

UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

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## Birmingham and Drayton manor Theme park and Snowdome and Sea Life Centre and Star City

Cruise this route from : Glascote Basin

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[Birmingham-and-Drayton-manor-Theme-park-and-Snowdome-and-Sea-Life-Centre-and-Star-City-Cruising-Route.html](#)



Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 25.50

Total Distance : 34.00

Number of Locks : 80

Number of Tunnels : 4

Number of Aqueducts : 0

This route allows time for all the attractions

Experience Britain's second city, a thriving cosmopolitan centre, with some of the finest shopping, culture and visitor attractions in Europe, with it's waterside pubs and colourful boating community in Birmingham's colourful Gas Street Basin which is in the heart of Birmingham's canal network, and has been redeveloped into a unique experience where traditional narrow boats moor up next to cosmopolitan cafes and bars.

Amongst some of the attractions are the National Sea Life Centre and the Jewellery Quarter Discovery centre, also many fine Art galleries and over 500 restaurants offering every choice of food!

For shopping a visit to the new Bullring is a must, which covers an area the size of 26 football pitches and a has a huge range of shops.

Cruise to Drayton Manor Theme park, -The UK's best family theme park with kids rides, family fun, zoo, and thrill rollercoaster rides.

Snowdome in Tamworth -There is Skiing, snowboarding, Tobogganing, Ice-skating, swimming & Adrenaline Tubing!! All on real snow!

Tamworth Castle- Step back through 900 years of history with a visit to Tamworth Castle. Uncover the secrets held within the chambers and hallways of this unique building and get a real sense of how the Saxons, Normans, Tudors and Victorians lived.

Star City- Funfairs, fireworks displays and other exciting family orientated events regularly take place at StarCity, including high-profile attractions such as the Moscow State Circus and Cirque De Soleil. It has the largest Indoor Adventure Golf Complex, ten pin bowling a Laser Station and Twin Peaks Family Climbing Centre and 12 restaurants



# Cruising Notes

## Day 1

If you wish to start your holiday off with an adventure, how about walking to the Snow Dome which is only about 10 minutes from the marina. All weather skiing and snowboarding centre with kit rental, an ice rink, swimming pool and gym. It is open until late every night.

Also you need to visit Tamworth Castle-

Step back through 900 years of history with a visit to Tamworth Castle. Uncover the secrets held within the chambers and hallways of this unique building and get a real sense of how the Saxons, Normans, Tudors and Victorians lived.

Once back on the boat turn right out of the marina and cruise westwards and immediately you encounter Glascote Locks, but the trainer will show you how to use the locks, so don't worry.

At the Fazeley Junction turn left along the Birmingham and Fazeley canal, soon you will reach Drayton Manor Theme Park - The UK's best family theme park with kids rides, family fun, zoo, and thrill rides. The entrance to the Theme park & Zoo is a short walk from the canal to your right.

It is 1.25 hours to Drayton Manor so if you are spending a day visiting here then moor up for the night ready for a whole day tomorrow.

## Day 2

Explore Drayton Manor Theme Park

Featuring Stormforce 10 with a backward water drop, Maelstrom, Shockwave- Europes first stand up roller coaster, and the vertical drop -New for 2011 is Ben 10 Ultimate Mission the ride, Ben needs you to stop Vilgax from stealing the Omnitrix and the only way is to board the "Mecha Vehicle", Good luck on your mission! . Adults & children will love the white knuckle rides, but the park has many family rides and a Thomas Land area for the younger children, and a Zoo to explore. The park is closed during November to March.

## Day 3

Today your route takes you through quiet countryside until you reach Birmingham, its only a short trip today so take your time.

The Gothic style footbridge at Drayton Bassett is worth a photo, it has twin battlemented towers which look quite ridiculous on such a small construction, but it is wonderfully eccentric.

You will pass Cliff Pool Nature Reserve and Middleton Lakes Nature Reserve on the right and there is also a childrens farm at Broomey Croft near Kingsbury Swivel bridge.

At Bodymoor Heath is a lovely pub- the Dog & Doublet by Cheatles Farm bridge. To the left is Kingsbury Water Park, a 600 acre landscaped park containing 30 lakes from old gravel pits. There are walks, nature trails, fishing, horse riding, sailing and wind surfing and power boating.

At the village of Curdworth there is a pub to the south of Curdworth bridge, and another in the village.

The Minworth Locks are soon reached & there is a handy transport cafe near Hansons bridge. There are also pubs – the Hare & Hounds by Minworth Green bridge, and The Boat by Caters bridge. There are 11 locks between Drayton Manor and Minworth

It is worth mooring for the night at Minworth, as moorings in Birmingham are scarce until you reach the Gas Street Basin/Brindley Place/Cambrian Wharf areas.

It is 4.5 hours to here.

#### **Day 4**

All shops are readily available alongside the canal around Salford, a good access point is where the A452 crosses the canal at Tyburn bridge.

Star City is just before Salford Junction to your left.

Star City is one of the UK's largest leisure destinations - a unique family entertainment destination with 12 restaurants and 11 leisure attractions including a 25 screen VUE cinema. Funfairs, fireworks displays and other exciting family orientated events regularly take place at StarCity, including high-profile attractions such as the Moscow State Circus and Cirque De Soleil. It is also home to England's largest Indoor Adventure Golf Complex, a 22 lane ten pin bowling alley, a purpose built all-weather 5-a-side football center, a Laser Station and a Twin Peaks Family Climbing Centre.

Soon there are 2 canals away to your left, take the 2nd turning to Cambrian Wharf, taking you through the flight of 11 locks at Aston to Aston Junction. Turn right here through the Farmer's Bridge flight of 13 locks where you will need the BW anti vandal key. Moor up in Cambrian Wharf, or turn left at Deep Cuttings Junction and moor up in Gas Street Basin, or turn right at the junctions and moor up in one of the loops which turn off the main canal.

Its is 7 hours to Gas Street basin but only 7 miles, with 27 locks

#### **Day 5**

A day to explore your surroundings!

Gas Street Basin & Brindley place is in the heart of Birmingham's canal network, and has been redeveloped into a unique experience where traditional narrow boats moor up next to cosmopolitan cafes and bars. The surrounding area is a vibrant arts & entertainment area and there are many shopping options within a short walk. Moor up next to the Sea Life centre. On your doorstep will be every type of cuisine you can think of, from Caribbean to Nepalese, from Thai to Italian. Also clubs and bars, Theatres, Comedy and live entertainment and Cinemas.

Amongst some of the attractions are the National Sea Life Centre & the Jewellery Quarter Discovery centre, also many fine Art galleries and over 500 restaurants offering every choice of food! The jewellery quarter dates back over 250 years, and is still home to over 400 jewellery businesses. It is a designated conservation area with only 200 listed buildings, and has been described by English heritage as a unique historic environment in England.

For shopping a visit to the new Bullring is a must, which covers an area the size of 26 football pitches and has a huge range of shops.

Close by is the national Indoor Arena, one of the busiest large scale indoor sporting & entertainment venues in Europe.

## Day 6 7 8

Make your way back to Glascote Basin , it is 2 days cruising.

## Useful Links

Description : National Sea Life Centre

Website : <http://www.visitsealife.com/birmingham/>

Telephone : 0871 423 2110

Description : Visit Birmingham

Website : <http://visitbirmingham.com/>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Drayton Manor Theme Park

Website : <http://www.draytonmanor.co.uk/>

Telephone : 01827 285551

Description : Tamworth Snowdome

Website : <http://www.snowdome.co.uk/>

Telephone : 0844 800 0011

Description : The Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham

Website : <http://www.bullring.co.uk/shops>

Telephone : 0121 632 1500

Description : Tamworth Castle

Website : <http://www.tamworthcastle.co.uk/>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Star City Birmingham

Website : <https://starcitycentre.co.uk/about>

Telephone : n/a

*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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