depart, we will give you a first aid kit, which contains the basics such as plasters and compress, but no drugs/medicines. If you use anything from the kit, do not forget to tell the base on your return so that it can be re-stocked.

#### INVENTORY

An inventory list highlighting all external equipment on the boat as well as internal equipment (for example kitchen, bedding, safety) should be given to you in addition to this handbook. Do not hesitate to ask for it if you have not seen it.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING?

#### DOCUMENTS

Before you leave home, make sure to have the following documents on you:

- A passport or valid identity card, your driving license and all your car documents.
- For European residents, medical and prescription charges have to be paid for, but can be reclaimed provided that you are in possession of your "European insurance card".

#### CLOTHES

Bring practical, comfortable, easy-to-clean clothes. Do not forget a thick pullover and waterproof clothing in case of cooler weather or rain, and of course, swimming costume for sunbathing as you drift along.

#### SHOES

Bring comfortable non-slip shoes (trainers, tennis shoes) so you can move about easily. Please, avoid high heels, metal tips and all other slippery-soled shoes on the boat.

## LUGGAGE

Bringing your luggage in soft bags is better than suitcases as they can take up a lot of space. Alternatively, you can unpack before embarking and leave your suitcases in the car.

## SLEEPING BAGS

Our boats are equipped with warm duvets (or blankets) but for those who particularly feel the cold, you may bring your own sleeping bag.

## LINEN

- Bring your household (tea towels) and toilet linen (hand towels);
- For those who do not want or cannot bring towels with them, our boating holiday bases offer packs to rent (including a bath towel + a hand towel and a facecloth). Please feel free to contact your departure base for rental

## LEISURE

- Bring some books, crosswords, a pack of cards and board games if possible
- Do not forget to bring a pair of binoculars, which will be helpful not only for observing the rich wildlife found around the waterways, but they will also be useful when approaching locks and for seeing the signals.
- Do not forget your camera because the landscapes, villages and animals you will see certainly deserve to be in your photo-album.
- Some of our models are equipped with TV with DVD player, or CD player. Remember to bring your CDs or DVDs if your boat is equipped with these.

## WASTE

- Bring some bin-bags, which you can drop into bins at ports or locks when full.
- Bear in mind to sort out recyclable materials such as glass, plastic and cardboard
- Do not pollute the riverbanks or waterways; protect nature.

## FISHING

- Your boat is a great vantage point for fishing. You can fish in the canals and rivers providing you hold a fishing licence. Please ask about how to get a fishing license at the departure base.
- We wish you good fishing: roach, carp, perch and pike await you.
- Please also respect the peace of others who are fishing. If you pass anglers, please reduce your speed and keep distance so as not to scare away the fish and not to make waves.

## PROVISIONS

Bring enough food for the first day - after that you can take advantage of your stops in the villages on your route to buy fresh supplies. Please get information about food supply facilities at the departure base.

## PETS

Pets are also welcome on board. Please inform us in advance if you come with pets, and enquire about the conditions.

Do not forget about their equipment: feeding and drinking bowl, blanket, toys, leash. Please bring animal food supplies for a few days. Watch over their safety and make sure they cause no harm or damage in the boat nor in the facilities of the mooring points and bases. And also take care of the cleanliness of the boat and the environment at all times.

## **ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

**Our bases offer you a number of optional services and items of equipment to make your journey even more enjoyable.**

CAR PARK (private but not supervised) is available on both our bases, please inform our colleagues about how many cars they should expect to the base.

### **BICYCLES**

You will be glad to have bicycles for shopping trips or little outings. Baby/child seats are available for rental at both bases. **ADVISORY:** children under 12 are advised to wear helmets, just like visibility vests in the dark, outside residential areas. We even recommend them during the day!

Take care that the bikes are not stolen (you will be given a lock on your day of departure), and that they are always securely attached to the boat's guardrail. Check that the bikes are working properly on collection and make sure they are returned in the same condition as they were when you picked them up. Any damage may result in the loss of your deposit. In case of loss or theft, each bike will be charged for you (please ask for conditions at your base departure).

### **BARBECUE**

You can rent a barbecue at our bases, and all ingredients for a grill party can be obtained nearby any of our mooring points. Please do not use the grill on board. You will find the opportunity to make your favourite grill food near our mooring points.

As with all barbecues, please be careful and familiarise yourself with all the equipment before departure.

### **WATERWAYS GUIDE**

A comprehensive guide is vital for planning your cruise. It provides detailed information of the waterways on which you will navigate highlighting useful information such as the location of locks, pontoons, quays, water fill-up and power supply points in addition to tourist information such as places to visit and their opening hours, good restaurants and much more.

### **DECK MATTRESS**

Enjoy additional on-board comfort with our deck mattress. Foldable and easy to store, the mattress is great for relaxing on the roof terrace or front deck of your Nicols® boat. Please check availability at our base crew.

### **EARLY DEPARTURE**

You can arrange to collect your boat in the morning instead of the usual afternoon departure to enjoy even more time on board. Contact us and we will check if it is possible and on what conditions.

### **LATE RETURN**

Keep your boat until 11am instead of the regular 8am/9am on the last day. For weekend holiday bookings, instead of returning the boat in the evening at 5pm, enjoy a last night on board and stay until 9am the next morning! This can only be confirmed a few days before your cruise as the base will need to check if the boat is needed for the next booking immediately. Contact us and we will check if late return is possible and on what conditions.

### **LINEN**

If you cannot bring your own kitchen and bathroom linen with you, it is possible to hire our kitchen towels kit (1 hand towel + 2 dishcloth) and bathroom towels kit (1 glove + 1 towel + 1 bath towel)

#### CLEANING

On every rental, we charge a cleaning fee depending on the size of the boat. However, if you decide to clean up after yourself at the end of your trip and return the boat in a clean state, your cleaning deposit will be refunded. **In the 2020 season, regarding the epidemic situation, cleaning will exclusively be done by our colleagues.**

## 2. ON ARRIVAL AT THE BASE

### GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

At least one week before embarking, it is advisory to contact the departure base in order to set the details of your arrival and to confirm the direction of your journey in the case of one-way trips. If for any reason you cannot arrive at the base during the office hours, please let us know so that suitable preparations can be made.

### FORMALITIES

Before setting off for your holiday, you will need to do some paperwork.

- Show your voucher confirming your reservation or the confirmation e-mail at the base.
- The deposit on the boat must be paid by bank card.
- Pay for whatever rentals you require: bicycles, parking, animals, vehicle transfer (if you chose a one-way trip) waterways guide (if you didn't order it before leaving), towels pack, hiring of converter etc.
- Take care about shopping so that you have enough supplies for the first days.
- Before departure, the captain and all other crew members who are going to drive the boat must take part in a training at the base, which will contain video and practical training as well. Please take your time to acquire the training material, and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask our colleagues.

After all these, you will only have to get your luggage on board, in which our colleagues will gladly help. Be sure to park and lock your car safely. MAHART does not take responsibility for any damage caused to your car.

- Check that the equipment on board corresponds to the inventory you received. Point out any possible errors.
- If the technical crew is ready with the boat, you can get on board in the presence and with the help of our colleagues.

Everything is ready, and your cruise is about to start!!!

### BEFORE LEAVING THE BASE, PLEASE MAKE SURE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- our colleague has shown you in detail how to operate the boat.
- you have all the documents necessary for shipping (certification of training for canal boat navigation, card of craft in copy, waterways guide, pleasure card etc.)

### 3. AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOAT

In order to get the most out of your boating holiday, here is a little advice concerning the operation of the boat and its equipment. These points will help with on board comfort but please note that some equipment may vary depending on the boat and the area where you cruise. Remember that before you leave the base, the staff will be available for any further information you may need.

#### **ENERGY**

##### FUEL

Our boats have Diesel engines.

- Our boats will be handed to you with full tank, so they will presumably have enough fuel on board for the length of your cruise. Nevertheless, if you need refuelling, please make sure to get back to the departure base in time to have your tank refilled.
- All our boats are fitted with a meter which is read on your departure and on your return. The number of hours of engine fuel use will be invoiced according to the rate displayed at the base.

Please stay safe and take appropriate precautions when handling fuel.

Do not smoke when filling tanks and do not store any inflammable materials near tanks

##### HEATING

All our boats are fitted with pulsed air fuel heating. Our colleagues will explain how to use the heating and its operation, which is also explained in a manual found on board. When the heating is on, it is important to circulate the air around the boat. Remember not to put objects (such as bags) in front of the hot air outlets.

##### GAS

The usage of gas is safe if a few elementary precautions are taken. Our boats are equipped with 1 or 2 bottles of propane-butane gas. These bottles are already connected which avoids you having to manhandle them.

Your bottle(s) is(are) empty: Telephone the base. Do not buy bottles without asking the base.

If you smell gas, stop the engine, turn off the gas and electricity, open the windows and then phone your base. Do not light matches and do not smoke!

#### **KITCHEN**

##### HOW TO USE THE COOKER

Select the appropriate burner. Turn the corresponding knob to maximum. Keep the knob pressed in this position to override safety cutout.

##### HOW TO USE THE OVEN

Press the knob next to the oven door and turn it to maximum. Keep the knob pressed in this position to override safety cutout. Before closing the oven door, make sure the burner rack is lit.

Before using the oven, leave it to heat up for 15 minutes.

##### FRIDGE

Our boats are fitted with electric fridge. When it is hot in summer, do not keep the fridge open for long and do not put too much in it. Operation instructions are explained in the manual of each boat.

## **WATER**

Your boat has a water reserve of 1150 litres. . During your cruise, you will have many opportunities to top up your water reserve (locks, ports, mooring points, campsites on the river's edge). To find these places, consult your waterways guide. Please also get informed in advance at the base.

For refilling the water tank, the boat is equipped with a water-pipe and a water-key to open the filler cap. The inlet is on the left side of the boat, in front of the stairs, its cap is marked „WATER.”

Drinking water is relayed to the taps by an electric pump fed by the battery.

If the water does not run from the taps, switch off the water pump. Check if you have run out of water. If so, refill the tank. After refilling, turn on the water pump again. It may be necessary to bleed the pipes when you refill ; to do this turn on all the taps and switch on the pump. Turn off the taps when the water starts to run again.

If the water still does not run: Telephone us and a technician will come.

## **HOT WATER**

All boats are equipped with a hot water tank of 80 to 100 litres.

- In order to obtain hot water the engine will need to have been running for at least 15 minutes
- On our boats the hot water tank also has an electric heater. When moored, where there is an electric hook-up point, connect to the hot water tank.

## **ELECTRICITY**

Once on board, the only power source available is the boat battery which is used for powering the boat's lighting, water supply pump and other systems.

If you want to take electrical equipment on board, the following options are available:

- A cigarette lighter in the cockpit to which you can connect a mobile phone charger. You will need to bring the appropriate cable for the cigarette lighter though.
- If you think you will need 220 volts consistently or continuously, then it is possible to plug into electrical terminals that are available in some mooring points and marinas using the extension cord supplied on board. These terminals are usually listed in your waterways guide. Our boats allow you to connect directly.

## **LIGHTING**

Your boat has sufficient overhead lights with switches. If one of these lights does not function or one or other of the electrically-operated services does not work (water pump, shower drainage pump etc.) check that the battery disconnectors (big red keys) situated in the external area, under the terrace are in position.

## **SECURITY**

### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

Your boat is equipped with at least 2 or 3 extinguishers (depending on the model). The technician will show you their location.

### **BATHROOM**

#### **SHOWER**

All our boats are equipped with a shower supplied with hot and cold water. The water is drained automatically by an electrical pump.



**If the water does not drain:**

Check if the drainage filter situated in a corner of the shower tray is blocked; clean it if necessary.

**If the electrical drainage pump is not working:**

Contact the base team and a technician will come and check it for you.

**TOILETS**

Our boats are fitted with "marine toilets" manual or electric. The operation of these toilets is explained in the manual of each boat.

In both of these cases (marine toilets or electric toilets) we would ask you not to put the toilet paper and any other materials (cotton wool, sanitary towels, sanitary pads etc.) into the toilet because they could block it. All repairs by our technicians due to your negligence will be charged to you at the end of your cruise, so please, take extra care of it.

## 4. OPERATING THE BOAT

In the following chapter we have collected some advice concerning the mechanical operation of the boat. Be careful to follow them and do not hesitate to ask for more information from the base team who will introduce you to your boat and will help you learn the first manoeuvres.

### **STARTING AND STOPPING THE ENGINE**

Very important: each time you start up, make sure the engine cooling water is coming out of the exhaust. If not, switch off immediately and telephone your base.

### **AUDIBLE ALARM**

All our boats are fitted with an audible engine protection alarm. It operates automatically when the engine overheats due to lack of cooling and when oil pressure is insufficient (lack of oil in engine). Stop the engine immediately and phone the base.

### **PROPELLER**

The breakdown of the propeller does not come without warning signs: If the engine stops, the boat vibrates abnormally or makes slow progress, the propeller may be entangled (plastic bags, vegetation, ropes...). If this occurs, do not touch it, but contact the base!

### **THRUSTER**

- Our boats are equipped with a stem propeller (thruster) - a propeller placed crosswise at the bows allowing easier sideways movement of the boat whilst manoeuvring, especially in ports and at narrow places.
- Please, be careful however when using it: give only short impulses lasting for only a few seconds.

### **BREAKDOWNS**

Engine will not start:

- No water is coming out of the exhaust: contact the base.
- The alarm goes off and the oil-light comes on: Stop the engine and phone the base.

For any other trouble:

- Please, never try to repair it yourself as you will have to take the responsibility for causing any additional damages. Our base crews are very much familiar with the operation of the boats and are ready to help you. Assessing the seriousness of the problem, they may come to the venue with technical rescue boat. Telephone your base immediately, explaining the problem, its causes and its effects, and please follow the orders they give.
- Give the name of your boat, its exact position (including the kilometric point noted on the waterways guide). If a replacement part is needed, we will try to be on hand as soon and as efficiently as possible.
- Outside the working hours of the base, please call the emergency number and if you cannot reach the operator, please write an SMS as briefly as possible.

## **ACCIDENT**

Despite following all of the safety precautions on board, accidents can happen. In this case, alert your base.

- Do not make any repairs without consulting us. Phone the base.
- Follow the orders of the base.
- Prepare the accident report form given to you before your departure.
- Make a note of the name and address of the captain of the other boat as well as of the witnesses and of the other captain's company.
- Wait until the base manager arrives before signing the accident report form!

## **THEFT**

- When you leave the boat, do not forget to lock it up, and padlock all bicycles.
- Do not leave anything in sight.
- We advise you to contact your insurer about your personal belongings that are not included in your cruise insurance.

## **FIRE**

In case of emergency, call 112 (international number).

## **5. NAVIGATION ADVICE**

There is nothing better than enjoying the slow pace of life as you gently cruise along the waterways. While watching the world go by, remember these useful navigation tips:

- It is forbidden to make waves near ports and mooring points.
- It is forbidden to navigate after sunset.
- When you are alone, you can navigate down the middle of the river or Lake Tisza, but when you meet another boat, keep to the right, still avoiding any underwater roots, which may stick out from the banks.
- Commercial boats always have priority over you. Do not try to overtake them (unless a crewmember signals you to do so) especially when approaching a lock, a pontoon or ferry crossing. Please be patient: you are on holiday but commercial boats are at work.

## **MOORING**

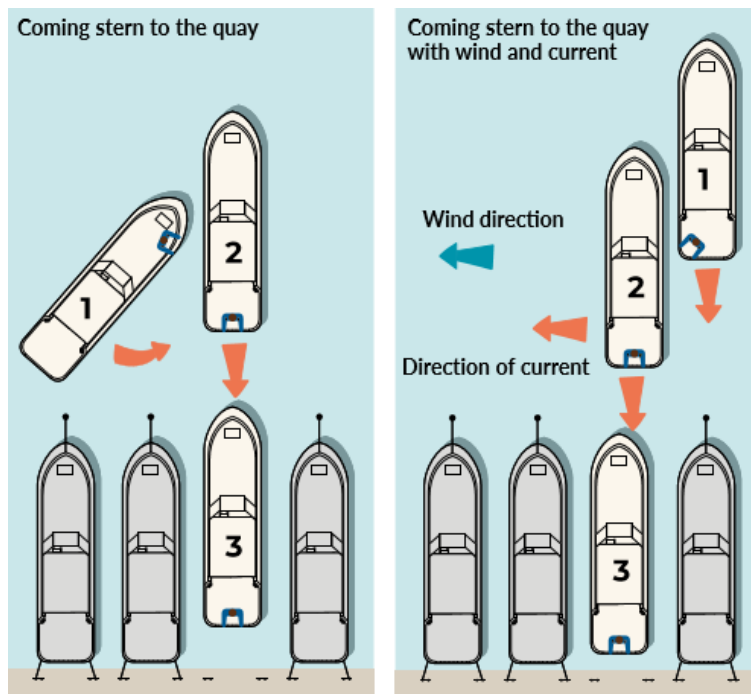
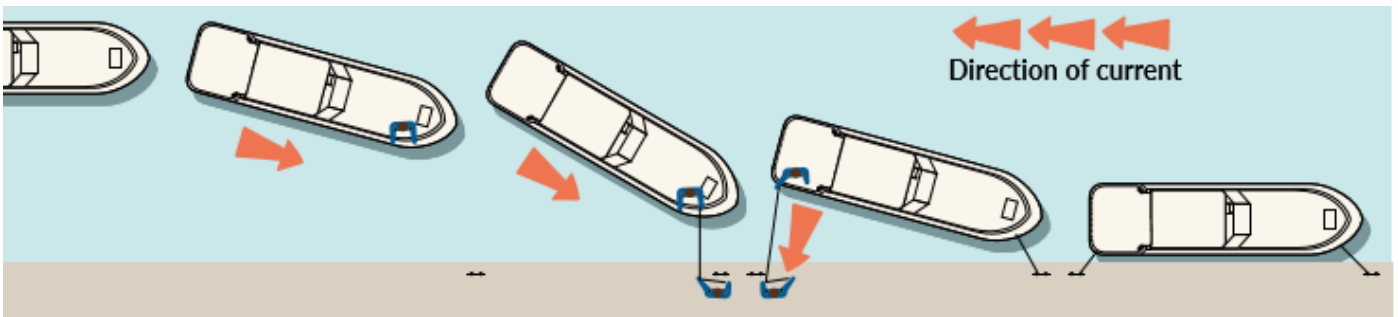
- You can only moor your boat at the ports and mooring points along the banks of the river and Lake Tisza, as well as at the anchored buoys installed by MAHART
- Please do not obstruct the headway of other boats and ships in narrow curves, in the vicinity of locks or bridges.

- Mooring and setting off must be carried out against the flow.
- Head on slowly and carefully, manoeuvre with little acceleration.

### COMING ALONGSIDE

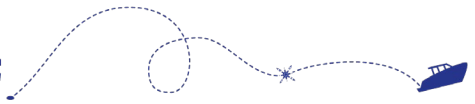
When coming alongside parallel to the quay or bank:

- Always manoeuvre at very low speed because the boat takes time to respond and reverse gear is your only brake.
- Always tie up in front first: one crewmember stands at the front of the boat with a boathook, making sure that there is no underwater obstacle preventing your landing. He must not use his feet or legs to slow the boat because of severe risk of accident.
- Once the front of the boat has made contact with the bank, the crewmember gets down onto the bank with the mooring-rope, ties it, and ties the rear mooring rope, which you have thrown him.
- On a river, always tie up against the current.



When coming stern to the quay:

- Come in forward as close as possible to the place you wish to moor, turn around making sure you allow for wind or current and finish in reverse gear.
- Be careful to ensure that the depth of water is sufficient at the quay and to avoid any hidden danger (tree stump, rock...) could damage the hull or propeller.



**How to turn around:**

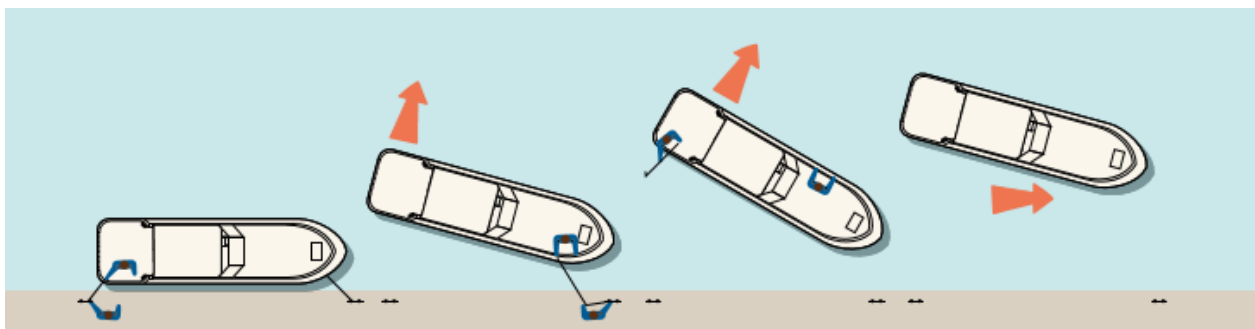
- Take position in the middle of the canal; check that no boat is coming in the front or rear.
- Turn the wheel fully to the right or left, manoeuvre at low speed.
- You can continue your cruise.

**In case of wind:**

- Moor on the windward bank.
- Do not tighten mooring ropes.

**When you leave your berth:**

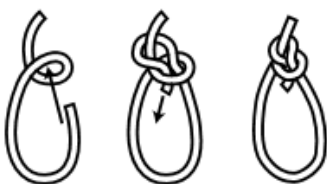
- Detach your mooring rope, move the stern of the boat into deep water to protect the propeller, then let go forward and off you go. Roll up your mooring ropes and store them safely.



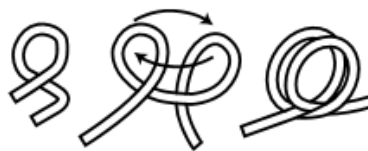
**MOORING ROPES**

- On board your boat you will find several mooring ropes each about 15 metres; coil them clockwise, ready to be used.
- Make sure they are never caught up by the propeller and never let them trail behind the boat.

**BASICS KNOTS**



Bowline



Clove hitch



Round turn & 2 half-hitches



Securing to a cleat

Never wind them around your wrist.

Never tie up a rope when passing through a lock (it could be broken in half) and never try to tow a boat that has run aground.

### ANCHOR

- All boats are equipped with an anchor for safety reasons. It is by no means a method of mooring and should only be used in emergency.
- On a river, in case of mismanoeuvring near a dam or in case of engine failure, throw the anchor overboard, letting go the anchor line (chain + mooring rope + anchor). Never use the anchor on a canal.

### MANOEUVRES

Driving a boat is completely different from driving a car as our table below shows:

	CAR	BOAT
Brake	yes	no
Gear change	yes	no
Mirror	yes	no
Wind factor	weak	very important
Current factor	non existent	very important

- Use the wind and the current for ease of manoeuvring.
- Always manoeuvre calmly.
- Use forward gear to propel the boat and reverse to brake.
- Be patient and courteous!

### BRIDGES

- Some bridges are very low: make sure that no crewmember or no part of the boat risks being hit (bicycle, parasol, Bimini).
- Pay close attention to the signals.
- 

## 6. RETURNING TO THE BASE

Please pay attention to returning your boat by 9am at the latest (or 5pm at weekends) so that we can clean it and make all checks necessary so that it is ready for the next crew.

To achieve this, please take the following advices when returning to the base:

- Bring back all hired or rented equipment.
- Be ready to pay for the fuel.
- After going through the inventory, we will return the deposit if the boat and its equipment are returned in clean, working order at the time and place agreed on.

We truly hope that your boating holiday will be an unforgettable experience for you, spent either with relaxing or with exploring the area and the nature. We wish the whole crew to find recreation and experience the joys of water life.

On your return, you will be an expert sailor so why not thinking about other boating holidays. Our base team will gladly give information on other Nicols bases in different regions.

Warm regards,

### **MAHART Boating Holidays Team**



**MAHART – Magyar Hajózási Zrt.**

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