

Humber Estuary



Humber Bridge

Photo: Howard Anguish

From its beginning at the confluence of the Rivers Trent and the Yorkshire Ouse, the Humber Estuary flows for over 39 miles to enter the North Sea at Spurn Point. One of the great estuarial waterways of the United Kingdom, and a major feature of the geography of England, it provides drainage to around one fifth of England, while also being an important shipping artery for ships from around the world, enabling access to the major ports of Grimsby, Immingham, Hull and further upstream to Goole and commercial berths on the River Trent.

The estuary plays an important part in the economy of Northern England but is also used recreationally for sailing and power boating, and has a number of marinas and boatyards along its length. While presenting a challenge with the strong tidal currents, which attain the speed of up to 6/7 knots at times, it is an estuary well worth visiting with a suitable craft and makes an interesting destination for a summer cruise.

An iconic feature of the Humber Estuary is the world famous Humber Bridge, until recently the longest single span suspension bridge in the world. The estuary also provides habitat for wildlife and is the home to a number of nature reserves along its length.

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