

UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

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Anderton Boat Lift from Nantwich marina

Cruise this route from : Nantwich

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[Anderton-Boat-Lift-from-Nantwich-marina-Cruising-Route.html](#)

Cruising Days : 5.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 23.00

Total Distance : 47.00

Number of Locks : 16

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

With the re-opening of the Anderton boat lift in Spring 2002, a whole new navigation is open for exploration from the Anderton base. 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.

Rural cruise along the Middlewich branch which is an attractive and under-rated canal with some wonderful tranquil moorings.

Middlewich was once a thriving centre for the excavation of salt, the canal played an important part in the success of the industry in the town. Since the decline of the salt industry, the town is a friendly place with a good range of shops and pubs to be found.

The town is home to a popular folk and boat festival which runs for three days every year over a bank holiday weekend. It has been going since 1990 missing only one year due to foot and mouth. Folk musicians play at a number of venues, and it is estimated to bring in 30,000 visitors and 400 narrowboats over the course of the weekend.

Cruising Notes

Day 1

Nantwich is a beautiful town, adorned with boutiques, antiques, cafes, pubs and restaurants and steeped in history, it is a medieval market town famous for the black and white timbered buildings dotted around the town.

Nantwich also hosts the International Cheese Awards, a prestigious event that celebrates the finest cheeses known to man.

Turn right from the marina turning north towards Chester.

There are no locks on this stretch, so your crew can relax and put the kettle on!

You pass the Llangollen Canal off to your left at Hurleston Junction, and at the next junction you can moor- Barbridge Junction, there is a pub canalside at the junction with moorings, also a pub in Barbridge with access from Bridge 100.

Turn right along the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, this is an attractive and wonderfully tranquil canal, with some rural moorings.

The canal crosses the River Weaver over an aqueduct as it approaches the village of Church Minshull which can be accessed by bridge 14.

Moor by Bridge 14 and walk into the village on Church Minshull, to your left, the Badger Inn is in the village and serves lovely food and ales.

It is 3 hours cruising to here.

Day 2

The canal continues through quiet farmland interspersed with woods until it reaches Middlewich, there are good moorings at the boatyard to the left of the junction.

The town centre is in easy walking distance from the canal and is known for its heritage events and festivals. Once a thriving centre for the excavation of salt, the canal played an important part in the success of the industry in the town. Since the decline of the salt industry, the town is a friendly place with a good range of shops and pubs to be found.

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It is 8 hours to here.

Moving on from Middlewich, you will be in the pretty countryside again, the canal being overhung by trees as it meanders along the hillside, following the valley of the River Dane. Moorings along the route are bedecked with picnic tables and barbeque facilities, supplied by Broken Cross Boating Club.

On the opposite side of the canal is open parkland.

You will be heading to Northwich, which is at the junction of the Rivers Dane and Weaver.

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. For lots of interesting information about the boat lift, visit www.andertonboatlift.co.uk or call 01606 786777.

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

It is 8 hours to here.

Day 3 4 5

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 Boatlift.

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 Boatlift- The Stanley Arms, where children are welcome & they have outside seating and childrens play area Tel 01606-75059.

Once you have gone down and then back up the boat lift you need to start your journey home, as it is just over 11 hours back to Nantwich

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](#).

