

# UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

## Battle of Bosworth battlefields from Coventry marina

Cruise this route from : Coventry

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Cruising Days : 4.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 16.75

Total Distance : 42.00

Number of Locks : 0

Number of Tunnels : 2

Number of Aqueducts : 0

This lock free route takes you along the beautifully tranquil and rural Ashby Canal to the site of the Battle of Bosworth, and Heritage Visitor Centre, and the attractive village of Stoke Golding, where Henry V11 was crowned in 1485.

Coventry itself is worth a visit, being about 15-20 minutes walk from the canal basin.

A short walk from the canal basin is Coventry Transport Museum, which is reputedly the largest display of British made transport in the world, with over 200 cars, 90 motorbikes and 230 cycles on display.

Coventry Cathedral was built in 1962 to replace the old Cathedral, which was destroyed in 1940.

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## Cruising Notes

Day 1

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transport in the world, with over 200 cars, 90 motorbikes and 230 cycles on view.

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From the restored canal basin at Coventry, with its canal architecture, cruise past Cash's Hundred Houses, an elegant row of weavers' houses, where the looms were kept on the top floor, to Hawkesbury Junction.

It is about 2 hours to here, and you can moor up and take some liquid refreshment at the Greyhound, which is canalside at Hawkesbury Junction, or at Sutton Stop.

The pub dates from the 1800's and is full of character. It is very photogenic beside the Junction, which is where the Oxford Canal can be entered through a lock, with only 6" difference in height.

Tomorrow you will be heading north along the Coventry Canal, so don't turn right onto the Oxford Canal.

It is 2 hours cruising to here.

## Day 2

Today you will cruise to Market Bosworth a small 18th century town about a mile east of the wharf. From Hawkesbury Junction cruise up the Coventry canal past Hawkesbury Junction, a disused engine house, and note the lovely bridge by the pub.

Soon the Ashby canal is seen to your right, at Marston Junction, turn here and soon the surroundings alter dramatically as you are surrounded by green fields, farms & trees, you will feel miles away from civilisation.

There are moorings at Bulking road bridge, or Limekiln bridge, or at Hinckley Wharf by bridge 16, the only town on the Ashby canal. The town centre of Hinckley is within walking distance and offers many different shops and eateries and of course pubs. There is a large Brewers Fayre pub & restaurant by the lovely Trinity marina.

From bridge 16 it is a short walk to the local store with a cash point. Hinckley boasts having the first stocking machine in 1640, but visit the 'bleeding' tombstone at St Marys Church, and Great Meeting Chapel (1722) and museum .

The old Norman castle has only a bailey and part of the moat remaining.

South of bridge 16 is a greyhound stadium. The Concordia Theatre offers performances all year round. The Hinckley & District Museum has been established in a row of thatched cottages once used for framework knitting, and the museum now houses displays from prehistoric to the current period.

The section of canal running through the Hinckley district is designated as a conservation area, and, as with the rest of the canal there are lots of birds and wildlife to be seen with the towpaths regularly used by walkers, cyclists and anglers alike.

Following on from Hinckley you pass the small villages of Wykin and Higham on the Hill and there are a couple of pubs at the latter- The Odd fellows Arms & The Fox Inn. Higham is 1 mile west of bridges 21 & 23. Running alongside the canal here are the remains of a loop railway built in the 1870's to carry coal , but it was abandoned in 1900 having never had a train run on its tracks. This is a short section with a few bridges carrying

the country lanes over the canal, then you are on the outskirts of the village of Stoke Golding, which proudly boasts to be the “Birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty”. This is the site of the Battle of Bosworth where in 1485 The War of the Roses finally ended with King Richard III being defeated by Henry Tudor, who was crowned King Henry VII, the coronation being held here, in Stoke Golding.

Stoke Golding itself is to the right of Bridge 25, but there are good moorings by bridges 27/28. It is a stunning village, it has an impressive Grade 1 listed Saxon church, the window sills of the Church still show grooves, which legend has it were caused by the soldiers sharpening their swords on the eve of the battle. There is a village shop where you can pick up supplies for your journey, and it's well worth having a walk around the village which is full of beautiful buildings from times past. This is also the home of the Ashby Canal Centre (marina) who have done a lot in the restoration of the northern section of the Ashby Canal. The White Swan & George & Dragon Pubs are in the village.

Heading north out of Stoke Golding you pass Dadlington, another small village with an 18th century Inn- The Dog & Hedgehog , and then you find yourself in the busy Sutton Cheney Wharf. There is a trip boat here, and a cafe?- Cafe Canalside that opens 9-5, and it is just a short walk from here to the Battlefield Visitor Centre which has interactive displays about the battle. There is also another cafe? here and a shop. You can take a walk through the woods along the battle trails, or why not take a ride on a steam train on the Battlefield Line Railway from Shenton to Shackerstone and walk back along the towpath, around a 5 mile walk.

There are also moorings at Shenton where you can also walk to the battlefield. Shenton station is here and old steam & diesel trains run along the Battlefield Line of 9 miles between Shackerstone & Shenton via Market Bosworth during the season.

Turn the boat just before Shenton Bend.

It is 6 hours to here

Day 3

Day 4

Cruise back to Coventry marina

## 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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