

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Droitwich and return from Worcester

Cruise this route from : Worcester

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Cruising Days : 4.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 16.75

Total Distance : 23.00

Number of Locks : 40

Number of Tunnels : 6

Number of Aqueducts : 8

The Droitwich Canal was re-opened in 2010, and is very scenic. Droitwich was first populated by the Romans, who mined salt here in the C2nd. By the C8th the town was in the hands of the Mercian Kings, and the salt wells were considered one of the wonders of Britain.

Throughout the centuries salt mining has played an important role in the development of the town, and in the 1830's Droitwich was transformed into a spa town, following the realisation of the therapeutic qualities of salt water. The Royal Brine Baths were opened along with some fine hotels.

Salt production finally ended in 1922 and the Baths continued until 1975. However, they were reopened in 1984, and a replica brine pit and other remains of the salt industry can be seen in Vines Park by the canal. The High Street is of particular interest as many of the buildings lean at odd angles due to the salt extraction. Droitwich was also known internationally for its powerful long wave transmitter which was built in 1933. During World War II the transmitter was initially used to broadcast to occupied Europe, and then to block signals to enemy aircraft.

Most of historic Droitwich lies to the south of the canal, in an area enclosed by Saltway, and is easily explored. There is a small museum devoted to the salt industry and the Droitwich Transmitter, in the Heritage Centre in Victoria Square.

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Cruising Notes

Day 1

Leaving Lowesmoor Wharf, you will be heading towards Gregory's Mill Top and Bottom Locks, just prior to the Bilford Locks at Astwood.

This is a very pretty stretch of the canal, through the suburbs of Worcester, and as you leave the city, the canal opens out into open countryside. The four locks raise the canal out of the city, and then you will reach Blackpole Lock, then Tolladine Lock. Before long you will be near to Tibberton Bottom Lock No. 11, where you can moor up for the night.

You will have cruised 3 miles and navigated 6 locks in around 2½ hours.

Day 2

Your first task today, is to navigate the six Tibberton Locks, which take you to where the M5 crosses the canal. A short distance from here, near Bridge No. 25, there is a nice pub called Speed the Plough, where you may like to moor up and have a well deserved drink, or perhaps lunch.

Cruising on through Oddingley, you will encounter a series of bridges, before reaching Dunhampstead Tunnel (230 yds long), after which the landscape becomes flatter and the canal cuts through a couple of pretty villages – Shernal Green and Hadzor. After a couple of bridges, you will soon reach Hanbury Junction on your left.

You will need to turn left here, onto the Droitwich Canal. The entrance is very pretty, and if you want to, you can moor up, and perhaps visit The Eagle and Sun at Hanbury Wharf, where they have a nice beer garden, and serve good food.

As you turn onto the canal, you will immediately encounter the Hanbury Locks, before approaching the outskirts of Droitwich.

Where you would like to moor is up to you, but if you cruise as far as the Site of Salwarpe Swing Bridge, through Droitwich, you can turn here ready for the return journey.

In Droitwich Spa, there are a couple of nice parks – Vines Park and Lido Park. Vines Park is so-named because in Roman times vines were grown there. Just north of the park, a Roman cemetery was excavated. Lido Park, opened in the 1930's, has a children's play area and an outdoor swimming pool.

For lots of information about what to see and do, and the history of Droitwich Spa.

You have cruised around 7 miles and navigated 8 locks in about 4½ hours.

Day 3

Day 4

The remainder of your trip will be the return journey to Worcester Marina by 9.30am on your last day.

Useful Links

Description : Droitwich Spa

Website : www.droitwichspa.com

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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