

*Tamar Trip* It's a simple idea, launch at Saltash, and head down the river & out & around the breakwater before heading back with the tide... Simples! Well, plan a date & along comes other commitments, a busy day on the water with a boat race starting & worse for us, no visibility with fog & rain. So that trip didn't happen!

Time for another go... Meet at Saltash. That's better at least we can see the river! But wait, they said it was going to be a little windy but... We could see boats on the river with sails up. Only little sails because they don't need to go quickly? Off we go & as we get down towards Devonport we take shelter behind a sunken boat. It was windy, so windy that when paddling out from behind the vessel we couldn't turn or manoeuvre. Back paddle into shelter & head out at the right angle to be in control. We survived & eventually go down to Mount Edgecombe for a bit of lunch before a sensible decision to stay inside the breakwater & pop round Drakes Island. Heading there we were subjected to some horrendous gusty winds & so we made a break for shelter & a regroup on the island's beach 3 hrs after leaving Saltash. A fast return with the wind & tide, back to shelter nr Devonport in ten minutes rather than the hour to get there. Despite the notices, one of our party couldn't guess the right distance to stay away from the big grey vessels. Luckily potential terrorist "Tim Bin Laden" was intercepted & received a chat from the boys in MOD Blue. At least they had something to keep them occupied.



The return back to Saltash only took an hour. Checking weather stations on return showed that we had been out in force 5 winds for most of the day with gusts up to force seven on the crossing to the island.

Third time lucky. Meet again on a sunny day with light winds & a perfect sea state to head out to sea. Tim, Paul, Kati, Tris More boats to dodge all the way to the bridge, the only deep water exit from Plymouth Sound. Out around & along the breakwater with a nice rolling swell. At the Mountbatten end the lifeboat charged out just in time to make some lovely chop for the rounding of the breakwater & back into the Sound. Lunch break & rock pooling at Jennycliff before visiting Plymouth waterfront, along by the Hoe, Lido & a harbour in need of some repair.



A lovely trip that ended with Tim rescuing a lad who jumped in the water & was being swept upstream.