





Lunch on Tusker Rock at low water | Andy Biggs

Tusker Rock



No. 47 | Grade B | 19km | OS Sheet 170 | Tidal Port Avonmouth

- Start**  Porthcawl, Rest Bay (805 777)
- Finish**  Llantwit Major, Col-huw Point (955 674)
- HW** is 50 minutes before Avonmouth.
- Tidal times** The SE stream starts 5 hours 35 minutes after HW Avonmouth.
The west-going stream starts 35 minutes before HW Avonmouth,
- Tidal rates** Up to 5 knots.
- Coastguard** Mumbles Head, Tel. 01792 366534, VHF weather 0005 UT.

INTRODUCTION The Severn Estuary has the second largest tides in the world and, as this mass of water moves up the estuary to where it narrows, the tide can cause a phenomenon called the Severn Bore. This makes the South Wales coastline not a place for the faint-hearted or those looking for a relaxed day.

DESCRIPTION Porthcawl makes an ideal starting point to this trip. It would be best to use a SE stream to make easy progress along the shore and especially past Nash Point, aiming to arrive at Col-huw Point just before high water. There is parking and camping nearby. You can launch from the beach at Rest Bay, where there are toilets. If it is rough here use the car park and beach north of Newton Point (838 769). Both locations may require a reasonable length carry. Another option would be to park near Porthcawl Point and use the slipway by the RNLI station. Just south of Porthcawl Point is Fairy Rock and from here Tusker Rock. These rocks are well marked and dry out at low tide. You can land on Tusker Rock and find remnants of a shipwrecked *SS Samtampa* the largest remaining part is the boiler. You can circumnavigate Tusker Rock but look out for breaking waves, especially on the SW side, and then head for Black Rocks, SE of Ogmere-by-Sea.

Following the coastline here, you can land on the sandy beach at Dunraven Bay for an early lunch. There is a good-sized car park, toilets and a café here, however it can become busy on summer weekends. A later

departure would make it possible to arrive here at HW slack and then return to Porthcawl at the start of the NW stream, although the tidal streams are not strong along this part of the coast. It is worth a short walk up to the cliff top and look out towards Nash Sands, to get an idea of how rough the water at Nash Point will be.

Continuing along the coast there are opportunities to land on several beaches. Look out for Nash Point lighthouse. As you approach Nash Point the water is pushed between the headland and the end of Nash Sands, which is marked by a cardinal buoy. This causes the flow to reach 5 knots and forms overfalls at the end of the sandbank. If there is any wind from the east it can become very rough.

By the time you reach Col-huw Point you will have experienced a roller-coaster ride. Landing is on an area of shingle, with a car park, toilets and a café nearby. If you are driving through Llantwit Major it is easy to get lost in the maze of narrow roads. Look out for signs to the beach.

TIDE & WEATHER Shallows west of Porthcawl Point can create overfalls and rough water in wind against tide conditions. There can be large overfalls off Nash Point on an east flowing flood tide.



Excerpt abridged and adapted from *Welsh Sea Kayaking* by Andy Biggs & Jim Krawiecki ISBN 0954706188, published by Pesda Press, Caernarfon. For details of this and other books, as well as downloads of further mini-guides and route cards in this series, visit: WWW.PESDAPRESS.COM

Trip Name & Number	
Page Number	VHF Weather
Date	Weather Forecast
Coastguard Contact	

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tidal Port		Mean Sp Range			Local Port		
		Mean Np Range					
Tidal Port Tide Times (UT)	Height in Metres	Tidal Range in Metres	HW/LW	+1 Hr for BST?	Local Port HW/LW Time Difference	Local Port HW/LW	Sp or Np Tides

TIDAL STREAM TIMES

Location	Direction of Tidal Stream	Tidal Stream Time Diff.	Tidal Port HW (BST?)	Tidal Stream Start Time	Tidal Rate	Est. Max Speed
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ROUTE PLAN

Location	Notes	ETA	ETD
Start			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
4th			
5th			
Finish			