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● Soak up the atmosphere: London RIB Voyages offers bespoke Thames trips for Canary Wharf businesses.

Thames trips to remember

BY KAY HARRISON

WHARFERS can now soak up London's atmosphere with bespoke boat trips for the ultimate office party.

London RIB Voyages was founded by a former Morgan Stanley worker who wanted to create novel trips along the Thames.

The company owns 30ft rigid inflatable boats – as used by the army – which can reach top speeds of 35 knots (that's about 40mph to landlubbers).

The boats hold a full taxi-licence, so guests can be picked up from Canary Wharf's pier near Westferry Circus and skim along to any other commercial pier along the river.

Twilight tours can also be arranged by the unique boat firm, which was founded by former stockbroker Charlie Matheson (pictured right).

Back in 1999 when he was based in Guernsey, Charlie bought his own inflatable boat and was soon heading into work wearing swimming trunks under his suit, for a quick speed getaway after work.

He left the world of investment banking behind and went on to found the company, transforming a harbourside chip shop by the London Eye into a booking office.

Charlie said: "It's a truly unique way of taking clients out for an experience in London. It's something they won't forget in a hurry."

Clients now include Reuters, Shell and Barclays, with passengers able to be whisked from Canary Wharf to bars and restaurants further down



the Thames or across to the O2 arena.

The 12-seater vessels are open to the elements, but water-proofs and lifejackets are all supplied.

Not to mention comedian guides – a number of whom are award-winning stand-ups.

Travelling around London doesn't get much better than this.

● London RIB Voyages

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