



National Rivers Authority
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THE SEVERN BORE
IN 1993



National Rivers Authority

The National Rivers Authority

The Severn Bore in 1993

In common with a few other rivers a tidal wave, or bore, occurs in the lower reaches of the River Severn during high tides. For a bore to form, a considerable rise in tide is needed and a converging channel with a rising bed, ie funnel-shaped.

Under the most favourable conditions the Severn Bore may reach six feet (two metres), in height. Opposing winds or high freshwater levels can considerably reduce the height.

The average speed of the Bore is approximately 10 miles (16 kilometres) per hour; the true phenomenon does not occur upstream of Gloucester because of the presence of weirs on the twin-armed channel near the city.

High or spring tides occur on several days in each lunar cycle throughout the year and the schedule overleaf lists only those which may result in a spectacular Bore.

Times are necessarily approximate and are given for Minsterworth. The Bore can be seen at Stonebench 10 minutes later, and at Over Bridge 35 minutes later. It is advisable to arrive early, particularly on week-ends or holidays when local traffic congestion can be severe. The three view points are shown on the map.

The viewing point, adjoining land and accesses at Minsterworth are all privately owned. Please keep strictly to the public footpath along the riverbank.

While not so spectacular, the incoming tide and nascent bore can be seen in the upper estuary at such places as Epney, Newnham and Fretherne, where times are 20 minutes, 60 minutes and 85 minutes respectively, before Minsterworth.

High tide is approximately one hour after the Bore has passed so take particular care where you park your vehicle.

Further information on the River Severn is available from 'The Severn Bore', by F.W. Rowbotham (published by David & Charles).

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the water
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Prospects and approximate times at Minsterworth, Gloucestershire. For approximate Bore arrival times at Stonebench (add 10 mins.) and Over Bridge (add 35 mins.)

MONTH	DATE	DAY	TIME	PROSPECT	TIME	PROSPECT
JANUARY	9	Sat	08.22	★	20.48	★
	10	Sun	09.04	★★	21.30	★★
	11	Mon	09.46	★★	22.11	★
	12	Tues	10.27	★★★		
	13	Wed	11.08	★		
FEBRUARY	7	Sun	08.08	★★	20.35	★★
	8	Mon	08.51	★★★★	21.14	★★★★
	9	Tues	08.30	★★★★★	21.54	★★★★
	10	Wed	10.10	★★★★	22.32	★★
	11	Thurs	10.50	★★		
MARCH	7	Sun			19.31	★
	8	Mon	07.49	★★	20.16	★★
	9	Tues	08.32	★★★★★	20.57	★★★★★
	10	Wed	09.12	★★★★★	21.33	★★★★★
	11	Thurs	09.49	★★★★★	22.11	★★
	12	Fri	10.27	★★		
APRIL	6	Tues	08.26	★	20.55	★★
	7	Wed	09.11	★★★	21.35	★★★★
	8	Thurs	09.51	★★★	22.12	★★★
	9	Fri	10.29	★★	22.50	★★
MAY	6	Thurs	08.51	★	21.14	★
	7	Fri	09.32	★	21.54	★
JULY	20	Tues			21.45	★
	21	Wed			22.26	★★
	22	Thurs	10.50	★	23.06	★★
	23	Fri			23.47	★
AUGUST	17	Tues			20.45	★
	18	Wed	09.12	★	21.28	★★
	19	Thurs	09.54	★★	22.10	★★★
	20	Fri	10.33	★★	22.47	★★★
	21	Sat	11.11	★★	23.27	★★
SEPTEMBER	15	Wed			20.24	★
	16	Thurs	08.52	★★	21.08	★★★
	17	Fri	09.34	★★★	21.48	★★★★
	18	Sat	10.12	★★★	22.28	★★★★★
	19	Sun	10.49	★★	23.06	★★
	20	Mon	11.28	★		
OCTOBER	14	Thurs			19.00	★
	15	Fri	07.26	★★	19.46	★★★
	16	Sat	08.11	★★★★	20.28	★★★★
	17	Sun	08.51	★★★★★	21.08	★★★★
	18	Mon	09.29	★★	21.49	★★
	19	Tues	10.09	★		
NOVEMBER	13	Sat			19.25	★
	14	Sun	07.51	★★	20.11	★★
	15	Mon	08.32	★★	20.54	★★
	16	Tues	09.14	★★	21.34	★
DECEMBER	14	Tues	08.19	★		
	15	Wed	09.01	★		

★ small ★★ medium ★★★ fairly large ★★★★ large

This leaflet is for information only. The NRA can accept no responsibility for any accident or damage that occurs as a result of the Bore.



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