

# UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

## Chester cruise the Shropshire Union Canal to this beautiful Roman City

Cruise this route from : Wrenbury

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Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 24.50

Total Distance : 45.00

Number of Locks : 40

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Cruise along the Shropshire Union Canal to the Roman city of Chester this short route gives you plenty of time for sightseeing.

There is a wealth of things to do in this Roman City which can be seen on foot, because of the amazing survival of the old city wall. You can walk right round Chester on this superb footpath.

Chester Roman Amphitheatre is the largest in Britain, used for entertainment and military training by the 20th Legion, based at the fortress of 'Deva' (Chester).

There has been a church on the site of The Cathedral for over 1,000 years and Handel gave his first public performance of the Messiah here in 1742.

Discover 1,000 of shops behind the façades of the black and white Medieval buildings, take home some Cheshire cheese which is one of the oldest recorded cheeses in British history and is even referred to in the Domesday Book.

Grosvenor Park miniature Railway is one of Chester's premier attractions for 9-90 year olds!

Lying outside the town is Chester Zoo is home to 7000 animals including some of the most endangered species

on the planet.

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## Cruising Notes

### Day 1

From Wrenbury marina turn east you will soon encounter your first Lift bridge, if it is down you need to get your windlass out and let someone off the boat to open it up.

There are 3 locks at Baddiley but apart from that the countryside is flat, rich farmland.

You can moor up after a couple of hours cruising by Halls lane bridge 12, and take the track to Ravensmoor where you will find the Farmers Arms serving real ale & meals.

### Day 2

There are 2 locks at Swanley but no more until you reach the end of the Llangollen canal at Hurleston, where there are 4 in quick succession. Hurleston reservoir is off to the left.

Turn left at Hurleston junction onto the Shropshire Union Canal, you will follow the reservoir for a short while. At Barbridge you reach the junction of the Middlewich branch of the Shropshire Union, but you carry straight on and head towards Chester, you are joined by a busy road until it turns away at Calveley. There is a bar & grill at Barbridge.

At Bunbury Wharf, 2 staircase locks require thought before action, they are 14 feet wide like all subsequent locks between here and Chester. The village of Bunbury is 1 mile south west of the Locks and has stores, butcher & take away fish & chips & a couple of pubs.

Bunbury water mill is up the hill from Bunbury Wharf, & is open Easter-Sep & gives guided tours around its fully restored watermill.

From Wharton Lock is an excellent view of Beeston castle- a massive ruin dating back to the 14th century which is visible from 30 miles away. The castle was built by the Earl of Chester in 1337, & is situated on the top of a steep hill dominating the surrounding countryside. It is open April to September.

Beeston Castle is also known as the the formidable 'Castle of the Rock'. Climb to the top of this impressive crag with incredible views over eight counties, from the Pennines to the Welsh mountains. Legend has it that Beeston still guards King Richard II's lost treasure – maybe your family can find it? An exciting exhibition details the secrets of 4,000 years of Beeston Castle's history, from Bronze Age settlement to Iron Age hill fort, the Castle itself was begun in 1225.

With over 40 acres of unspoiled woodland trails to explore and an abundance of wildlife Beeston Castle and

Woodland Park makes for a truly exhilarating and enchanting day out for all the family.

The Canal continues through the flat but green Cheshire landscape, the Cheshire cycleway following the canal here, and continues all the way into Chester.

Off to the left by bridge 113 there is a pub- the Poachers Pocket, and this is a good place to moor up for the night as it is 7 hours cruising to here.

Day 3

Continue through the quiet countryside there are no stores until you get to Waverton where there is a shop. Just past Waverton off to your left was the site of the Battle of Rowton Moor in 1645, where one of the last major battles of the Civil War took place, with the Parliamentarians beating the Royalists.

You are now on the outskirts of Chester & there is a very convenient Park & Ride here which can take you into the city of Chester in a few minutes.

Continue on through the 5 locks to the turning point near Cow lane Bridge 123e, Chester city centre is easily accessed from here. It is 3.5 hours cruising to here.

CHESTER-

There is a wealth of things to do in this Roman City which can be seen on foot, because of the amazing survival of the old city wall. You can walk right round Chester on this superb footpath.

Chester Roman Amphitheatre is the largest in Britain, used for entertainment and military training by the 20th Legion, based at the fortress of 'Deva' (Chester).

Excavations by English Heritage and Chester City Council in 2004-5 revealed two successive stone-built amphitheatres with wooden seating. The first included access to the upper tiers of seats via stairs on the rear wall, as at Pompeii, and had a small shrine next to its north entrance. The second provided seat access via vaulted stairways. The two buildings differed from each other and from all other British amphitheatres, underlining the importance of Roman Chester.

There has been a church on the site of The Cathedral for over 1,000 years originally a Saxon Minster then rebuilt as a Benedictine Abbey this magnificent building is a national treasure in the heart of the city. Visitors can view the Norman arches and Gothic columns and the medieval shrine of St. Werburgh. The Cloisters and Church form one of the most complete medieval monastic complexes in the country.

Handel gave his first public performance of the Messiah here in 1742.

Discover 1,000 of shops behind the façades of the black and white buildings, find high street brands to designer boutiques. Shop in Chester's Rows where 21st century stores thrive in a Medieval setting. Take home some Cheshire cheese which is one of the oldest recorded cheeses in British history and is even referred to in the Domesday Book.

Discover 2000 years of Chester life in the Grosvenor Museum see the impressive collection of Roman tombstones and displays depicting Roman Chester - look out for the Roman soldiers on the way. Discover the world of the famous naturalist Charles Kingsley and explore 'hands-on' the geology and natural history of the area. Also visit the Cheshire Military museum situated inside the tower of Chester castle. Little of the Castle remains but the 13th century tower is open to the public.

Grosvenor Park miniature Railway is one of Chester's premier attractions for 9-90 year olds!. Open April to Oct Sat Sun & school holidays, where you can experience this steam railway laid out in the Grosvenor Park amongst

the ducks, moorhens & geese.

Lying outside the town is Chester Zoo is home to 7000 animals including some of the most endangered species on the planet.

Take a journey through the Butterfly house a 400sq meters tropical house and is home to more than 30 species of butterfly from South America, Africa and South East Asia. One of the most critically threatened species around, the Philippine Crocodile is new to Chester Zoo and a breeding programme is in place for this species to ensure its long-term survival.

The Chester Visitor & Craft Centre is open Mon-Sat 9-5, and has working craft shops and cafe.  
Chester Heritage Tours- – see highlights of Historic Chester from an open top 1930s vintage omnibus. Or experience Chester in an open top bus -[www.city-sightseeing.com](http://www.city-sightseeing.com), the tour takes 55 minutes.

Chester Market in Princess Street is that site of an undercover market with up to 100 stalls selling fresh produce, and conditions the tradition of a market in the city that started in the 14th Century.  
Open Mon-Sat 8am to 5pm.

Day 4

Day 5

Spend a day or 2 sightseeing in Chester

Day 6

Day 7

Day 8

It is 12 hours back to the marina, so can be done over 2 days.

## Useful Links

Description : Chester Zoo

Website : <http://www.chesterzoo.org/>

Telephone : 01244 380280

Description : Beeston Castle

Website : <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/beeston-castle-and-woodland-park/prices-and-opening-times>

Telephone : 01829 260464

Description : Chester Tourist Information

Website : <http://www.visitchester.com>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Chester Roman Amphitheatre

Website : <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/chester-roman-amphitheatre>

Telephone : 0870 333 1181

Description : Chester Cathedral

Website : <http://www.chestercathedral.com>

Telephone : 01244 324756

Description : Cheshire Military Museum

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

Telephone : 01244 327617

Description : Blakemere Craft Centre

Website : <http://www.visitchester.com/things-to-do/cheshire-workshops-candle-workshop-p29841>

Telephone : 01606 883261

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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