

# Historic Providers of Boat Hire on the Thames

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Turks are a Thames based ancestral business with a track record which dates back at the very least 300 years to 1710, the time the business was first established by Richard Turk. But documentary evidence having to do with Turk produced boats stretch back almost nine hundred years to the eleven-hundreds. Richard Turk's emphasis had been predominantly on making passenger taking wherries and fishing vessels, although the company's repute rapidly spread and Turks broadened their horizon into building boats for English and overseas royalty in addition to the exporting of pleasure craft ' in particular touring canoes and also skiffs - with clients in most of the known world, routinely winning prizes at global exhibitions. One particular challenge actually included the construction of boats for the amusement of Queen Victoria on the waters of. The current day Turks was developed by Michael Turk who was a Swan Master and Bargemaster to the Vintners' Company and a Queen's Waterman. In addition Michael Turk is Past Master of The Company of Waterman & Lightermen of the River Thames. Michael took on the serious project of crafting the Grand Turk in 1997, a full size replica of a powerful British frigate from the 1700's. Which today sails complete with a complete 12 cannons, 3 100 ft masts and twenty-two functioning sails. Making her a formidable experience, the first of her style to be crafted in over 150 years and boasts TV and film appearances like the ITV television series 'Hornblower'. Michael's son, Richard Daniel Turk today runs the company and is carrying on the history associated with Turks Thames River businesses while also successfully widening the business to prosper from modern-day demands.

After 3 centuries of successful boat building and operation of a stunning fleet of passenger vessels, Turks stands proudly as one of Kingston's few surviving family run small businesses. Fostering a core ideal in high standards and intricate organisation, Turk's busy fleet carries 1000's of passengers each year and are the proud hosts of hundreds of unique events afloat the River Thames. Nowadays the firm extended down the Thames to Chatham with the launch of Turks Shipyard Ltd with a focus on slipway operations and maritime maintenance. Turk Film Services are extremely active in the TV and film trade specialising in marine coordination, vessel construction and hiring out props and has a assortment of more than 300 historic boats. Turks Film Services credits include recent productions such as the Harry Potter Series and Guy Ritchie's Sherlock Holmes film. Turks is going to be honouring the 300th anniversary of the family business this year and have a range of functions planned to give thanks to patrons prior, existing as well as future, and hope to be still around in another 300 years.

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