

Black Prince Narrowboat Holidays

Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 4LA.

Tel: +44 (0) 1527 575115

Web: www.black-prince.com

Fax: +44 (0) 1527 575116

Email: holiday@black-prince.com

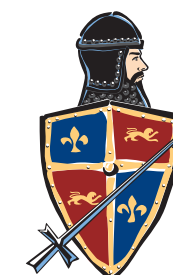
Let's go
somewhere
different on
Holiday...

NEW Fridays and Mondays now available at selected bases

Booking Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 5.30pm.
Saturday: 9.00am to 5.00pm. **Winter** 9.30am to 4.30pm.
Sunday: 9.30am to 4.30pm.

All maps and boat plans are illustrations only and are not to scale. Black Prince reserves the right to change specifications without prior notice.
Designed by Steve Jolliffe. Photographic contributions by Robin Smithett, Sheila Halsall, Rosy Burke, Steve Jolliffe, Tony Walsh.



Black Prince

Narrowboat Holidays

2008

Booking Office Hours:

Monday to Friday: 9.00am to 5.30pm.

Saturday: 9.00am to 5.00pm. **Winter** 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Sunday: 9.30am to 4.30pm.

All maps and boat plans are illustrations only and are not to scale. Black Prince reserves the right to change specifications without prior notice.
Designed by Steve Jolliffe. Photographic contributions by Robin Smithett, Sheila Halsall, Rosy Burke, Steve Jolliffe, Tony Walsh.



Edward The Black Prince 1330-1376

The first Prince of Wales, he distinguished himself as a military leader during the Hundred Years' War. Edward was born at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, on June 15, 1330, the son of King Edward III of England. During his lifetime, he was called Edward of Woodstock; the name Black Prince was given him because of the black armour he wore.

The young Prince Edward accompanied his father on the English campaign in Normandy in 1346, and during the Battle of Crécy, when he was only 16, the prince won high renown for his command of the right wing of the English army.

Appointed his father's lieutenant in Gascony in 1355, Edward led the English army in a series of raids across southern France and in 1356 defeated a French army at Poitiers, took King John II of France prisoner, and returned in triumph to England with his captive.

He married his cousin Joan, Countess of Kent (1328-1385). In 1361, she was known as the Fair Maid of Kent. A year later his father created him prince of Aquitaine and Gascony, and he went to his domains in southern France. As lord of those lands, Edward became, under feudal law, a vassal of the French king.



During his rule the Prince fell out with the Gascon nobles, who believed that he was curtailing their feudal rights. After almost six years of peace, Edward, in 1367, led an expedition to Spain in order to restore Peter the Cruel, the deposed King of Castile, to his throne. During the successful Spanish campaign, Edward contracted an illness from which he

never recovered; Peter furthermore refused to repay Edward the vast sums that had been expended on his behalf.

On his return to Aquitaine, the Prince levied taxes to pay for the expedition, but the disgruntled nobles protested to Edward's feudal lord, King Charles V of France. The Prince refused to answer to the charges against him,

and Charles renewed the war against England.

A revolt against Edward spread through Aquitaine and Gascony, and despite his illness the Prince led his troops against the city of Limoges, capturing it in 1370 and massacring its defenders. A year later he returned to England and resigned his Principality.

During the last years of his life, Edward was a leader of the political faction that rebelled against the misrule of his younger brother, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. Edward finally succumbed to his illness and died at Westminster on June 8, 1376. He was buried in Canterbury Cathedral, where parts of his armour still hang.



C O N T E N T S	
Winding down on the Water	5
History of the Waterways	7
Short Breaks	9
Falkirk Base	11
Falkirk Routes	12
Stoke Prior Base	14
Stoke Prior Routes	16
Stoke-on-Trent Base	18
Stoke-on-Trent Routes	20
Chirk Base	22
Chirk Routes	24
Acton Bridge Base	26
Acton Bridge Routes	28
Napton Base	30
Napton Routes	32
The Finest Fleet Afloat • Inventory	34
The Duchess 2:1	35
The Shakespeare 4:2 and 4:3	36
The Duchess 4:2 and 4:3	37
The Lautrec 4:2 and 4:3	38
The Countess 6:4 and 6:5	39
The Duchess 6:3, 6:4, 6:5 and 6:6	40
The Duchess 8:5 and 8:6	41
Maiden Voyage?	42
Centre Pages:	
Booking Form	
Cancellation Scheme	
Prices	
Conditions of Hire	

There is nothing quite like a narrowboat holiday. Enforced relaxation while drifting along at no more than 4 miles per hour, enforced camaraderie when you meet other boaters, friendliness when you tie up at the pub for a drink or meal.

A holiday of contrasts, taken at a slow pace. The variety is endless, city, town, village and country, wide canal and narrow canal. Every bend in the canal brings forth some new delight, every mile some new feature.

You can never see it all, no matter how many times you return. But why worry? Narrowboat holidays are for relaxation, for unwinding from everyday pressures, for doing what you like, when you like. With us you have the choice of six bases each with their own unique routes to help you discover a little more of this beautiful country of ours.



Welcome to our new brochure. Following another very successful year, for which we thank you profusely, we have continued with our large boat building programme to keep our fleet the youngest on the canals.

Following our experiment with new short breaks boats at Napton running from Friday to Monday, and Monday to Friday, we have extended this to include all the bases apart from Falkirk for 2008. Full details can be found on Page 9

Our detailed route maps have sets of three figures that tell you in order, the distance in miles, the number of locks and the approximate number of hours cruising between the black dots.

If you need any advice or help, please do not hesitate to give us a ring. We spend much of our leisure time as well as our working hours on the canals, and we will do all we can to make your holiday memorable.

Happy Cruising!

Tim Parker

Tim Parker
Director
Black Prince
Holidays Ltd

Welcome Aboard





Families – large or small – young or not so young will enjoy the unlimited freedom of a holiday on the water.

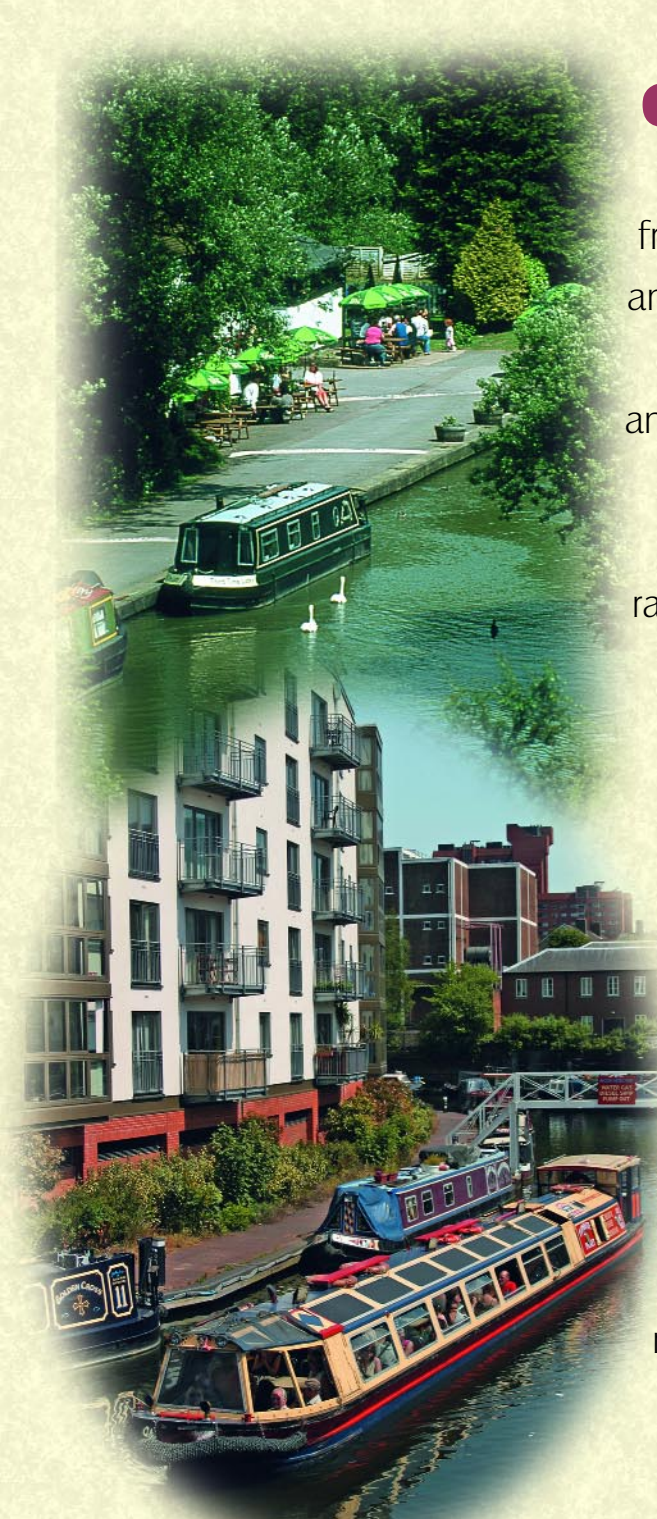
Surely the fastest way of slowing down! Relax, unwind and leave the pressures of life behind when you go overboard for a Black Prince Holiday.



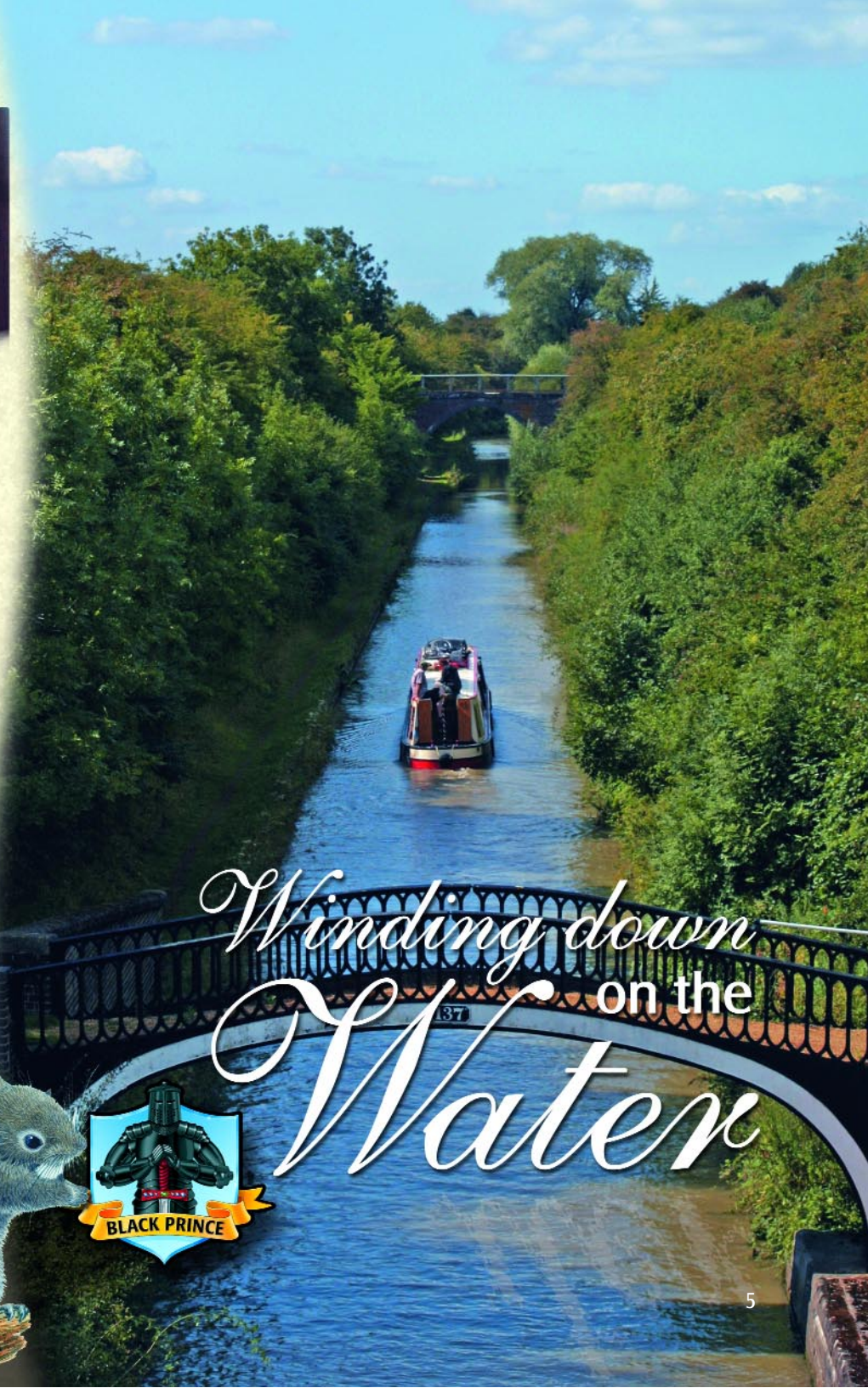
Stay on board or venture out and explore your surroundings. There is always something to see and places to visit are never far away from the waterside.



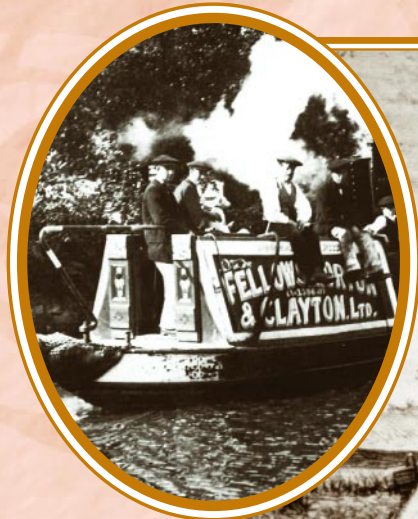
A holiday on the waterways means carefree cruising through ever-changing landscapes. There is always something different around each bend, through every lock and bridge a contrasting scene, new people to meet and wildlife to marvel at. All with the minimum of fuss and the maximum enjoyment.



Canal holidays are fun, whether with family or friends, you can choose an easy relaxing route or a holiday of adventure and exploration. Remember that canal boats have always been homes. In the days before motorways and railways, they were the main method of transport, with whole families living in boats while earning their living. Time moves on and, sadly, commercial boats have all but disappeared, but the heritage has been preserved and enhanced by our modern boats which bring you all the comforts of home. We design and build many styles to suit the differing requirements of our customers.



Winding down on the Water



Occasionally old boatmen can still be found 'on the cut'. Here, on the Worcester & Birmingham Canal near Tardebigge in 1997, several helped historians to record the skills used to navigate horse-drawn narrow boats. The boat 'Northwich' is usually kept at the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester.



Many narrow boats are still kept in their original condition either by enthusiasts or museums. Here in 1997 at the Black Country Museum, near Dudley, a group of boats recreate a canalside scene evocative of times passed, with smoking chimney, brightly decorated cabins and gleaming brasswork.

The use of canals has increased slowly over the centuries. By the time the Canal du Midi was built in seventeenth century France, engineers had solved most of the design problems, though trade on canals was not very significant. Soon afterwards, in eighteenth century Britain, merchants and industrialists decided that they too would build canals to move both raw materials and manufactured goods. Within a short time, traffic on these early British

canals had grown beyond all expectations. It only took a few years for the canal system to spread throughout central England and this encouraged the construction of new factories in towns along the banks of the canals - the Industrial Revolution had begun.

In the centre of England the canal locks were built for boats just seven feet wide by 72 feet in length. Called narrow boats, they were decorated with traditional designs featuring

roses and castles. Elsewhere the locks were suitable for larger boats, around 14 feet wide by 60 feet in length.

These barges were also decorated, often with geometric patterns and scrolls.

England's new canals were far more successful than anyone could have imagined, and until the 1840's they had a virtual monopoly of the transport of heavy goods.



On the earliest river navigations, 'flash' locks were used. These were removable gaps in a weir through which the boats passed. They were not popular with the mill owners as they wasted water. Vertically lifting gates were introduced later by engineers from the Low Countries to reduce water loss.



The Leeds & Liverpool Canal boat 'Frank', newly repainted in traditional colours, leaves the top lock at Johnsons Hillock, near Chorley, in 1958, with a load of coal from Wigan for one of the cotton mills of East Lancashire.

However, when railways were built, canals found it difficult to improve their system to face the challenge. In the expanding industrial towns, the many factories built on their banks made it too difficult to widen and deepen most canals.

Although the canal system was not improved, it continued to be used for the shipment of goods by both narrow boats and barges until the early 1960's. Warehouses,

bridges and locks have remained virtually unchanged for a hundred years, from the time when boats were pulled by horses plodding along the towpath.

On canals, speed was not usually a priority, so today they provide just the environment for a leisurely holiday!



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WATERWAYS



Falkirk

Travel to Edinburgh, through the Falkirk wheel and three locks and then lock free to Edinburgh. You will pass over the Almond Aqueduct and through pretty canal villages such as Ratho and Linlithgow.

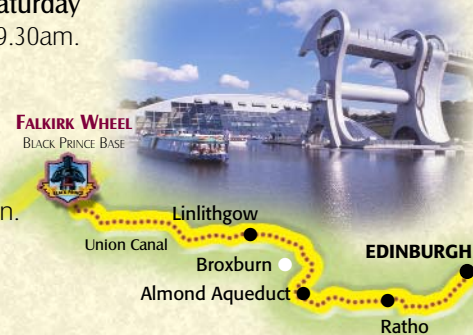
Availability: Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm to Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm.

Wednesday morning at 9.30am to **Saturday morning** at 9.30am.

Locks: 6

Cruising time:

Around 24 hours return.



Chirk

See the best part of the Llangollen! To Llangollen crossing the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and travelling along the Dee Valley to the new marina. Then back past Chirk to Ellesmere, with its meres through 2 locks.

Availability: Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm to Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm

Wednesday morning at 9.30am to **Saturday morning** at 9.30am

Friday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Monday morning** at 9.30am

Monday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Friday morning** at 9.30am

Locks: 4

Cruising time: Around 16 hours return.



Stoke Prior

Worcester and the Severn. Southwards from the base you travel through a succession of locks to Worcester. For the more active, a trip up the River Severn towards Stourport is possible before returning.

Availability: Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm to Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm

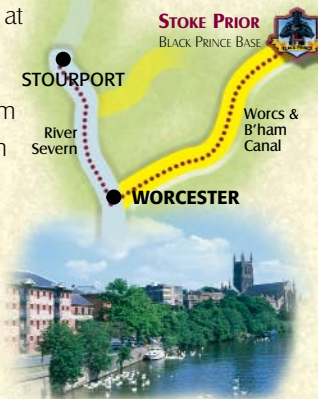
Wednesday morning at 9.30am to **Saturday morning** at 9.30am

Friday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Monday morning** at 9.30am

Monday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Friday morning** at 9.30am

Locks: 44 (52 towards Stourport).

Cruising time: Around 16 hours to Worcester (24 hours towards Stourport).



Stoke-on-Trent

The Caldon Canal, taking in both wings to Froghall and Leek through the Churnet Valley. A quiet canal through beautiful countryside with very good canal side pubs.

Availability: Saturday afternoon at 2.30pm to Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm

Wednesday morning at 9.30am to **Saturday morning** at 9.30am

Friday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Monday morning** at 9.30am

Monday afternoon at 2.30pm to **Friday morning** at 9.30am

Locks: 34

Cruising time: Around 22 hours return.



Short Breaks
From as little as
£70
Per Person

How about a short break from any of our bases? You can enjoy three full days from either Saturday afternoon to Tuesday afternoon, or from Wednesday morning to Saturday morning. Now you can also travel from Stoke Prior, Stoke-on-Trent, Chirk, Acton Bridge or Napton from Friday afternoon to Monday morning, or from Monday afternoon to Friday morning. Prices are shown opposite, but can be as low as £70 per person on a 10 berth Duchess 8 at the start of the year.



FALKIRK WHEEL
BLACK PRINCE BASE

CHIRK
BLACK PRINCE BASE

STOKE PRIOR
BLACK PRINCE BASE

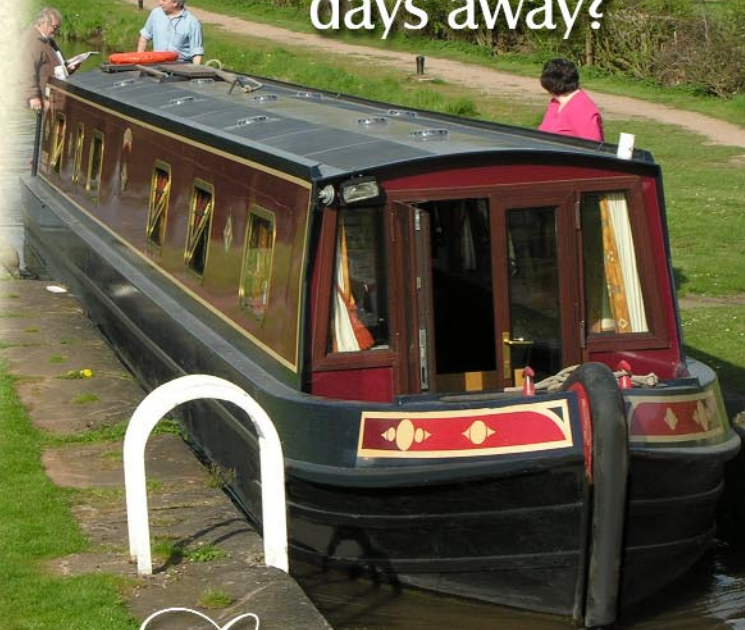
ACTON BRIDGE
BLACK PRINCE BASE

STOKE-ON-TRENT
BLACK PRINCE BASE

NAPTON
BLACK PRINCE BASE

NEW
Friday to Monday
Monday to Friday*
*Excluding Falkirk

How about a few days away?



Short
Breaks
with
Black Prince

A
DUCHESS 2.1
2/4 BERTH · 52 FT · PAGE 35
B
SHAKESPEARE 4
4/6 BERTH · 58 FT · PAGE 36
B
DUCHESS 4
4/5 BERTH · 58 FT · PAGE 37
C
LAUTREC
4/5 BERTH · 62 FT · PAGE 38
D
COUNTESS 6
6/8 BERTH · 62 FT · PAGE 39
D
DUCHESS 6
6/8 BERTH · 69 FT · PAGE 40
E
DUCHESS 8
8/10 BERTH · 70 FT · PAGE 41

SHORT BREAKS PRICES 2008

BOATS		DUCHESS 2.1 A	SHAKESPEARE DUCHESS 4 B	LAUTREC C	COUNTESS 6 DUCHESS 6 D	DUCHESS 8 E
BERTHS		2/4	4/5 4/6	4/5	6/8	8/10
POUNDS PER BOAT		£	£	£	£	£
March	15	384	438	465	567	633
	22	447	516	543	663	738
	29	477	552	582	708	792
April	5	477	552	582	708	792
	12	477	552	582	708	792
	19	477	552	582	708	792
	26	492	570	600	732	819
May	3	510	588	618	756	846
	10	525	606	639	780	870
	17	546	624	657	804	897
	24	627	756	792	969	1083
	31	573	663	696	852	951
June	7	603	702	735	897	1002
	14	621	717	756	921	1029
	21	621	717	756	921	1029
	28	621	717	756	921	1029
July	5	627	717	756	921	1029
	12	627	735	774	945	1056
	19	627	735	774	945	1056
	26	627	756	792	969	1083
August	2	627	756	792	969	1083
	9	627	735	774	945	1056
	16	627	735	774	945	1056
	23	609	717	756	921	1029
	30	546	624	657	804	897
September	6	531	606	639	780	870
	13	495	570	600	732	819
	20	465	534	561	684	765
	27	432	495	522	639	714
October	4	414	477	504	615	687
	11	414	477	504	615	687
	18	414	477	504	615	687
	25	450	516	543	663	738

All listed prices are in pounds, per boat, irrespective of number of passengers, and includes Linen, Diesel Fuel, Gas, Car Parking, Buoyancy Aids and VAT!

The Cruiser Stern



All our boats now have 'Cruiser' style sterns. These are designed to give you safe, comfortable cruising. They provide integral seating with steel safety rails, and all the controls within easy reach.



Falkirk to Edinburgh and Glasgow

Based at the Falkirk Wheel, one of the most stunning backdrops anywhere on the canals, we are ideally sited half way between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Go up through the wheel and three locks, you can then travel into Edinburgh on the long lock free Union Canal. You pass over the magnificent Almond Aqueduct and through villages such as Linlithgow and Ratho, home of the Edinburgh Canal Centre.

For those going to Glasgow, the Forth and Clyde has more locks and swing bridges and meanders through splendid scenery and villages such as Auchinstarry and Kirkintilloch to Cadder Village and on into Glasgow.



BLACK PRINCE IN Scotland

Boats Available

FROM FALKIRK				
CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCHESS 4-2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCHESS 4-3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	COUNTESS 6.4	62ft	6/8	39
D	COUNTESS 6.5	62ft	6/8	39

All boats start on Saturday or Wednesday.

► Going down!
Narrowboats in the
gondola being lowered
to the Forth & Clyde canal

▼ Bridge decoration at
Kirkintilloch, depicting a
'basculer bridge' mechanism



The spectacular Falkirk Wheel



► Pleasant cruising near the Avon Aqueduct



► Cadder, beautiful
scenery, and links to the
infamous Burke & Hare!



► A visit to Glasgow's Botanical Gardens is well worthwhile.



◀ Shopping in Glasgow

► Glasgow Cathedral



► Exciting night life in Glasgow



► The Union Inn, a popular place to
visit near the Forth & Clyde canal



► Almond Aqueduct

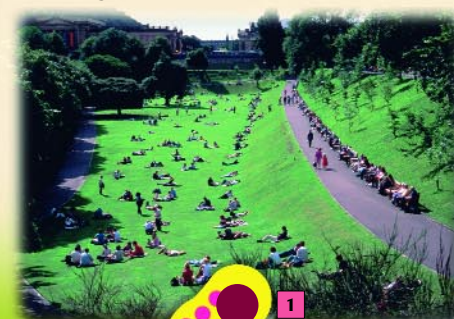


Linlithgow

Broxburn



► Edinburgh's famous Princes St Gardens



EDINBURGH



► Edinburgh, The
Castle and the
National Gallery

Visitors' Checklist

1 Lochrin Basin	8 Rough Castle (Roman Fort)
2 Ratho (Edinburgh Canal Centre)	9 Banknock
3 Almond Aqueduct	10 Auchinstarry
4 Niddry Castle (Privately owned)	11 Twechar
5 Linlithgow Palace and Loch	12 Cadder Church
6 Avon Aqueduct	13 Possil Loch Nature Reserve
7 Falkirk Wheel, Locks & Tunnel	14 Port Dundas (Glasgow)
	15 The Union Inn

◀ Two views of Linlithgow's famous palace and
gardens. Steeped in history, known as the
birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots ▼

Routes from

Falkirk

Edinburgh & Return

NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
1	68	6	3

Glasgow & Edinburgh

NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
1	118	14	6

Black Prince Holidays are now running from this new and dramatic location.

The Falkirk Wheel is 115 feet high – the equivalent height of eight double-decker buses. It is 115 feet wide and 100 feet long. The wheel will lift loads of 600 tonnes (300 at each end) – the approximate weight of 81 adult African elephants. The structure stands in a 330 feet wide circular basin with moorings for over 20 boats. Before re-development the site was a deep open cast pit left by mining which ended in the early 1980's. Prior to that the site was the home of Scottish Tar, producing various tar-related products. The total project cost was approximately £17 million and work took 22 months. The Wheel is designed to last for at least the next 120 years.

The first wheel-based boat lift was proposed by a German engineer at the beginning of the last century though it was never built. The Falkirk Wheel is the world's first rotating boat lift and the first boat lift to be built in Britain since the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire which dates from 1875.

The Falkirk WHEEL

Boats Available

FROM STOKE PRIOR

CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
A	DUCHESS 2-1	52ft	2/4	35
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCHESS 4.2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCHESS 4.3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	DUCHESS 6.3	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.4	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.5	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.6	69ft	6/8	40
E	DUCHESS 8.5	70ft	8/10	41
E	DUCHESS 8.6	70ft	8/10	41

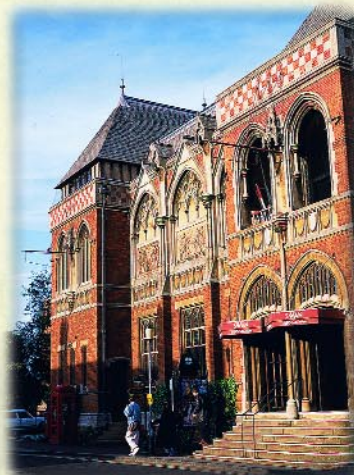
All boats start on Friday, Saturday, Monday or Wednesday.



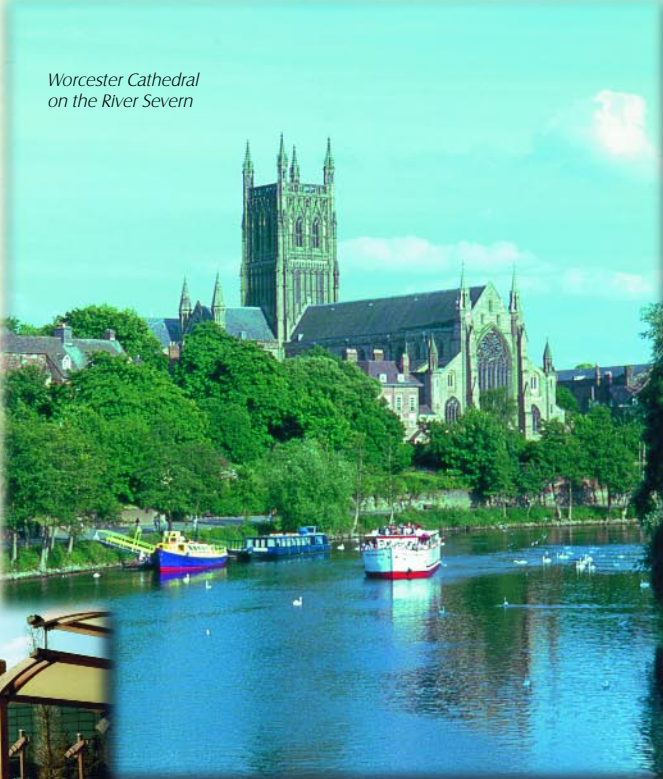
▲ Traditional boats seen here at Cambrian Wharf in Birmingham City Centre



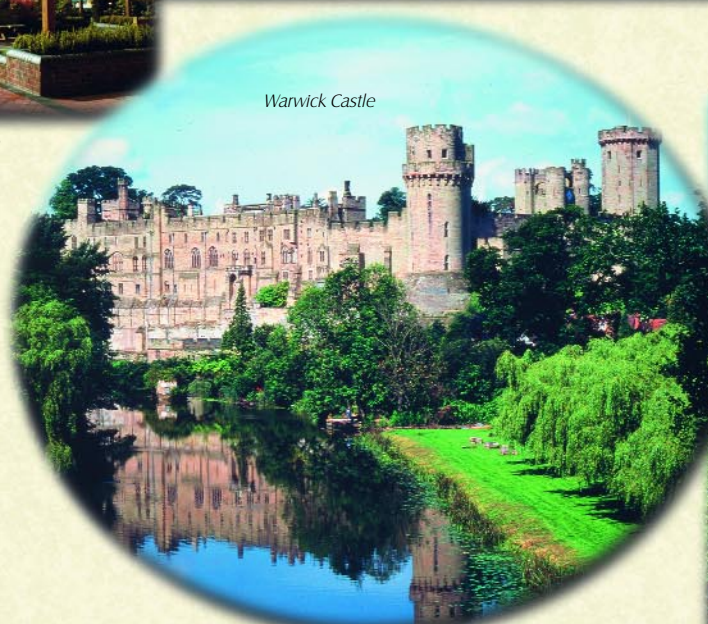
▲ The Merry Hill Shopping Centre



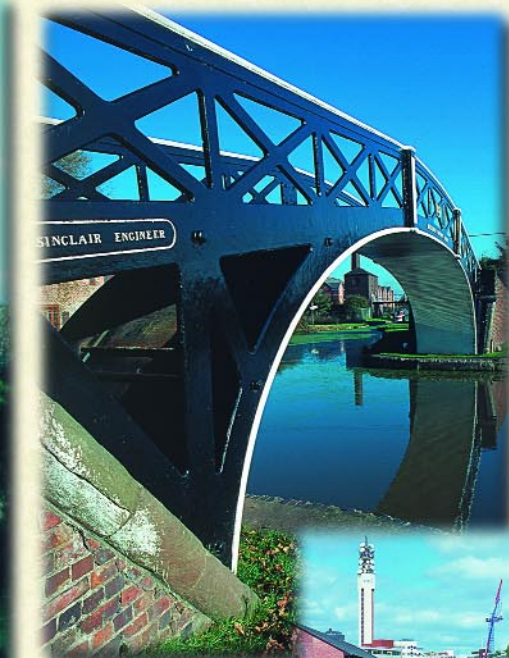
▲ The famous Swan Theatre in historic Stratford-on-Avon



Worcester Cathedral on the River Sever



Warwick Castle



▲ Steeped in history, Hawkesbury Junction was a hive of activity in its commercial heyday. Nowadays "Sutton Stop" as it was known to Boatmen, is a pleasantly landscaped area with welcoming pub and excellent moorings.



▲ Farmer's Bridge near Birmingham City Centre.



◀ Picturesque scenery like this can easily be found in the heart of the Midlands, here at Fazeley, near Birmingham.



Situated in a lovely spot, close to both the M5 and M42, Stoke Prior is the base for those who want a more active holiday, being at the bottom of the Tardebidge flight of locks.

It is a Base of contrasts, with routes taking in the Rivers Severn and Avon, as well as a number of different canals. Equally it covers beautiful countryside as well as such cities as Birmingham and Worcester.

Several rings can be completed from here, with the Stourport Ring being the most popular, as well as a large number of other routes.

Stoke Prior

The Stourport ring



Leaving Stoke Prior, you encounter the Tardebigge flight, after which there is lock-free cruising to Gas Street Basin and the International Convention Centre via the very pleasant University, Botanical Gardens and Cadbury World. Cutting through Netherton Tunnel to Merry Hill and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire canal you encounter some beautiful countryside leading to the River Sever at Stourport. At Worcester you leave the Severn, and climb gently back to Stoke Prior through open countryside.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
A	1	74	105	6



Care to sample a taste of a bygone era? See how the Victorians lived and worked on a superb day out at the Black Country Museum along the BCN system.



Dudley Zoo and Castle, well worth a visit. See the animals, experience the History.



Delph locks, part of the Dudley Canal Trail. Don't worry, five minutes walk and you will find a pub for each one of the Nine Locks, or is it eight? After sampling the Bathams you won't care!

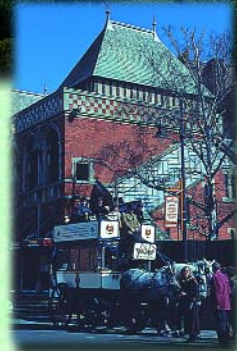
The Waterfront, with moorings, shops, bars and restaurants. Enjoy a spot of shopping at Merry Hill, a short walk along the canal, you will find steps that take you right down to the centre.



Cruising through Kinver, well worth a stop. The high street has numerous pubs and restaurants. Walk to the top of Kinver Edge for stunning views of the surrounding countryside.



Just a short walk from the Stratford canal at Wilmcote, you can feel you're a privileged visitor to Mary Arden's house, when you visit it by canal.



Take a ride through Stratford on a horse drawn bus. This one is pictured near the Swan Theatre.



Half timbered houses in the delightful old town of Tewkesbury. Many towns turned their best sides to the rivers and canals, offering you views seldom noticed by those on land.



The delicate spire of the 18th century St. Bartholomew's church at Tardebigge forms part of a charming rural scene on the upper reaches of the Worcester-Birmingham Canal.

Starting up the Tardebigge flight, you join the North Stratford Canal at Kings Norton, and on to the South Stratford Canal, where the canal character changes with split bridges and 'barrel-roofed' cottages. At Stratford you can moor opposite the theatre before joining the River Avon. The Avon, different again, meanders down to Tewkesbury, through Evesham, where you join the River Sever for a short trip up to Worcester, before returning home. Avon Licence required. An easy two week trip.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
C	2	109	131	5

The Avon ring



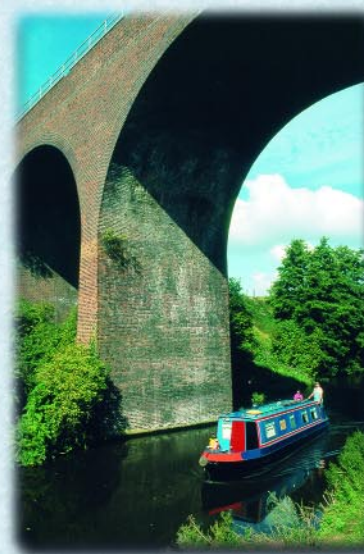
Stourton and return



This is the most leisurely route from Stoke Prior travelling south to Worcester, then turning upstream onto the River Sever, past Worcester Cathedral and cruising along the picturesque river for the next 13 miles. There are three manned river locks on the journey to Stourton on Severn, before changing to the Staffordshire and Worcester canal. On the way to Stourton the Cookley and Kinver areas must be one of the most beautiful lengths of canal in the country - turn at Stourton and return on the same route to Stoke Prior.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
B	1	84	82	5

Passing under the Severn Valley steam railway, near Kidderminster, on the Staffs and Worcester Canal.



Stourport basin on the Staffs and Worcester canal. A popular stop on this route.



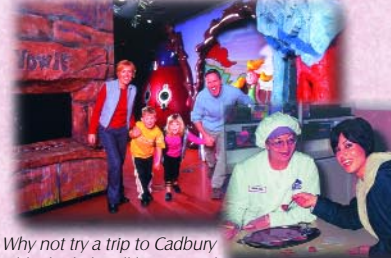
A pretty scene at Stewponey, near Stourton Junction.



Worcester Cathedral, an unmistakable land mark along the River Severn.



Warwick's famous 14th century castle is set delightfully on the banks of the River Avon.

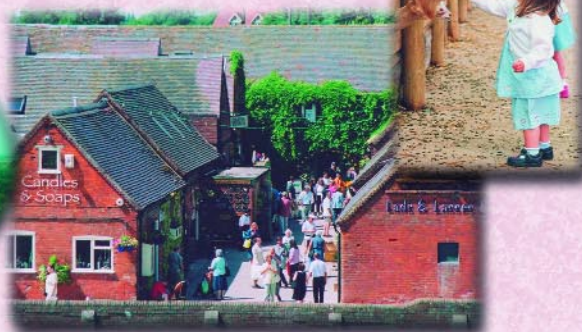


Why not try a trip to Cadbury World? The kids will love it, and the chocoholic mums! (Prior booking required)

Drayton Manor Park and Zoo, a must-see for all the family

Millions of pounds have been spent transforming the centre of Birmingham to face the canal. Here is the National Indoor Arena.

Take time to visit Hatton Country Park, there's gift shops, and fun for the kids where they can feed the animals too.



Up the Tardebigge flight to the North Stratford at Kings Norton, you continue to the Grand Union. Travelling South, you progress through the Hatton flight, via Warwick and Leamington Spa to Napton and Braunston. From Braunston, you travel the North Oxford & Coventry (perhaps taking in the Ashby or Coventry itself) to Fazeley, and then head into the centre of Birmingham via Farmers Bridge locks. Home down the Worcester and Birmingham via Tardebigge. A more strenuous fortnight.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
D	2	128	190	7

The Warwickshire ring



Boats Available

FROM STOKE-ON-TRENT

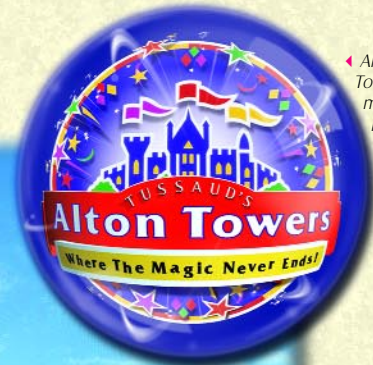
CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
A	DUCESS 2-1	52ft	2/4	35
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCESS 4.2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCESS 4.3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	DUCESS 6.3	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCESS 6.4	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCESS 6.5	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCESS 6.6	69ft	6/8	40
E	DUCESS 8.5	70ft	8/10	41
E	DUCESS 8.6	70ft	8/10	41

All boats start on Friday, Saturday, Monday or Wednesday.



Coventry Cathedral, well worth a visit on the East Midlands ring.

Galley Roundhouse is now the only one of its kind on the Staffs & Worcs Canal and houses an excellent shop and chandlery.

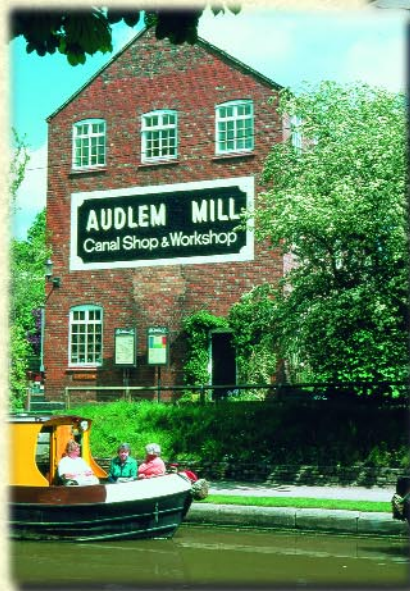


Alton Towers, a must for the kids, and adults too!

This Wicker horse can be seen at the Braunston Stop House.



Typical black and white buildings as seen in the delightful market town of Nantwich



Audlem Wharf, a pretty port of call on the Shropshire Union Canal, with the Audlem Mill Craft Workshop and Gift Shop.



Canals take you away from it all, where peace can reign, like this spot near Braunston, on the Grand Union Canal

No trip to Stoke-on-Trent would be complete without a visit to the world famous Wedgwood factory.



Visitors' Checklist

- Churnet Valley
- Flint Mill
- Alton Towers
- Burton on Trent Brewery Museum
- Foxton Locks
- Coventry and Cathedral
- Museum of Science and Industry
- Barton Swing Aqueduct
- Wedgwood
- Stone Market Town
- Shugborough Hall
- Churches Mansion
- Nantwich, old town with half-timbered buildings
- Harecastle Tunnel

Use the route maps on the next two pages to locate the above places of interest



Situated on the re-developed National Garden Festival Site, this is one of the most popular Black Prince starting points. On site, there is an exciting Water World, dry ski-slope, multi-screened cinema, ten pin bowling and shopping centre . . . and that is before you get on the water!

The variety of routes is wide with the Cheshire Ring and Four Counties being favourites.

You travel through some of the waterways' most beautiful scenery, along with the pure contrast of the Potteries, Royal Doulton, Cheddleton Mill and Wedgwood industries. For the more energetic there's Alton Towers near the end of the Caldon Canal.

Stoke-on-Trent

Caldon & Leek Canals

An easy week down one of the most beautiful and quiet canals of them all. From the junction near the marina, you progress up some locks to the outskirts of Stoke via factories and parks. Here you encounter progressively more picturesque countryside as you enter the Churnet Valley. The Leek branch contains no locks from the junction, whereas the Froghall branch descends to the River Churnet. If time permits a trip down the Trent and Mersey to Stone is well worthwhile.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
E	1	41	34	3



The Canal Museum at Stoke-on-Trent.

Flint Mill at Cheddleton, on the Caldons Canal.



The peaceful village of Froghall signals journey's end on the Caldons canal.



Take in the Air, literally, one of the many thrilling rides at Alton Towers.



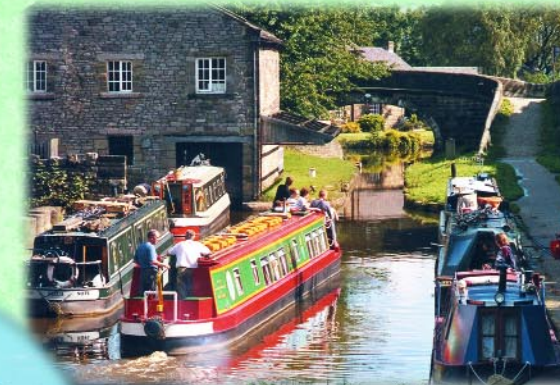
Two modes of transport cross at this delightful setting of Consall Forge on the Caldons Canal. Nearby is the Consall Nature Reserve and Churnet Valley Railway.



Anderton Lift, one of the wonders of the waterways, raises or lowers you between the Trent & Mersey and the River Weaver.



Overflow weir at Bosley Locks on the Macclesfield canal.



Marple where the Macclesfield meets the Peak Forest Canal. Here you see one of the elegant 'roving' or 'snake bridges' which are a feature of the Macclesfield canal.

Preston Brook, formerly one of the busiest canal centres in the north west, carrying trade until the 70's.



Another more strenuous route; you travel northwards through the Harecastle Tunnel and join the Macclesfield via a fly-over. This is a lovely canal through Congleton, Macclesfield and Marple to Manchester. Manchester is currently being improved, but has some way to go.

A lock-free section of the Bridgewater (where it all started) follows until Middlewich, passing the Anderton Lift. A more heavily locked section takes you back home to Stoke.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
G	1	108	92	9



The Four Counties ring

More strenuous, you travel southwards from the Marina past the Wedgwood factory through the canal town of Stone to Great Haywood, where you meet the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Travelling westwards you join the Shropshire Union at Atherley. The 'Shroppie' with its impressive architecture, banks and cuttings, carries you northwards to the Middlewich Arm. At Middlewich you rejoin the Trent and Mersey which carries you back to Stoke through a number of locks and the Harecastle Tunnel.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
F	1	110	92	8



Shugborough Hall. A tour of the 18th century house gives a glimpse of the Earl's private rooms. Life 'below stairs' goes on in the restored kitchens, brewhouse and laundry.

The Shroppie Fly at Audlem Wharf. Take a breather and enjoy a well-earned, refreshing drink at this traditional canalside inn.



Speedwell Castle in the lovely village of Brewwood.

Stoke Marina.



Packhorse Bridge at Great Haywood.



Lock 2 at Braunston on the Grand Union canal.



The charming Fradley Junction, where the Coventry Canal meets the Trent & Mersey.



Apart from the shop and world famous factory, Wedgwood can boast its beautiful grounds.

At Fazeley, the old wharf crane is a reminder of the textile trades which made use of Midlands canals in times past.

South from the Base through Stone and Great Haywood to Fradley Junction, where you turn towards Burton-on-Trent and the canalised River Soar to Leicester. After Leicester you encounter the famous Foxton flight and pass through undulating countryside to Norton and Braunston Junctions. Turning northwards towards Rugby and Coventry, the canal takes a more direct route with cuttings and embankments to Fazeley and Fradley and home. Most of this route is very rural and quiet.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
H	2	219	147	7

East Midlands ring



Boats Available

CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
A	DUCHESS 2-1	52ft	2/4	35
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCHESS 4-2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCHESS 4-3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	DUCHESS 6.3	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.4	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.5	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.6	69ft	6/8	40
E	DUCHESS 8.5	70ft	8/10	41
E	DUCHESS 8.6	70ft	8/10	41

All boats start on Friday, Saturday, Monday or Wednesday.

► Crossing the Ceirog Valley on Chirk Aqueduct.

► You'll find the Horseshoe Falls at the end of a pleasant half hour's walk from the new moorings at Llangollen. Take a picnic and have a paddle!

► Thomas Telford's Pontcysyllte aqueduct, towering 120 ft astride the Dee Valley is a magnificent feat of engineering, even by today's standards, and is the highlight of a cruise along the beautiful Llangollen Canal.

► Wonderful floral display passing through Frankton.

► Delightful half-timbered buildings at Nantwich

► The beautiful Blake Mere at Ellesmere.

► Packhorse Bridge at Great Haywood.



Routes from Chirk

Llangollen & Whitchurch

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	24	I

Llangollen Canal

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	24	J

Chester & Return

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	25	K

Four Counties Ring

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
2	25	L

Visitors' Checklist

- Llangollen Picturesque
- Riverside Town
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
- Chirk Aqueduct
- Ellesmere Market Town and Lakes
- Whitchurch
- Wrenbury
- Nantwich Old Town, Half-Timbered Buildings
- Bunbury Old Cheshire Village
- Beeston Castle and Market
- Chester Medieval Town Zoo and Gardens, 'The Rows' Shopping Area
- Harecastle Tunnel
- Wedgwood
- Stone Old Market Town
- Shugborough Hall
- Churches Mansion

Use the route maps on the next two pages to locate the above places of interest

Based on the breathtaking Llangollen Canal in North Wales, our lovely marina is situated on the site of the Chirk Golf & Country Club.

The Llangollen Canal unarguably has a lot to offer both first time and regular holidaymakers. It meanders gracefully through the beautiful countryside where the world-famous "stream in the sky" – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct spans across the Dee Valley, such a feat of engineering is sure to snatch your breath away!

Another first that Black Prince Holidays are proud to announce is the opportunity to cruise the Montgomery Canal from the national canal network, very recently reopened to boats for the first time in over fifty years. A four mile length of the canal has now been restored, and has been officially opened, giving you the chance to be one of the first to cruise this once dormant, sleepy waterway.

Chirk

Llangollen & Whitchurch



A very pleasant and easy route. Travelling first to Llangollen you cross the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 120 feet above the River Dee. After this the canal perches on the side of the lovely Dee Valley up to Llangollen itself. Retracing your steps you encounter the more robust Chirk Aqueduct and through to the lovely small town of Ellesmere after passing through the only two locks on your trip. After Ellesmere you travel through the Shropshire Lake District with its meres to the market town of Whitchurch.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
I	1	60	4	3



▲ The bridge over the River Dee, with Eisteddfod flags, at the must-see town of Llangollen.



◀ Cruising over Chirk Aqueduct on a pleasant summer's day, with stunning views in all directions.



◀ Ellesmere town centre. This delightful town, with its beautiful lakes, is within easy walking distance from the canal.



▲ Mooring along the Ellesmere arm.



▶ The church of St Boniface at Bunbury. One of Cheshire's finest.



◀ Grindley Brook staircase on the Llangollen canal.

The Eastgate Clock Tower at Chester. The present tower was built in 1897 as part of the city wall replacing the original 10th century structure.

An arduous route, you should not be disappointed if you do not reach Chester. Travelling down the canal you go through the towns of Ellesmere and Whitchurch to Grindley Brook with its three locks in a staircase. From here the locks become more frequent taking you down through lovely country to the Shropshire Union at Hurlston. The rural atmosphere continues through to Chester. You should remember that the Llangollen flows so it will take longer to return, and a visit to Llangollen itself is also well worthwhile.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
K	1	111	70	8



Llangollen canal

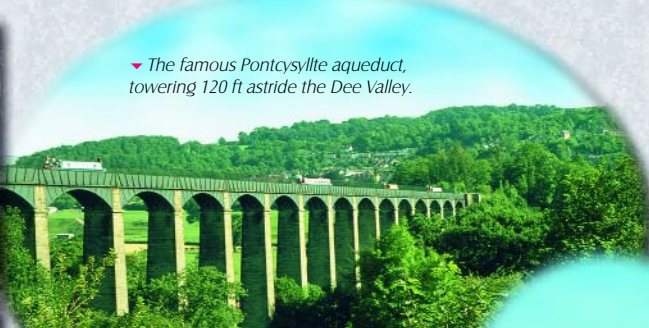


A trip along the full length of this lovely canal. Travelling towards Hurlston you cross the Chirk Aqueduct and down the first two locks. After passing Ellesmere and its lakes, you come to the less hilly Whixall Moss to Whitchurch. After this, undulating countryside sprinkled with locks takes you down to Hurlston with its reservoir, which provides the water for Chester. Retracing your steps cross the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, and up the Dee Valley to Llangollen. A delightful week.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
J	1	78	42	6

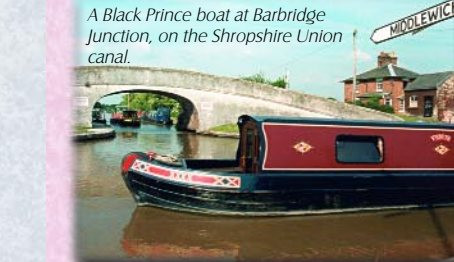
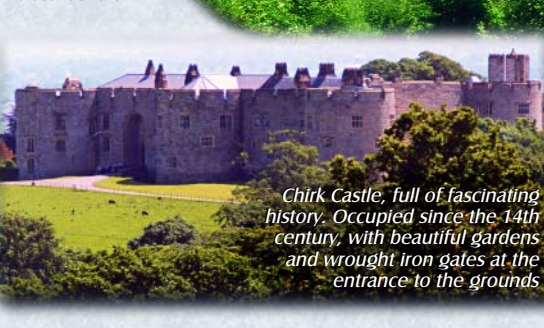


▲ Horse drawn boat at Llangollen that takes you to Horseshoe Falls.



▼ The famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct, towering 120 ft astride the Dee Valley.

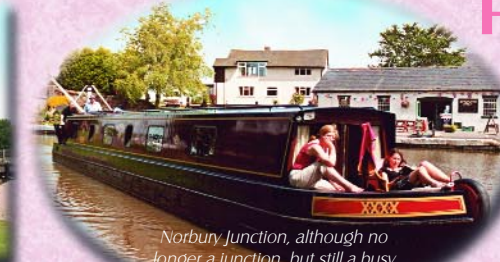
▼ This splendid view of the River Dee can be seen from the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Don't forget the camera!



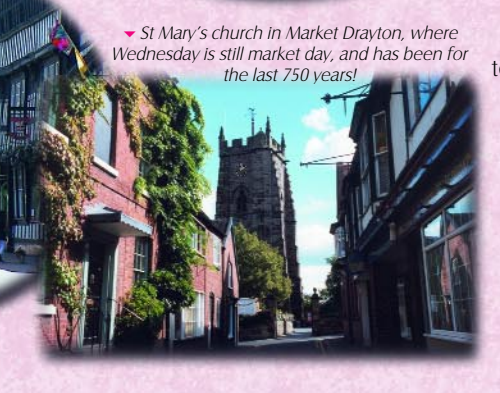
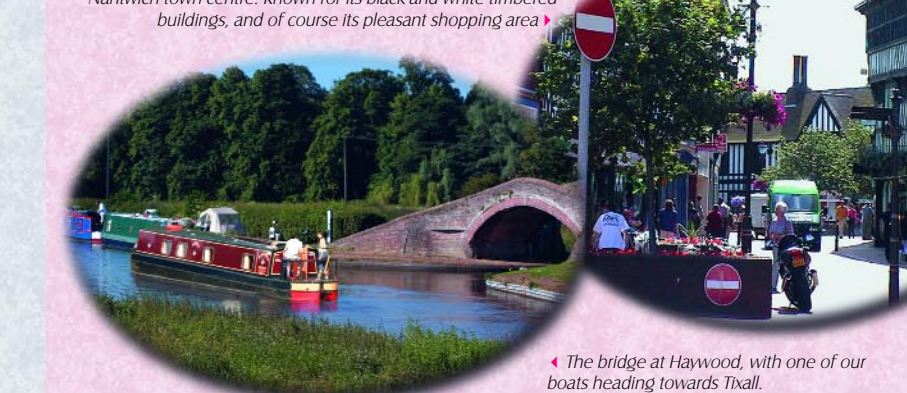
A Black Prince boat at Barbridge Junction, on the Shropshire Union canal.



Star Lock at the bustling and historic market town of Stone.



Norbury Junction, although no longer a junction, but still a busy canal centre.



▼ St Mary's church in Market Drayton, where Wednesday is still market day, and has been for the last 750 years!

For the more experienced crew. Travel down the Llangollen to Hurlston where you join the Shropshire Union and travel southwards through small towns and villages to join the Staffordshire and Worcestershire. This is a meandering canal still travelling through pretty countryside up to Great Haywood. Here you join the Trent and Mersey and travel towards the more built up area of Stoke. Continuing up to Middlewich through a series of locks, you take the Middlewich arm to Barbridge, and back via the Llangollen.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
L	2	188	131	6

The Four Counties ring



Boats Available

FROM ACTON BRIDGE

CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
A	DUCHESS 2-1	52ft	2/4	35
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCHESS 4-2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCHESS 4-3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	DUCHESS 6.3	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.4	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.5	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.6	69ft	6/8	40
E	DUCHESS 8.5	70ft	8/10	41
E	DUCHESS 8.6	70ft	8/10	41

All boats start on Friday, Saturday, Monday or Wednesday.



Overlooking the Macclesfield canal is this magnificent folly, named Mow Cop. You will have time to meditate on its meaning and purpose as you pass by. Or take an invigorating walk up to see it at close quarters. The choice is always yours on the waterways.

A narrowboat leaving Wardle Lock on the Middlewich branch



Little Moreton Hall is a 16th century moated manor house now the property of the National Trust. Built in the black and white timbered style popular in this area it can be reached by a footpath from bridge 86 on the Macclesfield Canal.



Beeston Stone lock, Shropshire Union canal



Although not on the canal, The Lowry art gallery is set in the heart of the regenerated Salford Quays. It is a highly original, distinctive and unusual combination of stainless steel and glass.



Audlem Locks, Shropshire Union canal.



The Macclesfield and Peak Forest Canals meet at Marple, a delightfully situated canal town in rural Cheshire, tree-lined and flanked by characterful cottages made from local stone.

Visitors' Checklist

Museum of Science and Industry
The Lowry Centre
Barton Swing Aqueduct
Old Trafford
Worsley
Wigan Pier and Museum
Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine
Salt Mines
Chester Medieval Town, Zoo and Gardens, 'The Rows' Shopping Area
Boat Museum
Little Moreton Hall
Mow Cop
Harecastle Tunnel
Wedgwood
Stone Market Town
Shugborough Hall
Churches Mansion
Nantwich - Old Town, Half
Timbered Buildings

Use the route maps on the next two pages to locate the above places of interest



Routes from Acton Bridge

Wigan & Return

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	28	M

Chester & Return

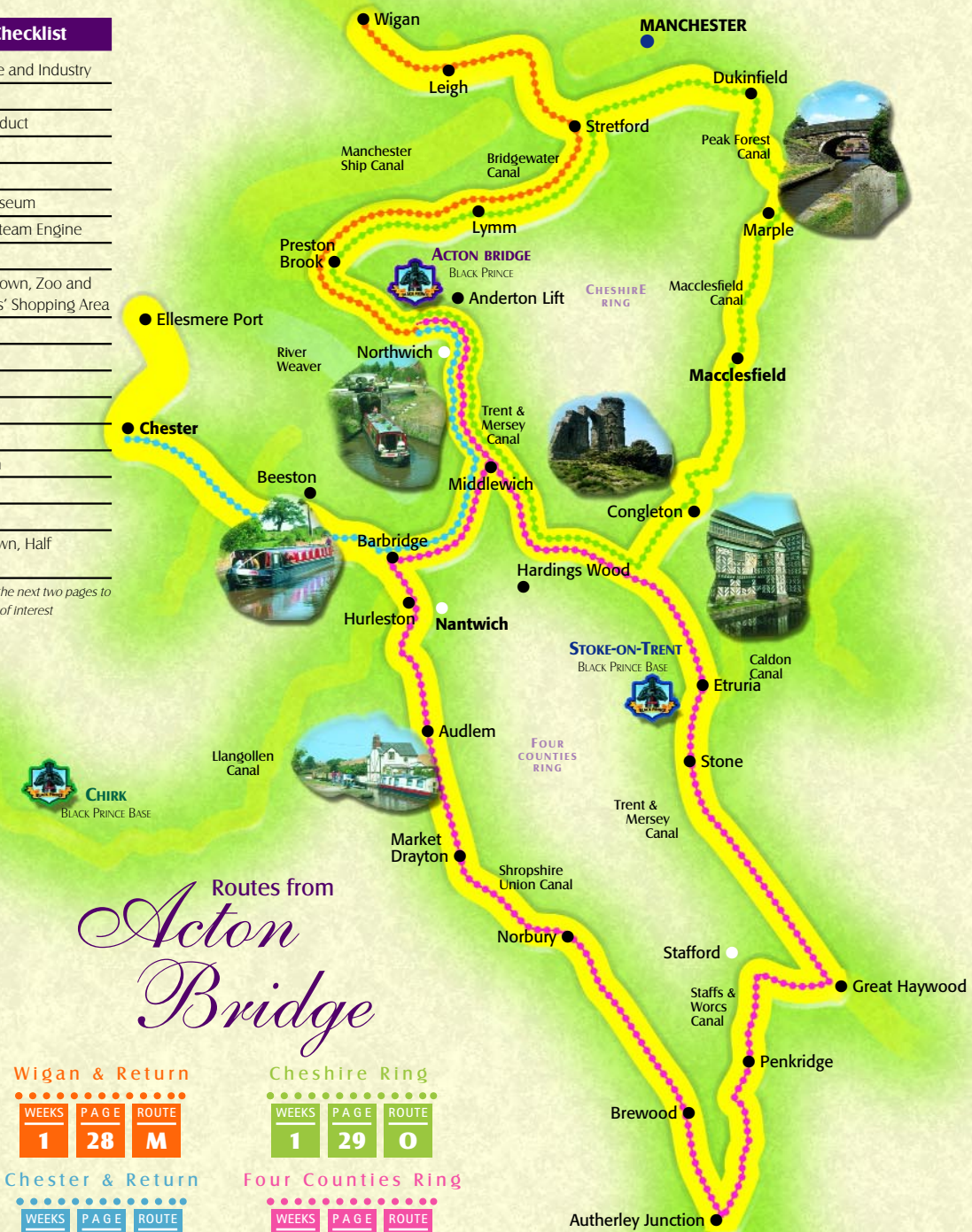
WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	28	N

Cheshire Ring

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
1	29	O

Four Counties Ring

WEEKS	PAGE	ROUTE
2	29	P



Based near Northwich, Acton Bridge is a good starting point for a number of routes. Travelling north, you meet the canal where it all started – the Bridgewater Canal, which takes you lock-free to Manchester. From there you can travel to the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, or continue on the Cheshire Ring via the Peak Forest and Macclesfield.

Apart from Manchester itself, currently being cleaned up, this is a beautiful route with constantly changing scenery. South of the base you can travel the Four Counties Ring, or meander up to Chester and beyond to the Ellesmere Port boat museum.

Acton Bridge

Wigan & return



A very pleasant and easy run with many miles of lock-free cruising. Leaving the base you travel onto the first British canal built by the Duke of Bridgewater to transport coal to Manchester. On this you can see the mine entrances, together with the later Barton Swing Bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal, where the whole canal is swung to let large ships through.

At Wigan the Pier Museum, and the Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine (the world's largest), are well worth a visit.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
M	1	83	6	4



Trencherfield Mill overlooks the new Wigan Pier and Heritage Centre on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. This unlikely part of old industrial Wigan has recently been transformed into a popular centre for visitors.



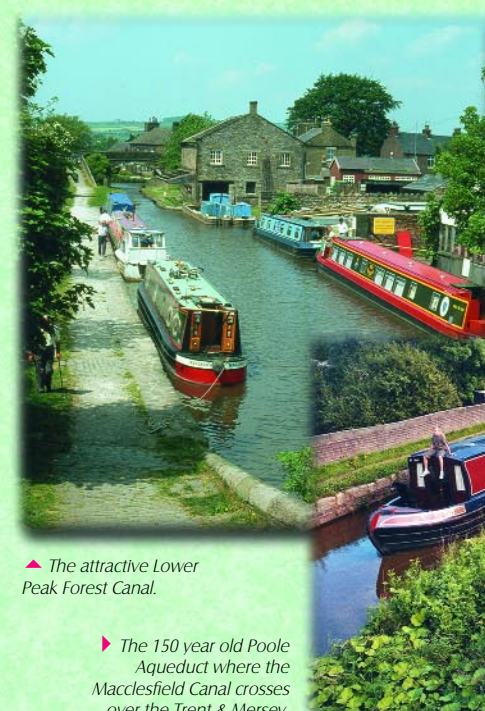
▲ Preston Brook Tunnel



▲ Lymm on the Bridgewater Canal



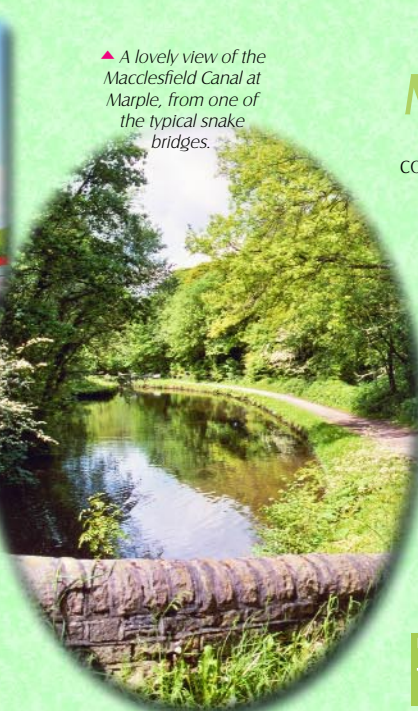
▼ The Packet House at Worsley on the Bridgewater Canal. Not only pretty but has an important place in canal history. It's where the Duke of Bridgewater built the canals to his coalmines.



▲ The attractive Lower Peak Forest Canal.



Old Trafford, home to a rather famous football club.

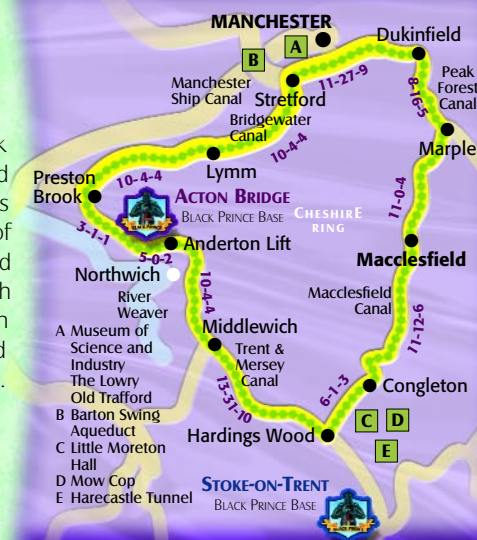


▲ A lovely view of the Macclesfield Canal at Marple, from one of the typical snake bridges.

More strenuous at around eight hours per day, the Cheshire Ring is one of contrasts. Travelling northwards over the Bridgewater Canal, lock-free to Manchester, where the city is currently being restored. After this into the Peak District on the Macclesfield Canal, with the small towns built of stone. Just north of Stoke you meet the Trent and Mersey, and travel through the many locks to Middlewich and its history of salt, and home.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
O	1	97	92	8

Cheshire ring



Chester & return



A slightly more vigorous route, but still easily manageable at about five hours per day, this trip includes varying canals and countryside.

Travelling southwards past the old salt mines to Middlewich you turn onto the Middlewich arm to join up with the Shropshire Union.

The trip up to the medieval City of Chester is particularly pleasant with the canal built next to the old city walls. You should also have time to visit the boat museum at Ellesmere Port.

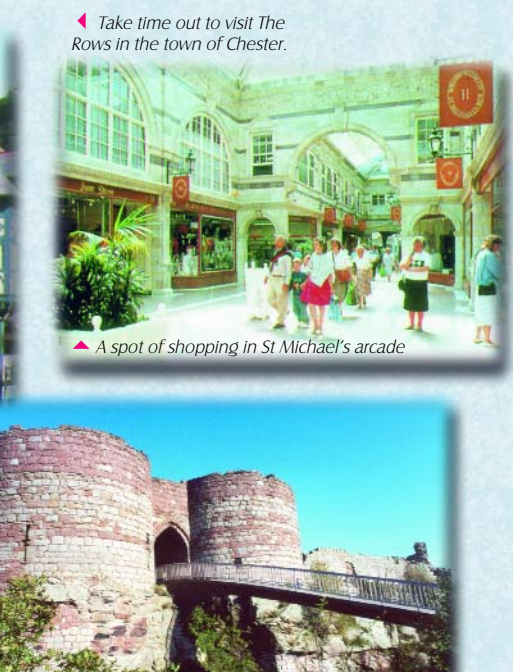
ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
N	1	98	52	5



▲ River Dee, Chester

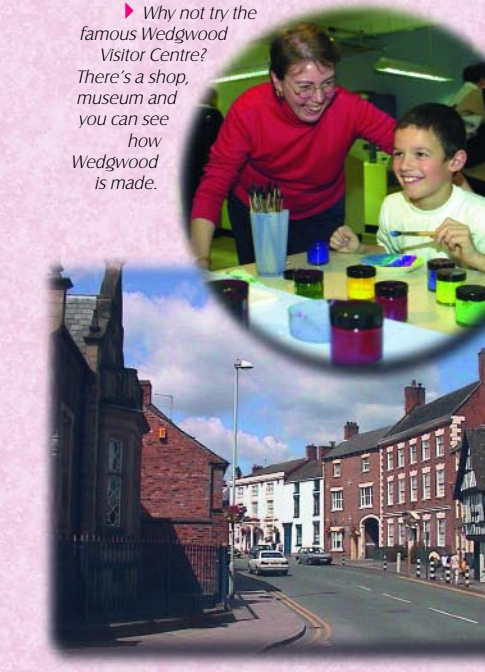


Beeston Castle on the Shropshire Union Canal, built in 1220 by the Earl of Cheshire



▲ Take time out to visit The Rows in the town of Chester.

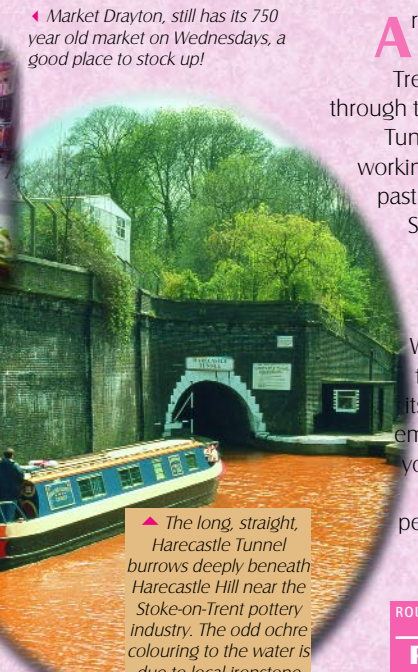
▲ A spot of shopping in St Michael's arcade



▲ Nantwich High Street with its trademark half timbered buildings



▼ Shugborough Hall, the home of photographer Earl Patrick Lichfield. A tour of the grand 18th century house gives a glimpse of the Earl's private rooms, and life "below stairs" goes on in the restored kitchens, brewhouse and laundry.



▲ The long, straight, Harecastle Tunnel burrows deeply beneath Harecastle Hill near the Stoke-on-Trent pottery industry. The odd ochre colouring to the water is due to local ironstone workings.

A relaxing fortnight, you travel southwards to Stoke-on-Trent via Middlewich. Passing through the red-watered Harecastle Tunnel (the result of local iron workings), and continuing down past the Wedgwood factory to Stone and Great Haywood, you join the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Just north of Wolverhampton, you meet the Shropshire Union with its extravagant cuttings and embankments, which carries you up to Barbridge and the Middlewich arm. If time permits a diversion along the Caldons is well worthwhile.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
P	2	140	102	5

The Four Counties ring



Boats Available

		FROM NAPTON		
CODE	CLASS	LENGTH	BERTHS	PAGE
A	DUCHESS 2-1	52ft	2/4	35
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.2	58ft	4/6	36
B	SHAKESPEARE 4.3	58ft	4/6	36
B	DUCHESS 4.2	58ft	4/5	37
B	DUCHESS 4.3	58ft	4/5	37
C	LAUTREC 4.2	62ft	4/5	38
C	LAUTREC 4.3	62ft	4/5	38
D	DUCHESS 6.3	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.4	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.5	69ft	6/8	40
D	DUCHESS 6.6	69ft	6/8	40
E	DUCHESS 8.5	70ft	8/10	41
E	DUCHESS 8.6	70ft	8/10	41

All boats start on Friday, Saturday, Monday or Wednesday.



◀ The busy canal museum at Stoke Bruerne.

A stunning aerial view of Warwick Castle. Don't worry, it's just as stunning at eye level! ▶

The rolling English countryside around Napton, your starting point for the Oxford canal.



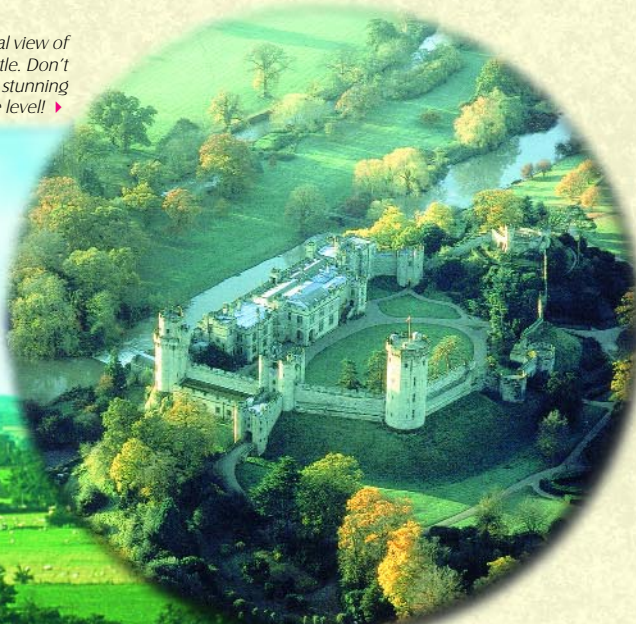
▶ The market square on Wednesday at the unspoilt town of Market Bosworth. Not on the canal but well worth the mile walk, or ride if you have bikes.



The university city of Oxford ▶



Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross, better still, use one of our narrowboats! ▶



deally situated at the head of the Oxford Canal, Napton is a base for a large number of interesting routes. On circular routes, the East Midlands Ring goes through contrasting scenery from Leicester to the River Soar. The Warwickshire Ring, for the more energetic, also has the contrasts with beautiful countryside around Warwick, then industry near Birmingham and Spaghetti Junction. Trips of beauty and interest can also be achieved, including Stratford-on-Avon, Oxford, Snarestone, or a visit to the Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, depending on the number of locks which you wish to negotiate.



Napton

Snaresstone and return



An easy route for the first timer with only a few locks through rural England. Leaving the broad Grand Union Canal at the busy canal junction of Braunston, you turn up the North Oxford Canal into narrow locks by Rugby at Hillmorton, where the British Waterways Architectural Unit is based.

At Hawkesbury you encounter the lock with the smallest lift on the system at 6 inches. The lock-free Ashby is a very quiet rural canal which is extremely peaceful, with few boats to disturb you.

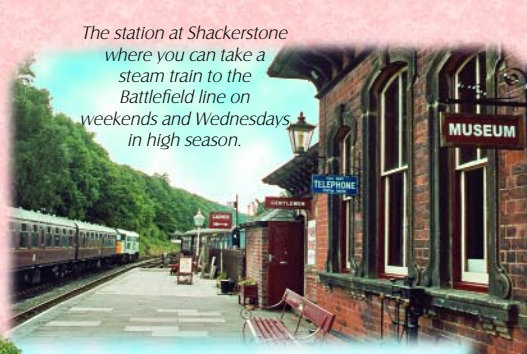
ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
Q	1	102	8	4



The Barge Moorings between Hinkley and Stoke Golding.



A short detour along the Coventry Arm takes you into the city with the old and new Cathedral.



The station at Shackerstone where you can take a steam train to the Battlefield line on weekends and Wednesdays in high season.



Pleasant cruising near the hilltop village of Stoke Golding



If you decide to take a break near Shackerstone, expect to be joined by a few woolly visitors!

Stoke Bruerne Northampton and return



Another pleasant and easy route cruising on the broad Grand Union Canal where the locks are 14 feet wide allowing you to share the work with another boat. The start of this trip contains no locks until you get to Braunston Junction – a hive of activity.

Cruising onwards you encounter more locks and the turnings to Northampton before entering the 3,056 yards Blisworth Tunnel which opens out into the canal village of Stoke Bruerne with its Waterways Museum.

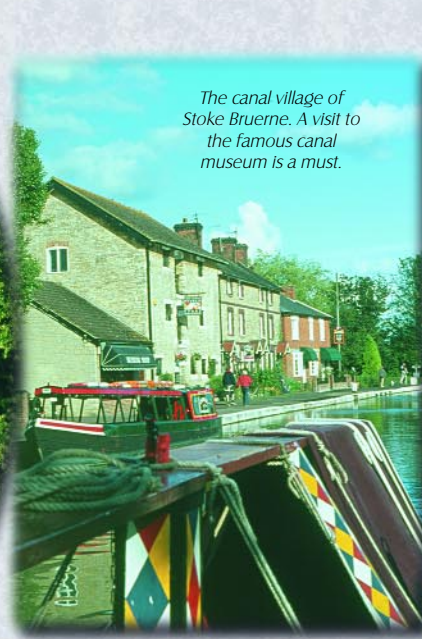
ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
R	1	66	58	5



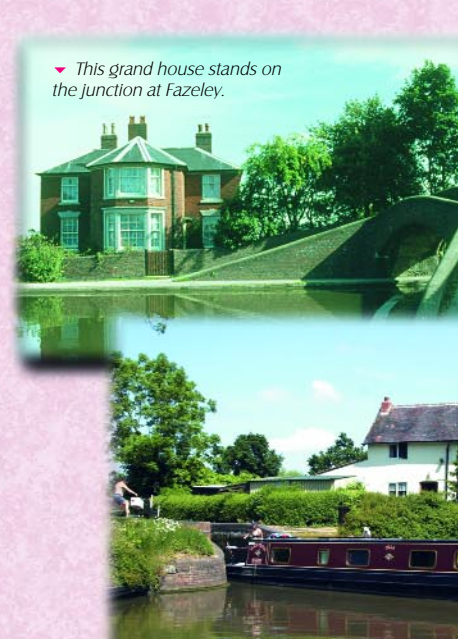
Gayton, a peaceful hilltop village with no shops, but happily two pubs!



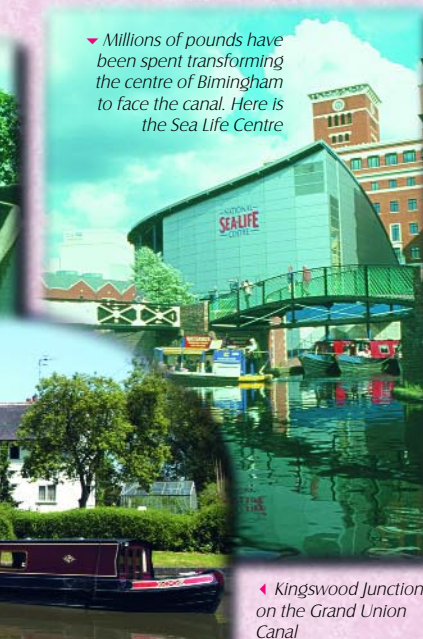
Braunston Church



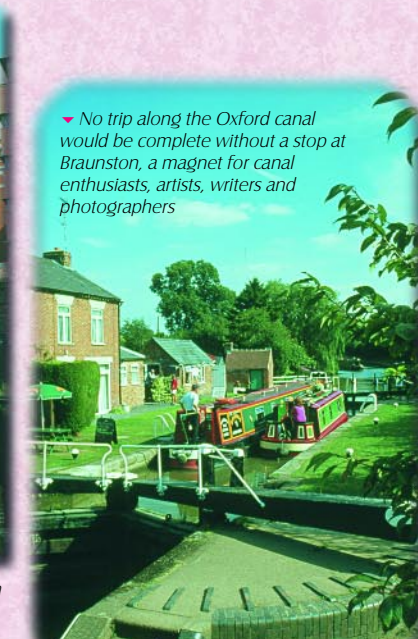
The canal village of Stoke Bruerne. A visit to the famous canal museum is a must.



This grand house stands on the junction at Fazeley.



Millions of pounds have been spent transforming the centre of Birmingham to face the canal. Here is the Sea Life Centre



No trip along the Oxford canal would be complete without a stop at Braunston, a magnet for canal enthusiasts, artists, writers and photographers

Kingswood Junction on the Grand Union Canal



Mooring amongst the Morse murder mysteries at Oxford. A visit to the Thames is possible with a short stay licence.

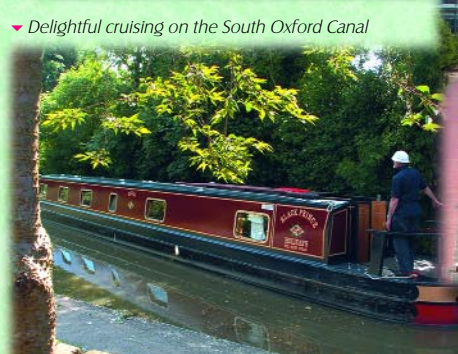
The Red Lion in the village of Cropredy, famous for folk music festivals, and the civil war battle of 1644. An ideal stop on your way to Oxford.



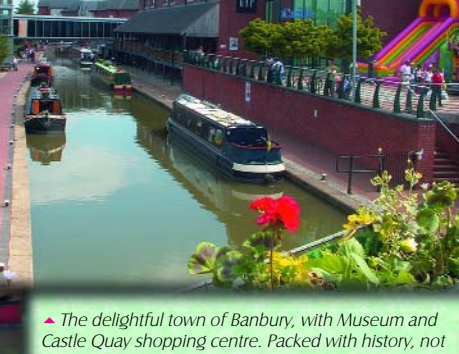
A busier week. Down the meandering Oxford Canal which is one of the oldest in the country and follows the contours of the land, which makes you wonder whether you are getting anywhere.

The only town on the way is Banbury, but there are some lovely villages mainly towards the bottom end, such as Thrupp, Lower Heyford and Shipton-on-Cherwell, with stone built houses, cosy pubs, ancient churches and village greens.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
S	1	98	76	9



Delightful cruising on the South Oxford Canal

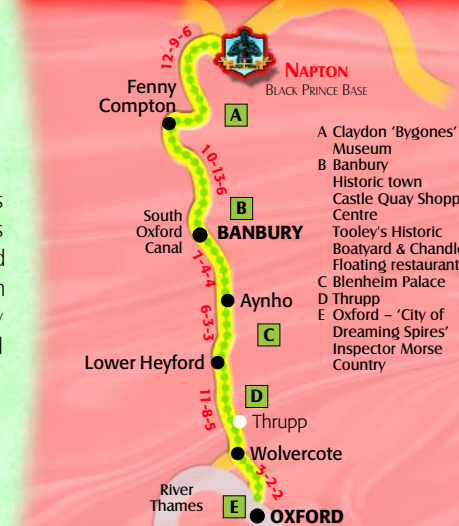


The delightful town of Banbury, with Museum and Castle Quay shopping centre. Packed with history, not to mention pubs and restaurants.

Cropredy Lock on the Oxford Canal

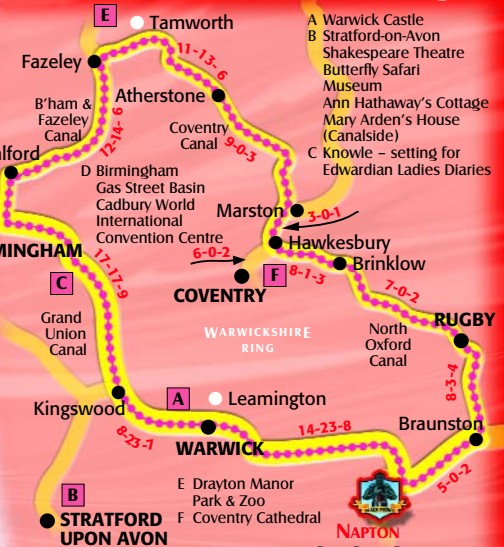


Oxford and return



ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
S	1	98	76	9

The Warwickshire ring



ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
T	1	103	118	8

Sometimes known as the Midlands Ring, this is a route of contrasts. Starting on the wide locks of the Grand Union through various locks to the Hatton Flight, you can either divert up the North Stratford to the centre of Birmingham, or carry on up the Grand Union to rejoin near the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. Heading out on narrow canals to Fazeley, you return southwards past Coventry, Stratford, or up the Ashby should be considered. Don't forget to allow extra time for this.

Over the past few years, Black Prince has invested more than any other company in building a fleet of really modern, award winning boats. This year sees the introduction of even more. All of our boats have water cooled engines, full central heating, airing cupboards, showers, cookers, fridges, colour tv, radios, CD and DVD players and much more - in fact the normal comforts of home.

The Finest Fleet Afloat

All our boats, apart from the Duchess 2.1 have interchangeable beds allowing either two single or one double bed. The double beds are normally 6' 3" by 4', and the singles 6' 3" by 2'. All have interior sprung mattresses.

On the following pages where the berths are described as, for example, 4.2 the first figure shows the number of berths, the second figure shows the number beds, so a 4.3 sleeps four but has three beds. Some boats can sleep 2 extra people by using lounge areas. For example, the Shakespeare 4.2 has 2 double beds, but can sleep 6 people, making it a 4 or 6 berth boat.

We include Macerator toilets, which pump to a discreet holding tank and are very hygienic. We are unique in fitting these up-market toilets in any volume.

The fleet has been inspected by the New English Tourism Council Quality Scheme and has passed to the 4 Star standard. Star Ratings run from the lowest 1 Star to 5 Star. *At the start of the season.



The award winning Black Prince, Hire Craft Operator of the Year



All boats less than 4 years old*
Full details of all our boats are shown on pages 35 to 41

What will be on the boat?

Galley Equipment

- 4 ring cooker, oven, grill,
- Stainless steel sink
- Washing up bowl
- Dish draining rack
- Refrigerator.
- 1 Kettle
- 1 Frying Pan
- 3 Saucepans & lids
- 1 Pudding basin
- 1 Colander
- 1 Casserole
- 1 Mixing bowl
- 1 One pint jug
- 1 Water jug
- 1 Bread bin
- 1 Bread board
- 1 Bread knife
- 1 Grater
- 1 Mixing bowl
- 1 Carving knife
- 1 Carving fork
- 2 Cooks knives
- 1 Wooden spoon

- 1 Butter dish
- 1 Sugar bowl
- 1 Cruet set
- 1 Teapot
- 1 Fruit bowl
- 2 Ashtrays
- 1 Pair scissors
- 4 Serving spoons
- 1 Fish slice
- 1 Tea strainer
- 1 Tin opener
- 1 Bottle opener
- 1 Corkscrew
- 1 Grillpan
- 1 Enamel plate
- 1 Pedal bin
- 1 Potato masher
- 1 Pair oven gloves
- 1 Toast rack
- 3 Tea towels
- 1 Dishcloth
- Washing-up liquid
- Soap pads
- Soap
- Toilet paper
- Matches

Table Equipment

- One each of the following per berth:
- Dessert knife
- Table knife
- Dessert fork
- Table fork
- Teaspoon
- Dessert spoon
- Soup spoon
- Tea plate
- Dinner plate
- Cereal bowl
- Cup and saucer
- Mug
- Egg cup
- Beer Glass
- Wine glass

Bedding

- Duvets and covers
- 1 Pillow per bunk
- 1 Interior sprung Mattress/cover per bunk
- 1 Set of linen
- 1 Pillowcase per bunk

Cleaning Equipment

- 1 Broom
- 1 Toilet brush and stand
- 1 First aid kit
- 1 Dustpan and brush
- 1 Bucket
- 1 Carpet Sweeper
- 1 Floor cloth

Navigation Equipment

- 1 Boarding plank
- 1 Boat pole
- 1 Boat hook
- 1 Water hose
- 1 Life ring
- 2 Mooring spikes
- 1 Club hammer
- 2 Double windlasses
- 1 Deck mop
- 1 Umbrella

Available at Bases

- Rolling pin
- Carving dish
- Roasting tin

Cafetiere

- Pallette knife
- Soup bowl
- Extra pillows
- Extra windlasses*

Headroom:

- Over 6' 1"

Engine

- Water cooled with single lever control

Water and washing facilities

- 100 gallon freshwater tank.
- Running hot and cold water by automatic pump to wash basin, shower and sink.
- Flush pump-out toilet and shower.
- Towels (1 per person)

Heating

- Central heating boiler and hot tank with airing cupboard.

Electrical Equipment

- 240v shaver point (for shaver only).
- Hair Dryer
- 12v socket
- Cigar Lighter
- Electric lighting throughout.
- Colour Television
- Radio/CD/DVD player

* £5 per windlass returnable deposit.
NB: Boats in the same class are similar in all essential respects although details may vary from boat to boat.



- ◆Double Glazed front windows
- ◆Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas)
- ◆Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard
- ◆Colour TV
- ◆Radio/ CD player
- ◆DVD Player
- ◆Full size shower
- ◆140 gallons stainless steel water tank
- ◆4 ring cooker, oven, grill
- ◆Electric fridge, with freezer compartment
- ◆Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phone, camcorders
- ◆Macerator toilets to discrete tanks
- ◆Cruiser stern

Duchess 2:1

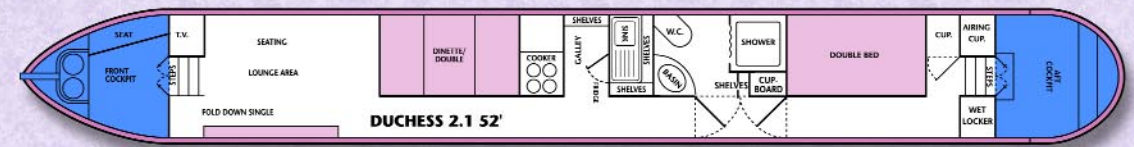
DUCHESS	2:1
LENGTH	52ft
BERTHS	2/4
DOUBLES	2
SINGLES	1

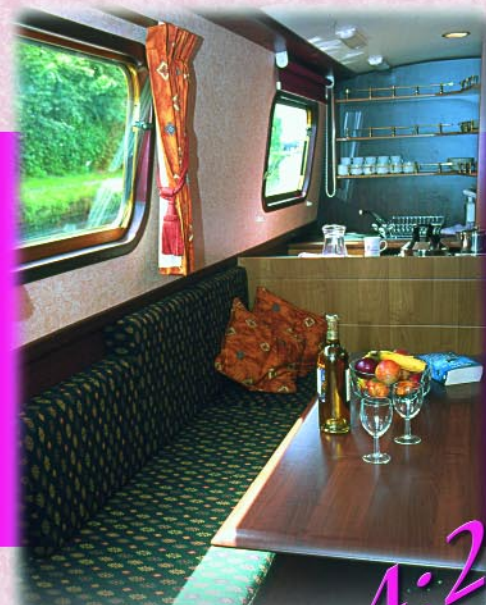


◆Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.



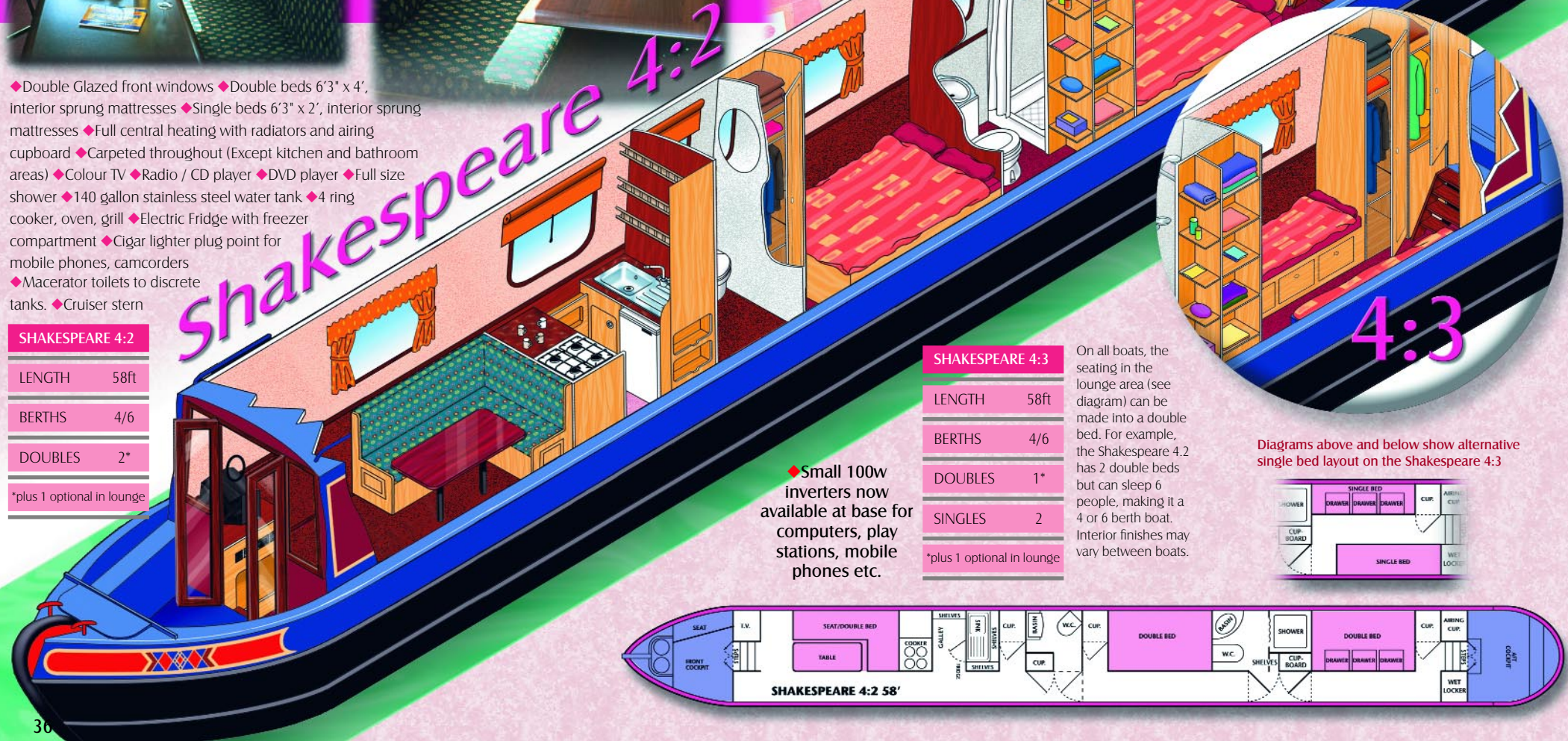
Interior finishes may vary between boats.





- ◆ Double Glazed front windows ◆ Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses ◆ Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses ◆ Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard ◆ Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas) ◆ Colour TV ◆ Radio / CD player ◆ DVD player ◆ Full size shower ◆ 140 gallon stainless steel water tank ◆ 4 ring cooker, oven, grill ◆ Electric Fridge with freezer compartment ◆ Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders ◆ Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. ◆ Cruiser stern

SHAKESPEARE 4:2	
LENGTH	58ft
BERTHS	4/6
DOUBLES	2*
*plus 1 optional in lounge	

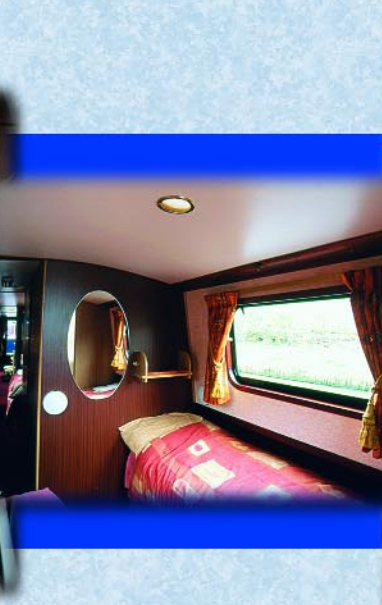
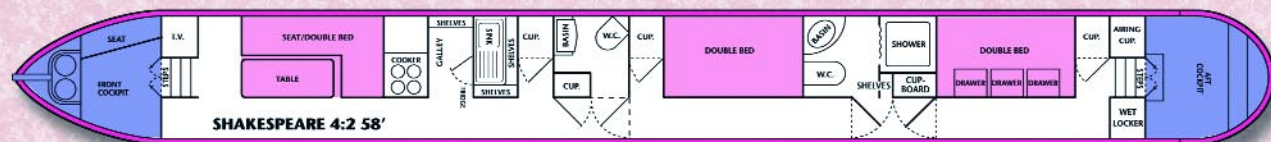
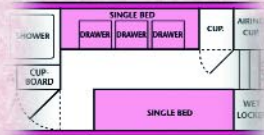


SHAKESPEARE 4:3	
LENGTH	58ft
BERTHS	4/6
DOUBLES	1*
SINGLES	2
*plus 1 optional in lounge	

◆ Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

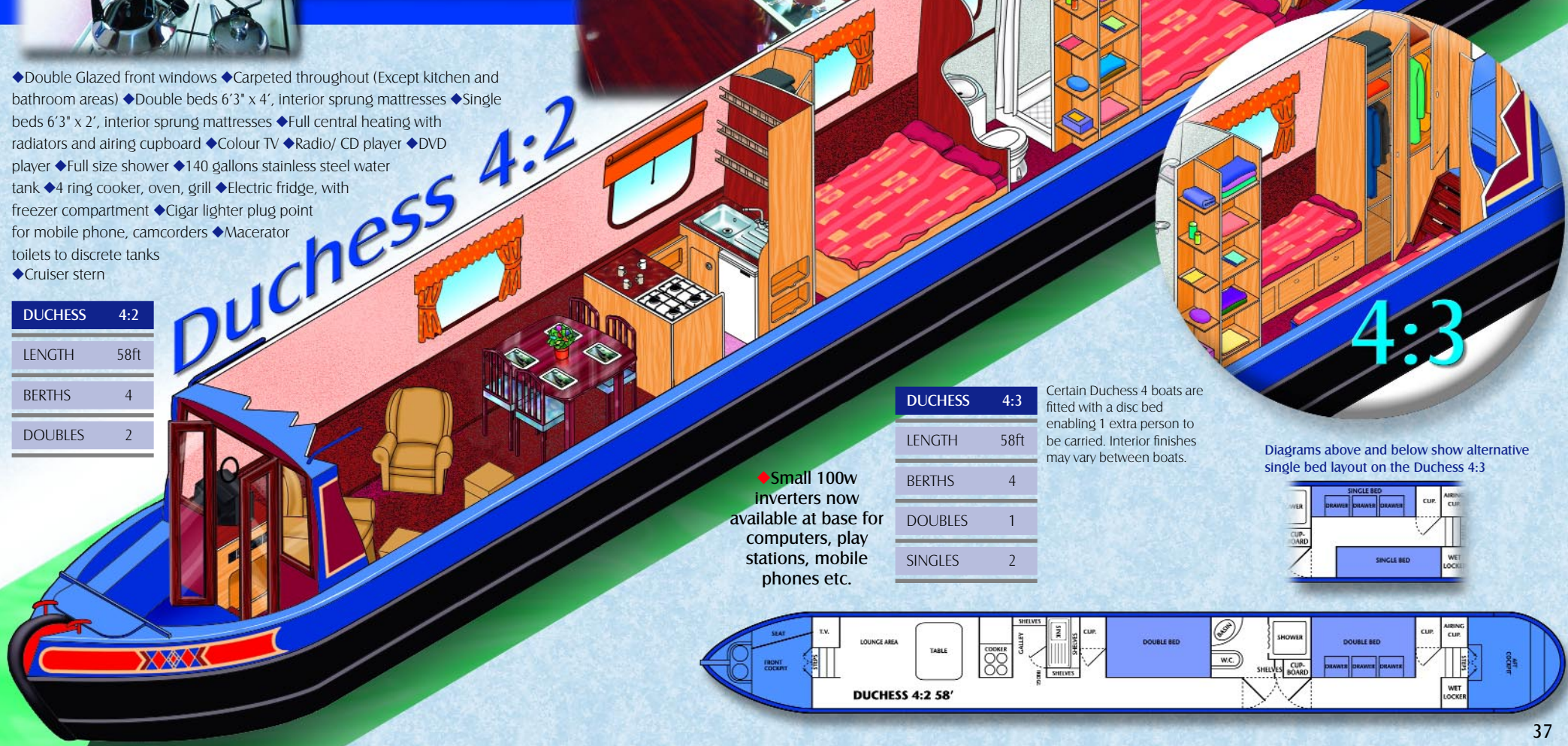
On all boats, the seating in the lounge area (see diagram) can be made into a double bed. For example, the Shakespeare 4.2 has 2 double beds but can sleep 6 people, making it a 4 or 6 berth boat. Interior finishes may vary between boats.

Diagrams above and below show alternative single bed layout on the Shakespeare 4:3



- ◆ Double Glazed front windows ◆ Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas) ◆ Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses ◆ Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses ◆ Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard ◆ Colour TV ◆ Radio / CD player ◆ DVD player ◆ Full size shower ◆ 140 gallons stainless steel water tank ◆ 4 ring cooker, oven, grill ◆ Electric fridge, with freezer compartment ◆ Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phone, camcorders ◆ Macerator toilets to discrete tanks ◆ Cruiser stern

DUCHESS 4:2	
LENGTH	58ft
BERTHS	4
DOUBLES	2

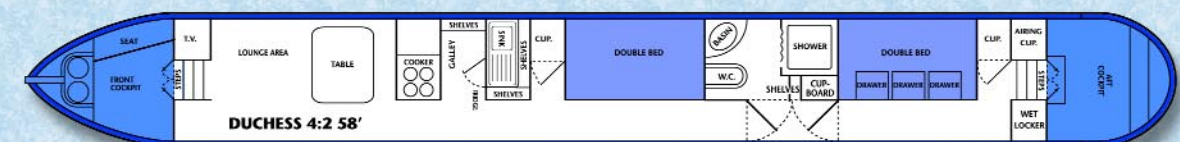
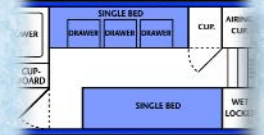


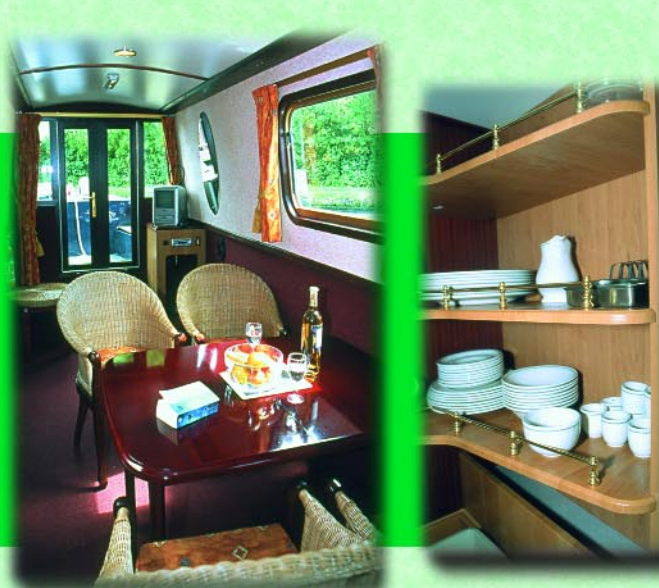
DUCHESS 4:3	
LENGTH	58ft
BERTHS	4
DOUBLES	1
SINGLES	2

◆ Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

Certain Duchess 4 boats are fitted with a disc bed enabling 1 extra person to be carried. Interior finishes may vary between boats.

Diagrams above and below show alternative single bed layout on the Duchess 4:3





- ◆Double Glazed front windows ◆Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses ◆Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses ◆Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard ◆Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas) ◆Colour TV ◆Radio / CD player ◆DVD player ◆Full size shower ◆140 gallon stainless steel water tank ◆4 ring cooker, oven, grill ◆Electric Fridge with freezer compartment ◆Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders ◆Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. ◆Cruiser stern

Lautrec 4:2

LAUTREC	4:2
LENGTH	62ft
BERTHS	4
DOUBLES	2

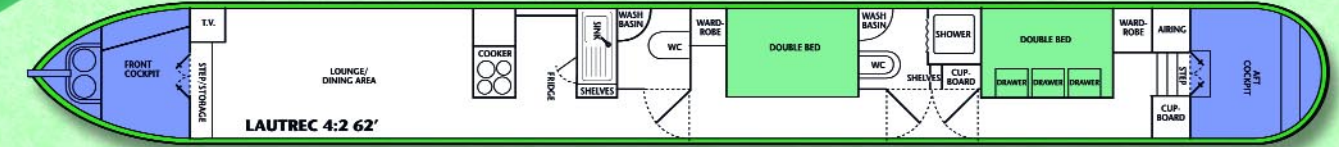


◆Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

LAUTREC	4:3
LENGTH	62ft
BERTHS	4
DOUBLES	1
SINGLES	2

If you would like to take 5 people on any of the boats, a disc bed is available for erection in the lounge area.. Interior finishes may vary between boats.

Diagrams above and below show alternative single bed layout on the 4:3



- ◆Double Glazed front windows ◆Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses ◆Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses ◆Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard ◆Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas) ◆Colour TV ◆Radio/CD player ◆DVD player ◆Full size shower ◆140 gallon stainless steel water tank ◆4 ring cooker, oven, grill ◆Electric Fridge with freezer compartment ◆Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders ◆Macerator toilets to discrete tanks ◆Cruiser Stern.

Countess 6:4

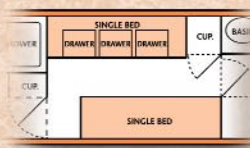
COUNTESS	6:4
LENGTH	62ft
BERTHS	6/8
DOUBLES	2
SINGLES	2*
*plus 2 optional in lounge	



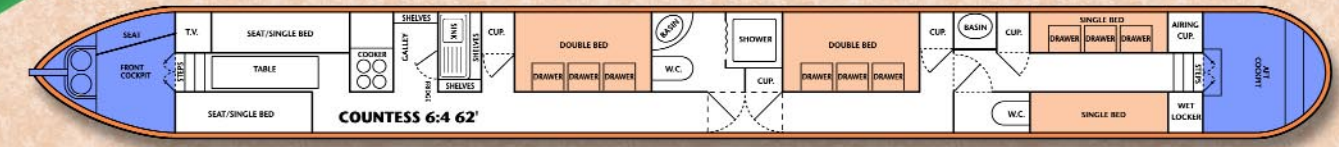
◆Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

COUNTESS	6:5
LENGTH	62ft
BERTHS	6/8
DOUBLES	1
SINGLES	4*
*plus 2 optional in lounge	

Diagrams above and below show alternative single bed layout on the Countess 6:5



On all boats, the seating in the lounge area (see diagram) can be made into 2 single beds. For example, the Countess 6:4 has 2 double beds, but can sleep 8 people, making it a 6 or 8 berth boat. Interior finishes may vary between boats.





DUCHESS BED CONFIGURATIONS

DUCHESS	6:3	6:4	6:5	6:6
LENGTH	69ft	69ft	69ft	69ft
BERTHS	6/8	6/8	6/8	6/8
DOUBLES	3*	2*	1*	0*
SINGLES	0*	2*	4*	6*

*plus one optional double in lounge

- ◆ Double Glazed front windows
- ◆ Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas)
- ◆ Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆ Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆ Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard
- ◆ Colour TV
- ◆ Radio/CD player
- ◆ DVD player
- ◆ Full size shower
- ◆ 140 gallons stainless steel water tank
- ◆ 4 ring cooker, oven, grill
- ◆ Electric fridge, with freezer compartment
- ◆ Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phone, camcorders
- ◆ Macerator toilets to discrete tanks
- ◆ Cruiser stern

- ◆ Double Glazed front windows
- ◆ Double beds 6'3" x 4', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆ Single beds 6'3" x 2', interior sprung mattresses
- ◆ Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard
- ◆ Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas)
- ◆ Colour TV
- ◆ Radio / CD player
- ◆ DVD player
- ◆ Full size shower
- ◆ 140 gallon stainless steel water tank
- ◆ 4 ring cooker, oven, grill
- ◆ Electric Fridge with freezer compartment
- ◆ Cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders
- ◆ Macerator toilets to discrete tanks
- ◆ Cruiser stern.

Duchess 6:3

◆ Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

Diagrams above and below shows alternative bed layout on the Duchess 6:4, 6:5 and 6:6.

On all Duchess boats, the seating in the lounge area (see diagrams) can be made into a double bed. There is no extra charge. Interior finishes may vary between boats.

DUCHESS 6:5 69'

DUCHESS 6:6 69'

Duchess 8:5

◆ Small 100w inverters now available at base for computers, play stations, mobile phones etc.

Diagrams above and below show alternative single bed layout on the Duchess 8:6

On all boats, the seating in the lounge area (see diagram below) can be made into 2 single beds. For example, the Duchess 8:6 has 2 double beds and four single beds but can sleep 10 people. Interior finishes may vary between boats.

DUCHESS 8:5 70'

Yes, you will master it – and quickly!

About 30% of our customers have never been near a boat before and we will not let you go until we are confident of you. Remember you are only going at 4 mph.

No, you won't make a fool of yourself

Boating is an inexact science and so no-one gets it right all the time. But nobody worries and the boat is built to withstand all sorts of indiscretions. A comprehensive manual will be given to you as you are shown how the boat works. It remains with you on your holiday, and contains detailed information of the equipment and appliances. Useful telephone numbers are also included.

Yes, the locals are friendly

Everybody on the canal (except possibly the fishermen) talk and help each other. It matters not whether you are a novice or a professional, a hirer or an owner, a walker or a canalman. One of the great things on the canals is the friendliness.

No, it's not all work and washing up

Whilst all the boats come with a fully fitted kitchen many people choose to eat at the plentiful pubs on the canal side. For many the boats are their major trade and so they provide beautiful food at most reasonable prices. Most pubs started as hostleries for the working boater (the Motorway Cafes of the nineteenth century!), and the publicans are frequently very knowledgeable on the canals.

Yes, there is plenty of interest

There is masses of wildlife from butterflies to birds on the canal system. The canals are kept in such a way to encourage their proliferation and ducks and swans expect to be fed!

Yes, there is central heating and hot showers

All our boats are equipped with central heating and a storage tank to provide copious hot water, together with an airing cupboard and everything you would expect at home.

Yes, we will come out at night if you have a problem

We run a 24-hour emergency service if you have a problem. At night we will always come out for an emergency.

No, canals are not deep

Most canals are between three and five feet deep. If you have the misfortune of falling overboard it is best to walk to the side (but do it quickly so no-one takes a photograph!).

Yes, children love canal boat holidays

In fact if they are into double figures they will probably take over. They just love to drive the boats, under supervision of course (and where else could you do that?). If you have active children try a canal with plenty of locks and see how long it takes to master them. It is very rare for children to get bored since there is always

something for them to do and the environment is new. Driving, locking, tying up, planning, pushing off, walking or just keeping the boat shipshape. But where you have youngsters be sure to have life jackets (available free).

No, the loos aren't thunderboxes

All of our boats are fitted with Macerator toilets, more usually fitted to luxury private boats (we are the only company to do this on any scale). Full details of their pump-out operation will be given on your arrival.

No, it has not been 'modernised'

By and large the canals have not been 'beautified'. Much of the structure is as it was 200 years ago, although some of the

old warehouses have gone or have been converted. Great effort has been made to improve the canals sympathetically, particularly where they pass through cities.

No, you won't get lost

We can provide a range of maps from our shops at any of the bases for the route you choose. If you are uncertain when you get to a particular junction, just ask. Remember the locals are friendly. We have never lost a boat yet!

Yes, the boats are comfortable

Boats are designed to be as comfortable as home with all the same facilities, although naturally with a little less space! Beds are normally 6' 3" long and there is storage in each room. If you wish, do come and see one at any of our bases, but ring first to ensure that the boat you would like to see is available for inspection.

Yes, you will enjoy it

Providing that you do not want discos, kiss-me-quick hats or to be constantly 'organised'! If you want a relaxing yet active holiday, with beautiful countryside and friendly people, this is for you.

Mobile Phones/Camcorders

All our boats have a cigar lighter socket similar to a car. This is 12 volts and if your adapter for camcorder or mobile phone will work from your car, it will work on any of our boats.

Making a Booking

When you make a provisional booking, please confirm it in writing on the booking form within six days, with the appropriate deposit. The booking form must be signed or the booking cannot be confirmed, and you are then entering a legal contract that cannot be broken by either party. It is recommended that the hirer protects himself against cancellation liability by taking out the company's cancellation scheme. This ensures that you are covered for cancellation due to sickness or accident.

Can I bring a pet?

We are quite happy for you to bring your well behaved pet with you, but please, keep them off the upholstery and bedding. We welcome all sorts of pets from budgies to rude parrots. There is a charge of £25 each. Please bring pets' bedding or cages. No more than 2 dogs please.

Yes, you can bring bikes and canoes

Both are welcome but do be careful of storage on your trip. If you put them on the roof they can easily get wiped out by the bridges or trees. You should buy a licence from British Waterways to cover the timing of your holiday.

What Items are included in the Hire Fee?

We not only supply the kitchen sink but also tea towels, washing-up liquid, etc., soap and toilet rolls, and towels. Our boats come complete with a full inventory, and the hire charge includes diesel, gas, bed linen and VAT. We will also send you a grocery requirements list prior to your voyage. If you require any of the items, simply fill in the form and they will be waiting for you. Please pay the Base manager. It's simple really, just bring yourself and the G & T!

Car Parking

All bases have free car parking, but we are unable to accept responsibility for loss or damage to customers' vehicles.

Embarkation and Return

Boats will normally be available between 2.30 pm and 4 pm on the afternoon of departure. Boats should be returned by 9 am and vacated by 9.30 am. If a boat is returned late, it will cause a delay for the next hirer, unless we spend extra to turn it round. In this event we reserve the right to charge for the late return, or if it is returned in a dirty state.

Will I have to fill up with Gas, Diesel & Water?

The hire price includes 20 gallons of fuel and two gas bottles per week. The boat normally carries sufficient for more than two weeks cruising, the 100 gallon water tank should be refilled daily from waterpoints along the canal.

Safety and Buoyancy Aids

Each boat is equipped with a lifebelt, and buoyancy aids are available free of charge. These come in four sizes to suit toddlers to adults and will be individually fitted before you leave.

What Bedding Is Provided?

All beds come complete with sheets, pillows and duvets. For every fixed berth on Black Prince boats we provide an interior sprung mattress, duvet, one pillow, one pillow case, one mattress pad and linen. On all boats, beds can be left up all the time. Towels also included in the standard inventory.

Cancellation Scheme

This is given in greater detail in the centre pages of this brochure and we would suggest that you read it carefully. Where not covered and cancellation becomes necessary, we will do our best to re-let the boat on your behalf. If successful, we will charge you 15% (VAT inc.) to cover our administrative costs, but if we are unsuccessful, you will be liable for the full hire fee.

Licences and Permits

Fishing is allowed provided you have an appropriate Regional Water Authority Rod Licence. Many clubs will not object to fishing from boats, but some will require you to buy day tickets. Your boat is licensed for British Waterways Board canal and river navigations. Special licences are required for the Upper and Lower Avon navigations, River Nene, and the River Thames. Payments for these licences is the responsibility of the hirer.

Further details can be obtained from the booking office. Licences can be purchased before commencement of the trip, but is not recommended.

Many of you will be thinking of taking a canal holiday for the first time. We hope that the information given here will show how easy it is to become skipper of your own boat. The booking office will be happy to answer any other questions.

Is this
your
*Maiden
Voyage?*