

Round Hayling Island Race the challenge

'Hayling Island is like Hawaii' was the old bi-line and while it's not even close in the winter storm, the idea plays to the theme of the occasional balmy sunny days that bless the south coast

Hayling Island is triangular shaped, its apex to the North, it is some 7 miles long and 5 along its Southern shoreline. Circumnavigation at high water is about 14.5 miles or 23.5 kms. The island's topography ensures an ever changing mix of water conditions, affected by strong tidal flows and undercurrents travelling over shifting and extensive sandbanks To the East is Chichester Harbour an area of outstanding beauty and one of Britain's busiest recreational seafaring playgrounds and to the West, a narrow straight permits waters to flood in and out of Langstone Harbour.

Strong tidal flows and wind shifts

Ever present strong tidal flows work hard to fill both harbour areas; 7 hours to fill and a mere 5 to empty, which if you know your tides, makes for a relatively relaxed flood and sometimes a terrifying ebb especially if wind is over water which catches many a rookie out. Conditions can be described at times as dangerous and its waters are to be respected. Whatever the wind direction, the shape of island causes the wind to bend and shift, especially at the top of the island.

General Tidal Conditions for the race



Sandbanks

Both Langstone and Chichester Harbour entrances have large and shifting sandbanks, and these can generate breaking. The link below shows a nautical chart with the islands channels, mudbanks and sandbanks.

<https://webapp.navionics.com/?lang=en#boating@10&key=kwbuHpgzD>