

2014

Boating Holidays and Short Breaks



*narrow boats...
wide horizons*



Welcome...



Kennet & Avon Canal

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...to a slower pace of life

*Relax
and enjoy*



The countryside on your doorstep

A boating holiday is the fastest way to a slower pace of life. Progress is made at an unhurried rate, with the freedom to cruise at your leisure between dawn and dusk, and moor virtually anywhere you please with waterside pubs, villages, towns, cities and historic treasures to visit. With almost 200 boats at 14 start points throughout the UK, you have the choice of over 1500 miles of waterways to explore.

Seeing the country by canal gives a whole new perspective to an area you know well, but with the confidence of knowing the best places to stop for provisions. Alternatively is there a part of the country or a historic town that you have always meant to give time to explore.

There is no itinerary - you set your own agenda. In a week by canal you are likely to cover the distance you could cover in an hour by car. But the journey will be a far richer one!



Planning your trip starts here...

The following pages give you a flavour of the most popular routes available but, with a few constraints, you are free to travel whichever direction you please from your chosen start base and can holiday for a weekend, a week or longer - the number of nights available on each route are indicated.

Guide book references for each route **P1** **N2** **L16** refer to the listing on the inside back cover of the brochure which can be purchased to help with planning your holiday. As a rough calculation when planning a route, add the number of locks to the distance in miles and divide the total by 3 to give the cruising time in hours.

Our boat layouts on pages 38-49 ensure that you choose the boat that's right for you and your crew. Taking the holiday at your own pace, two active adults can easily handle a narrowboat. If you are considering a route with more locks or are travelling with younger children consider taking a larger boat with family or friends.

As you cruise along, one person steers and the other members of the crew are free to take in the scenery or even walk the towpath alongside. At locks (and when mooring) one person stays on the boat to steer whilst at least one person works the lock mechanism. When you are first taught to operate a lock it may appear bewildering, but by your second or third you will already begin to wonder what you were worried about!

A wide selection of boats with varying styles and arrangements are available.



Short breaks

For a few relaxing days, or to see what a holiday afloat is all about, a short break on a narrowboat is perfect. A three or four night break is long enough to unwind and get used to the slow pace of life.

We have short break boats available from all start bases, each with a number of splendid routes to choose from. Take a three night weekend break starting on Friday, or a four night midweek break starting on Monday for the same price. Remember that these boats are also available for weekly hire and, by adding a short break to a week, you can also take a longer break of 10/11 nights.



Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

As easy as...

A Choose your base

B Choose your route shown on the following pages

C Choose your boat layout see pages 38-49



Our bases



Please Note: Suggested routes and timings are approximate and will be affected by available cruising hours, weather conditions and amount of traffic on the waterway. More detailed advice will be given when the boat is collected. When planning any river cruising within your route, do bear in mind that in some weather conditions river navigation may be restricted, so it is worth having an alternative plan.



Aldermaston Wharf

From Aldermaston you can cruise the Kennet & Avon Canal or access the River Thames (Thames licence included for 2014). Nearby towns include Newbury, Thatcham and Reading, with Aldermaston railway station also close by.



BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 12
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● **Pewsey & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 90** P8 N7 L20 H1

- Cruise west to the picturesque market town of Newbury.
- There are some nice pubs at the canalside village of Kintbury.
- Before arriving at Hungerford, stop off and visit the antique shops and admire the charming canal scene.
- Then it's onto Great Bedwyn and Crofton Pump Station, home to the world's oldest working beam engine.
- Visit the historic conservation village at Wootton Rivers on your way to the traditional village of Pewsey with its beautiful thatched cottages.

● **Oxford & return • 7 NIGHTS**
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 48 P8 N7 L20

- Join the River Thames at Reading and cruise to Oxford the city of dreaming spires.
- With its mix of ancient and modern there is plenty to do in Oxford.



Aldermaston Lift Bridge, Kennet & Avon Canal



Port Meadow, River Thames



Kennet & Avon Canal

● **Windsor & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 42** P8 N7 L20 L23

- A short cruise to Reading, where you join the Thames and cruise downstream through the rowing town of Henley, the charming town of Marlow, where Shelley and T.S. Eliot once lived, and Cookham, home to the Stanley Spencer art gallery.
- Moor up at Taplow for a visit to Cliveden House and, if your budget is up to it, at Bray, where you could enjoy a fine meal at either Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck or the Roux brothers' Waterside Inn.
- Visit Eton College before arriving at the royal town of Windsor, famous for its castle, and nearby Legoland.

● **Limehouse & return • 10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 114** N7 L22 L23 G29

- If you have more time to explore into London then this route will take you up onto the River Thames, past Henley, Marlow, Hampton Court Bridge, Teddington, then onto the Grand Union Canal up to Little Venice, London Zoo and Camden market.
- At Henley you could visit The River and Rowing Museum (www.rrm.co.uk), you will pass Runnymede near Egham which is notable for its association with the Magna Carta and current collection of memorials, or at Staines there is Thorpe Park (www.thorpepark.com).

● **The Grand Ring • 14-21 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6-9hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 175** N1 N7 G29

- This ring takes a minimum of 2 weeks to complete or longer if you want to take in the sights along the way.
- The Thames River Licence price is included in your hire charge from Aldermaston, but will need to be paid if starting from Gayton Marina (please contact marina directly).
- Take in the delights of the southern waterways including Oxford, Banbury, Leighton Buzzard, but then follow a similar route to Limehouse and return for another aspect.

● **Bath & return • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs**
TOTAL LOCKS 176 P8 N7 L20 H1

- Head down the Kennet & Avon and follow the route to Pewsey, then down to Devizes and the Caen Hill flight of locks.
- From our Hilperton Marina pick up the Bath and return route (see page 23).
- On the Kennet & Avon you will be able to see two surviving turf-sided locks, Monkey Marsh lock at Thatcham and Garston Lock at Theale.



Roman Baths, www.visitbath.co.uk

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Newbury & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 22 P8 N7 L20 H1

Cruise to the picturesque market town of Newbury, which boasts some lovely 17th century buildings or spend a day at the races.

Hungerford & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 42 P8 N7 L20 H1

Take a cruise to Hungerford and visit the famous antique shops and beautiful waterfront.

Henley & return • 3-4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6-7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 30 N7 L23 G29


Go up onto the River Thames and travel to the 12th century market town of Henley.



Alvechurch

Alvechurch Marina is at the heart of an extremely varied canal network with a selection of routes around the Midlands. Local to the marina is the impressive 30 lock Tardebigge Flight, and on-site is the award winning Weighbridge pub (www.the-weighbridge.co.uk).



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 12**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● Stourport Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 116 P1 N2 L16

- A route of contrasts takes in the 21st century Birmingham city centre and 19th century heritage.
- Alongside the canal network in Birmingham city centre you will find The Symphony Hall, National Indoor Arena, the Sea Life Centre, International Convention Centre and Brindley Place.
- Birmingham city centre is within easy walking distance of the canal with its restaurants, shops, theatres, art galleries and museums (www.visitbirmingham.com).
- The Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) link the old and new main lines and take you past places such as Smethwick, West Bromwich, Tipton, Wolverhampton.
- Travel on the rural River Severn the longest river in the UK and second longest in the British Isles.
- This route can also be travelled from our Gailey and Worcester Marinas (see more details on page 30 for route).

● Stratford-upon-Avon & return • 7 NIGHTS
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 110 P2 N2 L15

- From Alvechurch you will travel up to Kings Norton Junction and then down the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal.
- For more details on Stratford go to www.stratford-upon-avon.co.uk or page 30 Worcester Marina.



Stratford-upon-Avon

● **The Black Country Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 80** P1 N2 N3 L12

- This route has lots of family activities and a rich mixture of canal scenery.
- The ring can also be started at our Gailey Marina - for more details on the route go to page 16.

● **Avon Ring • 10-14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 139** P2 N2 L15

(Additional licence required for River Avon)

- This route will take you on both the River Severn and Avon, and to fully enjoy it you will need at least 10 or 11 nights.
- You will need a licence for the River Avon (go to www.avonnavigationtrust.org for more details).
- This is an energetic route that takes in Worcester, Tewkesbury, Evesham and Stratford-upon-Avon, and is a great route to explore the history of the Heart of England.
- If you travel for 2 weeks you can also detour down to Gloucester with its docks, warehouses and museums (www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk).

● **Warwickshire Ring • 7-14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 128** P6 N3 L13

- This route can be completed from Alvechurch Marina in 10 nights by more experienced boaters, but to fully enjoy this trip at a more relaxed pace take 14 nights to complete it.
- The route can also be completed from Gayton and Rugby - see page 25 for more details.

● **Droitwich Canal • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 76-92** P1 N2 D1

- This canal can be cruised as part of the Stourport Ring or as a leisurely return route.



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Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Lapworth & return • 3/4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 4½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 0-36 P2 N2 L15

- Head north towards Birmingham, but then turn onto the Stratford Canal towards the Lapworth Flight of locks.
- Stop at the top of Lapworth Flight for a relaxing route with no locks - a good first time route or for those that want to just enjoy the canal and countryside without the locks.
- Take a 4 night break and travel down the locks to Kingswood Junction, or travel a few more hours to take in Knowle, Hatton Flight or Wootton Wawen.

Birmingham & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 0 P1 N2 L16

A relaxing route that will take you through countryside and then into the hustle and bustle of Birmingham city centre (www.visitbirmingham.com).



Anderton

This is the most northerly of our English bases with access to Cheshire, the remote and beautiful Leeds & Liverpool Canal and the Trent & Mersey. A local feature is the nearby Anderton Boat Lift and there is an on-site licensed restaurant, The Moorings (www.mooringsrestaurant.co.uk).



Feature Routes

● The Cheshire Ring • 7-14 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 92 **P5** **N5** **L5**

- It is recommended to travel this ring clockwise, so heading up to Manchester.
- The ring takes in the whole of the Macclesfield Canal, parts of the Trent & Mersey, Bridgewater, Rochdale, Ashton and Peak Forest Canals, providing a range of scenery.
- Enjoy glorious scenery as the Macclesfield Canal skirts the edge of the Pennines.
- If time allows why not take a detour from Marple along the Peak Forest Canal and enjoy stunning views.
- You will cruise through the heart of Manchester and moor at Castlefield to explore the city and places such as the Old Trafford, home of 'Man U' (www.manutd.co.uk), the Arndale shopping centre or the Science and Industry Museum (www.msimg.org.uk).
- This route has a variety of canal features including broad and narrow locks, aqueducts and tunnels, and the distinctive stone architecture of the Peak District.
- Also start at Wrenbury (page 32) and Whitchurch Marina (page 28) for this ring.



Anderton Boat Lift

Now fully open again for 2014

● Chester or Ellesmere Port & return • 7-10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5½/7hrs

TOTAL LOCKS 44 **P3** **N4** **L8**

- On this popular countryside route the locks are well spaced for easy cruising.
- Travel to Chester and then retrace your steps back to the marina which is a popular week for first time boaters.
- You can also continue past Chester along the Shropshire Union main line to its historic terminal on the River Mersey at Ellesmere Port.
- Mooring in Chester is within easy reach of the walled city centre with its medieval 'rows' where there are a variety of shops, galleries and the majestic cathedral (www.chestertourism.com).
- Chester Zoo is just a short walk from the canal (www.chesterzoo.org).
- Visit the National Waterways Museum (www.nwm.org.uk) at Ellesmere Port.

● Four Counties Ring • 10-11 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 102 **P4** **N4** **L10**

- From Anderton you will need to travel down to Middlewich to join the ring.
- This is one of the more rural cruising rings taking you through the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands.
- This route can also be taken from our Gailey, Wrenbury and Blackwater Meadow Marinas - see page 17.

● The Pennine Ring • 21 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 227 **P5** **P9** **N5**

(Maps do not cover entire route • Max 58ft boats)

- The recently restored Huddersfield Narrow Canal crosses the Pennines to complete the fantastic Pennine Ring.
- At 5,698 yards, the Standedge Tunnel is the longest and highest in Britain - the passage requires pre-booking with Standedge Visitor Centre. (01484 844298)
- East of Huddersfield the canal is wider and the locks are shorter, so the maximum length of boat able to complete the circuit is 58ft.



Cherry Eye Bridge, Caldon Canal

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Lymm & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 9hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 2 **P5** **N5** **L5**

Cruise above the River Weaver and its valley, where the only lock has a drop of just six inches! Preston Brook has a tunnel of nearly a mile, and there are also two shorter ones on this route.

Beeston or Nantwich & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 10/8½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 16

P3 **N4** **L8**

Easy cruising south from Anderton with splendid scenery and good pubs. The lovely medieval town of Nantwich, with its distinctive black and white architecture, is a brisk ¼ hour walk from the canal.

River Weaver via Anderton Boat Lift & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs

TOTAL LOCKS 10 **P4** **N4** **L5**


A stunning feat of 19th Century engineering, the Anderton boat lift carries two boats at a time hydraulically, one up and one down. At the centre of the Cheshire salt-making region, the River Weaver is steeped in industrial history, yet bristling with wildlife and beautiful scenery.



Blackwater Meadow

Situated close to the Ellesmere Arm on the Llangollen Canal which offers scenic beauty and breathtaking engineering. Our closest base to Llangollen if you want to visit on a short break.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 10**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● Llangollen & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 1½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 4 P3 N4 L8 H2

- The Llangollen Canal has some beautiful scenery and breathtaking engineering, and is one of the most popular canals in Britain.
- It combines the gentle countryside of Shropshire and crosses the border into Wales over Chirk Aqueduct.
- It boasts one of the most striking features on the UK canal network - the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct which you will have to travel across before you get to Llangollen.
- So how do you pronounce Pontcysyllte? Aim at something like "Pont-kersulty".
- Unusually, this canal has a flow of 2mph as it feeds other canals, so the outbound journey will always be slower than on the way back.
- New visitor moorings in Llangollen are now available, but charges do apply and you need to arrive by 4.30pm.
- In a week from Blackwater you will be able to take a leisurely cruise and spend more time enjoying the activities around Llangollen (www.llangollen.org.uk), or you could decide to return and either go down the Montgomery Canal or up to Whitchurch where we have another marina.



Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen

● **Chester or Ellesmere Port & return • 7-10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6/7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 66/74** P3 N4 L8

- From Blackwater you will travel up the Llangollen Canal, past our Whitchurch and Wrenbury Marinas to join the Shropshire Union Canal.
- Travelling to Chester can be completed in a week - see page 11 for more details.
- If you want to take more time out in Chester and then travel on to Ellesmere Port then take a longer break from Blackwater.
- Chester has plenty to do such as walking the City Walls, visiting the cathedral, shopping or dining out (see www.visitchester.com for more details).

● **The Cheshire Ring • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 137** P3 P5 N4 N5 L5 L8

- A longer ring from Blackwater where you will again travel up the Llangollen Canal to join the Shropshire Union.
- See page 10 for further details.

● **Four Counties Ring • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 132** P3 P4 N4 L8 L10

- Travel up the canal to the Shropshire Union to begin the ring.
- See page 17 for further details.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Chirk & return • 3-4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 4 P3 N4 L8 H2


Towards the Welsh border at Chirk the country's fine hills come into view and the scenery becomes altogether more dramatic.

Llangollen & return • 3-4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 4 P3 N4 L8 H2

The canal hugs the side of the River Dee valley on its approach to the town of Llangollen.

This is a 3 or 4 night break - during the summer period you may need to allow more time to complete.

Explore the lowlands of Scotland with easy cruising and very few locks and experience the incredible Falkirk Wheel, linking the Union Canal and the Forth & Clyde Canal.

 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Widebeam boat
now available



The Scottish Lowland Canals are quite different from the canals typical of England and Wales. The Forth & Clyde is much wider than the average English canal. The Union Canal is a contour canal and has no locks at all nor bridges that have to be opened. Scottish Canals staff currently operate all of the locks and bridges and boaters are not allowed to operate the locks themselves, although help is happily accepted. Between Falkirk and Glasgow there are 4 locks and 3 road bridges, with a further 18 locks and a number of pedestrian bridges between Glasgow and the Clyde at Bowling. Both the Forth & Clyde and Union Canals were closed in the early 1960's and it was not until lottery funding was obtained in 1999 that restoration works rejoined the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh by canal. At a quarter of the cost of the overall £84.5 million project, the Falkirk Wheel is the most significant structure by far, but only one link in the scheme involving rebuilding bridges, clearing blockages and cutting new stretches of canal. For more facts and figures visit (www.thefalkirkwheel.co.uk / 01324 619888), but in summary the 25m level difference between the canals is traversed via a pair of gondolas which together carry 600 tonnes of water to the 100m aqueduct at the top of the 35m diameter wheel. (TIC 01324 620244 / www.scottish.heartlands.org)

Falkirk Wheel





Linlithgow Loch

New for 2014 visit the Helix project and the Kelpies at Grangemouth. If you would like to extend your holiday to include this trip please allow for an extra 3 nights.

The new Forth & Clyde Canal extension and towpath will provide a 1 km link from the existing Forth & Clyde Canal down to a new sea lock on the River Carron and out to the Firth of Forth.

The Kelpies form the centrepiece to this new piece of canal, surrounded by the Kelpies Canal Hub. For more information visit www.thehelix.co.uk

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Glasgow & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½-10hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 8 WR1

Four evenly spaced locks after Bonnybridge take the canal up to the broad, straight section before Auchinstarry. The majestic Campsie Fells rise from the valley that the canal shares with the River Kelvin and the scenery is superb as the canal then follows contours for the rest of its journey to Glasgow. The canal arm south towards Applecross Street Basin in Glasgow looks down to where the River Kelvin winds from the university past the museums and botanical gardens. A major port with a shipping history back to the 18th century, Glasgow has a wealth of museums and collections. The art galleries and museums of Glasgow are never without examples by Charles Rennie Mackintosh - there is even a church designed by him in the city. Discover more at www.glasgowguide.co.uk

Edinburgh & return • 4 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6-10hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 6 WR1

This cruise starts via the Falkirk Wheel and the new Rough Castle Tunnel, two new locks and a mile of new canal to join the original canal at the site of the summit of the flight of 11 locks that used to join the two canals. The stalactites and rock-hewn sections of the Falkirk tunnel, a treat for the budding geologist. Amongst the numerous minor aqueducts en route, three to note are the 12 arch, 85ft Avon Aqueduct and the Almond and Slateford Aqueducts, both at 75ft high. Beecraigs Country Park (01506 844516 / www.beecraigs.com) and the beautifully preserved remains of Linlithgow Palace on the shore of Linlithgow Loch (0131 668 8600 / www.historic-scotland.net) are within easy reach of the canal. (TIC 01506 844600) Discover more at www.edinburgh.org.uk.

Feature Routes

● **Edinburgh & Glasgow • 7 NIGHTS** **CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 14** WR1

(Twice via the wheel)

- Complete the width of Scotland, and back, visiting both cities in a one week holiday.
- You will cruise the Union Canal to Edinburgh Quay, over aqueducts, through tunnels and past tranquil scenery as well as the Forth and Clyde canal to Glasgow.

NB: If you are choosing to do this route you will probably need to contribute more for fuel than the deposit amount.

● **Bowling & return • 7 NIGHTS** **CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 44** WR1

- The Forth & Clyde Canal follows the Clyde Estuary all the way down to the old ship building village of Bowling - a pleasant boating haven.
- The route has a rich mix of industry old and new, stunning views of the Clyde and relics of the ship building era.

Please note that if you wish to cruise West towards Glasgow along the Forth & Clyde Canal you will have to book a time for Bonnybridge Lift Bridge to be opened for you. Also if you wish to travel to Grangemouth you need to book your passage. You should call the Scottish Canals Boat Movement Team on 0845 6766000 at least a week before your holiday.



Falkirk Wheel



Gailey

Perfect to discover parts of the West Midlands, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Shropshire. Travel along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, where you can head north towards the Potteries and the Peak District, or go further afield into Shropshire towards the Cheshire Plains and its dramatic scenery.



BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)



Feature Routes

● **The Black Country Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 78** P1 N3 L12

- Gailey is ideally placed for this ring that takes you on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, through the water fronts of Birmingham via the new Main Line, onto the Birmingham & Fazeley and the Trent & Mersey.
- The route is a varied mix of urban and countryside and offers family activities along the way.
- Birmingham has its shopping, restaurants and art galleries, plus the Sea Life Centre and museums for the children (see www.bmag.org.uk).
- Visit the Black Country Museum and live the story of the Black Country (www.bclm.co.uk).
- There is also Dudley Zoo and Castle (www.dudleyzoo.org.uk), Drayton Manor Park (www.draytonmanor.co.uk) and Shugborough Hall (www.shugborough.org.uk).



The Shroppe Fly Inn, Audlem

● **Nantwich & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • LOCKS 58** P4 N4 L10

- Ideal for first timers or those looking for a relaxing break.
- Leaving Gailey, you head south down the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal to Atherley Junction then cruise the Shropshire Union with Market Drayton, Audlem and Nantwich along the way.
- Retrace your steps back to Gailey and enjoy the new perspective that this will give.

● **Stourport & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 58** P1 N2 L16

- A comfortable cruise along the pretty Staffs & Worcs Canal.
- If you wanted to go past Stourport you could continue to Worcester which is a total of 72 locks and needs 8 hours cruising per day.
- Kinver Village is well worth a stop for shopping and excellent pubs. Energetic boaters will be rewarded by a climb up Kinver Edge for the extensive views.

● **Stourport Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 9½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 118** P1 N2 L16

- For further details on this ring go to pages 8 and 30.

● **Caldon Canal & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 88** P4 N4 L10

- An alternative to the Four counties ring, but equally energetic.
- You will head up towards the Peak District and enter the Churnet Valley with its stunning countryside.
- The canal terminates at Froghall where you turn and retrace your steps.



Stourport Basin

● **Four Counties Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 9hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 92** P4 N4 L10

- Takes you along the wonderfully rural Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal to Great Haywood Junction.
- Passing under a distinctive roving bridge, you join the Trent & Mersey Canal heading north towards the Potteries and Peak District.
- Rolling Staffordshire countryside leads you to Stoke-on-Trent, the Wedgwood Visitor Centre and the impressive 2926-yard long Harecastle Tunnel.
- The scenery on the climb up 'Heartbreak Hill' to the summit at Kidsgrove is fantastic.
- Beyond Harecastle the 13 miles to the salt town of Middlewich sees the canal descend 31 locks to the Cheshire Plains.
- The short Middlewich arm links the Trent and Mersey Canal to the Shropshire Union Canal again through more glorious countryside.
- Don't miss the Bottle Kilns at Etruria.



Etruria Locks, Stoke-on-Trent

● **Chester or Ellesmere Port & return • 10 NIGHTS CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6/7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 80/86**

P3 P4 N4 L8 L10

- A longer route from Gailey - see page 11 for more details.

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Norbury & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5-6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 4 P4 N4 L10

A leisurely route where you get to relax and unwind.

Market Drayton & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 14 P4 N4 L10

Extend your Norbury and return trip to Market Drayton.

Stone & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 30 P4 N4 L10

Travel up the Trent & Mersey to the market town of Stone.

Great Haywood & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 22 P4 N4 L10


Go up to the Great Haywood Junction and you might want to visit Shugborough Hall.



Gayton

Routes are typified by rolling Northamptonshire arable landscapes, rural countryside passing through hills and wooded country, and towns and villages along the way easily accessible from the canal side.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 12**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● **Market Harborough & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 48**
P7 N1 N3 L14 L18

- Popular with those seeking something different - if you don't mind a bit of exercise.
- Cruise up the Grand Union Canal to Norton, then up the Leicester section for a short while towards Leicester.
- On the way to Market Harborough you will encounter two tunnels, two sets of staircase locks and mile after mile of open countryside.

● **Banbury & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 70** **P7 N1 L17 L18**

- This is a popular cruise through pretty Cotswold country side - see page 24 for more details.

● **Oxford & return • 10-11 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 104** **P7 N1 L18**

- Continue on past Banbury to Oxford, the 'City of Dreaming Spires'.
- Oxford has lots to offer - historical places such as Blenheim Palace, Christ Church College, or you could go shopping or dining out (see more at www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com).
- An extremely popular choice for those who want to stretch their holiday to more than a week.

● **Aylesbury & return • 7-10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 84** P7 N1 L18

- A good route for the first timer.
- Through delightful countryside, taking in the Great Ouse Aqueduct at Cosgrove, Milton Keynes.
- Then arriving at Aylesbury, with the attractive old town centre just a short walk from the canal basin.

● **Coventry or Snarestone & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6/8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 34**

P6 P7 N1 N3 L14 L18

- With only 17 locks each way between Gayton and Coventry, this is one of the easiest one-week routes.
- The remote and rural Ashby Canal for Snarestone offers 23 miles of lock free cruising after Marston.
- Moor at Shenton for Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre (www.bosworthbattlefield.com).

● **Warwickshire Ring • 10-11 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 120** P6 N3 L13

For more information see page 9.

● **The Grand Ring • 14-21 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6-9hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 175** P5 N5 L5

For more information see page 7.

● **Leicester or East Midlands Ring • 14 NIGHTS CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 115**

P7 N1 N3

- A pleasant two week cruise through parts of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.
- This route can also be completed from Rugby and Union Wharf (see page 27 for more details).

● **Warwick & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 72** P6 N1 N3 L13 L18

- A very popular week cruise with Warwick Castle en route. (Tourist Information 01926 492212 / www.visitwarwick.co.uk)
- This route can also be completed from Rugby and Union Wharf (see page 27 for more details).



The Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Crick & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs
TOTAL LOCKS 28 P7 N1 L14

Crick and back, along the Grand Union Canal (Leicester Section).

Welford & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8½hrs
TOTAL LOCKS 30 N1 N3

Welford has plenty of overnight mooring places, with a reservoir and village to explore.

Braunston or Napton & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8hrs
TOTAL LOCKS 26 P7 N1 L18

Heading north from Gayton through Weedon and Norton takes the Grand Union to the busy junction with the Oxford Canal. Onwards to Napton is peaceful, lock free and rural.

Great Linford or Fenny Stratford & return • 3-4 NIGHTS
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½-8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 16 P7 N1 L18

Heading south towards Aylesbury, this route has a taste of everything. The two destinations are separated by the 'new town' of Milton Keynes, where the Grand Union Canal forms the centre piece of the linear park.



Napton Locks, Oxford Canal




GOYTRE WHARF • SOUTH WALES • NP7 9EW • 01873 880516

Goytre



The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is uniquely located away from any other waterway and offers 36 miles of quiet pretty countryside from Brecon to Cwmbran. It runs through the Brecon Beacons National Park and has just a few locks and fantastic views.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)



Feature Route

● **Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 12**
(Enough time to cruise all 36 miles of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal)

● **Brecon & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 4hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 12** P3 N4 L24

- The canal meanders its way through the Brecon Beacons National Park for 36 miles with remarkable diversity of scenery often following the magnificent River Usk.
- This canal is considerably quieter than others, as it is isolated from the main canal network, but with many local pubs and places to eat nearby
- It is arguably one of the most picturesque canals as it offers glorious views of the Brecon Beacons along the way.



Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

- The canal clings to the mountainside and brings about its uniquely shallow levels.
- Lime kilns remain as well as an aqueduct dating from 1812.
- Pontymoile at one end of the canal is a convenient mooring place for Pontypool Leisure Centre with its swimming pool and dry ski slope.
- Moor at Llangattock and visit Crickhowell a wonderful Georgian town, with excellent shopping and good food.
- Crickhowell also has a 13th century castle and a 17th century bridge.
- Picturesque Talybont-on-Usk rests below the Central Beacons between the Usk and the Canal.
- Nearby Talybont Reservoir offers bird watching, trout fishing and easy walks to the waterfalls at Blaen y Glyn.
- Brecon is a charming old market town and one of the most historic settlements in Wales.
- Brecon is a popular holiday destination, affording some of the best views of the Brecon Beacons themselves and Pen y Fan - the highest point in Southern Britain at 886m.
- There is something for everyone as Brecon is home to a cathedral, theatre, cinema, castle ruins and stunning Georgian architecture.
- Brecon is a great place to explore the National Park with walking routes, cycle hire and pony trekking all available - and why not visit The Museum of The Royal Regiment of Wales (www.rrw.org.uk).

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Llangynidr & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs
TOTAL LOCKS 0/2 P3 N4 L24

You can choose a leisurely lock-free cruise with fine views along the dramatic Usk Valley by turning below the lock at Llangynidr village, or if you want the experience of locking the boat, you can turn just above the first lock.

Talybont-on-Usk & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 10 P3 N4 L24

This trip takes you further up the canal climbing 5 gorgeous locks passing through the Ashford Tunnel to the village of Talybont-on-Usk where you can still see the wharf with its lime kilns and the old tramroad up the side of the mountain.



Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

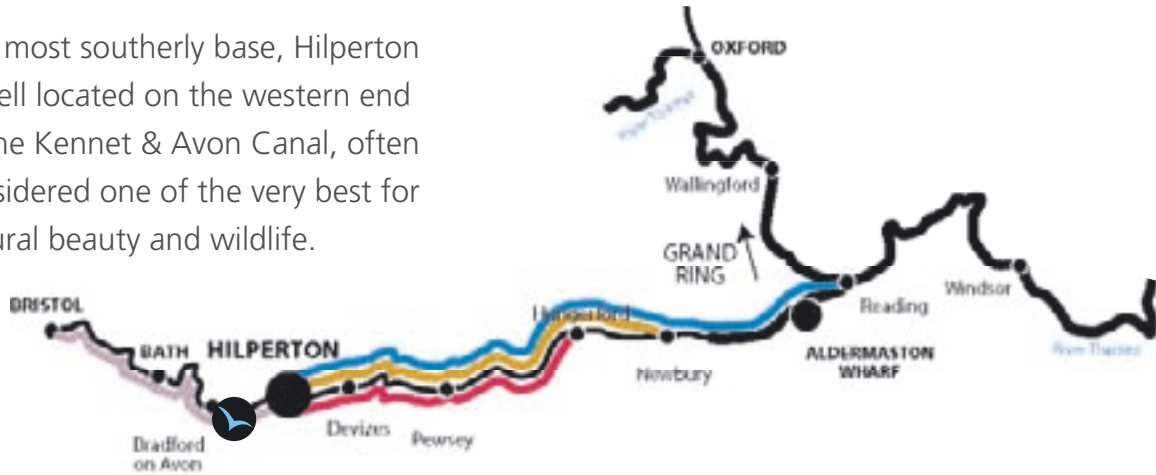


HILPERTON MARINA • WILTSHIRE • BA14 8RS • 01225 765243

Hilpertons

Bases

Our most southerly base, Hilpertons is well located on the western end of the Kennet & Avon Canal, often considered one of the very best for natural beauty and wildlife.



BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 12
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● **Hungerford & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 120** P8 N7 L20 H1

- Devizes is a historic market town which hosts a traditional market every Thursday. It's one of the largest market places in the West Country. Look out for the Wadworth Brewery Shire Horse Dray which still delivers to the towns Public Houses. Wadworth Brewery trips see www.wadworthvisitorcentre.co.uk
- Beyond Pewsey and through lush Wiltshire countryside.
- The highest point of the Kennet & Avon is marked by the 502 yard Bruce Tunnel.
- The canal then follows close alongside the Great Western main railway line through the Bedwys - Great & Little - and down to Hungerford.
- Pass by Savernake Forest, an ancient woodland mentioned in the Domesday Book.

● **Newbury & return • 10-11 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 140** P8 N7 L20 H1

- Beyond Hungerford the canal shares the valley with both the railway and the River Kennet.
- The Kennet & Avon Canal is so central to Newbury that the main shopping street passes directly over it. (Newbury TIC 01635 30267)
- Take a day out at the races and visit Newbury Race Course. (01635 40015 / www.newburyracecourse.co.uk)



Kennet & Avon Canal

● **Reading & return • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • LOCKS 186** **P8** **N7** **L20** **H1**

- Some of the very best countryside in the UK canal system.
- Through a variety of towns and villages to Reading.
- Blakes Lock Museum. (social & industrial history / 0118 939 0918)
- Reading Museum. (0118 939 9800 / www.readingmuseum.org.uk)
- Museum of English Rural Life. (0118 378 8660 / www.ruralhistory.org)
- Or you could shop at the retail park known as 'The Oracle' which is located next to the canal.

● **Bristol & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 4hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 28** **P8** **N7** **L20** **H1**

- The route includes Bradford on Avon, Bath, Bristol and, unusually, many more towns and villages that the canal passes through the centre of.
- Stop off at the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath and explore the Roman Baths, Bath Abbey and the Royal Crescent. For more information www.visitbath.co.uk
- Having followed the route of the River Avon by canal, after Bath the navigation uses the River itself, reverting to canal to divert into Bristol city centre.
- Stunning weirs accompany each river lock down to Bristol.
- Museums and waterside features reflect the city's former importance as a sea port.
- Visitor moorings are available right in the centre of the city in the floating harbour (mooring charges apply).
- Reminders of the route's industrial history such as the brass mill at Kelston are found within rolling valley countryside.



Caen Hill Locks

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Devizes & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 0/2 **P8** **N7** **L20** **H1**

The spectacular Devizes flight consists of 29 wide beam locks, rising by 237 feet over just two miles.

Bradford on Avon / Bottom of Caen & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs
TOTAL LOCKS 14 **P8** **N7** **L20** **H1**


For an easy weekend to combine cruising and exploring, spend a day in Bradford and another cruising to the base of Caen Hill Locks.

Bath & return • 3-4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 14 (7 on the river) **P8** **N7** **L20** **H1**

The canal passes very close to the city centre and Bath is without doubt, worthy of a couple of days exploration.

This base is on the outskirts of Rugby on the rural North Oxford Canal - ideal for contrasting routes taking in pretty countryside, historic canal locations, tunnels and even a castle at Warwick.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

Banbury & return • 7 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 50 **P7** **N1** **L17**

- This is a good cruise for first timers and takes you through the Cotswold countryside.
- Takes you down the North Oxford Canal via Braunston and Napton Junctions.
- Onto the South Oxford Canal, renowned for its meandering route to the Thames.

Ashby Canal & return • 7 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • LOCKS 2 **P6** **N3** **L14**

- This route takes you north from the marina up towards Snarestone.
- Why not stop off and visit Bosworth Battlefield (see www.bosworthbattlefield.com).
- A relaxing route enjoying the canal views.

Market Harborough & return • 7 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 52 **P7** **N3** **L14**

- For more details on this route see page 18.



Grand Union Canal



Stockton Locks, Grand Union Canal

● **Warwickshire Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7+hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 100** P6 N3 L13

- Another popular route with the option to moor at the heart of Birmingham.
- It includes the spectacular Hatton Locks and takes in the rural areas of the Grand Union Canal.
- Why not stop off at Coventry and go to the war-torn cathedral.
- The areas around Tamworth have Drayton Manor (www.draytonmanor.co.uk) and the Snow Dome (www.snowdome.co.uk).
- How could you not come to Warwickshire without visiting Warwick Castle? (www.warwick-uk.co.uk).
- On a two week cruise you can include a trip along the Ashby Canal.

● **Oxford & return • 10-11 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 82** P7 N1 L17

- A popular longer route from Rugby which can also be started from Gayton and Union Wharf.

● **Aylesbury & return • 7-10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 114** P7 N1 L14 L18

- For more details see page 19.

● **Leicester or East Midlands Ring • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 101** P6 P7 N3

- For more details see page 27.

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Crick & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 32 P7 N3 L14

Crick and back, along the Grand Union Canal (Leicester Section).

Welford & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 32 P7 N3 L14

Welford has plenty of overnight mooring places, with a reservoir and village to explore.

Snarestone & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 0 P6 N3 L14

For the non-energetic, this is a relaxing lockfree trip to Snarestone, travelling up the North Oxford Canal and the Ashby Canal.

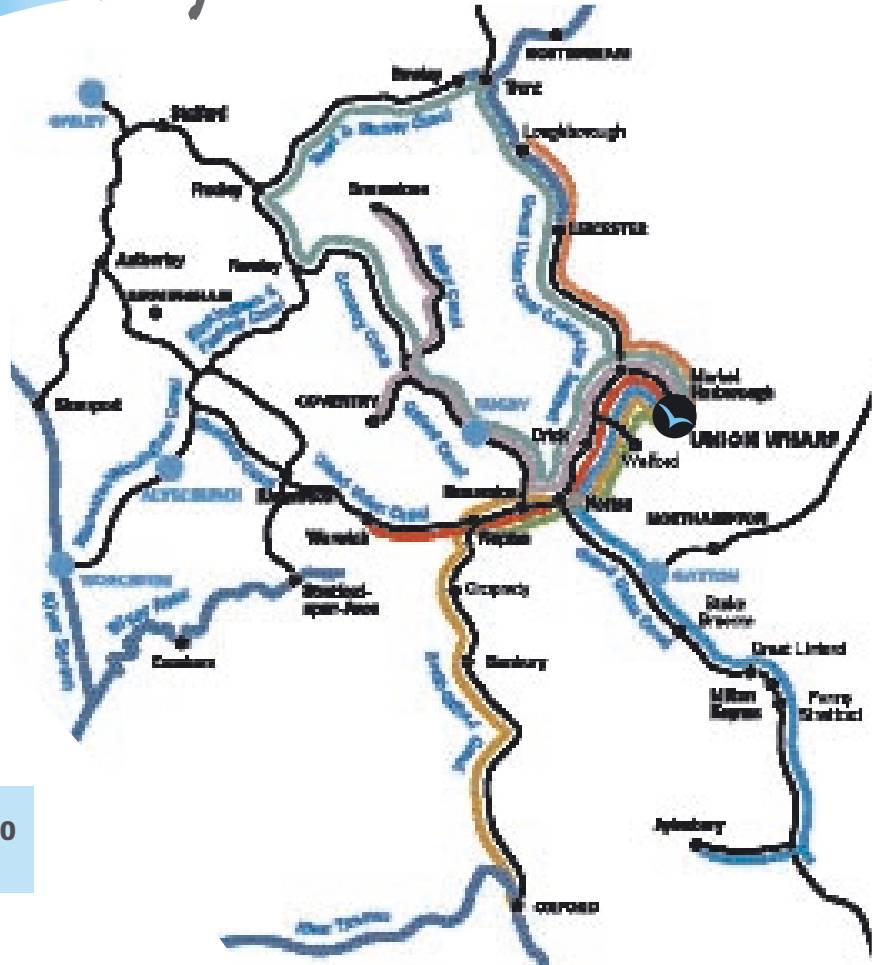


UNION WHARF MARINA • LEICESTERSHIRE • LE16 7AU • 01858 432123

Bases

Union Wharf

Union Wharf is located in the attractive and historic market town of Market Harborough. The Wharf is at the terminus of the canal close to Foxton Locks and the famous Incline Plane.



BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 10
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

- Braunston or Napton & return • 7 NIGHTS**
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 46 P7 N1 L14
 - From Foxton Junction you will travel down the Grand Union Canal.
 - A lovely rural route that can either take you to Braunston through its 2042 yard tunnel or onto Napton lock free.
- Loughborough & return • 7 NIGHTS**
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 70 P7 L14
 - You will cruise towards Leicester where you could stop off and experience contemporary, inspirational shopping in Leicester's transformed city centre (see www.goleicestershire.com for more details).
 - When you get to Loughborough you could visit the National Space Centre, a must see for children, teenagers and adults (www.spacecentre.co.uk).
- Coventry or Snarestone & return • 7-10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5-7¼hrs**
TOTAL LOCKS 54 P7 N1 L14 (except Snarestone P6)
 - See page 19 for more details.



Foxton Locks, Grand Union Canal

● **Oxford & return • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5¾hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 126** **P7** **N1** **L18**

- A popular two week route giving you plenty of time to stop and explore Oxford. See pages 18 and 25 for more details.

● **Leicester or East Midlands Ring • 14 NIGHTS**
CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 101 **P6** **P7** **N3**

- A pleasant two week cruise through parts of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire.
- This route takes you up the Grand Union Canal to the Foxton flight of locks, then onto Leicester itself where you join the River Soar.
- Continue along the Soar to Trent Junction, where you briefly join the River Trent which takes you up to Sawley. At this point you rejoin the canal system to complete the ring.

● **Banbury & return • 10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5¾hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 90** **P7** **N1** **N3** **L14** **L17**

- For further details on the route see page 24.

● **Aylesbury & return • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 130** **P7** **N1** **N3** **L14** **L18**

- For more details see page 19.



● **Warwick & return • 10 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 92** **P6** **P7** **N3** **L14**

- A popular 10 night cruise from Union Wharf, or it can be completed in a week from Gayton and Rugby.
- From Union Wharf you will travel down to Norton Junction and then through to Warwick.
- Warwick has an ever-growing reputation for the variety of its cafes, restaurants and other eateries with the Market Square playing host to events throughout the year.
- Places of interest include Warwick Castle, St John's Museum, The Mill Garden (see www.visitwarwick.co.uk for more details).



Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Leicester & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6¼hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 48 **P7** **L14**

Travel north on the Leicester Section of the Grand Union through charmingly unspoilt countryside and onto the city of Leicester.

Crick & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 32 **P7** **N1** **L14**

Crick and back, along the Grand Union Canal (Leicester Section).

Welford & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 32 **P7** **N1** **L14**


Welford has plenty of overnight mooring places, with a reservoir and village to explore.



Whitchurch

For tranquillity and beauty, start from Whitchurch and meander along the Llangollen and Shropshire Union Canals, enjoying the wide open spaces and hillsides of Wales. You can visit the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in a 4 night or week break from this base.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● Llangollen & return • 7 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 4hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 4 P3 N4 L8 H2

- The Llangollen Canal is a varied route with isolated sheep pastures to ancient peat mosses, tree lined lakes to the foothills of Snowdonia.
- From the Whitchurch Marina you can complete a relaxing week route to Llangollen going over the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct or a 4 night short break (cruising time minimum 8 hours per day with 4 locks).
- See page 12 Blackwater Meadow for more details on the route.

● Chester & return • 7 NIGHTS

CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 66 P3 N4 L8

- Visit the historic city of Chester with its shopping, restaurants, the River Dee and its spectacular cathedral (see www.visitchester.com for more details).
- This route can also be completed from our Wrenbury, Blackwater or Anderton marinas, see page 11 for more details.



Llangollen Canal

● **Audlem & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • LOCKS 50 (includes 3 staircase locks)**

P3 N4 L8

- This route will take you up the Llangollen Canal and then down the Shropshire Union.
- Audlem is famous for its run of 15 locks on the Shropshire Union Canal.
- Interpretation panels by the towpath in Audlem describe the operation of locks and the canal's history.

● **The Cheshire Ring • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 137** **P3 P5 N4 N5 L5 L8**

- This route can be completed from Whitchurch, Blackwater Meadow or Wrenbury Marina.
- See page 10 for further details.

● **Four Counties Ring • 11-14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 132** **P3 P4 N4 L8 L10**

- Travel up the canal to the Shropshire Union to begin the ring and then complete it from 11 to 14 days depending on how leisurely you want to take it.
- See page 17 for further details.

● **Caldon Canal • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • LOCKS 136** **P3 P4 N4 L8 L10**

- Another longer route from Whitchurch Marina - see page 17 for more details.



Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Wrenbury & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 20 **P3 N4 L8 H2**

Travel between our Whitchurch and Wrenbury Marinas on this picturesque canal.

Ellesmere & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5.5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 0 **P3 N4 L8 H2**

The trip into Ellesmere is through an area of beauty with a series of Ice-Age lakes known as 'meres'.

Hurleston Junction & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 32 **P3 N4 L8 H2**

For those wanting a bit more activity you can cruise east towards the English end of the canal.

Nantwich & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 40 **P3 N4 L8 H2**

Further down from Hurleston Junction is Nantwich and its aqueduct.



Worcester

The City of Worcester has the River Severn running through it which is overlooked by the 12th Century Worcester Cathedral. It is the home of Royal Worcester Porcelain and the birthplace of the composer Sir Edward Elgar - a great place to start to explore Shakespeare country or picturesque 'Archers' countryside.



BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 8
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

● Stourport Ring • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 7½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 116 P1 N2 L16

- It is recommended to travel this ring clockwise from Worcester Marina heading out onto the River Severn on the first days cruising.
- Why not see if you can plan time to experience the steam trains on Severn Valley Railway (www.svr.co.uk).
- The Stourport Ring visits three contrasting cities (Worcester, Wolverhampton and Birmingham) taking in urban views and countryside scenes.
- From the River Severn you will reach Stourport Basin with The Treasure Island Amusement Park and award winning fish and chip shops, which gives it a seaside holiday feel.
- For a slightly different route you might want to go onto the Droitwich Canal which can also be travelled from Alvechurch Marina.
- Further details on Birmingham at the top of the ring can be found on page 8.

● Stratford-upon-Avon & return (Not advisable for beginners) 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 44 • P2 N2 L15

(Avon Licence required from Tewkesbury)

- Cruise through idyllic stretches of countryside to this historic town.
- Offers a superb mixture of culture, history and shopping.
- Moor in the beautifully maintained canal basin at Stratford.
- Visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. (01789 403444 / www.rsc.org.uk)
- All of Stratford's attractions are easy to reach from the basin.
- You will need to obtain a licence for the River Avon from Tewkesbury (see www.avonnavigationtrust.org for more details) and having a second route option is advisable as you will be travelling on the river.



River Avon

● **Birmingham & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 108** P2 N2 L16

- This route will take you up the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, past the Droitwich Canal, through Hanbury Wharf, past Stoke Prior and onto the Tardebigge Flight of locks.
- The Tardebigge Locks is the longest flight in the UK comprising of 30 locks between Stoke Prior and Tardebigge Tunnel (length 580 yards).
- Further details on Birmingham can be found on page 8.

● **Avon Ring • 10-14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 139** P2 N2 L15

(Additional licence required for River Avon)

- This route can be started from Worcester or Alvechurch Marina - see page 9 for more details.



Stourport Ring

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Stoke Prior & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 38 P1 N2 L16

Cruise up the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. This trip takes you north into rural Worcestershire where you pass through the very heart of 'Archers' country to the village of Stoke Prior.

Stourton Junction & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 41 P1 N2 L16

Cruise up the River Severn to the inland port of Stourport, where you join the idyllic Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Before returning to Worcester, you'll be able to enjoy seeing North Worcestershire at its best from this gently meandering canal.


Droitwich Ring • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 33 P2 N2 D1

The Droitwich Canal links the Worcester and Birmingham with the River Severn at Hawford creating a new mini-ring from Worcester. Cruising the ring will take approximately 16 hours so a short break is possible, but will require long days cruising on weekend breaks. The Droitwich Canal is an amalgamation of the Droitwich Barge Canal and the Droitwich Junction Canal both built to carry salt from Droitwich Spa but were abandoned in 1939.

Wrenbury

For pretty scenery and stunning views, little compares to the Llangollen Canal with features including the Ellesmere 'meres' and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.



 **BERTHS AVAILABLE 2 - 10**
(see boat layouts pages 38-49)

Feature Routes

- Llangollen & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 24** P3 N4 L8 H2

 - If you would like to travel to Llangollen, but were looking to complete more locks, then start from Wrenbury Marina rather than Whitchurch or Blackwater Meadow.
 - The last locks before Llangollen are at New Marton, half way between Ellesmere and Chirk.
 - From there on the canal clings to the hillside contours, an enchanting blend of aqueducts and tunnels will take you lock free through to Llangollen.
 - See page 12 for more details on the route.

- Ellesmere Port & return • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 48** P3 N4 L8

 - From Wrenbury you will travel up the Llangollen Canal to join the Shropshire Union Canal and travel up to the industrial town of Ellesmere Port.
 - Why not visit the National Waterways Museum (www.nwm.org.uk) which brings together a unique fleet of historic boats and archives to tell the story of Britains canals and waterways.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Llangollen Canal

- **Market Drayton • 7 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 5hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 82** P3 N4 L8
 - When you join the Shropshire Union Canal at Hurlleston Junction head down the canal to Market Drayton.
 - Did you know Market Drayton has been the home of gingerbread for the last 200 years (find out more at www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/market-drayton).
- **The Cheshire Ring • 11-14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 137** P3 P5 N4 N5 L5 L8
 - This route can be completed from Wrenbury Marina in 11 to 14 nights depending on how relaxing you want the journey to be. See page 10 for further details.
- **Four Counties Ring • 14 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 132** P3 P4 N4 L8 L10
 - This ring can also be completed from Whitchurch and Blackwater Meadow from the Llangollen, or Gailey and Anderton Marina. See page 17 for further details.

Short breaks

WEEKENDS: FRI-MON (3 nights) MIDWEEK: MON-FRI (4 nights)

Whitchurch & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 4hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 20 P3 N4 L8 H2

Travel between our Wrenbury and Whitchurch Marinas and explore Whitchurch before you return (www.shropshiretourism.co.uk/whitchurch).

Ellesmere & return • 3 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 8½hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 20 P3 N4 L8 H2

The run into Ellesmere is through an area of outstanding beauty, with a series of Ice-Age lakes known as 'meres' very close to the canal.

Chirk & return • 4 NIGHTS • CRUISING TIME PER DAY 6hrs • TOTAL LOCKS 24 P3 N4 L8 H2

Towards the Welsh border at Chirk the country's fine hills come into view and the scenery becomes altogether more dramatic.

Your Boat: Equipment on board



Kitchen Equipment

Kettle
 Frying pan
 3 Saucepans
 Milk pan
 Grill pan
 Basin large
 Basin small
 2 Casserole dishes
 Baking tray
 Pie plates large
 Pie plates small
 Roasting tin
 Sugar bowl
 Colander
 Chopping board
 Fruit bowl
 Measuring jug
 Cheese grater
 Condiments set
 Bread bin
 Tray
 Tea caddy
 Oven gloves
 3 Tea towels
 Washing up bowl
 Washing up brush
 Washing up cloth
 Scourer
 Detergent
 Draining rack
 Ice cube tray



Misc Equipment

Vase
 Ashtray
 Playing cards
 Torch
 2 sets of waterproofs
 First aid kit
 Boat manual
 Information pack
 Kitchen waste bin
 Broom
 Dustpan & brush
 Toilet brush
 Toilet roll - 1 per toilet
 Tooth mug
 Bucket & cloth
 Sponge mop
 Boat hook
 Side fenders
 Stools/chairs (where applicable)
 Coat hangers
 Umbrella
 Doormats
 3 Windlasses
 3 Mooring spikes
 Lump hammer
 Deck mop
 Boatpole
 Hose & connector
 Gang plank
 Life ring
 Shaver socket
 Colour television
 DVD Player
 12v Charging point
 Fire extinguishers



Cutlery, Crockery & Glass

Wine glasses
 Tumblers
 Dinner plates
 Soup plates
 Tea plates
 Cereal bowls
 Mugs
 Teapot
 Tea strainer
 Cups & saucers
 Spoons - dessert/soup
 Water jug
 Sugar bowl
 Egg cups
 Knives
 Dessert knives
 Forks
 Dessert forks
 Tea spoons



Kitchen Utensils

Kitchen tool set
 Knife sharpener
 Tongs
 Wooden spatula
 2 Serving spoons
 Wooden spoon
 Whisk
 Scissors
 Cork screw
 Tin opener
 Potato peeler
 Bread knife
 Carving knife & fork
 2 Kitchen knives

Bedding & Towels

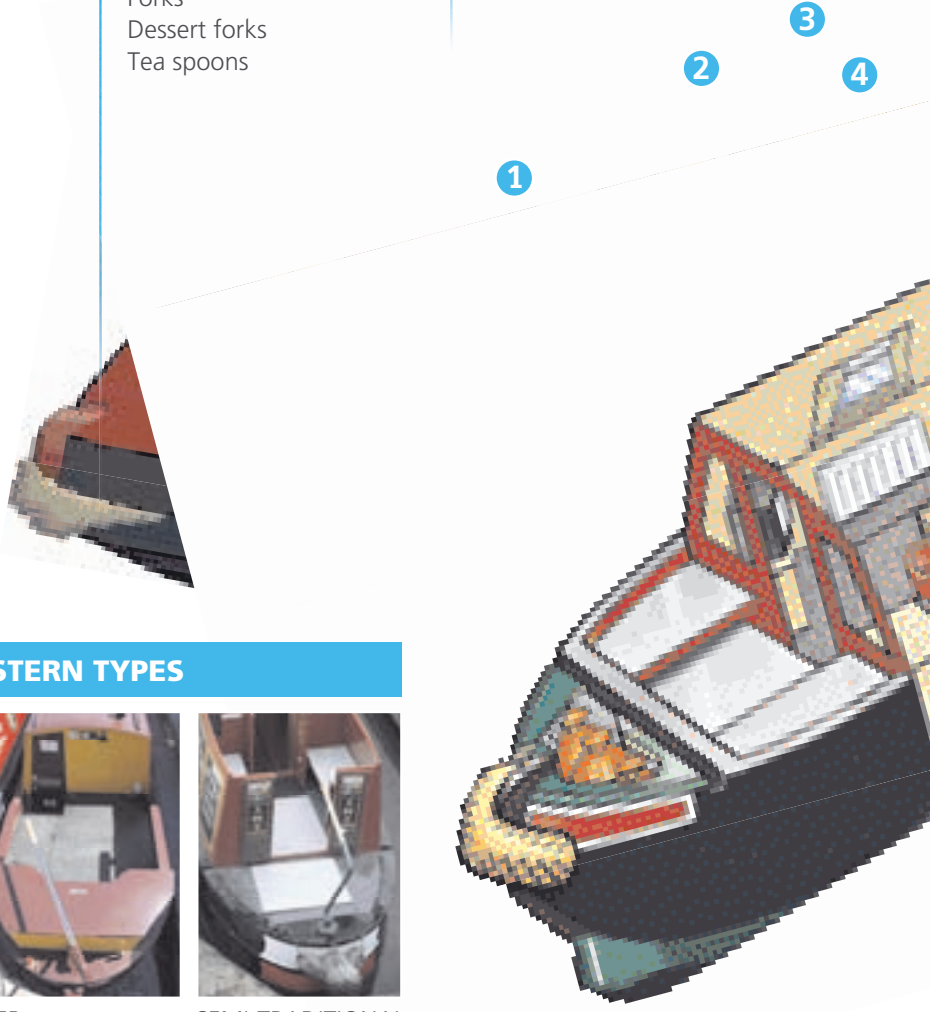
All bed linen is provided: sheets, pillows, pillow cases, duvets and duvet covers and there is 1 medium towel per person and 1 hand towel per bathroom on all boats.

STERN TYPES



CRUISER

SEMI-TRADITIONAL

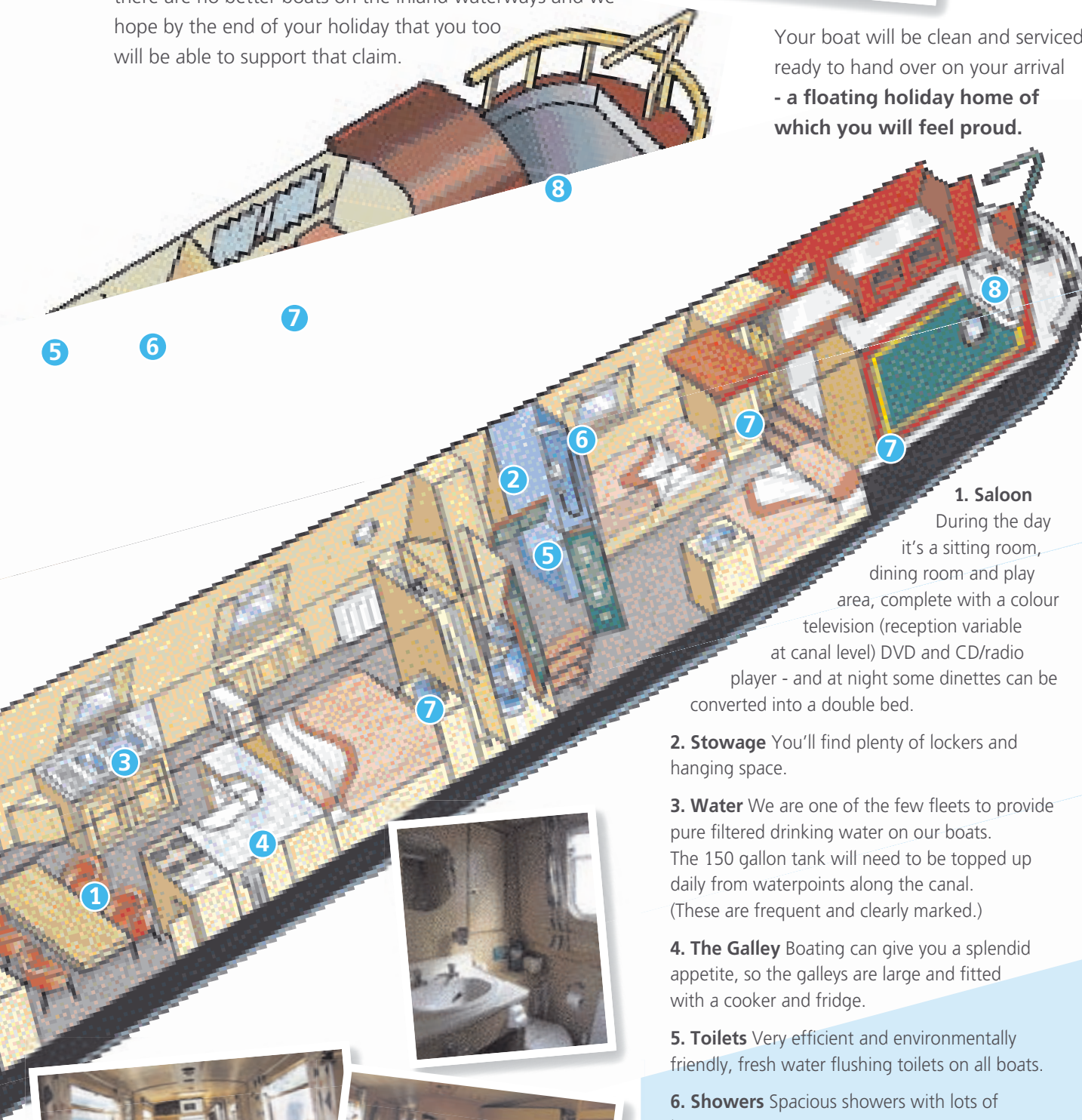


So much choice...

We are sure that you will find amongst the following pages a boat to suit your own individual taste. We believe that there are no better boats on the inland waterways and we hope by the end of your holiday that you too will be able to support that claim.



Your boat will be clean and serviced ready to hand over on your arrival - a floating holiday home of which you will feel proud.



1. Saloon

During the day it's a sitting room, dining room and play area, complete with a colour television (reception variable at canal level) DVD and CD/radio player - and at night some dinettes can be converted into a double bed.

2. Stowage You'll find plenty of lockers and hanging space.

3. Water We are one of the few fleets to provide pure filtered drinking water on our boats. The 150 gallon tank will need to be topped up daily from waterpoints along the canal. (These are frequent and clearly marked.)

4. The Galley Boating can give you a splendid appetite, so the galleys are large and fitted with a cooker and fridge.

5. Toilets Very efficient and environmentally friendly, fresh water flushing toilets on all boats.

6. Showers Spacious showers with lots of hot water.

7. Berths All our boats have comfortable beds. We provide freshly laundered duvets and bedding.

8. Engines Reliable, quiet, smooth running diesel engines.



Guide to Symbols

All of our boats have at least the following equipment provided free of charge:

- Central heating with radiators throughout the boat
- Fully equipped galley with 4-burner gas stove with grill and oven, refrigerator, sink and drainer, work surface and storage space
- Bathroom (2 on some boats) with toilet, shower, hand basin and 240 volt shaver socket
- All boats have colour television (reception variable at canal level), CD and DVD players
- Bedding
- Quiet water-cooled engine
- Fresh water tank with double filter system for drinking water

Choosing Your Boat

As part of our commitment to safety all of our start bases have been independently audited by the British Marine Federation for the standard of boat handover and tuition.

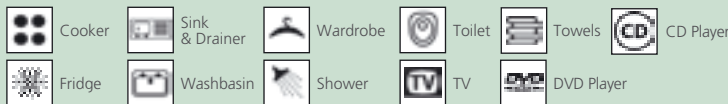


Quality

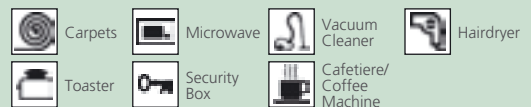
All of our boats are inspected regularly and customer feedback is monitored to ensure our high quality standards are maintained.



Standard items available on all boats:



Additional items available on some boats:



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Alvechurch	✓	✓	
Worcester	✓		

The chart next to each boat description indicates the bases and start days for which boats in the class are available.



This symbol shows the maximum amount of people a boat will sleep.

Electricity

All our boats have 12 volt electricity, the batteries charge whilst the engine is running to power items such as the fridge, TV, DVD, CD/ Radio, lights and cigar lighter socket.



240 Volt Electricity

This symbol indicates that the boat has an inverter that supplies 240v electricity to certain appliances on the boat. This is suitable for the electrical items supplied, but may damage your own equipment.

For charging mobile phones or camcorders you can bring a 12 volt car type charger with you, for which there is a socket on every boat. If you decide to use any of your own electrical appliances you do so at your own risk.



Toilets

All of our boats are equipped with fresh water flush toilets which will, in most cases, last for a full week without need of pumping out (pump-outs are readily available at most boat yards for a small fee).

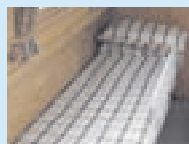


Electric Toilet

This symbol indicates the boat has the latest design of electrically operated toilets, which are comparable to a domestic toilet in terms of size and appearance. Please note that these are not suitable for the disposal of 'moist toilet wipes', quilted toilet paper or any other items which will block the system.

Cots

If you are bringing your own travel cot please check the website or call the marina. Space is obviously limited and for health and safety reasons we can advise on suitable boats that they can be accommodated on.



Cot Sides For toddlers and younger children cot sides can be supplied to fit our bunks (where possible) - request when booking.

Optional Bunks

Some classes of boat have an optional bunk bed which provides greater layout flexibility.



These beds are operated by the boat yard who will either lock it away or set it up for use if you have requested and paid for it.



Buoyancy Aids Please request buoyancy aids (compulsory for children and non-swimmers) on arrival. We will ensure that one of the correct size is provided on request for any member of the crew needing one.

Towels and Bedding On all boats a medium towel is provided for every member of the crew, plus a hand towel in each bathroom. Bedding is provided to suit the bed layout configuration requested.

Inside our boats

All of our boats have been individually hand made in this country and have unique interiors with different styles. Here is a selection of cabins from boats across our fleets.



NB. Boats are individually handcrafted so layouts may vary on different boats within each class from the diagram shown. For specific advice on boat layouts contact the marina.

Boat Layouts

There are 26 different classes of boat with a flexibility of design that allows a choice of berths to suit any group from 2 up to 12 people. The majority of permanent cabins can be made up as either a double or two single berths - just tell us the layout you require and the boat will be set up in that configuration, with the appropriate bedding for when you arrive. The symbols below each boat indicate its features (see key on page 36) and the box to the right of each boat shows the base and start days it operates.



Sleeps up to 4

141 Viking Nene Class 2+2 Berth • Length 42ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • One double berth and one dinette/double berth

BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Gailey	✓	✓



Layout 2 • Two single berths and one dinette/double berth



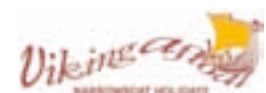
141 Viking Tyne Class 2+2 Berth • Length 48ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • One double berth, one dinette/double berth (or two single berths)

BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Rugby	✓	✓	
Worcester	✓	✓	
Whitchurch	✓	✓	✓
Wrenbury		✓	



Layout 2 • Two single berths, one dinette/double berth (or two single berths)

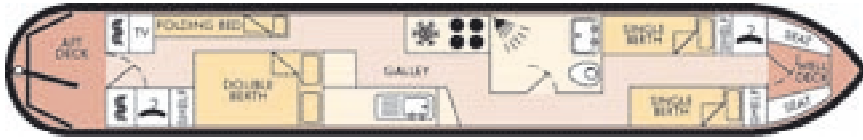


Sleeps up to 4

14 Viking Soar Class 2+2 Berth • Length 48ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • One dinette double and two single berths

BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Gailey	✓	✓	✓



Layout 2 • Four single berths



Layout 3 • Two dinette singles and one double berth



Layout 4 • Two double berths



Shropshire Union Canal, Middlewich Branch



Sleeps up to 4

141 Alvechurch Weaver 2+2 Berth • Length 47ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Alvechurch	✓	
Anderton		✓
Blackwater	✓	
Falkirk	✓	✓
Hilperton	✓	✓
Wrenbury	✓	



141 Alvechurch Grebe 2+2 Berth • Length 47ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Alvechurch		✓
Blackwater	✓	
Gailey	✓	
Gayton	✓	✓
Hilperton	✓	
Rugby	✓	
Union Wharf	✓	
Whitchurch	✓	
Wrenbury		✓



141 Alvechurch Wren 2+2 Berth • Length 47ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



BASES	Sat only
Hilperton	✓
Rugby	✓

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

- LED lighting throughout • wider beds • TV in bedroom and saloon • large mirror in the bathroom
- shower with bi-fold door • front deck table • 4 speaker radio/CD • extractor in the bathroom.



Sleeps up to 5



Red Line Finch 2+3 Berth • Length 47ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • One double berth in forward cabin



Layout 2 • Two low level single berths in forward cabin.



Optional high level single berth is available to provide 5th berth in forward cabin. Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Goytre Wharf	✓	✓



Alvechurch Bunting 2+3 Berth • Length 47ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • One double berth in forward cabin.



Layout 2 • Two low level single berths in forward cabin.



Optional high level single berth is available to provide 5th berth in forward cabin. Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	✓
Alvechurch	✓	
Anderton	✓	
Gayton	✓	
Hilperton	✓	
Whitchurch		✓
Wrenbury	✓	



Alvechurch Heron 4+1 Berth • Length 58ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Alvechurch	✓	
Anderton		✓
Gailey		✓
Gayton		✓
Hilperton		✓
Whitchurch	✓	
Wrenbury	✓	✓



Sleeps up to 6

161 Viking Medway Class 4+2 Berth • Length 57ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • Two double berths, one dinette/double berth



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Gailey	✓		✓
Rugby	✓	✓	
Whitchurch	✓	✓	
Worcester	✓		

Layout 2 • Two single berths, one double berth, one dinette/double berth



(Except Galley)



161 Viking Derwent Class 4+2 Berth • Length 60ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1 • Two double berths, one dinette/double berth (or two single berths)



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Alvechurch	✓	✓	
Gailey	✓	✓	✓
Rugby		✓	
Whitchurch	✓	✓	✓
Worcester	✓		

Layout 2 • Two single berths, one double berth, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



Layout 3 • One double berth, two single berths, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



Layout 4 • Four single berths one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)

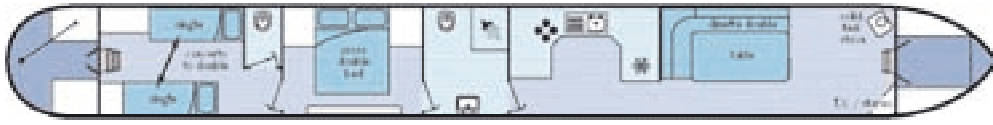


(Except Galley)



Sleeps up to 6

161 Reading Ufton 4+2 Berth • Length 62ft. • Semi-traditional Stern



BASES	Fri/ Mon only
Aldermaston	✓



161 Alvechurch Thrush 4+2 Berth • Length 66ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Alvechurch	✓	✓
Anderton	✓	✓
Falkirk	✓	✓
Gayton	✓	✓
Hilperton	✓	✓
Union Wharf	✓	
Whitchurch	✓	
Wrenbury	✓	✓



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Sleeps up to 6

161 Alvechurch Lark 4+2 Berth • Length 66ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Falkirk	✓	
Hilperton	✓	✓
Whitchurch		✓
Worcester	✓	✓

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

- LED lighting throughout
- wider beds
- TV in bedroom and saloon
- large mirror in the bathroom
- shower with bi-fold door
- front deck table
- 4 speaker radio/CD
- extractor in the bathroom.



Hatton Locks



Middlewich

161 Alvechurch Dove 4+2 Berth • Length 60ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



The dinette double area converts more comfortably to a double rather than two singles.

BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Gailey	✓	✓
Worcester		✓

Ideal for two couples as a luxury boat with separate cabins and bathrooms.



Sleeps up to 6

Alvechurch Gull 4+2 Berth • Length 66ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4

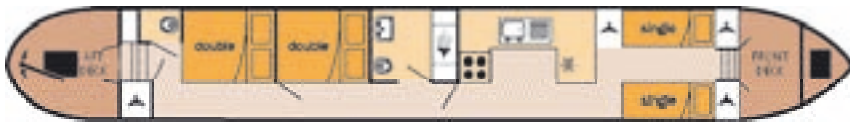


BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Aldermaston		✓	
Alvechurch	✓	✓	
Anderton	✓	✓	
Gayton	✓	✓	
Hilperton	✓	✓	✓
Rugby	✓		
Whitchurch		✓	
Wrenbury	✓	✓	



Capercaillie Grouse 4+2 Berth • Length 57ft. • Cruiser Stern

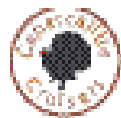
Layout 1 • One double berth in aft cabin



Layout 2 • Two low level single berths in aft cabin



BASES	Sat/Wed
Falkirk	✓



Sleeps up to 7



Alvechurch Eagle 4+3 Berth • Length 66ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Alvechurch	✓	✓
Anderton	✓	
Blackwater	✓	
Gayton	✓	
Hilperton	✓	✓
Union Wharf	✓	
Worcester	✓	✓
Wrenbury	✓	✓



Two low level single berths or a double berth available in middle and forward cabins.
Optional high level single berth available to provide 7th berth in forward cabin.
 Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



Sleeps up to 8

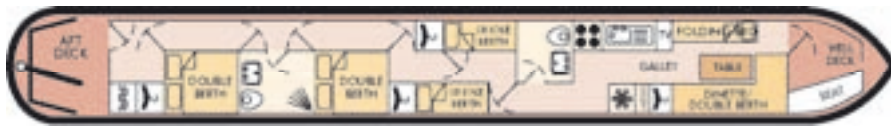


Viking Wye Class 6+2 Berth • Length 68ft. • Cruiser Stern

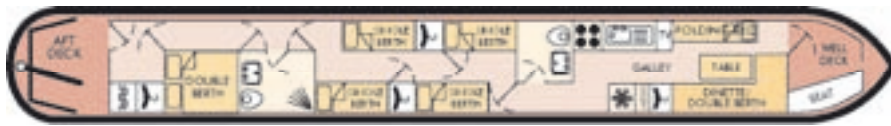
Layout 1 • Three doubles, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



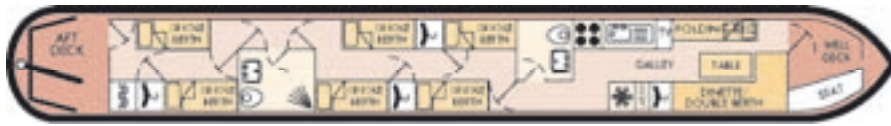
Layout 2 • Two doubles, two single berths, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



Layout 3 • One double, four single berths, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



Layout 4 • Six single berths, one dinette/double berth (or two further single berths)



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Alvechurch	✓	
Blackwater	✓	
Gailey		✓
Rugby	✓	✓
Whitchurch	✓	✓
Worcester	✓	✓
Wrenbury		✓



Sleeps up to 8

181 Red Swallow 4+4 Berth • Length 56ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Goytre Wharf	✓	✓



Two low level single berths or a double berth available in all cabins.

Optional high level single berths available to provide 7th and 8th berths in forward and rear cabins. Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal

181 Alvechurch Woodpecker 4+4 Berth • Length 60ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	✓
Wrenbury	✓	

Ideal for two couples as a luxury boat with separate cabins and bathrooms.

Two low level single berths or a double berth available in all cabins.

Optional high level single berths available to provide 7th and 8th berths in forward and rear cabins. Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



Sleeps up to 8

181 Alvechurch Goose 6+2 Berth • Length 69ft. • Semi-traditional Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat	Sun
Aldermaston		✓	
Alvechurch	✓	✓	
Anderton		✓	
Gayton	✓	✓	
Hilperton	✓	✓	✓
Whitchurch		✓	
Wrenbury	✓	✓	



181 Capercaillie Gosling 6+2 Berth • Length 63ft. • Cruiser Stern

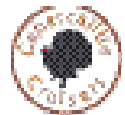
Layout 1



Layout 2



BASES	Sat/Wed
Falkirk	✓



181 Alvechurch Sanderling 6+2 Berth • Length 60ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Wide beam boat

BASES	Fri/ Mon only
Falkirk	✓



Sleeps up to 10

120 Alvechurch Owl 6+4 Berth • Length 70ft. • Cruiser Stern

Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



Two low level single berths or a double berth available in all cabins.

Optional high level single berths available to provide 9th and 10th berths in forward and rear cabins. Please add £50 extra per week (£25 extra for short break).



BASES	Fri/ Mon	Sat
Aldermaston	✓	
Alvechurch	✓	✓
Anderton	✓	
Blackwater	✓	
Gayton	✓	
Hilperton	✓	✓
Union Wharf	✓	
Wrenbury	✓	



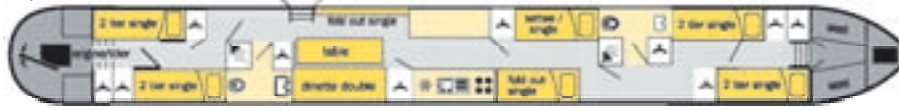
Sleeps up to 12

121 Alvechurch Swan 8+4 Berth • Length 70ft. • Cruiser Stern

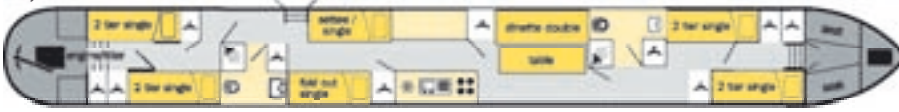
Layout 1



Layout 2



Layout 3



Layout 4



BASES	Fri/ Mon only
Aldermaston	✓
Alvechurch	✓
Anderton	✓
Gayton	✓
Hilperton	✓



How to book

Booking with us could not be easier.

Our brochure and website will assist you in making your decision regarding which boat, route and base best suits you. You can make your booking by calling us on 0330 333 0590, or complete the booking form on page 59 and return back to us. Alternatively, if you would like further information outside our usual office hours our website allows you to access a wealth of information 24 hours a day.



For availability, prices and bookings visit www.abcboathire.com and click on the **Availability** button. Simply enter details of your preferred start location and dates to enable you to view the boats currently available and their prices. You can make your reservation using the on-line booking form and make payments via a secure screen.



Easy-pay Scheme

Easy Pay allows you to spread the cost of your holiday with our easy payment plan.

No upfront deposit is needed you just divide the total cost of your holiday to be paid in equal monthly installments.

The first payment is due on the 1st day of the month after making your reservation and the final payment on the 1st day of the month that falls not less than 8 weeks prior to the start of the holiday. The earlier you book before the actual holiday date the less the monthly payments will be.

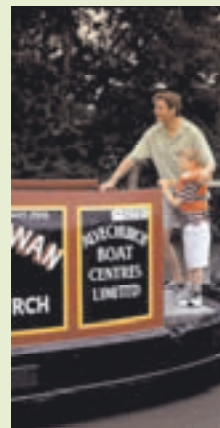
The monthly payment will be taken on 1st of every month by credit or debit card only. For credit card payments the usual 2% handling charge will apply. Debit cards are free.

Just tick 'easy pay' when booking for this option.



Green Donation

This is a voluntary donation scheme (suggested £5.00 per holiday) to offset the environmental impact of your holiday and travel to the start base. Your donation will go to the Canal & River Trust Green Fund, a registered charity that works to promote and protect Britain's waterways.



we look forward to welcoming you aboard!

Loyalty Scheme & Discounts

The loyalty scheme is rewarded to customers based on the number of years you have booked with us.

1 year	2.5% discount
2 years	5% discount
3 years	7.5% discount
4 years	10% discount

Discounts are available to those booking longer holidays or more than one holiday in the year. These discounts may not be used in conjunction with any other offer vouchers or tokens only the loyalty scheme.

25% discount

Off the basic hire price for holidays of two weeks or longer.

20% second holiday discount

If you book a further holiday in 2014 you will receive a 20% discount off the second holiday basic hire price.

Your questions answered

Arrival & Departure

We endeavour to have boats ready for collection by 3.00pm on the start day of your holiday. If for any reason you are unable to arrive on time please contact the start base (telephone numbers can be found at the top of the relevant base page) so that special arrangements can be made well in advance of your holiday. A late arrival charge may apply and we may be unable to handover the boat until the following day. Your boat must be returned and vacated by 9.30am on the last day.

Tuition

No previous experience is necessary, as our boats are extremely easy to handle and full tuition is given at the start of every holiday. Comprehensive cruising information is in a manual on the boat and details are sent out with the holiday documents to introduce you to the theory of locks and the 'rules of the road'. We provide our own 24hr emergency helpline.

Maps & Guides

A number of guides are available for planning your trip or locating sites of interest, pubs, shops and facilities along your route. The guides relevant to each route are indicated on the feature routes pages (6-33) and detailed on page 58. These may be ordered when booking or purchased at the start of the holiday at the marina.

Licences & Restrictions

You do not need a driving licence for a narrowboat and the boat itself is licenced by us for CRT waterways. There are a few waterways outside their jurisdiction for which you will need to purchase an additional licence as you enter them, such as the Rivers Avon, Thames and Wey. Aldermaston boats have a Thames licence for 2014. Our start bases can provide details when you arrive to pick up your boat. The maximum number of people on board is restricted to the number of berths.

Buoyancy Aids

There are buoyancy aids available free of charge for both children and adults at the marinas (compulsory for children under the age of 18 and non-swimmers). They do not need to be booked in advance and should be requested upon arrival at the marina so the correct size can be fitted.

Young Children

A narrowboat holiday is superb for families. Cot-sides can be provided for very small children on standard berths (see pictures on page 36). Simply indicate this when booking.

Cots

If you would like to bring a travel cot please see page 36.

Bikes

If you are planning to bring bikes on your holiday please check with the marina as not all locations are able to offer this facility. Please be aware that the only place to store them is on the roof of your boat. You cannot place the bikes inside the boat at any time. Any damage to the boat caused by carrying bikes is your responsibility.

Fishing

Fishing is prohibited on British rivers between 15th March and 15th June. Fishing is allowed outside these dates and on canals at any time, but an Environment Agency rod licence is required available online or from any post office, with a 1-day, 8-day or annual licence to choose from. You may also need a valid permit or be prepared to purchase one from the controlling angling club or riparian owner when approached on any fishery that offers day permits. For reasons of hygiene, we regret that live bait may not be kept on the boat.

Bedding

On all our boats freshly laundered bedding is provided.

Towels

On all boats a medium size towel is provided for every member of the crew, plus a hand towel in each bathroom.

Pets

This really is a holiday the whole family can enjoy together. We charge £30 for each pet (normally a maximum of 2 pets per boat). We obviously request that the boat is returned in a clean and tidy condition and reserve the right to refuse pets or charge for any additional cleaning or repairs required as a result of pets being on board during your holiday. (We do not charge for assistance dogs.)



Mobile Phone Charging

All of our boats have a 12-volt electricity supply with a car-type cigar lighter socket that can be used with a mobile phone in-car adapter lead (bring your own lead). On some boats there is a 240-volt electricity supply that can be used for your own equipment. All personal electrical equipment is used at your own risk. 110-volt AC supply is not available in the UK.

Extras

There is a voluntary environmental offset donation suggested at £5 per holiday (see page 50). Page 54 details the items inclusive to your holiday. The only compulsory charges in addition to the hire price are a fuel deposit, Cancellation Protection Fee (calculated at the rate of 4% of the basic hire charge) and non-refundable Accidental Damage Waiver Fee at £50. We can also provide details of Personal Holiday Insurance for UK customers if required (strongly recommended). A 2% surcharge is applied to any payment made by credit card and there is no surcharge for debit cards. Optional high level berths are £50 per week, £25 per short break each and £30 for each pet. See page 56 for more information regarding extras.

Fuel

The boat is ready fuelled for your holiday on arrival, but there is a fuel deposit payable with your holiday booking. This is £90 per week and £50 per short break as the cost of fuel is not included in the hire cost. When you return the boat to us the balance is refundable after deducting fuel used. However if you have used fuel in excess of the deposit you will be asked to pay the difference. We feel this is the fairest way possible as you only pay for what you use and there is an incentive to be more environmentally friendly.

Parking

There is ample open air parking at our bases which is provided free of charge. We regret that we cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to hirers' vehicles or possessions.

Look Before You Book

We welcome inspection of our boats before you book. Please phone the base before you arrive to ensure they are open and boats are available for viewing (telephone numbers can be found at the top of the relevant base page).

Environment

Recycling is available at all bases. We have an arrangement with the Canal & River Trust for you to offset your carbon footprint (see page 50).

A History of Great Holidays



During the industrial revolution of the early 18th Century the transportation of heavy goods and raw materials by road was limited by a poor road network. Cart-horses were the only form of pulling-power and the alternative of movement of loads by river was very limited.

In 1759 the Duke of Bridgewater obtained an Act of Parliament to build the first canal from his coal mines at Worsley to Manchester. James Brindley was employed to build the canal and construction was carried out by gangs of men known as navigators, or "navies". Built using just hand tools, the canal tunnelled right into the mines and coal was loaded directly onto the horse-drawn boats. Once it opened it became the wonder of the age - and halved the price of coal in Manchester.

Over the next 30 years numerous canals were built, reaching a peak in 1793 when 20 new canals were authorised by Parliament and boats were also built to transport passengers. However, the introduction of the railways brought an end to the commercial use of the canals and, by the start of the 20th century, many canals closed. Diesel powered boats introduced in the 1930s gave some opportunity for the canals

to compete with road transport. Traffic continued throughout the 1940s and 1950s, but was brought to an end as recently as the early 1960s when a severe winter caused the canals to freeze over for nearly three months.

The revival of the canals for pleasure use is largely credited to the book "Narrow Boat" by LTC Rolt, published in 1944.

The decision by, amongst others, Rolt and Robert Aickman to form the Inland Waterways Association (IWA) was reputedly spawned just three miles from Alvechurch itself, at the top of the Tardebigge lock flight.





Turn to page 50 to see the benefits of our loyalty scheme and great discounts!



Weekly Hire 2014

All prices shown are in £'s per boat, per week or short break. The price is inclusive of:

- VAT.
- Car parking.
- Bed linen.
- Buoyancy aids.
- Welcome pack: washing up liquid, toilet roll, sponge, tea towel.
- Useful e-handbook in advance of holiday and initial tuition on arrival.
- Boat licence for all Canal & River Trust controlled navigations.
- On all boats a medium size towel is provided for every member of the crew, plus a hand towel in each bathroom.

Pricing:

- For holidays starting on Friday, Sunday or Monday, price as the nearest Saturday.
- For 10/11 night holidays add the cost of the first week to half the weekly charge for the second week.

In addition to the hire charge you will be required to pay:

- Cancellation Protection Plan fee at the rate of 4% of the hire charge.
- Non-refundable Accidental Damage Waiver fee at £50.
- Pets at £30 each.
- For optional high level berths a fee of £50 per week or £25 per short break each if required.
- The boat is ready fuelled for your holiday on arrival, but there is a fuel deposit payable with your holiday booking. This is £90 per week as the cost of fuel is not included in the hire cost. When you return the boat to us the balance is refundable after deducting fuel used. However if you have used fuel in excess of the deposit you will be asked to pay the difference. We feel this is the fairest way possible as you only pay for what you use.
- NB Capercaillie Gosling and Capercaillie Grouse offer weekly holidays on different start days and times.



Book before 31st December 2013 and get your Early Booking Discount! Up to 30% off*

	March		April		May			June		July		August		September			October		
Saturdays	15 22	29	5 12 19	26	3 10 17	24	31	7 14 21	28	5 12 19	26	2 9 16 23	30	6	13 20	27	4 11 18	25	
Boat Class																			
Nene	549	699	999	799	899	1199	899	999	1099	1099	1199	1199	999	999	849	699	699	749	
Soar Tyne	599	749	1099	879	999	1299	999	1099	1199	1199	1299	1299	1099	1099	899	749	749	799	
Bunting																			
Finch																			
Grebe	649	779	1179	949	1059	1379	1059	1179	1249	1249	1379	1379	1179	1179	949	799	799	849	
Wren																			
Weaver																			
Medway																			
Derwent																			
Ufton	749	899	1359	1099	1229	1599	1229	1359	1449	1449	1599	1599	1359	1359	1099	929	929	979	
Heron																			
Grouse																			
Gosling																			
Dove																			
Swallow																			
Woodpecker																			
Eagle	899	1099	1659	1279	1459	1899	1459	1659	1739	1739	1899	1899	1659	1659	1349	1089	1089	1179	
Gull																			
Thrush																			
Wye																			
Lark																			
Owl																			
Goose	989	1249	1899	1479	1759	2199	1759	1899	1979	1979	2199	2199	1899	1899	1539	1319	1319	1429	
Swan																			
Sanderling	999	1299	1949	1539	1839	2299	1839	1949	2069	2069	2299	2299	1949	1949	1599	1379	1379	1489	

*20% early booking offer and up to 10% loyalty discount.

Turn to page 50 to see the benefits of our loyalty scheme and great discounts!



Short Breaks 2014

Every year sees an increase in the demand for these popular short breaks. Some people like the idea of being able to try the holiday out for a few days before committing themselves to a week or longer, whilst others regularly take the opportunity to get away for a few days. Narrowboat holidays are the fastest way of slowing down and so what could be better than a leisurely three or four night break away, enjoying the countryside, relaxing and unwinding.

Because we have boats available for Friday and Monday starts, we can offer superb three night weekend breaks that conveniently start at 3.00pm on a Friday afternoon and finish at 9.30am on the following Monday. Or if you are looking for extra value for money, you could try our four night midweek breaks. These start on Monday at 3.00pm and finish on Friday at 9.30am. Since the price is the same as a weekend break, you effectively get the extra midweek night free! This can be an additional bonus to those of you that are committed to weekend activities, as you can enjoy a decent break away without losing a weekend. Short breaks are available from all of our bases and sample trips are outlined on the route pages 6-33.

Pricing:

- For short break holidays starting on Monday and Friday, price as the nearest Saturday.
- The boat is ready fuelled for your holiday on arrival, but there is a fuel deposit payable with your holiday booking. This is £50 per short break as the cost of fuel is not included in the hire cost. When you return the boat to us the balance is refundable after deducting fuel used. However if you have used fuel in excess of the deposit you will be asked to pay the difference. We feel this is the fairest way possible as you only pay for what you use.
- NB Capercaillie Gosling and Capercaillie Grouse offer short breaks on different start days and times.



Book before 31st December 2013 and get your Early Booking Discount! Up to 30% off*

	March		April		May			June		July		August		September			October	
Saturdays	15 22	29	5 12 19	26	3 10 17	24	31	7 14 21	28	5 12 19	26	2 9 16 23	30	6	13 20	27	4 11 18	25
Boat Class																		
Nene	359	459	649	519	589	779	589	649	719	719	779	779	649	649	559	459	459	489
Soar Tyne	389	489	719	579	649	849	649	719	779	779	849	849	719	719	589	489	489	519
Bunting Finch Grebe Wren Weaver	429	509	769	619	689	899	689	769	819	819	899	899	769	769	619	519	519	559
Medway Derwent Ufton Heron Grouse	489	589	889	719	799	1039	799	889	949	949	1039	1039	889	889	719	609	609	639
Gosling Dove Swallow Woodpecker Eagle Gull Thrush Wye Lark	589	719	1079	839	949	1239	949	1079	1139	1139	1239	1239	1079	1079	879	709	709	769
Owl Goose	649	819	1239	969	1149	1429	1149	1239	1289	1289	1429	1429	1239	1239	1009	859	859	929
Swan Sanderling	649	849	1269	1009	1199	1499	1199	1269	1349	1349	1499	1499	1269	1269	1039	899	899	969

*20% early booking offer and up to 10% loyalty discount.

Additional charges explained

Accidental Damage Waiver (Compulsory)

The non-refundable Accidental Damage Waiver Fee of £50 covers you in the event of damage, loss or accident to your boat or its inventory during your holiday. It is non-refundable and avoids the requirement for a damage deposit payment of £500 to cover the insurance excess pending any claims. There are certain exclusions:

- Any claims arising from excessive speed (the limit is 4mph).
- Damage arising from negligence, malicious or intentional damage to the boat, its inventory, third party property, the canal and its structures.
- Damage to the rudder, skeg or transmission due to contact with a lock cill.
- Return of the boat late and/or in an unclean condition.

Cancellation Protection Plan (Required)

Once a deposit has been paid and a booking confirmed, a contract exists and you will be liable for the whole of the hire charge even if you are prevented from taking your holiday. The Company have arranged a Cancellation Protection Plan (CPP) to offer protection against this liability in certain circumstances.

The charge for the CPP is calculated at the rate of 4% of the hire charge payable. CPP payments are not refundable.

The fee is automatically added to the initial payment and will only be waived if:

- a) the whole cost of the holiday is paid on booking and written confirmation is received that you accept the risk of no refund if cancellation becomes necessary or
- b) if you have a cancellation insurance with cover that is comparable or exceeds our scheme, and can provide documentary evidence of such at the time of booking the holiday. Payments for the cancellation protection plan are not refundable.

Where any of the qualifying circumstances are met, all hire monies paid will be refunded less the CPP subscription fee and you will be absolved from liability for any balance of hire payment outstanding. The decision of The Company on all claims will be final.

- CPP only covers complete cancellation prior to the start of the holiday. It does not give a partial refund in the event of one or more persons being unable to take their place in the crew.
- Cover is only provided to those people detailed with names and addresses shown on the booking form.
- Any claim must be supported by suitable documentary evidence.
- Any claim must be made at the earliest opportunity by telephone and then be confirmed within seven days by Recorded Delivery Mail.

Qualifying Circumstances

Death, injury, illness, pregnancy complications or confinement immediately prior to holiday commencement (certified in all cases by a qualified registered medical practitioner).

Death, injury, illness, pregnancy complications or confinement (certified in all cases by a qualified registered medical practitioner) of a near relative (husband, wife, father, mother, parent-in-law, sister, brother or child) or a close business associate of any named member of the party immediately prior to holiday commencement.

Jury or witness service (in a court of law), or redundancy (qualifying for payment under the Redundancy Payment Act 1965).

Fire, storm, flood, subsidence or malicious damage making the hirer's home uninhabitable.

Police requiring the hirer's presence following burglary at home or place of business.

Cancelled leave orders in respect of the U.K. police and military personnel.

Unforeseen occupational posting in respect of the hirer's present employment immediately prior to holiday commencement.

With the exception of maternity the above circumstances must occur after the holiday has been booked and the CPP fee paid.

Credit Card Surcharge

Please note that a surcharge of 2% of the payment made will be applied if a credit card is used. If only part payment is made (e.g. deposit) by credit card and the remainder by an alternative method, the surcharge will only apply to the amount paid by credit card (overseas debit cards may also incur the 2% surcharge, please check with your card issuer to verify). Overseas customers have the ability to pay in their local currency.

Personal Holiday Insurance

We recommend that you take out personal holiday insurance as we only insure the boat which does not cover you or your personal possessions. If you would like details about personal holiday insurance please indicate when booking.

Fuel

The boat is ready fuelled for your holiday on arrival, but there is a fuel deposit payable with your holiday booking. This is £90 per week and £50 per short break as the cost of fuel is not included in the hire cost. When you return the boat to us the balance is refundable after deducting fuel used. However if you have used fuel in excess of the deposit you will be asked to pay the difference.

Pets

This really is a holiday the whole family can enjoy together. We charge £30 for each pet. We obviously request that the boat is returned in a clean and tidy condition and reserve the right to refuse pets or charge for any additional cleaning or repairs required as a result of pets being on board during your holiday.

Optional Berths

Optional high level berths where available are £50 per week £25 per short break each. (See page 36 for details.)

Green Donation

A voluntary environmental charity donation see page 50 for further details.



CONDITIONS OF HIRE

1. Definitions

In these conditions and agreement:

'the Company' means ABC Leisure Group Limited and Subsidiaries who act as agents for Boat Owners.

'the Hirer' means the person or persons named on the booking confirmation. Where there is more than one Hirer they shall be individually responsible and liable under this agreement.

'the Boat Owner' means the person (corporate or otherwise) who owns the boat that is hired to the Hirer under the terms of these Conditions.

'the Conditions' means the conditions set out in this form.

'the price' means the price for the booking set out in the booking confirmation.

'the start date' means the date when the booking starts as set out in the booking confirmation.

'the end date' means the date when the booking ends as set out in the booking confirmation.

'the period of hire' means the period between the start date and the end date.

2. Booking Agreement

The parties acknowledge and agree that the Company is acting for the Boat Owner and is authorised to enter into contracts with Hirers on behalf of Boat Owners and to collect payment from Hirers and to otherwise manage the hiring of boats to Hirers.

A booking is a legally binding contract between the Hirer and the Boat Owner. Submission of a completed booking form is an offer by the Hirer and the booking agreement is made only if and when the Company gives a written boat hire confirmation. Telephone bookings do not create legal agreements and any offer by the company to hold a reservation is not legally binding until the written boat hire confirmation is issued.

The entire contract between the Boat Owner and the Hirer is contained in these Conditions and the booking form and to the extent permitted by law no representations, terms, warranty or condition expressed or implied shall be deemed to be or have been made or agreed or imported by reference to any other writing, advertisement or conversation. No agent, servant or representative of the Company has any right to alter or vary or waive any of these conditions. Nor is any such person authorised to undertake any liability whatsoever on behalf of the Boat Owner. These conditions can only be varied with the written permission signed by a Director of the Company. The Hirer acknowledges that no statement or representation which may have been made by or on behalf of the Company or the Boat Owner induced the Hirer to enter into the contract and that any such statements or representations do not form part of the contract. Any liability of the Company or the Boat Owner and any remedy of the Hirer in respect of any such statement or representation is excluded save in so far as liability in respect of any particular statement or representation may not be excluded by law. In accepting a booking, the Company's and the Boat Owner's responsibility does not extend beyond the provision of the boat and in particular there is no warranty that any particular route will be available for navigation during the period of hire. Where more than one boat is booked on the same booking form each boat shall be deemed to be the subject of a separate contract. Bookings, including optional extras, are taken subject to availability on the start date.

3. Group Bookings, Age Limits and Unsuitable Hirers

The Hirer must be aged 18 years or over. There needs to be a minimum of two competent persons on each boat to enable safe navigation. Although there is no age limit for driving the boat, the Hirer warrants that whenever the boat is driven by a person aged under 18 years old they will always be under the close supervision of a competent adult. Where a boat is occupied by a group the Hirer warrants that at all times a responsible person aged more than 18 years will be in charge of the group. The Hirer must provide on the booking form full details of all persons in their party. The Company or the Boat Owner may at their discretion cancel any booking made in contravention of this condition before or at the start date.

The Company or the Boat Owner may at their discretion cancel the booking and refuse to hand over the boat to any person or group who in its opinion is not suitable to take charge on the grounds of infirmity, ill health, disability, suspected influence of alcohol or drugs or who have failed to demonstrate a reasonable standard of competence following appropriate instruction in boat handling. The Company or the Boat Owner may repossess the boat at any time if in the opinion of the Company or the Boat Owner the Hirer is unsuitable for the reasons given above or if the Hirer is not behaving responsibly or if the boat or any persons are at risk. In this event as the holiday period is deemed to have started the Hirer shall remain liable to pay the hire price and no refund shall be due.

4. Cancellations and Changes

The agreement including the payment terms is a legally binding contract and may not be cancelled or amended except as provided in the Conditions. Should the Hirer wish to cancel or amend the booking they must advise the Company immediately by telephone and at the same time send written confirmation. The Company reserves the right to levy an administration charge of £50 for any alteration to a booking made by the hirer after it has issued a booking confirmation. It is suggested that hirers take out Cancellation Protection, or other similar protection, which ensures that monies are refundable in the unfortunate event of them being prevented from taking their holiday. In the event of the circumstances not being covered by Cancellation Protection the company will endeavour to rebook the boat for which an administration charge of 15% of the hire price will be levied. In the event of the deposits or balances being eligible for refund the Company will charge a fee depending on the date on which the Cancellation Notice is received. More than 56 days before the Start Date 40% of the hire price. 43-56 days 50% of the hire price. 29-42 days 70% of the hire price. 8-28 days 85% of the hire price and 7 days or less 100% of the hire price.

5. Hire Period, Collection and Return of Boat

The hire period is as shown in the booking confirmation. The Company will endeavour to have the boat ready for the Hirer by the time stated on the booking confirmation on the start date. The Hirer must notify the Company of any likely delay in arrival as soon as possible by email or telephone. Before the Hirer departs with the boat the Company will give the Hirer such instructions, demonstrations and trials as it thinks fit and require the hirer to check and sign for the contents, inventory and Boat Acceptance. In the event that the boat is not available because of circumstances beyond the Company's or Boat Owner's control the Company may substitute a boat of similar accommodation, but if no such boat is available the Company shall refund any payments made but shall not otherwise be liable and the contract shall be discharged. Substitution of a boat of similar accommodation will create a new contract between the Hirer and the Boat Owner of the new boat subject to all the terms set out in these Conditions and the booking form.

The boat shall be returned to the Company's hire base and be vacated in a clean and tidy condition no later than the time stated on the booking confirmation on the end date. Hirers are responsible for ensuring that their cruising schedule allows time for unforeseen contingencies so as to permit their return and vacation of the boat by the scheduled time. Breach of this condition will incur a minimum

additional charge of £50 per hour or part thereof. In addition, the Hirer will be liable for any extra costs and/or damages incurred by the Company and of the Boat Owner as a result of the boat not being available on time for the next Hirer. Where the Company has to recover a boat and return it to the base, the Hirer shall be liable for all the costs involved.

Where operational circumstances make it necessary the Company reserves the right to require the boat to start from or return to a place other than its normal base of operation. In such circumstances the Company will where necessary provide transport to the original base.

6. Prices and Payment

Prices are inclusive of any V.A.T. which may be chargeable and are subject to any change in the V.A.T. rate prior to the settlement of the price in full. The booking confirmation and booking statement are not V.A.T. invoices.

Prices are in pounds sterling. The Hirer shall reimburse the Company on demand for any expenses incurred in the conversion of foreign currencies, bank charges, special clearance, re-presenting cheques, processing payments or otherwise in obtaining cleared sterling funds of the amount due on the due date. Payment is not made until cash or cleared funds have been received by the Company.

The booking deposit must be sent with the booking application and unless otherwise stated is 25% of the hire price and CPP.

The balance of the price is due not less than 8 weeks before the hire start date. Time of payment shall be of the essence of the contract. For bookings made within 8 weeks before the hire start date payment in full must accompany the booking form.

Without prejudice to any other rights of the Company it may charge interest (both before and after any judgement) at the rate of 3% over the Company's bankers base lending rate on any monies due from the due payment date until the date of payment and interest shall accrue from day to day.

7. Insurance

The Company insures the boat and its equipment and inventory against public liability risks. The Company's insurance does not cover personal accidents or loss or damage to personal effects. Hirers and their crews are advised to take out their own personal insurance cover. The hirer shall pay a compulsory non-refundable accidental damage waiver of £50.00 per booking. Accidental damage waiver excludes damage arising from speeding, contact with a lock sill causing damage to the rudder, skeg or stern gear, TV aerials, chimneys, negligence, malicious or intentional damage to the boat. Also excluded is negligence, malicious or intentional damage to other boats and property and the late return of the boat and return of the boat in unclean condition.

The Hirer will indemnify the Company and the Boat Owner against all costs, damage, expenses, liability and claims howsoever arising from the negligence, neglect or default of the Hirer to the extent that they are not covered by the Company's policy.

8. Safety and Other Rules

The Hirer agrees to comply with the following rules at all times for the health and safety of the persons on the boat and other persons and for safeguarding the boat and other property:

Not to tow other craft or allow the boat to be towed except under professional assistance in the event of breakdown or emergency.

Not to cruise between sunset and sunrise. The boat is only equipped for cruising during daylight hours.

To observe all speed limits, not to race and not to cruise at a speed which creates a breaking wash or disturbs or inconveniences other waterway users.

Not to take or have on the boat without the Company's prior written permission any dinghies, canoes, inflatables, portable heaters, bicycles, vehicles, lighting equipment, t.v. sets, electrical appliances, (other than razors) inflammable liquids or substances, gas cylinders, barbecues, car batteries, fire arms or any other items which might create dangers or hazards.

Not to use the boat for business purposes.

Not to allow on the boat at any time more persons than the maximum number of berths and under no circumstances more than 12 persons.

To give way to laden or unladen cargo boats, sailing craft, rowing boats and other human propelled craft.

Not to take the boat to sea or on tidal waters.

Not to have or carry any live fishing bait on the boat.

At all times to observe all bylaws, navigational limits or instructions and advice of CRT and other navigational authorities and the Company and their respective officers and employees.

To comply with any mooring restrictions and charges, and to be responsible of any fines levied for not doing so.

The Company and the Boat Owner reserve the right at their discretion without liability to restrict cruising areas or routes in the light of prevailing conditions.

9. Accidents

The Hirer is in charge of the boat and is responsible for its safe navigation and return. In the event of any accident or damage to the boat other craft or the waterway the Hirer must:-

Obtain and record the name and registration number of the other boat and names and addresses of all parties involved including the other boat owners and other hirers.

Notify the Company by telephone immediately with full details of the accident including damage incurred.

NOT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES ADMIT OR ALLOW OTHER PERSONS ON THE BOAT TO ADMIT LIABILITY TO ANY OTHER PERSON.

Not to carry out or have carried out repairs without the consent of the Company or the Boat Owner.

Obtain and follow the Company's instructions. In the event of an accident the Company may repossess the boat and the hiring contract shall then terminate without liability on the Company or the Boat Owner.

In the event that the Company's insurance cover is prejudiced or invalidated by any failure on the part of the Hirer to comply with the provisions of this condition the Hirer shall indemnify the Company and the Boat Owner in respect of all liability claims, loss, damage or expenses incurred.

The Hirer is liable for and shall indemnify the Company and the Boat Owner against any claim or charge made by any Navigation Authority for damage to waterway property or loss of water.

10. Maintenance, Repairs, Damage and Breakdown

The Hirer shall take reasonable care of the boat, its equipment and contents, and shall return them at the end of the hire period in accordance with the Company's instructions and in good clean and tidy order and condition.

The Hirer shall notify the Company in the event of breakdown, damage, theft or loss and shall provide full details and comply with the Company's instructions.

The Hirer must not undertake or have undertaken any repairs, adjustment or service without the Company's prior approval. Any repairs or replacements by the Hirer without the Company's approval will not be accepted. The Hirer shall be responsible for getting the

boat off mud banks or other grounding and for removal of weeds, rope and other matter from propellers.

The Hirer shall notify the Company if any of these operations cannot be carried out without risk of accident or damage.

The Hirer shall have no claim on the Company or the Boat Owner as a result of breakdown or failures of the boat and its equipment or for any delays caused by repairs to the boat. The Hirer shall comply with the Company's instructions; otherwise the Hirer shall be liable for any loss or damage incurred.

11. Hirer's Property

Vehicles may be left in the Company's car parks at the owner's risk. The Company will be under no liability for any loss of or damage to vehicles or contents of the hirers or other peoples property on the boat or elsewhere or howsoever caused except by the Company's negligence or that of those for whom the Company is responsible. Hirers are particularly advised not to leave any valuable or portable items in the car.

The Company shall take such action as may be necessary to silence car alarms in the Company's car parks and to recover the costs from the Hirer.

The Company may return hirer's property left behind if claimed and following the receipt of payment for postage and packing (minimum charge £10). Property not claimed within two months from the end date of the holiday will be disposed of by the Company.

12. Fuel

The boat is handed over ready fuelled, but the cost of hire does not include the fuel consumed. A fuel deposit is payable 8 weeks before the start of your holiday. At the end of your holiday period the boat must be refuelled and any difference to the deposit paid will be refunded or charged.

The Boat Owner or the Company may make a fuel surcharge if there is any material increase of diesel or gas prices or duty.

Whilst water supply and moorings on the canals are normally free of charge, any costs incurred are the responsibility of the Hirer.

Where pump-outs are required to toilet tanks, the cost is the responsibility of the Hirer unless carried out at the Company's base.

13. Pets

Pets are allowed on the boat but must be pre-booked, and must be paid for (Registered assistance animals will not be charged for). Hirers must provide their own pet baskets or blankets. All pets must be properly house trained or caged as appropriate, must not be left unattended, and must not be allowed on bedding or chairs. Pets are not covered under the Company's insurance policy and the Hirer shall be liable for the cost of any damage or extra cleaning required.

14. Complaints

The Hirer shall check the boat, its contents and equipment fully immediately after taking possession of the boat. In the unlikely event of any alleged deficiencies or shortcomings the Hirer must notify the Company before the boat leaves the boat yard. The Hirer shall sign the Boat Acceptance form before departure and thereafter the Hirer is completely responsible for the boat, its equipment and its operation until it is handed back to the Company at the end of the period of hire. Any shortcomings subsequently discovered shall immediately be notified to the Company by telephone in order to give the Company the opportunity to take any necessary remedial action. The Company and the Boat Owner shall not be liable in respect of any matter which is not so notified immediately and in any event shall not be liable in respect of any matter which is notified after the end of the hire period, as the boat may then have been taken over by another hirer and may not be available for inspection.

15. Exemption

The Company [and/or] the Boat Owner shall not be liable for any matters arising from any cause beyond the Company's [and/or] the Boat Owner's reasonable control or not due to the Company's [and/or] the Boat Owner's negligence or wilful default including (without limitation) death or personal injury of Hirers their crew and passengers, loss or damage to property, non-fulfilment or interruption of the booking or delays, breakdowns, mechanical problems, defects, damage, restrictions or obstructions, repairs or damage to waterways, non availability of routes, navigational works, storms, floods, droughts, ice, shortage of water or other weather conditions, rationing, shortage or non availability of fuel or in respect of any consequential loss, damage, expense, injury, or claim.

Hirers are recommended to take out personal holiday insurance cover.

16. Marketing Material

The specification of boats, their accommodation, facilities and equipment in marketing material is intended as a general guide, but the Company and/or the Boat Owner shall not be liable in the event of any differences in the boat supplied and reserves the right to make modifications. Layout plans are for guidance only and are not to scale and may have steps which are not shown. If the hirer's party includes any infirm persons the Hirer should make relevant enquiries at the time of booking.

The Company and/or the Boat Owner reserve the right to change boat specifications without prior notice.

17. Disputes

Any dispute difference or question which may at any time arise out of the booking contract may be referred to the Company's sole discretion to a single arbitrator to be agreed between the parties or failing agreement to be nominated upon application of either party by the President of the Birmingham Law Society. The decision of such arbitrator (acting as an expert and not as an arbitrator) including any direction as to payment of fees and costs in the arbitration shall be binding on both parties.

18. Jurisdiction

The contract between the Boat Owner and the Hirer shall be deemed to have been made in England and shall be governed in all respects by English law. The Hirer shall submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts provided that the Company and the Boat Owner at their option may bring any legal proceedings against the Hirer from courts in any other country.

19. Waiver

No indulgence, forbearance or delay by the Company or the Boat Owner shall constitute any bar to its enforcement of its rights at any time and no waiver in respect of any breach shall operate as a waiver in respect of any other subsequent breach.

ABC Leisure Group Limited

Booking Office: PO Box 232, Worcester WR1 2SD

Registered Office: Scarfield Wharf, Alvechurch, Worcestershire B48 7SQ

Registered in England No 2860394

VAT Registration No 641002792

Available in larger print at www.abcboathire.com

Maps & Guides

The following is a selection of the most popular guides available. We also stock other titles and ranges, please contact us should you require a particular map or guide. For details of the guide most suited to the area you intend to cruise, the numbers shown against this list are indicated on the feature route pages for each base (see pages 6-33). Please specify the reference number of each guide you would like to purchase when making your booking, you will receive your maps and guides once your holiday is confirmed.

Nicholson's Guides Ring-bound, A5 guide-books with detailed narrative information about the area surrounding the waterways route. Information is given regarding the history of the area, pubs, restaurants, boatyards and local places of interest, including telephone numbers and opening hours where applicable. Each map section shown is a genuine Ordnance Survey extract with the waterway route and features highlighted. Set into chapters covering each waterway, a general introduction at the start of the chapter gives more specific navigational information.

N1 Grand Union, Oxford & the South East.....	£17.95	N5 North West & the Pennines.....	£17.95
N2 Severn, Avon & Birmingham.....	£17.95	N6 Nottingham, York & the North East.....	£17.95
N3 Birmingham & the Heart of England.....	£17.95	N7 River Thames & the Southern Waterways.....	£17.95
N4 Four Counties & the Welsh Canals.....	£17.95		

Lockmaster Maps Black and white flat maps (sent rolled in a tube) measuring approximately 40cm x 48cm (16" x 19") detailing the route of the canal, canal features (bridges, locks etc) and the location of towns along the route. These maps give a good overview of areas of canals such as 'ring' routes.

L5 The Cheshire Ring.....	£6.00	L16 The Stourport Ring.....	£6.00
L8 Chester & the Llangollen.....	£6.00	L17 From Avon to Thames.....	£6.00
L10 The Four Counties Ring.....	£6.00	L18 Grand Union South - Braunston to Brentford.....	£6.00
L12 Black Country Canals.....	£6.00	L20 Kennet & Avon Waters.....	£6.00
L13 The Warwickshire Ring.....	£6.00	L22 London's Waterways.....	£6.00
L14 East Midland Canals.....	£6.00	L23 Southern Counties Waterways.....	£6.00
L15 The Avon Ring.....	£6.00	L24 Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.....	£6.00

Pearson's Guides A5 guidebooks with a similar level of information to the Nicholson's guides. Each map page details the facilities immediately near to the canal or waterway, with a summary given of the number of miles and locks covered by that page, together with the approximate cruising time to be allowed. Popular with first-timers and experienced boaters alike.

P1 Stourport Ring including BCN.....	£11.40	P6 South Midlands & Warwickshire Ring.....	£11.40
P2 Severn & Avon.....	£11.40	P7 Oxford & Grand Union.....	£11.40
P3 Welsh Waters.....	£11.40	P8 Kennet & Avon and Middle Thames.....	£11.40
P4 Four Counties Ring.....	£11.40	P9 Pennine Waters.....	£11.40
P5 Cheshire Ring.....	£11.40		

Heron & Geo Projects Maps & Guides Coloured fold-out maps detailing the route of the canal or waterway, extending to significant villages and towns up to about 5 miles from the waterway. Each map includes an overall introduction to the waterway, with additional paragraphs detailing history, sites of interest and significant canal features.

H1 Kennet & Avon Canal.....	£7.50	G29 Thames Ring Atlas (47 page ring-bound book)....	£14.20
H2 Llangollen & Montgomery Canals.....	£7.50		

Waterways Routes A5 cruising map in colour booklet detailing the route of the canal, canal features (bridges, locks etc) and the location of towns along the route.

WR1 Forth & Clyde and Union Canals.....	£7.50
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Route Planners

NP Nicholson's OS Inland Waterways Map of GB.....	£10.50
LP Lockmaster Coloured Route Planner.....	£5.70
GP Geo Projects Canal Map of Great Britain.....	£8.20
NPS Nicholson's OS Inland Waterways Map of Scotland.....	£10.50

Cool Canals

BG Britain's Canals.....	£20.00
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Cool Canals Great Waterways Outdoors

GWO Cool Canals Great Waterways Outdoors.....	£19.95
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D1 The Droitwich Canals, Navigation & Visitor Guide.....	£8.95
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Safety Information (Free publications - charge only for p&p)

BDVD The Boaters DVD (UK only).....	£0.85
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Note: A link to a basic boat handling video will be emailed out to you 8 weeks prior to the start of your holiday and will be available on your boat.

All prices include UK postage and packing and you are welcome to order maps and guides at any time - simply phone the booking office if you would like to receive guides at a time other than when you make your booking. For postage to overseas add £2.00 to the price for each item.

Booking Form 2014

Mr	Mrs	Miss	Ms	Initial	Surname
Address:					
Postcode:					
Day Phone:					
Evening Phone:					
Mobile Phone:					
Email Address:					

How did you hear about us?

Experience? Y N Details:



Booking Reference: Base:

Boat Class:



Start Date: Number of nights:

Names	First line of address (if not the same as above)	Postcode	Age if under 18
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			

Credit Cards* (2% surcharge)

Visa Mastercard
 

Debit Cards

Visa Debit Maestro/Switch
 

If making payment from overseas by credit or debit card you will have the ability to pay in your local currency.

- Please charge my initial payment to my credit/debit card now.
- Please charge the full cost of my holiday now.
- Easy-Pay (see page 50 for details)

*A surcharge of 2% will be added to Credit/Charge Card payments. Payments by cheque/postal order should be made out to ABC Leisure Group.

In order to reduce our environmental impact we will, where possible, communicate with you via the email provided.

LAYOUT DOUBLE BERTH (Low Level) SINGLE BERTH (Low Level) OPTIONAL HIGH LEVEL BERTH (where possible) COT SIDE (where possible)

PETS: no of pets pets £30.00 each

PERSONAL HOLIDAY INSURANCE: Tick 'Yes' if required Y N
(STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

MAPS & GUIDES: For details of suitable guides see page 58 and refer to the route planning pages. Insert the reference numbers of those you require in this section and add the total price where indicated. Note that UK postage and packing is included but please add £2.00 per item for overseas.

A	Basic Brochure Holiday Price (p.54-55)	<input type="text"/>
B	Offers/Discounts/Tokens claimed	<input type="text"/>
C	Map & Guides (p.58)	<input type="text"/>
D	Pets (p.56)	<input type="text"/>
E	Optional High Level Berth (p.56)	<input type="text"/>
F	Cancellation Protection Plan (CPP) (p.56) (4% of section A)	<input type="text"/>
G	Green Donation (suggested £5.00) (p.56)	<input type="text"/>
H	Fuel Deposit (p.56) (£90 per week & £50 per short break)	<input type="text"/>
I	Accident Damage Waiver (p.56)	<input type="text"/> £50.00
HOLIDAY TOTAL		<input type="text"/>

PAYMENTS REQUIRED NOW *A 25% Deposit of holiday price (A) + CPP (F) + Maps & Guides (C) if required must be returned with this booking form.	Deposit 25%	<input type="text"/>	*
	CPP	<input type="text"/>	*
	Maps & Guides	<input type="text"/>	*
	DEPOSIT TOTAL	<input type="text"/>	*

I DECLARE THAT I AM 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER. I AGREE TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BALANCE SHOWN ON MY BOOKING CONFIRMATION. I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE IN THIS BROCHURE.

WHEN PAYING BY CARD I AUTHORISE THE COMPANY TO CHARGE MY ACCOUNT FOR THE PAYMENT SHOWN HERE. I ALSO CERTIFY THAT I AM THE PERSON BOOKING THE HOLIDAY AND THAT THE ADDRESS IS THE SAME AS FOR MY CREDIT CARD.

Signature Date

Cardholder's Name

Your Card Number

Valid from Valid to Issue Number Security Code

