

# UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

## Anderton Boat Lift and the River Weaver from Middlewich

Cruise this route from : Middlewich

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Cruising Days : 4.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 12.00

Total Distance : 23.00

Number of Locks : 8

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

The Anderton Boat Lift is a stunning feat of 19th Century engineering, the lift carries two boats at a time hydraulically, one up and one down between the Trent & Mersey canal and the River Weaver 50 feet below.

The River Weaver was used by sailing barges to take the salt away from the Cheshire area, and part of this industry still remains today.

Northwich which is a rather attractive town on the junction of the Rivers Weaver & Dane.

As with every town in the area, salt has been responsible for the prosperity of the town and there is a salt museum in Northwich 01606 41331 which is open all year

For 200 years Northwich was prominent also for building and repairing ships and barges because if you go northwards along the River Weaver you reach the Manchester Ship Canal.

Nowadays the wharves by Town Bridge are empty and are an excellent mooring site for visitors to the town. The town centre is very close, much of it has been completely rebuilt with an extensive shopping precinct.

## Cruising Notes

Day 1

Leaving Middlewich Top Wharf you will immediately encounter 3 locks , and another after a few hundred yards, so get your crew ready!

There are no more locks today and you continue through fine open country, often overhung by trees this is a beautiful part of the Canal. It follows the valley of the River Dane. There are pleasant moorings just north of bridge 176 on the off-side. You can stop for the night at Broken Cross, where the Old Broken Cross Pub is canalside at Bridge 184.

It is 3 hours to here.

## Day 2

You are now on the outskirts of Northwich, the scenery has been determined by the salt mining industry which this area is known for.

Northwich is another salt mining town, typical of this area. The town centre is close to the wharves near Town Bridge, and there are good moorings here. There is a relatively new shopping precinct in the town and a variety of pubs and restaurants.

Leaving here, you will soon see Anderton come into view, with its iconic boat lift.

There is a cafe at the lift, serving hot and cold drinks and light snacks. Its opening times are the same as the lift.

The River Weaver is a navigation that is tidal and occasionally carries commercial traffic, in small seagoing ships night & day, and the locks are quite large but are all manned by British Waterways Staff so find out about the times of opening before you start your trip.

The bridges are either very high or are big swing bridges operated by British Waterways staff.

If you arrive at the boat lift in season, you can just turn up & wait for a slot, as the glass topped trip boat goes up and down the lift all day, but you might have to wait in the high season, but it is no hardship, as it is fascinating to watch the amazing structure of the Boat lift.

The Lift connects the River Weaver with the Trent & Mersey Canal. There is a large Operations Centre housing an extensive interactive exhibition, and a shop and a cafe with a seating area offering good views out over the River. There is also a pub opposite the Boat lift- The Stanley Arms, where children are welcome & they have an outside seating and childrens play area Tel 01606-75059.

Once down the the River Weaver turn left and cruise down to Northwich which is a rather attractive town on the junction of the Rivers Weaver & Dane.

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There is a floating Hotel close to the Northwich marina- The Floatel, tel 01606 44443,  
It is just 3 hours from last nights mooring to here.

## Day 3 Day 4

It is 6 hours back to Middlewich so turn around and go the the Boat Lift moorings ready to book in for the

journey back up the Lift.

## Useful Links

The information above is provided in good faith to assist you with planning your canal boat holiday. Information accuracy cannot be guaranteed, however, if you do see something that needs updating, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

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