

Kayak Crew

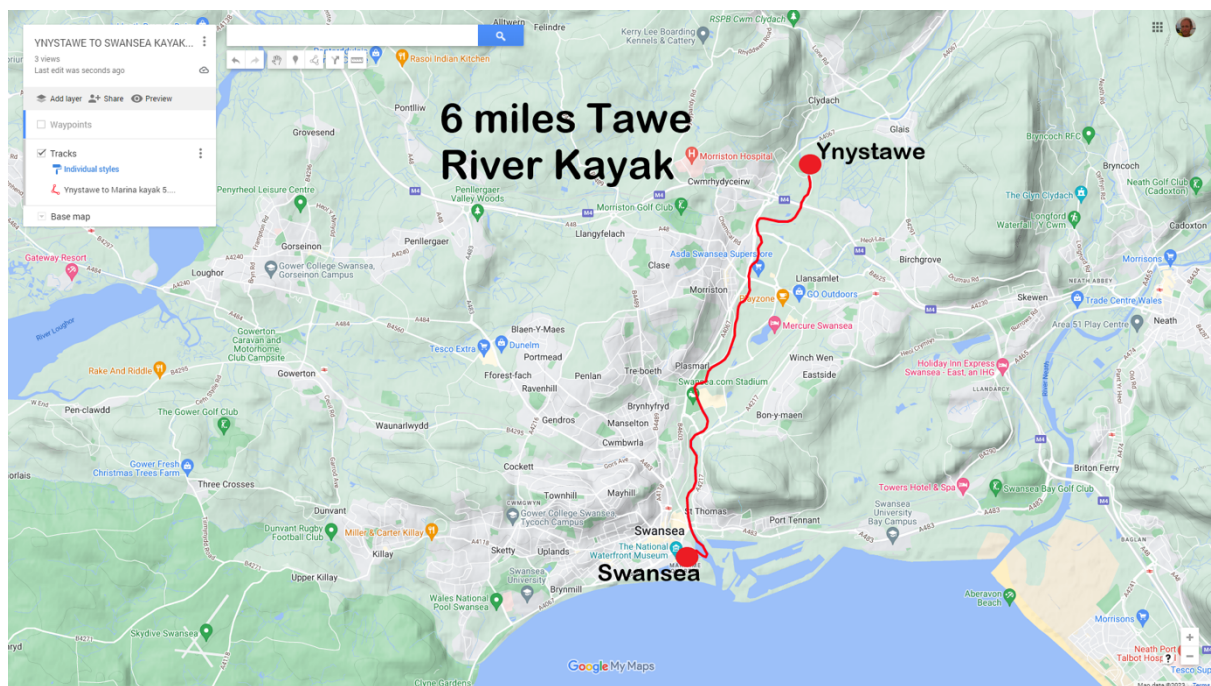


TAWE RIVER KAYAK

YNYSTAWE TO SWANSEA MARINA

ROUTE MAP & DISTANCE

6 miles from Ynystawe to Swansea Marina. About 2-4 hours paddling depending on how fast you paddle, whether you stop for lunch, etc



LAUNCH LOCATION

There is a parking area next to the bridge in Ynystawe Park which can take about a dozen vehicles.



Parking by the bridge at Ynystawe Park

If you only had one vehicle then if you had an inflatable kayak, you could get the **X6 Cymru Clipper** bus from Swansea to Ynystawe and then back back to the car at Swansea. The total journey would be about 45 minutes (30 minutes on the bus and 15 minutes walking).

Alternatively, you could get a **taxi** from Swansea to Ynystawe and then back downstream back to Swansea (again assuming you have inflatable kayak you can take with you in it's carry bag).

LANDING LOCATION

The only obvious landing spot at the Swansea Marina end of the route is the slipway by Swansea Yacht Club.



We had no problems landing our kayaks at the slipway which is also used by Swansea Rowing Club and Swansea University Rowing Club. There is a sign about the slipway being for members only but believe this is directed at people looking to use it for landing/launching boats or yachts on the slipway.



If we wanted to get a bus back your car at Ynystawe from here, then you'd need to walk to walk about 15 minutes from the Yacht Club up to the Kingsway and get the X6 Cymru Clipper to Ynystawe then walk about 10 minutes the other side to get to the car park by the launch spot.

A taxi would probably cost you in the region of about £20 to get back to Ynystawe Park.

DANGERS / ISSUES

This is a safe river kayak which is mostly comprised of flat water cruising (especially once you are downstream of the weirs).

Upstream of the weirs, there are some small rapids and the river was generally a lot shallower, but downstream from the weirs (the remaining 2/3 of the route), the river was deeper with no rapids.

However, we would flag up the below 2 issues:

Water Levels

Due to the Swansea barrage, the Tawe is **not** tidal so tide times are not an issue.

We used the website **riverlevelsuk** to check the water levels for the Morfa and Ynystanglws gauging stations before going.

Note that Ynystanglws is about 3 miles upstream from Morfa and is upstream from the weirs so the readings for Ynystanglwys will be a lot lower than for Morfa.

Essentially, you want to check on the riverlevels website that the water levels are within the 'usual range' indicated by the green zone for the location of the gauging station.

If it's rained heavily then the levels can increase above the normal level and this can render the river dangerous due to the flow and volume of water being excessive.

In the Summer, after a dry period the river level can near or even drop below the normal level, which can make paddling difficult due to the water being too shallow meaning you may end up hitting lots of rocks and bottoming out a lot.

The Weirs & Rapids

There are a couple of 'partial weirs' downstream from Riverside Holiday Park (a large caravan and chalet park) adjacent to Morriston.



The main weirs though are the ones we portaged around which are about halfway along the route, where the river runs adjacent to Fendrod lake.

You can always portage around them like we did, which involves carrying the kayaks along about 50 meters of the riverside cycle track.

Navigation rights

Strictly speaking, the right to paddle on the Tawe is unclear since it is not one of the rivers or waterways access to which is allowed if you have a Waterways Licence (which is included with membership of Canoe Wales or British Canoe).

We have no issues with landing/launching nor with paddling down the Tawe but you need of course to be respectful of fishermen and other users of the river.

There is a fishing club called Tawe Angling but we do not think that the Tawe is a big fishing river and we saw nobody fishing when we kayaked this section of the river which was on a Sunday in late September (within the fishing season).

The lower section between the Marina and Morfa is often used by a couple of rowing clubs who practice and race on that section. The upper sections

upstream from Pontardawe seem popular with white water kayakers in the Winter and Autumn.

