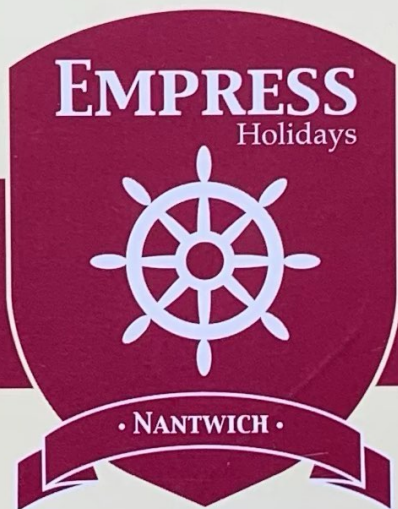


2002



*21st Century Cruising...
...on 18th Century Canals*



Welcome Aboard our Luxury Narrowboats
Cruising from Britain's best location

The perfect base for your holiday afloat

Located at Nantwich, famous for its Tudor buildings and fourteenth century church, the base is 20mins from the entrances to the Llangollen and Middlewich canals. This gives you FOUR OF THE BEST ROUTES IN THE UK to choose from and depending on the duration of your holiday, six or more enjoyable holiday cruises. Sign posted NANTWICH MARINA, we are easy to find – just 15mins from the M6 or Crewe station. Ample free parking and a warm welcome awaits you.



WHY A HOLIDAY ON THE CANALS ?

Many of our customers return year after year, even from overseas. Others are new to canal cruising but it really is easy to skipper an EMPRESS narrow boat and with our help and guidance you will soon be on your way. Remember, with a maximum speed of 4mph you're not going to make too many split second decisions. A canal holiday is a mixture of adventure, relaxation, abundant wildlife, stunning views, shops and castles. There's a rich variety of places to eat and you will soon be swapping tales in pubs with new friends. You can moor almost anywhere free of charge, even beside the Roman walls of Chester, 5mins from the city centre. Its unique, its for all the family but be warned – its addictive.



ARE CHILDREN SAFE?

Yes, until they really annoy you ! But we do provide life jackets free of charge for the youngsters. Once they get use to steering and working the locks (under your supervision) or exploring the canal banks its rare for them to get bored. Don't forget dad; most canals are not much more than 3ft (1m) deep so if you fall in ignore the laughter, walk to the side and scramble out with as much dignity as possible.



THE IDEAL HIRE BOATS

The layout with the galley to the fore is unique to the EMPRESS fleet and highly recommended by the Waterways World magazine and customers. The advantages are that there are no interruptions from people passing and the "cook of the day" does not miss any of the scenery and canal activity. Apart from a well designed, spacious interior we consider other things are essential for your comfort. Two fresh water flush toilets are standard on all boats accommodating more than four persons. All the boats are carpeted throughout and cabin areas separated by doors for privacy. There is ample storage space in drawers and cupboards. Generous interior lighting and panoramic windows give a light pleasant atmosphere whilst central heating ensures cozy evenings and unlimited hot showers.

SAFE AND EASY TO HANDLE

We have to consider the safety of all our customers including the occasional hirer and newcomer. Spacious cruiser sterns with steel guard rails are standard on the fleet. Tiller seats are fitted and well laid out engine control are easily to hand. The non-slip roofs are ideal for sunbathing and the gunnels are extra wide below the sensible hand grip rails for catwalking. If its your first trip we give you all the guidance you need to set off with confidence.

RELIABILITY

Its important to EMPRESS and our customers that our qualified engineers maintain the fleet to a high standard to ensure a trouble free holiday. To give you peace of mind however, we operate a 24 hour emergency call-out service.

EMPRESS WEATHERWISE BREAKS (SPRING AND AUTUMN)

A unique impulse holiday that gives you the best deal ever in narrowboat hire. It couldn't be easier, just phone to check availability, quote your credit card number and turn up, even later the same day! You only book for a minimum of 2 days, no expensive gamble on the weather. If you are enjoying yourself you can stay away as long as you wish within the offer periods – just pay for the extra days when you return. And the prices are too good to miss.

OVERSEAS VISITORS

An EMPRESS vacation attracts many overseas visitors and the number is growing yearly as we are so easy to reach. We will arrange your transfers from Manchester International Airport or Crewe Railway Station. If you are travelling by car from Europe or Scandinavia we are just 15mins from junction 16 of the M6 motorway. Towels are supplied and a mobile phone is included in the package. Our grocery service is available to ensure there is no delay in starting your vacation. There is no better way to experience the beautiful countryside of England and Wales or delve into a history stretching back to pre-Roman times. And don't forget the pubs and antique shops! You are sure of a warm welcome from our staff so why not contact us for a more detailed program.

Tel: +44 (0) 1270 624075

E-mail: sales@empressholidays.com

Web: www.empressholidays.com

HISTORICAL NOTE

Most of old Nantwich to be seen today was built after the Great Fire of 1583. Directly opposite our base are the fields where the Battle of Nantwich took place in 1644, resulting in defeat for the Royalists. One hundred and thirty years later the first section of the Shropshire Union Canal from Chester to Nantwich was opened. This was at the beginning of the construction of a huge complex of canals – the worlds longest system. Many of the great engineering works connected with the canals were design and constructed by Thomas Telford.



The Widow's Almshouses, Welsh Row, Nantwich
(10 minutes walk from our base)

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Cot sides and Children's lifejackets are provided on request. Every boat has a life belt supplied and for very small children a mesh safety netting can be fitted to the stern guard rail, on request.

Helmman's waterproof suits (2 Sets) supplied on board.
Hairdryers - A mains-power dryer is supplied

An ordnance Survey guide and map to the canal system is supplied on every boat.

A full instruction pack is supplied on every boat outlining any daily checks and hints to successful lock operation.

Grocery service is available if you wish us to put provisions on your boat prior to your arrival. Please forward a list of requirements, your name and address, date of hire, name of boat and we will be pleased to arrange this for you.

Take over time is from 3.30pm. This allows our staff to service and prepare the boat properly for your arrival. The boat is to be returned in a clean and tidy condition to our base before 9.30am on the final day of hire.

Non slip footwear is recommended!

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

DISABLED FACILITIES BOAT

New for 2002: we now have a 40 ft narrowboat designed for wheelchair access throughout, including shower / toilet area, kitchen and steering position. Requires able bodied crew member for lock operation and mooring etc. Accommodation comprises one fixed double berth and one single on a bench seat. Full central heating, radio, tv, torch and mains hairdryer. *Please contact us for further details.*

SELF-DRIVE DAY HIRE

Looking for a day with a difference? Want to find out if you would enjoy a holiday with Empress? Then why not hire our modern, fully equipped day-boat. Up to 8 hours cruising without locks for up to 12 persons. *Wheelchair access throughout.* Ideal for birthdays, office parties, or just a day out with family and friends. Cooking facilities, toilet, fridge and radio/cd player.

AN EVENING AFLOAT

Cruise with Empress from Nantwich Marina to the Barbridge Inn, enjoy a delicious meal then listen to your favourite music as you journey back. Cruises depart at 7.30pm and return for 11.30pm approx. Ideal for anniversaries, birthdays and office parties. The boat is operated by Empress staff and is not a self drive cruise. Bookings taken for parties of 4 -12 persons. Tel: 01270 624075

CORPORATE DAY CRUISE

Cruising from Nantwich on the Shropshire Union Canal, corporate customers have a choice of routes for a challenging day with a difference. Fitted with central heating, tv/vcr, fridge and cooking facilities. Ideal for team building and breaks during training weeks, various challenges can be set in addition to teamwork in boat handling and lock passage. Our base is within easy reach of businesses and corporate venues in N. Wales, Chester, Warrington, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent.

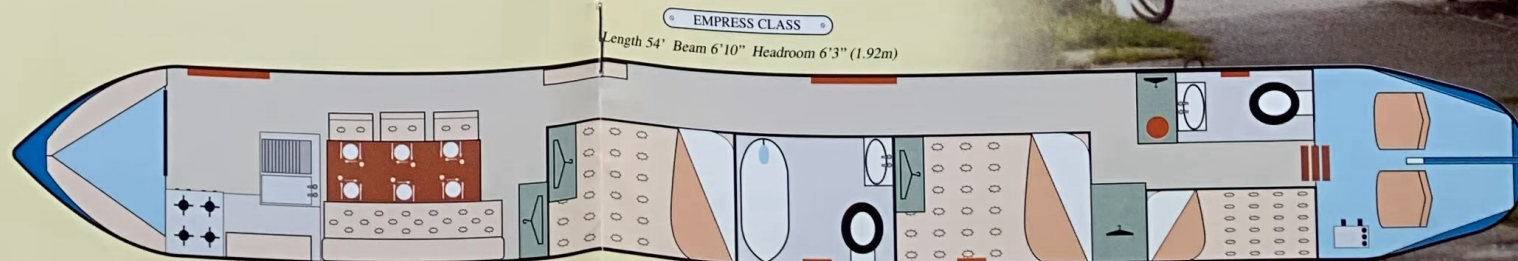
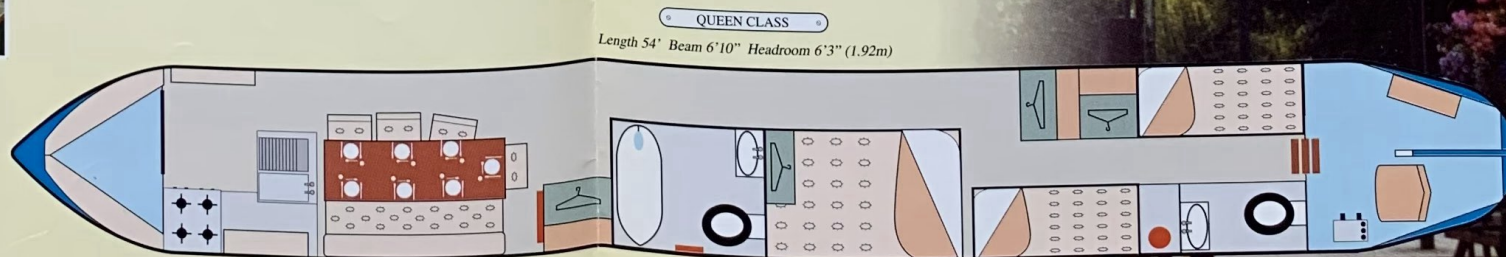
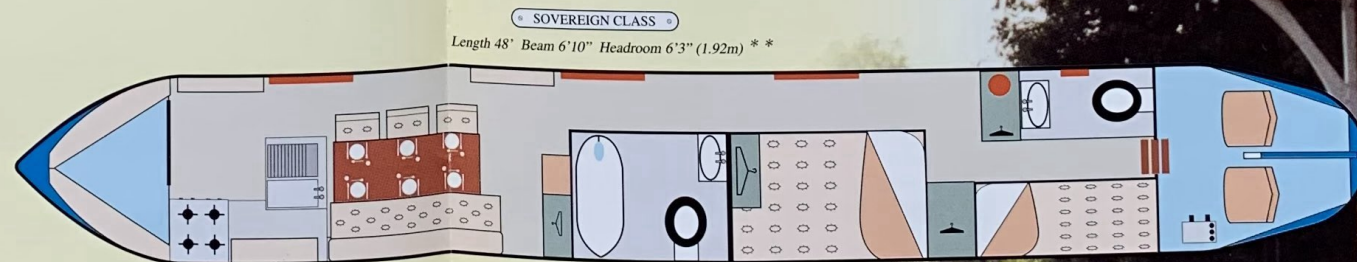
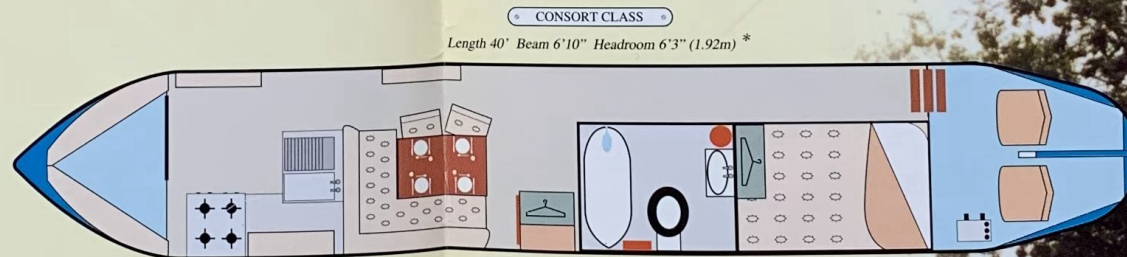
Visitors to Nantwich Marina are welcome to view our boats and discuss their holiday plans with our staff

The Empress Fleet

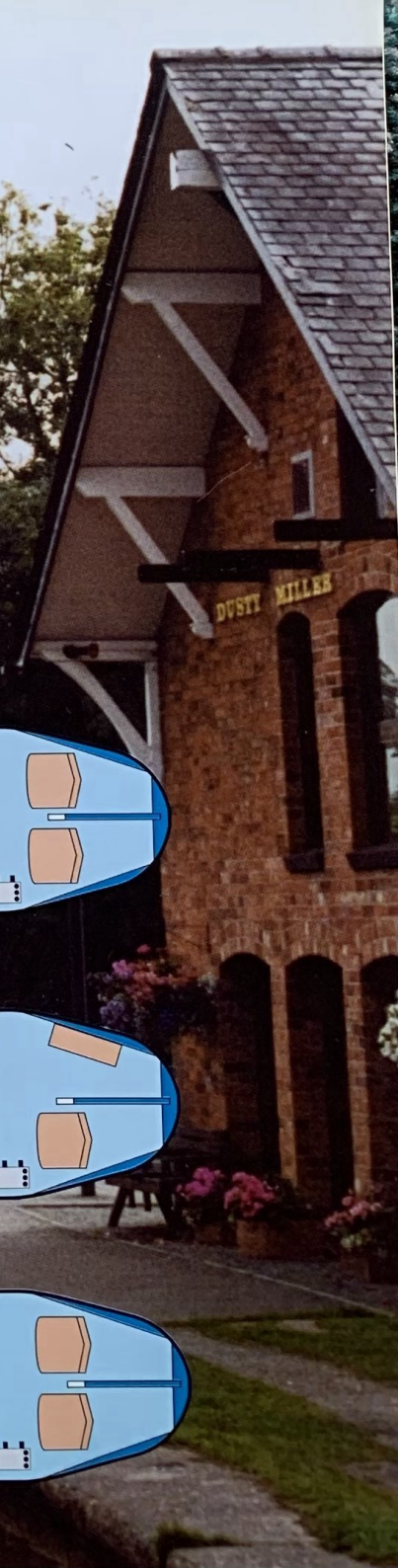


- ❄️ HELMSMENS SEATS
- ❄️ RECHARGEABLE TORCH
- ❄️ TELETXT TV (+VCR ON EMPRESS CLASS)
- ❄️ MAINS POWER HAIRDRYER
- ❄️ SHOWERS AND SHOWER BATHS
- ❄️ FITTED RADIO (+CD PLAYER ON EMPRESS CLASS)

- ❄️ EXTRA HEADROOM
- ❄️ SUPERB LAYOUTS
- ❄️ SINGLE AND DOUBLE BEDS
- ❄️ CENTRAL HEATING
- ❄️ CONSTANT HOT WATER
- ❄️ FRESH WATER FLUSH W.C.
- ❄️ STERN GUARD RAILS



* Denotes Sunday Booking Only
 ** Denotes Saturday Booking Only



Route Planner



CHESHIRE RING – GREEN ROUTE

This route requires more effort but is packed with interest, a mix of quiet country scenery, industry and history. Don't miss a stop in the heart of Manchester to shop, maybe at the impressive Trafford Centre, visit the recently opened Lowry Art Centre and enjoy the many canalside restaurants. Other interesting stops on this route include the famous Anderton Boat Lift, Norton Priory Museum and Little Moreton Hall.

WHALEY BRIDGE – GREEN ROUTE

This trip is the same route as the Cheshire Ring as far as Marple where a right turn takes you onto the Upper Peak Forest Canal which has been cut along the side of the hills overlooking the lovely Goyt Valley. The canal flows near the little village of Strines where there are the usual shops and Inns. Again there are many interesting historical features in this area. The Peak Forest Canal terminates at Whaley Bridge, near Chapel-en-le-Frith. The natural beauty all round this area is well worth excursions.

MONTGOMERY CANAL PURPLE ROUTE

This peaceful canal is now well under restoration. Turning off the Llangollen canal at Frankton it is open for about 3 miles over the Perry Aqueduct through to the winding holes at Queens Head.

FOUR COUNTIES CIRCULAR TRIP – RED ROUTE

From the Middlewich Branch join the Trent and Mersey near Sandbach. Travel south through rolling hills and meadows to the famous Harecastle Tunnel, more than a mile in length and cut by Thomas Telford in 1827. The town of Hanley is suggested for shopping and the selection of nightlife. Stoke on Trent has an excellent pottery museum and at Barleston the Wedgewood Pottery factory is well worth the visit. Pause a while in the ancient town of Stone before enjoying the splendid views of the Trent Valley.

Penkridge, just south of Stafford is a good place to moor before rejoining the "Shroppie" and heading north. Plenty of interest here with the Cowley Tunnel and Tyreley Locks lowering the canal into a remarkable sandstone cutting arched with overhanging trees. The old town of Market Drayton is a worthwhile stop before heading towards Audlem and Nantwich.

TWO WEEK CRUISES

Think about a trip to Stratford on Avon, cruising several canals, the River Severn and Avon. Return by a different route, perhaps a circular trip back. This holiday covers beautiful countryside with many places of interest and excellent mooring places. Or combine two of the above weekly cruises. If you prefer not to return on the same canal, combine the Cheshire Ring and Four Counties routes.

CONDITIONS OF HIRE

BOOKING

A boat is booked when confirmation and acknowledgement of the 25% deposit has been sent to the hirer, either after receipt of a signed booking form or phone booking quoting credit card details. Bookings from persons under 18 cannot be accepted.

BALANCE OF PAYMENT

The hirer is responsible for ensuring the full hire fee is paid 8 weeks prior to the hire date. (This does not apply to Weatherwise™ Breaks)

DAMAGE WAIVER

A compulsory damage waiver scheme is operated. This costs £25.00 per boat and must be added to the holiday cost. Third party insurance is covered up to £1,000,000.

CANCELLATION INSURANCE

This costs £25.00 per week, per boat and must be paid with your deposit. Without cancellation insurance your deposit will be forfeit if you have to cancel your holiday and you will be liable for the balance owing. With insurance, cancellation through sickness, injury or death of a member of your party ensures full refund of monies paid on receipt of the appropriate certificate. If you cancel for personal reasons your deposit will be forfeit, but you will be exempt from the balance.

CHESTER – YELLOW ROUTE

Opened in 1774, this section of the "Shroppie" overflows with interest. Bunbury church contains the tomb of Sir George Beeston, Admiral of the Fleet, who commanded Dreadnought against the Spanish Armada aged 89 and died aged 102 in 1601. Beeston Castle is also worth a walk and climb. Moor under the most complete Roman wall in Britain at Chester and find interest for all the family. The Rows (two tier shops), cathedral, guided history tours and the famous Chester Zoo. A few minutes walk to the station gives you a day trip to Liverpool for the Maritime Museum, Tate Art Gallery or Beatles Tour. The canal terminates at the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum. This route has so many possibilities it can extend from 3 days to a week.

SHORT BREAKS – 2 DAYS PLUS

Depending on the number of days we suggest:
Chester - Ellesmere - Market Drayton - Kidsgrove - Preston Brook

Whichever route you choose we are sure you will enjoy your holiday on Britain's canals.

TAKEOVER AND RETURN

Boats are available from 3.30pm on the first day of hire. Our staff will give full instructions and assist with a trial run before you set off. Return must be by 9.30am on the last day of your holiday. The company reserves the right to make a reasonable charge up to £125.00 for any boat returned late or in a dirty condition.

AVAILABILITY

If due to circumstances beyond our control, your boat is not available on the date booked, all monies will be returned and the hirer shall have no further claim against Empress Holidays Ltd. We reserve the right to repossess the boat from unsuitable hirers.

ACCIDENTS

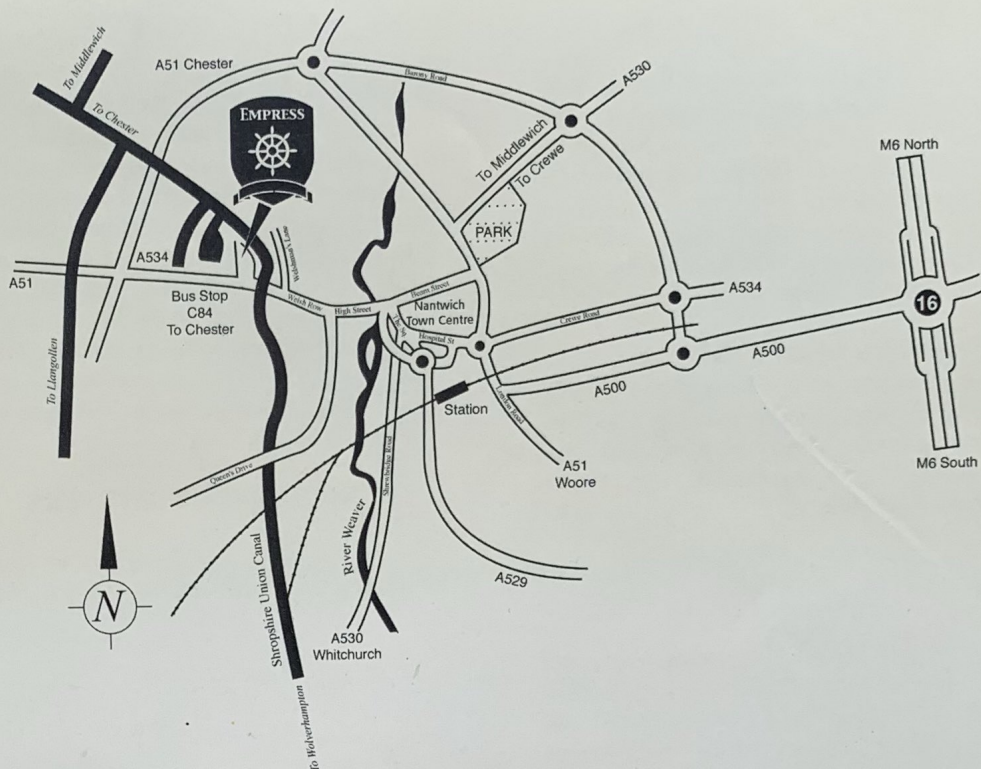
The hirer is responsible for the safety of their boat and members of their party. In the event of an accident, notify the owners immediately with details of witnesses names and addresses. Under no circumstances must you admit liability.

DELAY AND CURTAILMENTS

No responsibility can be accepted for delays through breakdown, obstructions, navigation repair works or any other cause. Cruising may be restricted where hazardous conditions prevail.

HIRER'S PROPERTY

No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to property or cars however caused. Free parking is provided at the owner's risk.



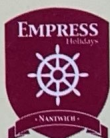
How to book your best UK holiday ever.....

Just telephone us to make a provisional booking for your preferred choice of boat and weeks

Send off the booking form below with your deposit within 7 days

You will then receive an invoice showing date of final payment

Alternately you can make a firm booking by telephone, quoting your credit card details.



BOOKING FORM

Empress Holidays Limited

Basin End, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 8LA

Telephone: 01270 624075 Fax: 01270 610274

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

MR	MRS	MISS	MS	Initial	SURNAME
POSTCODE					
E-MAIL					

YOUR PHONE NUMBER

STD code	Number
AT HOME	

CHOICE OF BOAT / CLASS

1 ST	2 ND

CHOICE OF DATES

1 ST	2 ND

NO OF WEEKS	SHORT BREAK	ONLY AVAILABLE SPRING & AUTUMN	STATE N° OF DAYS

TOTAL NO. IN PARTY	NO. OF CHILDREN UNDER 12

I HEARD OF YOU FROM

YOUR INITIAL PAYMENT

(If your holiday is within 8 weeks the full payment is required)

You may pay by cheque, cash or credit card.

TOTAL BOAT HIRE COST

£

COMPULSORY DAMAGE WAIVER

£25.00 per boat - NON REFUNDABLE

£

TOTAL HOLIDAY COST

£

25 % DEPOSIT

£

CANCELLATION SCHEME

*Strongly Recommended £25 Per Week Per Boat

£

TOTAL DEPOSIT ENCLOSED

£

- A** Please charge my initial payment to my credit card account now ☐
- B** Also please charge the whole of the balance (plus any additional items then due) to my credit card account eight weeks before the date of my holiday ☐
- C** Please charge the full cost of my holiday now ☐

MY CARD NUMBER IS:

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Valid From	Expires End	Switch Card Issue N°

Cardholders Signature

SIGNED

I AM OVER 18 I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE CONDITIONS OF HIRE AS PRINTED OVERLEAF

Date