

A holiday of a lifetime A lifetime of holidays



CANAL
BOAT CLUB
www.canalboatclub.com

Welcome



Becoming a member of Canalboat Club will enable you to take a narrowboat holiday every year from a choice of start locations for life.

When buying a week or more of use you are joining an exclusive club of owners who find this an extremely economical and practical way of fulfilling both their boating and holiday dreams.

You pay just the initial asking price and then an annual management fee each year after that, and that's all you pay apart from the fuel (Utility Fee) if you use the boat. The annual management fee covers items such as moorings, licenses, insurance, cleaning, reservation and administration services, boat maintenance, tuition at the start of each holiday and a 24hr helpline. Your ownership is for life,* so it can work out as a very cost effective holiday which you can pass or leave in your will to family or friends.

Canalboat Club has chosen RCI (www.rci.com) as its preferred exchange provider. With membership to RCI you will have the flexibility to exchange your Canalboat Club week to one of tens of thousands of holiday properties worldwide spanning the spectrum from hotel rooms and suites to villas, cottages, bungalows, campgrounds and traditional holiday apartments.

Canalboat Club boats are managed by ABC Boat Management which is a subsidiary of ABC Leisure Group, the largest privately owned specialist operator of narrowboats on the UK's canals and rivers with 35 years experience of operating boats and a vast array of associated services. For more information see www.abcboatmanagement.com and www.abclg.com

Canalboat Club has appointed Hutchinson & Co as the trustee to protect your legal rights of occupation as they hold ownership of the boats on behalf of the members. For more information visit www.hutchtrust.co.uk

(*until 2076 or other terms specified in the documentation)





The Narrowboat Holiday Experience

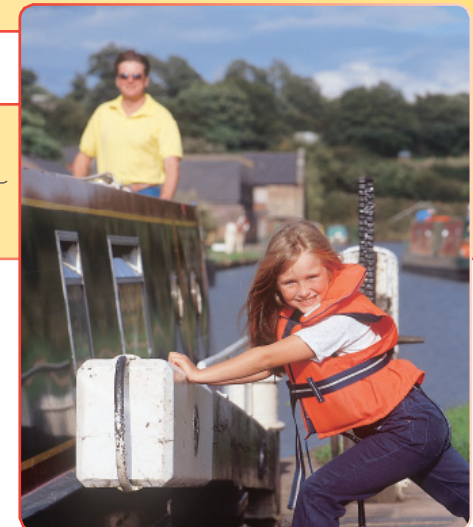
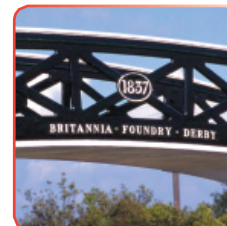
The beautiful canals of England and Wales wind their way through a variety of interesting and distinctive locations offering you the chance to stop off and investigate further at a mooring of your choice or to simply continue cruising onto the next destination.

On a narrowboat holiday you are free to decide whether you want a relaxing escape from it all, enjoying remote rural countryside or would rather an action packed holiday of sightseeing famous cities, attractions and enjoying the associated nightlife. Or maybe a combination of both? You can be somewhere different everyday and you are able to set your own itinerary if you want one at all! A boating holiday is the fastest way to slow down and relax.

The cruising routes on the following pages give you just some of the options available to you. Alternatively you may wish to just stay at the marina where the boat is moored and treat your boat as a floating holiday cottage. Or of course with RCI membership you can exchange your time on the boat with some other type of holiday or place in the world, giving you total flexibility.

Cruising Options Key:

7 = *Number of nights*



Your Boat



4 Berth (sleeps max 4 people), 45 foot long

Galley with cooker, refrigerator, microwave, sink and all the other items that you need to cook and eat on board.

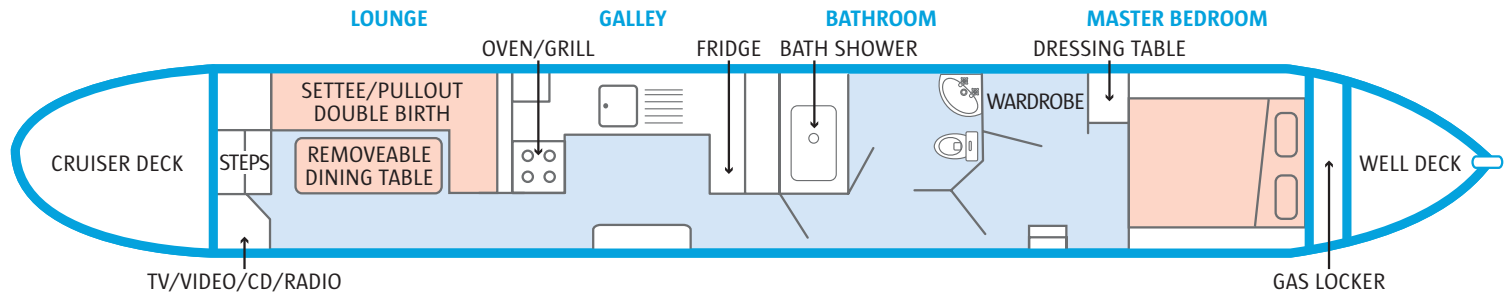
A comfortable double berth on both sizes of boats and, on the sleeps six, two single berths.

A bathroom with toilet, shower and washbasin on both boats, and an extra toilet on the six berth boats.

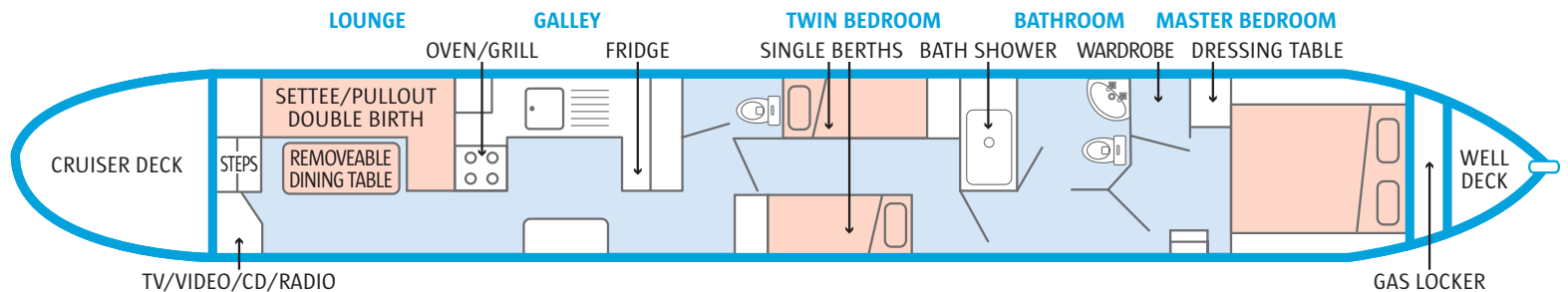
A dinette for eating and relaxing during the day and which also makes up to a double berth if required at night.

TV and video or DVD. Radio and CD player.

Central heating and a 240 volt electricity supply.



6 Berth (sleeps max 6 people), 55 foot long



As all boats are individually hand crafted some boat layouts may differ.

Blackwater Meadow Marina >> Shropshire – Llangollen Canal

For tranquillity and beauty, start from Blackwater Meadow and meander along the Llangollen and Shropshire Union Canals, enjoying the wide open spaces and hillsides of Wales and the north-west. For pretty scenery and stunning views, little compares to the Llangollen Canal with features including ‘meres’ and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Cruising options include:

- 7 *Llangollen & Return*
- 14 *Four Counties Ring*
- 7 *Chester & Return*
- 7 *Montgomery Canal*

Llangollen & Return >> 7 nights

The Llangollen Canal is arguably the most beautiful canal on the whole system and combines the gentle countryside of Shropshire and the more dramatic landscape of the Welsh border.

It boasts one of the most striking features on the UK canals – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct which can be reached from Blackwater Meadow in a week.

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.

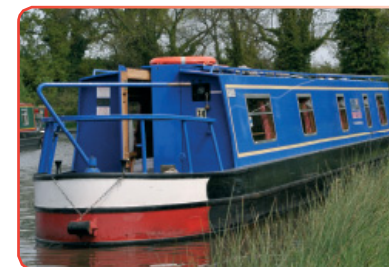
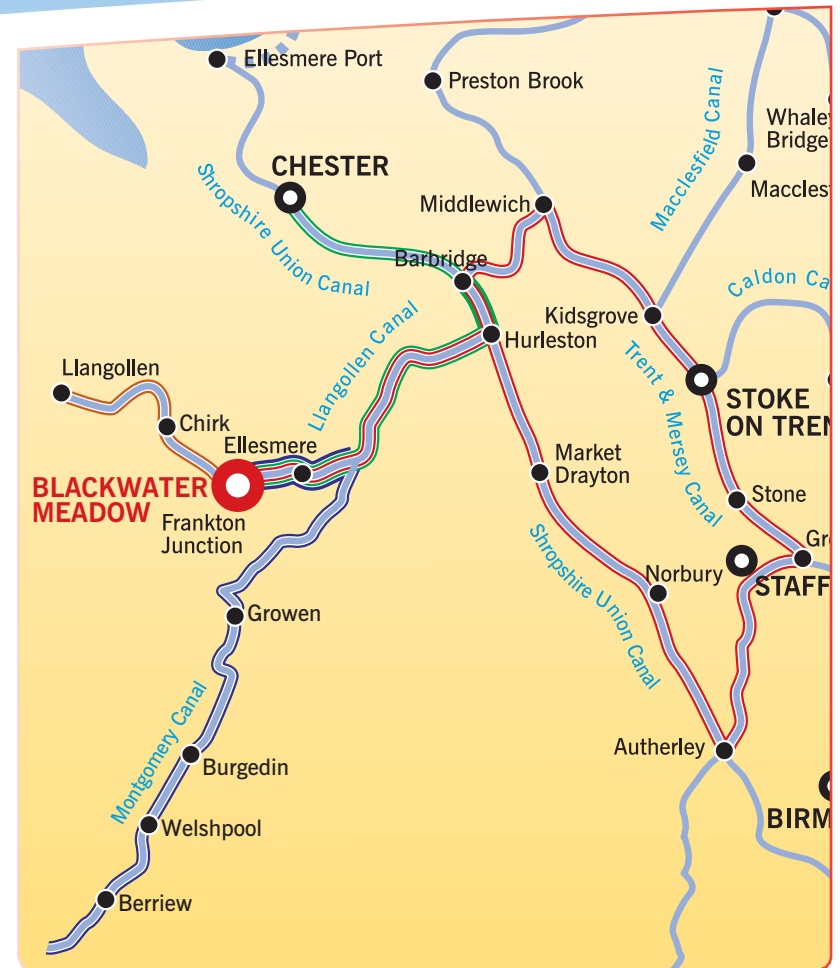
The last locks are at New Marton, half way between Ellesmere and Chirk. From there on, as it clings to the hillside contours, an enchanting blend of aqueducts and tunnels takes the canal, lock free, to Llangollen. Here a steam railway runs trains for 7 ½ miles along the River Dee.

Chester & Return >> 7 nights

On this popular countryside route the locks are well spaced for easy cruising.

You can choose to travel to Chester and then retrace your steps back to the marina or continue along the Shropshire Union main line to its historic terminal on the River Mersey at Ellesmere Port (now a boat Museum).

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.



Alvechurch Marina, Worcestershire >> Worcester & Birmingham Canal

Alvechurch marina is adjacent to a railway station and has a CAMRA award winning pub on site serving real ale and good food. The marina is at the heart of an extremely varied canal network, with a great selection of ring routes. Features include the impressive 30 lock Tardebigge Flight in one direction or miles of lock free cruising to Birmingham in the other.

Cruising options include:

- 7** *Stourport Ring*
- 7** *Stratford-upon-Avon & Return*
- 14** *Avon Ring*
- 7** *Black Country Ring*
- 14** *Warwickshire Ring*

Stourport Ring >> 7 nights

One of the most popular one week cruises. This route of contrasts takes in the 21st century Birmingham city centre, 19th century heritage and some of the most rural stretches of canal imaginable along with the River Severn.

Much of the stunning new development in Birmingham city centre is focused on the canalside area - Symphony Hall, the International Convention Centre and the Sea Life Centre. Branch off to the impressive Netherton tunnel or visit the award winning Black Country Museum.

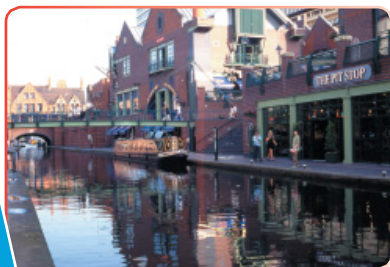
If time permits, experience the wonder of steam trains on the Severn Valley Railway, with a trip from Kidderminster to the picturesque market town of Bridgnorth.

Take an enviable river perspective of the magnificent Worcester cathedral in a city where you will also find both quaint and modern shopping malls and, of course, the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum.

Stratford-upon-Avon & Return >> 7 nights

Cruise through idyllic stretches of countryside to this historic town, each route offering a superb mixture of culture, history and shopping.

Moor in the beautifully maintained canal basin at Stratford, near to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, shops, restaurants and pubs.

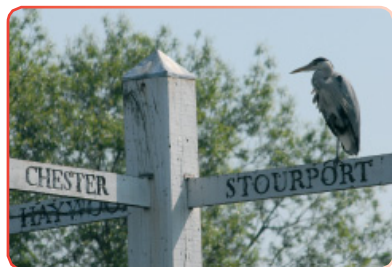


Worcester Marina, Worcestershire >> Worcester & Birmingham Canal

Based at the southern end of the Worcester Birmingham Canal in the heart of the city an ideal start location for routes into Shakespeare country via the Rivers Severn and Avon, or trips along the canal north into rural Worcestershire. Here you will pass through the heart of the picturesque Archers country. This marina has easy access to railway and bus stations and is 5 minutes walk from city centre shopping, restaurants and pubs.

Cruising options include:

- 7** *Stourport Ring*
- 7** *Stratford-upon-Avon & Return*
- 14** *Avon Ring*
- 7** *Droitwich Ring*
- 7** *Autherley & Return*



Avon Ring >> 14 nights

To really enjoy the delightful river cruising on both the Severn and Avon you will need at least a 14 night break. In fact, allowing two weeks enables a detour down to Gloucester to visit its docks, warehouses and museums. Worcester, Tewkesbury, Evesham and Stratford each offer a superb mixture of culture, history and shopping.

Droitwich Ring >> 7 nights

Late 2010 should see the opening of the restored Droitwich Canal. The 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 20 hours so this is an easy weeks cruising. 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.



Anderton Marina Cheshire >> Trent & Mersey Canal

With the Cheshire Ring, the remote and beautiful Leeds and Liverpool Canal heading north and the Trent and Mersey heading south, plus of course adjacent to the marina is the restored Victorian Anderton Boat Lift providing access for boats to the River Weaver. This marina has a wide variety of cruising routes, countryside, cities and places to visit.

Cruising options include:

- 14** *Four Counties Ring*
- 7** *Caldon Canal*
- 7** *Cheshire Ring*
- 21** *South Pennine Ring*
(if you have 2 or 3 weeks you can do this stunning trip)
- 7** *Chester & Return*

Four Counties Ring >> 14 nights

A voyage of discovery, this journey takes you along the wonderfully rural Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal to Great Haywood Junction where, passing under a distinctive roving bridge, you join the Trent and Mersey Canal heading north towards the Potteries and Peak District. The rolling Staffordshire countryside leads you to Stoke-on-Trent, the Wedgwood Visitors Centre and the impressive 2926-yard long Harecastle Tunnel. 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.

The scenery on the climb up 'Heartbreak Hill' to the summit at Kidsgrove is fantastic. As well as sights of the potteries such as the Bottle Kilns at Etruria, the Wedgwood Pottery Centre at Barlaston is not to be missed. The National Trust's Shugborough Hall is a short walk from moorings at Great Haywood.

Caldon Canal >> 7 nights

As an alternative to the four counties ring you could follow the above route as far as Stoke-on-Trent where you branch off onto the Caldons Canal which must rate as one of the most delightful waterways in the country. 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.

Cheshire Ring >> 7 nights

This trip takes you through the heart of Manchester and the Peak District with its distinctive stone architecture.

Moor at Castlefields to explore the city of Manchester, including Old Trafford, home of 'Man U', the huge Arndale shopping centre and the Science & Industry Museum.



Gayton Marina, Northamptonshire >> Grand Union Canal

Routes from Gayton are typified by rolling Northamptonshire arable landscapes, the rural countryside punctuated by fair sized towns and villages easily accessible from the canal side. Gayton sits on a junction where the Grand Union Canal, (the M1 of 200 years ago) meets the River Nene going east towards Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire.

Cruising options include:

- 14 *Aylesbury & Return*
- 7 *Warwick & Return*
- 14 *Oxford & Return*
- 7 *Banbury & Return*
- 14 *Warwickshire Ring*

Aylesbury & Return >> 7/10 nights

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

Warwick & Return >> 7 nights

A very popular week cruise with the opportunity to visit Warwick Castle, reputed to be Britain's ultimate castle, where you can immerse yourself in a thousand years of history.

Oxford & Return >> 14 nights

Continuing on past Banbury to Oxford. The "City of Dreaming Spires" needs little introduction and is an extremely popular choice for those who can stretch their holiday to more than a week.



Hilperton Marina, Wiltshire >> Kennet & Avon Canal

Our most southerly marina, Hilperton is well located on the fabulous Kennet and Avon Canal often considered one of the very best for wildlife and natural beauty. Within just a few days cruising of the stunning and unique city of Bath and its world famous Brine Baths, now a World Heritage site. To the east of the marina is the spectacular Caen Hill flight of locks.

Cruising options include:

7 Bristol & Return

14 Reading & Return

7 Hungerford & Return

7 Bath & Return

14 Newbury & Return

City of Bristol & Return >> 7 nights

25 hours cruising would elsewhere be considered little more than a short break, but here the route includes Bradford on Avon, Bath, Bristol and, unusually, many more towns and villages that the canal passes through the centre of. 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.

Some 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. Frequent reminders of the route's industrial history such as the brass mill at Kelston are found within rolling valley countryside.

Reading & Return >> 14 nights

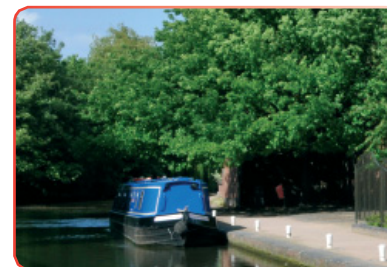
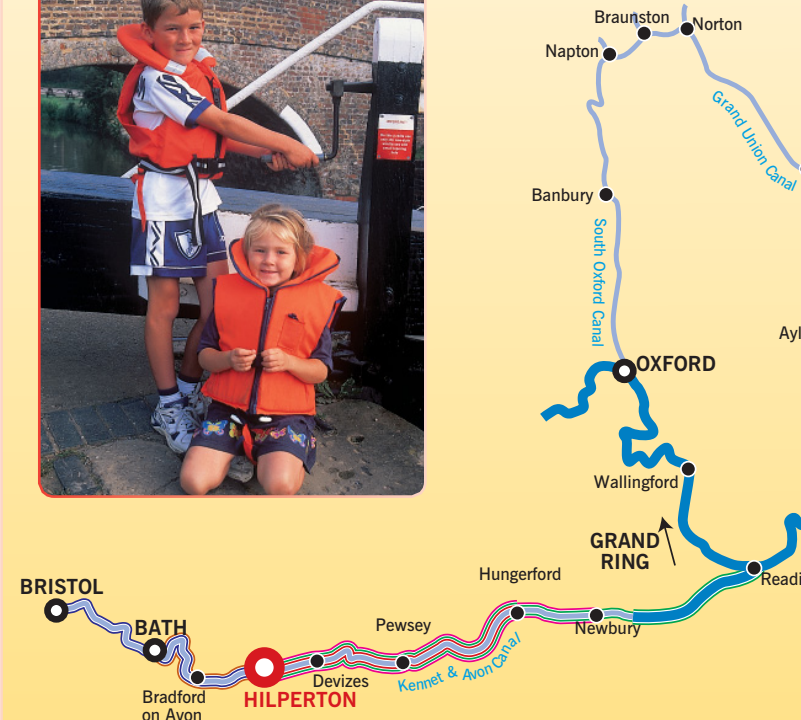
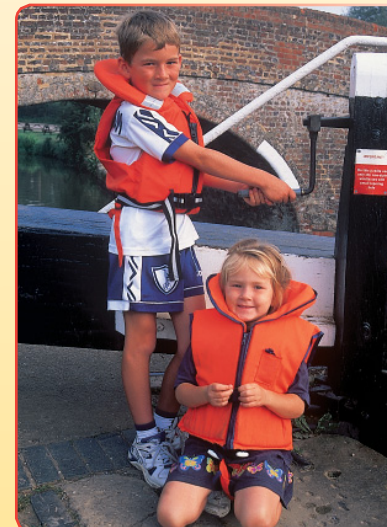
Considered some of the very best countryside in the UK canal system, this route takes you through a number and variety of towns and villages to Reading. Here you could visit either Blakes Lock Museum (social and industrial history) or the Museum of English Rural Life, or you could shop at the retail park known as 'The Oracle' which is located next to the canal.

Hungerford & Return >> 7 nights

Beyond Pewsey and through further 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.

Bath & Return >> 7 nights

A very leisurely trip allowing a few days staying moored close to the World Heritage Site.



Union Wharf Marina, Leicestershire >> Grand Union Canal

Union Wharf is located in the attractive and historic market town of Market Harborough. The Wharf itself is also home to a number of impressively refurbished canal warehouses. The Wharf is at the terminus of the canal close to Foxton Locks and the now derelict Incline Plane.

Cruising options include:

- 14** *Leicester or East Midlands Ring*
- 7** *Leicester & Return*
- 7** *Braunston & Return*
- 7** *Stoke Bruerne & Return*

Leicester or East Midlands Ring >> 14 nights

A pleasant two week cruise through parts of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire which involves cruising on rivers as well as canals. 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. You 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 and complete the ring.

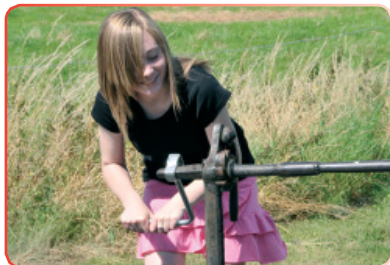
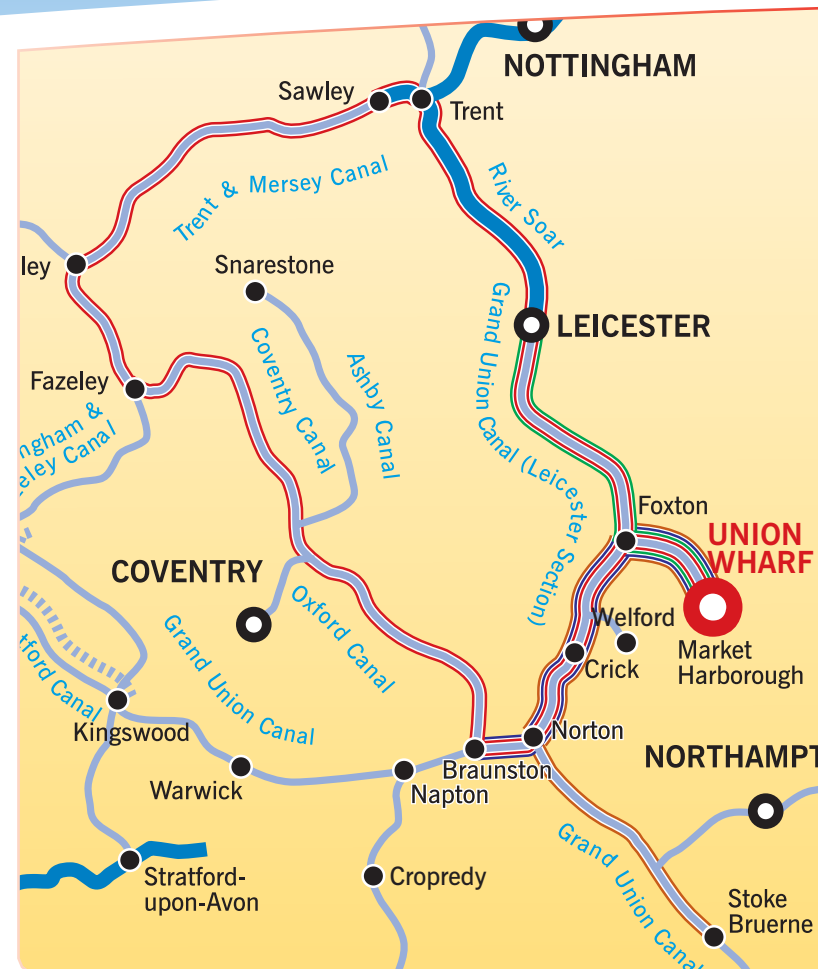
Braunston & Return >> 7 nights

Cruise the Market Harborough arm of the Grand Union canal to Foxton. The friendly lock-keeper will guide you through the staircase locks, stop for a cream tea in the canal side cafe or a well deserved pint in the Foxton Locks Inn.

Cruise down the canal through Husbands Bosworth Tunnel which is 1166 yards long, passing open fields and wooded hills, with the odd village along the way. Once through Crick Tunnel stroll into the village of Crick, home of one of Britain's largest annual boat show held each year in May.

Swinging westwards towards Braunston you pass through one of the longest tunnels on this stretch at 2042 yards, before reaching the historic wharf where you can moor up and have a look at the fine selection of buildings here.

Braunston is a must for canal enthusiasts with its hustle and bustle of canal traffic, boat builders and restorers.



FAQs

As members of Canalboat Club you can be a member of RCI* which enables you to exchange your boating week to other luxury resorts around the world. There are over 4,000 resorts in RCI including the Disney Vacation Club resorts in Florida and over 3.6 million members, so every year you can choose to either use your narrow boat holiday, or if you belong to RCI, you can exchange it to another resort - in an apartment or a hotel, in this country, Europe, USA, India, Australia or as many as 90 other countries in the world. *Charges apply

Q Do I have to take my holiday on a boat each year?

A If you are a member of RCI you are free to choose from a wide selection of resorts.

Q Do I need a license to drive the boat?

A No, you don't need a driving licence for a narrowboat and the boat itself is licensed by us for BW waterways.

Q We haven't done it before?

A No, previous experience is necessary, as the boats are extremely easy to handle and full tuition is given at the start of every holiday.

Q Are pets allowed?

A Yes, pets are allowed at most marinas.

Q Where can we park the car?

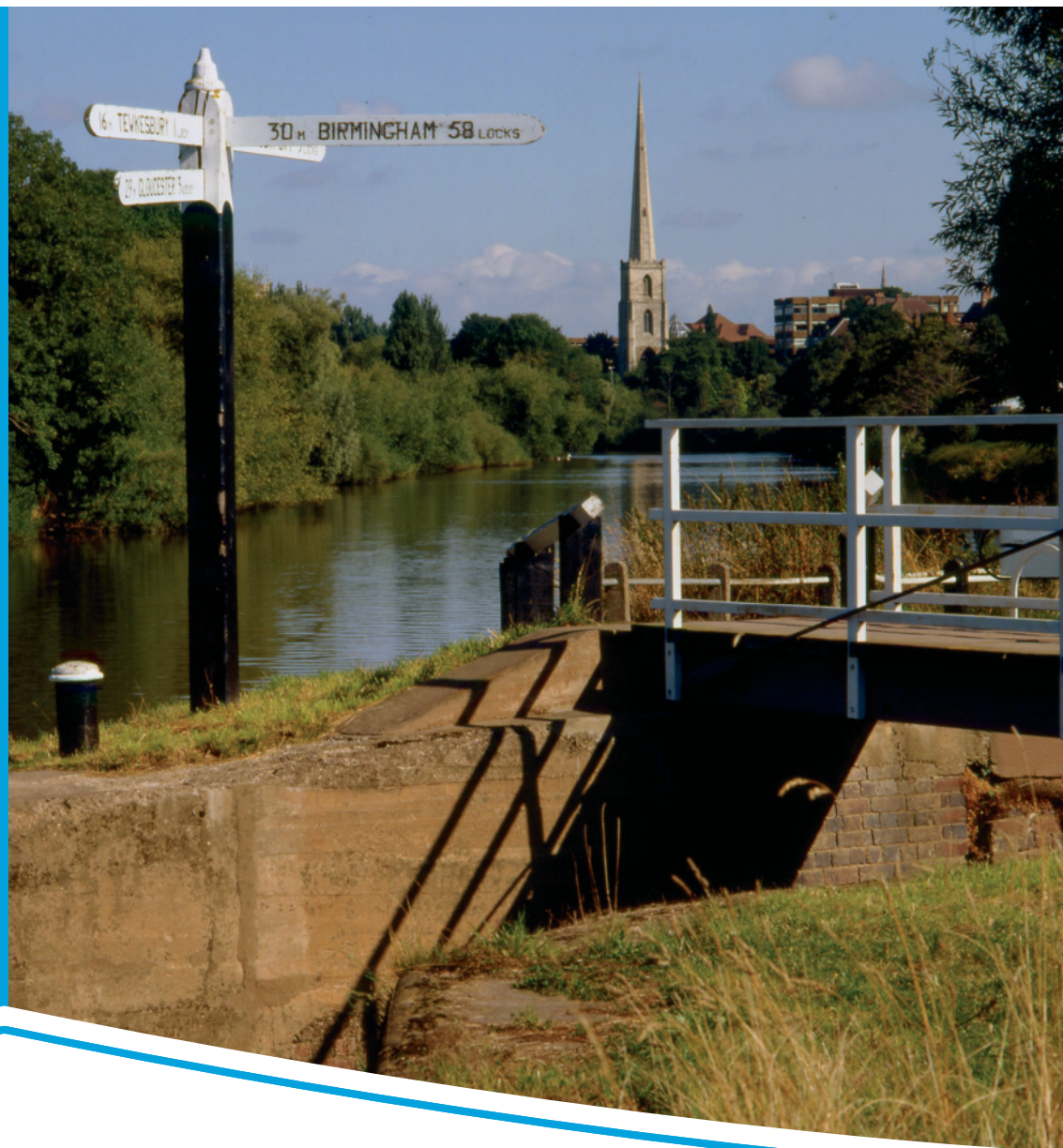
A There is ample parking at all of our marinas.

Q Where can we stop when cruising on the boat?

A You can moor up virtually anywhere you like near waterside pubs, villages, towns, cities and remote countryside locations.

Q What happens if we have a problem?

A In addition to the tuition at the start of the holiday each boat has a comprehensive manual and there is a 24 hour emergency helpline.



CANAL

BOAT CLUB

T: 01395 443363

E: canalboatclub@abacus-reservations.com

www.canalboatclub.com

RCI

HUTCHINSON
& Co^l Trust Company Limited


British Marine
Federation

 The Inland
Waterways
Association