



www.silverlinecruisers.com

Getting
Started!



SILVER LINE CRUISERS LTD.

The Marina, Banagher, Co. Offaly, Ireland

Tel: +353 (0) 57 9151112 • Fax: +353 (0) 57 9151632 • Email: info@silverlinecruisers.com

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Welcome Aboard!

Welcome Aboard!

and thank you for choosing Silver Line for your Shannon cruising holiday.

We wish you an enjoyable trip on the Shannon and we hope the following guidelines will assist you on your nautical journey.

This booklet provides helpful information while captaining your cruiser. Please read carefully before arrival and don't forget to have it on hand when captaining your cruiser.

Rising in County Cavan this majestic river settlement meanders gracefully through sloping mountain ranges, past ancient monastic settlements on a journey that takes some 500 kms to the cosmopolitan city of Limerick and a further 100kms of estuary where it empties into the wild Atlantic ocean. The River Shannon is navigable from Lough Allen in the North to Killaloe/Limerick in the South.

The Shannon-Erne waterway provides the link between the Erne in the North and the Shannon in the South. This link re-opened in 1994. The waterway is approx 65 kms in length consisting of 16 locks along the entire link. Many of Silver Line craft can navigate this system, however some of our cruisers will have air-draft restrictions. Full details available from our office.

The River Shannon is without doubt one of the best cruising areas in Europe. It is also one of the easiest, as the Shannon has only 7 locks along its entire 500 navigable kms. These locks are mainly operated by lock keepers, which makes your journey easy going and enjoyable.

There are hundreds of places of interest where you can stop off as long as you want. Visit the many pubs and restaurants and experience the lively Irish culture from music to chats, you will be spoilt for choice on the Shannon corridor.



Useful cruising adventure tips

Useful cruising adventure tips

ARRIVAL & TUITION

Cruiser boarding times vary depending on flights, transfers and late departures. Kindly contact our office prior to your arrival to confirm pick-up time.

Upon arrival at our marina, a member of staff will inform you of checking in procedures. All hirers are required to view a video detailing safety matters and navigation techniques prior to a practical demonstration by one of our experienced instructors. Once the cruiser is ready for you, a member of staff will accompany you to your cruiser. You can then load up and make yourself comfortable on board. One of our demonstrators will then provide a practical demonstration.

ITEMS TO BRING

We recommend that proper boating shoes or rubber sole gripped shoes are worn on board at all times. Bring waterproofs and don't forget sunglasses to protect against uv light reflected by the water. If you are interested in golfing or fishing bring along your gear as there are plenty of opportunities for both. Torch, playing cards, board games are also useful. Dress code is generally casual. Remember storage space is limited on a cruiser. Suitcase and non essential items can be stored at our marina.



FOOD & EXTRAS

Have your food and drink waiting for you on board by completing our provision order form on our website or just ask our office and we will send it to you. Payment is by cash on arrival.

If you require any extras such as bicycles or outboard motors kindly just send us a request. These items are subject to availability, but please remember that priority is given to those who book in advance.

FISHING LICENCE

Obey the fishing laws and permitted catch numbers. There is a coarse fishing permit required for fishing north of Banagher. This can be purchased at our marina.

BED LINEN & EQUIPMENT

All our cruisers are equipped with a full inventory including all cooking utensils, blankets, duvets, pillows, bed linen, towels, glass cloths, washing up liquid, guest shampoo and shower gel. One hand towel per person are supplied together with some bath towels however you may wish to bring some extra towels for your convenience. All cruisers have gas cooker (oven/ hob/grill), refrigerator, central heating, cassette or CD radio. See specification of cruiser for details. If you require anything else, please notify staff before you commence your cruise.

ELECTRICITY

All our cruisers use a 12-volt DC system. We also supply a 220-volt shaving socket which can only be used for this purpose. Our cruisers are fitted with a 12 volt cigarette lighter socket, which can be used to charge mobiles phones etc. All you need to bring along is the correct 12 volt adaptor which can be purchased at any electrical store. Some of our cruisers now have invertors, which enables the use of laptops, playstations, hairdryers etc.

DEPOSIT ON CRUISER

On arrival you will be required to pay a refundable damage deposit before taking over the cruiser. These amounts are available on our current price list and website. The deposit can be paid by cheque, cash or credit card. The amount will not be debited from your account, as we just take a copy of your card details and hold this until you return the cruiser in a satisfactory condition. It is recommended to take out your own personal insurance to cover injury and personal effects.

CHILDREN

We recommend all crew members, especially children wear life jackets at all times. Children or any member of the crew must not be towed behind a cruiser in a dinghy.

FUEL, GAS, WATER

All our cruisers depart with a full tank of diesel, water and gas. Fuel used will be paid for on completion of the hire period. Fuel consumption varies between 5, 7 or 10 litres per hour depending on size and speed. Cruisers can be filled with water and diesel at marinas along the way as indicated on your charts.

BARBECUES

Never light fires or barbecues on a cruiser or wooden jetty. Light fires and barbecues only where it is safe to do so and ensure ash is disposed of carefully. Always ensure the fire is extinguished before you leave and leave the area clean after you.

MOORINGS

There are plenty of free mooring places along the Shannon-Erne Waterway, however in certain places along your cruise, mooring charges do exist. All the major moorings have

shower/toilet facilities at which you can also use your hairdryer, straightener etc. Mobile phones/camcorders etc. can be re-charged at the various IBRA company bases.

In harbours use public toilets where possible and always dispose of rubbish at the refuse areas. Never throw anything overboard. Recycle cans and bottles where recycling facilities are provided.

TRANSFERS

We can organise transfers from any major airports. Please view our tariffs for details. Private transfers can also be arranged.

CAR PARKING

Free and safe car parking is available at our marina, however parking is at owners risk.

CREDIT CARDS

Silver Line accepts major credit cards such as Mastercard, Visa, Amex and Laser cards.



Starting your cruise

Once you have boarded your boat, we will endeavour to have one of our experienced demonstrators to you as quickly as possible, to show you the ropes!



ELECTRICITY/ BATTERY POWER

The electric power on board your cruiser is supplied from batteries, therefore it should be used carefully as there is only a limited amount available. The engine should be run daily to re-charge the batteries.

WATER

All our cruisers contain a fresh water tank, it is advisable to refill this tank every day if convenient. Water stations are available at the marinas along your way as indicated on your chart. There is a water pump switch at the consul of your cruiser. This switch turns on/off your water supply. Please ensure that this switch is turned off when not using water as constant dry running may result in pump failure. Hot water is heated through the engine, so in the morning if hot water is required, run the engine for approx 20 mins.

REFRIGERATOR

The refrigerator is electric and is operated from the boat's domestic battery. It is advisable to switch this off at night.

HEATING

All our cruisers are equipped with diesel central heating. It is important not to be left running overnight as this too can lead to drained batteries and excessive condensation.

GAS

Each cruiser is supplied with 2 cylinders of gas stored outside in the gas locker. Please ensure that gas is turned off overnight

WINDOWS

Windows and window frames can be a source of condensation in certain weather conditions. Where possible keep bedding away from windows and leave smaller windows open for fresh air circulation.

TOILETS

Cruisers are fitted with marine manual toilets, only use toilet paper provided and never flush down soft towels or other unsuitable items.

SHOWER

All our cruisers are fitted with an electric shower drain pump, so when showering ensure that this pump is activated in order to prevent waste water overflowing from the shower tray.

Daily maintenance

1. Make sure you have enough diesel before setting off on your daily cruise, this can be measured by the fuel tank gauge on the control panel. If the cruiser does not have a gauge, you will just have to keep a log of the hours cruised. Normally you would get between 18–25 hours on a full tank of diesel, however you do have to remember weather conditions, speed and also your heating. If you are in doubt just re-fill at the various diesel stations on the river.
2. Run engine for a warm up period, ensuring that everything is normal and in running order.

If you notice any problems or are not happy with any of the checks, just telephone our office and one of our qualified technicians will be able to talk to you and assist you if necessary.



Operating instructions

Your instructor will familiarise you with all operating procedures prior to your cruise, however here are some basic operating guidelines.

All our cruisers are fitted with a control panel, on this panel you will find:

1. **Engine oil pressure gauge**
2. **Engine temperature gauge**
3. **Ammeter**
4. **Engine revolution counter**



While cruising ensure the temperature stays below 85°C on the temperature gauge. If the temperature rises, stop the engine immediately and telephone our office for assistance.

Also ensure reading on the oil pressure gauge remains between 40psi and 60psi.

There are also operating switches located on this panel:

1. **Ignition key switch**
2. **Stop button**
This must be pushed/pulled first before turning the key to the off position.
3. **Windscreen wiper switch**
4. **Water pump switch**
5. **Refrigerator switch**

Getting underway & mooring up

One of our experienced demonstrators will familiarise you with your craft and will then bring you out of the marina for a short trip. Driving the cruiser should be taken seriously and care should be taken of the cruiser and her belongings while in your care.

ROPES

Great care must be taken to avoid personal injury when tying and untying a cruiser. Never have a mooring rope trailing in the water as this can lead to fouling of the propeller. Always ensure mooring ropes are passed ashore travelling underneath safety railings.

GETTING UNDERWAY

Always ensure the engine lever control is in neutral gear before starting the engine. Check the waters ahead are clear of other craft. If you are towing a dinghy check to ensure it is securely fastened and emptied of any surplus water.

To start the boat moving, push the gear lever forward gently, further movement will increase the speed of

the craft, keep a watch in front and behind you as a boat is not operated like a car, the bow (front) swings one way and the stern (back) swings another, so it is important to push the craft out towards the river away from jetty, harbour quay or other moored boats. Please note there is no steering in reverse! When reversing near a bank, quayside or other boats move the dinghy alongside the boat to avoid crushing it.

After making sure weather conditions are favourable for cruising, you can then cast off. Check to ensure all crew and mooring ropes are safe on board. Proceed to open water SLOWLY and CAREFULLY.



STOPPING OR SLOWING DOWN

If you wish to stop quickly, pull the gear lever towards reverse. This is the key function to reverse gear on a boat. To slow or stop gradually, move the gear lever to the neutral position.

APPROACHING MOORINGS

It is best to approach all moorings against the stream, this way you have more control as the stream will slow the cruiser down. Approach the jetty very slowly (if possible steer into the wind at an angle of about 30°). One member of the crew should be standing ready at the front of the cruiser with the bow (front) mooring rope ready to step ashore when the boat stops at the jetty. About 20 metres from the jetty, put the cruiser into reverse and bring the boat to a stop. Then steer the boat to the side of the jetty by going no more than very slowly in forward gear. To stop the boat, use reverse power. The steering wheel is less effective when going in reverse. The bow rope should now be tied loosely to the jetty and the stern (back) of the cruiser pulled into the jetty (using the boat hook if necessary) and secured as tight as possible with the stern rope. Finally, readjust the bow rope fairly tightly. Now you can switch off your engine.

Please leave room for other cruisers when mooring and tie your dinghy alongside your cruiser so that it does not take up valuable jetty space. If you are moored at a fully occupied jetty and another cruiser comes along in search of space, it is customary and good manners to help the newcomer to find a space (if necessary, mooring alongside your boat). Everybody on the waterway has the same rights and duties.

Remember: Always approach a mooring place slowly and carefully and if you have made an incorrect approach the first time, then go back on the river and try again.

Important: Never untie your cruiser before the engine is running and never switch the engine off before the cruiser is securely tied to the jetty. Always make sure the dinghy does not get in between your cruiser and the jetty.

CRUISING SPEED

Half throttle is the most comfortable and economical cruising speed. Reduce speed when passing moored boats and marinas. Slow down when passing swimmers, anglers and small boats. The waterways are enjoyed by a wider variety of users, in craft powered by oar, sail or engine, and inhabited by wildlife nesting, wading or swimming. Reduce your speed to a minimum to prevent bank erosion. Waterways Ireland have introduced speed limit signs in some areas to inform potential danger to other users from the wake produced by speed. Obey these signs and give a wide berth to other water users even in the open water.

ANCHORING

If you wish to anchor, let go plenty of chain, once the chain is secure and the boat settles into position, check occasionally to ensure anchor does not drag. However we strongly recommend never to anchor overnight and never (except in emergencies) leave your cruiser anchored and unattended.



Navigation rules

Navigational Rules

1. Always keep to the marked channel. Boats going in opposite directions should pass each other port-to-port (left side to left side, facing forwards) – keep to the right hand side of the passage.
2. Keep a good distance off all navigation markers. Keep clear of weirs. Do not turn in close proximity to bridges and weirs (fast flowing water will greatly reduce control).
3. When overtaking it is your duty to keep clear of the other vessels and in doing so leave sufficient room to overtake.
4. It is an offence to exceed 5 KM per hour within 200m of a bridge or jetty and within 100m of a lock, harbour, moored vessel or in a canal. Reduce speed when passing swimmers, anglers and small boats. Throttle back when passing other boats.
5. When going upstream at a bridge, give way to vessels coming downstream.
6. Keep to the middle of the navigation as much as possible unless you are passing another craft.
7. **Never** cruise after dusk.
8. Always wear life jackets when using your dinghy. **Never** be in the dinghy when it is being towed by a cruiser. This is extremely dangerous. **Never** use a bucket to take water out of the river when the boat is moving as you could easily be pulled overboard.
9. Never overload the dinghy.
10. Do not allow any person under the influence of drink or drugs to navigate the cruiser or be allowed in the dinghy.
11. Have respect for the water! Discourage “foolery” among crew members as this could lead to tragedy.
12. Cruise with care when approaching bridges, only use the marked navigation arch. Ensure you have adequate headroom when passing under bridges.
13. Roosky and Tarmonbarry must be opened for most craft. The swing bridge at Portumna and the Lough Allen canal footbridge must be opened for all cruisers.
14. Check the head clearance on all bridges for higher aircraft cruisers such as Silver Legend and Silver Spray and **please** ensure that you are driving in the outside position when passing under bridges. If there is not enough head clearance then lower the radar arch to allow sufficient head clearance. The radar arch must be lowered when passing under the Railway Bridge on the River Suck.
15. **Never** moor on the outside of a harbour wall, proceed to the inside (especially on the lake).
16. **Never** use hands or feet when trying to prevent a collision with another cruiser, as this can cause serious injury.

Crossing large lakes

1. Always allow sufficient time for crossing the lakes before dark.
2. Do not attempt to cross the lakes in anything but settled weather.
3. If you are in doubt about crossing the lakes just phone Silver Line to check the weather conditions or seek advice.
4. It is advisable to cross the lake with other cruisers. However always make sure you are following your chart and keeping a close look on the navigation markers. Do not rely on other cruisers for navigation.
5. Do not navigate too closely to the many islands as there are shoals and rocks. It is very important that you follow your maps correctly and pay particular attention to all the navigation markers. Only areas shown on your chart provided by Silver Line are permitted for cruising. Craft cannot be taken below Killaloe Bridge unless authorised by Silver Line.
6. We advise not to anchor on the lake overnight as the wind can rise or change direction at any time, possibly putting you in a dangerous situation.

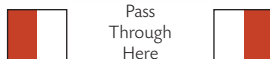
Navigational markers

Navigation markings can consist of buoys floating in the water, painted markings on arches of bridges and perchers which stand upright in the river bed. Never cruise to close to these markers and do not tie up to or anchor in the view of such markers.

MARKERS ON THE SHANNON SYSTEM

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Red on left | Going upstream and into Bays & harbours | Black on right |
| Black on left | Going downstream and out of bays & harbours | Red on right |

MARKERS ON ERNE SYSTEM



Pass
Through
Here

Never pass on side painted red



Keep a good distance away from middle ground markers and pass on either side. Where two middle markers are close together, do not go between them, always keep to the charts.

Locks

SHANNON SYSTEM

There are seven locks operated on the River Shannon, all manned by lock keepers.

Always approach locks slowly and keep out of the way of vessels exiting. If the lock gates are closed when you approach, you can moor up or circle around waiting for the gates to open. Once the lock-keeper has given you a signal, you can proceed slowly and carefully.

Going South or downstream

Have 2 crew members ready with the two mooring ropes (1 forward + 1 aft) to give to the lock keeper. Make sure the ropes pass outside and under the safety hand rails. The rope will be placed around a bollard and returned to the crew member to hold. Hold rope tightly until the boat starts to drop and feed the rope out gradually but holding it firmly until the water level drops. When the lower gates are opened proceed slowly allowing the boats in front of you to exit first.

Going North or Upstream

Enter the lock on instructions of the lock-keeper. Again have 2 crew members ready with both mooring ropes to give to the lock keeper making sure they are again under and outside the safety hand rail. The rope will be placed around a bollard and passed back to you to hold. Hold tightly as the boat begins to rise, keep the rope pulled in until the lock is full.

Proceed out of the lock as before and remember to ensure your dinghy is tightly secured.

Under no circumstances tie the ropes around the bollard or the cruiser. This could not alone damage the cruiser but also injure a member of the crew. It is advisable to turn off your engine while in the lock to avoid diesel fumes.

SHANNON ERNE SYSTEM

The link between the Shannon and Erne is approximately 65 kms in length. The 16 locks on the Shannon-Erne waterway are operated by push button electro hydraulic system. This is activated by a smart card which can be purchased at most marinas and at the 1st lock. These also access the service blocks along the Erne system. Here you will be shown by a lock-keeper how it all operates as all 16 locks are operated by the hirer.

While cruising on this stretch of waterway, pay particular attention to the speed limit, maximum speed limit is 5km per hour. Please ensure you leave no wake from the boat as this speed limit is strictly enforced to avoid damage and erosion of the river banks.

Assuming there are no delays at the locks, the minimum journey from one end of Shannon – Erne waterway to the other is approx. 13 Hours.



Going aground

Running aground can only occur if the cruiser is taken off the navigation main channel, so use your navigation charts correctly and properly!

In the event of you running aground, the following procedures must be carried out.

1. Remain calm.
2. STOP THE ENGINE IMMEDIATELY.
3. Ensure all crew are in life jackets.
4. Contact Silver Line.
5. Make a detailed check to establish if the boat is taking water or holed.
6. If you see any passing cruisers, let them know the situation so they can contact us if you fail to do so.
7. DO NOT ALLOW anyone other than authorised personnel to pull you off a rock or sandbank.

Accidents & man overboard

1. Always remain calm.
2. If someone should fall into the water while underway, stop the boat, throw the life buoy upstream of the person in the water.
3. Put the engine in neutral or turn off if possible to avoid injury from propeller.
4. Bring the person to the stern (back) of the boat as they can easily access the diving/bathing platform.
5. If the person is cold, remove the wet clothes and wrap in a blanket.
6. Give a warm sweet drink, do not give alcohol or very hot drinks.
7. It is very important to act quickly in a rescue of a person overboard.

If you are unfortunate enough to have an accident, take the following steps:

1. **Take note of the accident time and place, get the name and address of the person involved.**
2. **Report the matter to Silver Line as soon as possible.**

Breakdown

In the unlikely event of a breakdown or problems with the running of the cruiser, call us and we will

endeavour to have you back cruising again as soon as possible.

Outboards

1. Hire fee and deposit must be paid prior to taking over outboard motor.
2. Ensure the motor is in good working order before leaving our marina, as we do not provide service or repair for outboards outside the marina.
3. Under no circumstances are refunds and no cash adjustments are made after the cruise.
4. Outboards must be stored on the cruiser when not in use and must not be allowed on the back of the dinghy when cruising.
5. Children are strictly prohibited from using the outboard, they must at all times be accompanied by an adult.
6. If the outboard is lost or stolen, the full price of a replacement must be paid.



Suggested cruises

From our base at Banagher which is ideally located midway along the river you can choose to travel North or South. If the weather conditions are suitable and you choose to go south then it is the huge expanse of Lough Derg that will bid you welcome. Surrounded on both sides by quaint Irish villages with welcoming pubs and restaurants, serving Guinness to the sound of traditional Irish music, this is without doubt one of the best cruising areas in Europe. Lough Derg is the largest of the great Shannon Lakes covering a total distance of some 24 kms. Killaloe is one of the principal crossing points of the Shannon and the town also boasts some very fine pubs and restaurants.

Short Cruises

If the weather conditions are suitable, the Lough Derg area can be cruised in approx 3 days and still have time to return to Banagher.

If the conditions are windy it would be more advisable to travel northwards in the direction of the quaint village of Shannonbridge and the famous monastic settlement of Clonmacnoise. Continue to the bustling town of Athlone before turning around for Banagher. It is also possible to choose the picturesque River Suck to Ballinasloe.

Week Cruises

You can easily cruise to Carrick-on-Shannon and return in 1 week, this would mean cruising directly from Banagher northwards. If you choose to take in Lough Derg then you would still have some time to take in Lower Lough Ree. There are hundreds of places of interest. You can stop off for as long as you like, and explore the many towns and villages en-route. Don't forget your golf clubs and fishing rods as there are plenty of opportunities for both. Cruising is a relaxing holiday so don't rush, just enjoy the interesting and historical places on your journey.

2+3 Weeks

It is possible to comfortably reach Lough Key and Lough Allen while cruising at a leisurely pace. Some of our hirers have also travelled to Enniskillen on the Erne and returned back to our base at Banagher. However, relax and take your time while cruising and let the weather guide you.

In 3 weeks you will successfully cover the whole of the Shannon and Erne System, from Belleek to Killaloe. You will pass various places of interest and cruise the relaxing waters. This is without doubt, a great cruising experience.

Returning after your cruise

All cruisers must be returned to the marina and vacated by 10.00am on the last day of hire. Flexible return times can be arranged for short breaks. This must be arranged previously with Silver Line so please ensure you have confirmed your return time before departing our base. Late returns will incur an extra charge.

If you are leaving on a transfer bus, we advise you to return to the marina the afternoon before, to ensure you have paid for your fuel, your damage deposit has been returned and you have received confirmation of your airport transfer pick up time.

On returning to our marina, please moor at the fuelling points. We will then have a member of our staff there to re-fill your diesel tank and check over the cruiser.

It is a condition of hire that the cruiser is returned in a clean condition, failure to do so will result in a cleaning charge.

We hope that you will enjoy your cruising holiday with us. We always welcome any comments you may have on your holiday, your cruiser or our facilities in general.

Now just sit back, relax and let the Shannon take you on a nautical journey of a lifetime!



The River Shannon

Week Cruise travelling southwards on Lough Derg

Banagher – Portumna (2hrs)

Portumna – Terryglass (30mins)

Terryglass – Kilgarvan (1hr)

Kilgarvan – Dromineer (1hr 15mins)

Dromineer – Garrykennedy (45 mins)

Garrykennedy – Killaloe (2 hrs)

Killaloe – Scarriff (2 hrs)

Scarriff – Mountshannon (1hr)

Mountshannon – Williamstown (1 hr)

Williamstown – Portumna (2 hrs)

Portumna – Banagher (2 hrs)

Week Cruise travelling northwards on Lough Ree

Banagher – Ballinasloe (River Suck) (2 hrs)

Ballinasloe – Shannonbridge (1hr 15mins)

Banagher – Shannonbridge (1 hrs 30 mins)

Shannonbridge – Clonmacnoise (1hr)

Clonmacnoise – Athlone (1hr 30 mins)

Athlone – Hodson Bay (45 mins)

Athlone – Inner Lakes (Ballykieran etc) (45mins)

Athlone – Lanesborough (3 hrs)

Lanesborough – Tarmonbarry (1 hr)

Tarmonbarry – Roosky (2 hrs)

Roosky – Carrick-On-Shannon (3 hrs)

Carrick-On-Shannon – Leitrim (1hr)

Carrick-On-Shannon – Lough Key (2hrs)

*Please allow similar cruising times for return journey

*Above are approximation times only and does not account for delays at locks and bridges

