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# UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

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## Gloucester from Worcester marina

Cruise this route from : Worcester

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[Gloucester-from-Worcester-marina-Cruising-Route.html](#)

Cruising Days : 5.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 20.00

Total Distance : 60.00

Number of Locks : 4

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Cruise down the River Severn where all the locks are done for you to the historic city of Gloucester - A trip to Gloucester wouldn't be complete without a trip to the 11th century Gloucester Cathedral, resting place of King Edward II, and the historic Gloucester Docks - With its dramatic waterfront, converted warehouses and an array of restaurants and bars, it is easy to see why Gloucester Docks and Gloucester Quays are places to be for locals and visitors.

The Tailor of Gloucester Beatrix Potter Museum and Shop is located in the original building used by Beatrice Potter in her story The Tailor of Gloucester – a real-life mystery based on the city's John Pritchard.

Discover the worlds largest collection of Worcester Porcelain, and WORCESTER CATHEDRAL is one of England's loveliest cathedrals. With royal tombs of King John and Prince Arthur, medieval cloisters, ancient crypt and chapter house, and magnificent Victorian stained glass.

Head to Tewkesbury Abbey; an imposing feature of the town's landscape for nearly 900 years. Renowned the world over for its fine Norman tower, ornate 12th Century ceiling and stunning stained glass windows, the Abbey is one of Gloucestershire's most popular tourist attractions

## Cruising Notes

The mighty River Severn is Britain's longest river. It runs for 220 miles from the Welsh mountains, through the beautiful Shropshire and Worcestershire countryside and down to the flatlands of the Severn estuary.

The River Severn is prone to rapid rise and fall in water levels following heavy rainfall, so always check on the CRT website for current conditions.

Remember to stay in the centre of the channel whenever cruising the Severn, but pass other approaching vessels on the right-hand side (port-to-port). Vessels heading downstream (towards Gloucester) should generally have right of way over those travelling upstream

It's best to approach a mooring with the boat facing into upstream. This will allow you to hold the boat stationery, have better control at very low speed and prevent the boat being swept past your stopping point. So, if you're heading down stream, you'll need to pass the mooring and turn your boat around. The River is wide so there is plenty of room for manoeuvring.

When mooring allow for the tide by having slack in your mooring ropes, but tie the boat up firmly .

Moorings on the river are available at:

Upper Lode Lock (above the lock)

Lower Lode Hotel (BW moorings).

Yew Tree Inn (pub moorings).

The Coalhouse Inn at Apperley (pub mooring for one boat)

Haw Bridge (BW plus pub moorings).

The Boat at Ashleworth (pub moorings, fee for overnight)

With the Severn, the locks are not operated by boaters themselves, but by lock keepers who operate the locks using automated hydraulic systems. When the water level under your boat is the same as the level you're moving to, the gates will open.

See Severn User guide in the links below for more information ,

Bridge and lock opening hours The following hours apply to both locks on the River Severn above Gloucester, and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. Check the notice boards or [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) for exact dates.

Winter 0800 – 1600 (roughly, 22 October – late March ) Spring / Autumn 0800 - 1800 Summer: 0800 - 1900

Note that the bridges at Llanthony and over Gloucester Lock shut during rush hours (08:20 - 09:00 and 16:30 - 17:30 on weekdays).

Fretherne Bridge also closes 0820 - 0900 on weekdays during school terms.

No bridges or locks are user-operated. The table below indicates approximate air drafts for boats that will not require the structure opened.

The bridges at High Orchard and Netheridge require 24 hours' notice to be opened and will only be operated outside "rush hour". During the period roughly November – March, the canal is closed (other than to commercial traffic) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Check the dates on [www.waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk) During this period on Thursdays - Mondays, many keepers will operate two or more structures. If no-one is available at a bridge, there is a contact telephone number posted in the windows of the keeper's hut.

Operation of the Severn locks (other than Gloucester) requires 24 hours' notice during the winter periods.

## Day 1

Turn right out of Lowesmoor wharf down the Birmingham & Worcester canal & soon you will encounter 2 locks, one called Blockhouse lock, followed by Sidbury lock. which will get you into the swing of things. It takes about an hour to get to Diglis basin, and if time is passing it is best to stop there for the night, and then you will have time to explore the city of Worcester. There is a water point just above Diglis lock.

The Marina is a short walk from the City centre, where you can explore the lovely cathedral dating from 1074.

There is a wealth of stained glass and monuments to see including the tomb of King John. Also a good place to visit is the Museum of Worcester Porcelain, which not surprisingly has the largest collection of Worcester Porcelain in the world. The Guildhall in the High street was built in 1721 and has a fantastic elaborate facade with statues of Charles I and II and Queen Anne.

In Friar Street is Greyfriars, dating from 1480, this was one part of a Franciscan priory, and is one of the finest half timbered houses in the country. Charles II escaped from this house after the Battle of Worcester in the civil war in 1651. In the George Marshall Medical museum you can meet the past heroes of medicine. Regular bus service from Crownsgate Bus station.

Close to Sidbury lock is the Commandery Civil war Centre, a museum devoted entirely to the story of the Civil War. The museum dates from the reign of Henry 8th and served as Charles 11's HQ before the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

It should take 1 hour from Lowesmoor to Diglis basin

## Day 2

Cruising out of Worcester, you will pass the yacht club, then leave the suburbs at Kempsey. The River wends its way further south, through largely open countryside, with tall, steep red cliffs rising to over 100ft either side, where foliage struggles to grow on the slopes.

The village of Hanley Castle is to your right, and there is a pub here called The Three Kings, in the village centre. Well-behaved children and dogs are welcome, and there is a family room and garden.

A little further along, round the curve, Upton on Severn is located on your right. This is a pretty town with all amenities, including banks, shops and pubs/restaurants, among which are Ye Olde Anchor Inn, The Bell House and The Swan Hotel. If you want more information about Upton on Severn, see the link below. There is mooring here.

A little further you will cruise through a pretty village called Ripple. There is also a pub here called The Railway, which can be reached by following the footpath into the village. Real ale and bar meals are served. There is outside seating and children are welcome.

Shortly, you will go under the M50 bridge, cruising along on a quiet stretch of river, unspoilt by towns and villages. Soon you will enter the suburbs of Tewkesbury, with the main town appearing to your left.

Tewkesbury is a little way from the canal, so you would need to turn off of the Severn to moor up. The town has medieval streets and the high street shops are for the most part, independent.

Back on the Severn, you will go through Upper Lode Lock, then onwards to Deerhurst and Apperley, two tiny villages to the left of the canal. The Severn is tidal to Upper Lode lock at Spring tides. Just beyond Apperley is Haw Bridge, beside which is The Haw Bridge Inn and The Riverside Inn, so if you want to moor here for the night, you are ideally placed for some real ales and food. The Riverside Inn does not allow dogs, but both allow children.

You will have cruised 21 miles and navigated 6 locks in around 6.25 hours.

## Day 3

Cruising on, you may catch a glimpse of the spire of Ashleworth Church to your right, as you pass nearby the tiny village.

The Eastern channel is just past an area of open meadow on the east bank. It is marked from a distance by a small factory chimney, and is clearly signposted.

Before entering the Eastern channel it is essential to contact Gloucester Lock on 01452 310832 : there may be large boats coming up the channel and passing room is limited.

Once in the Eastern Channel, beware of boats coming in the opposite direction. There is limited passing room, and some tight bends. This stretch of water is still used by commercial traffic, albeit at much lower levels than in years gone by. The final approach to Gloucester is under three bridges and a series of sharp, blind bends. Gloucester lock is manned and the opening times vary with season. When nearing the lock, (e.g. at the first of the bridges, about ten minutes from the lock) give the keeper a second call to ask him to set it for you. On rounding the final bend towards Gloucester lock, drop speed and keep to the left (East) bank. The previously tree-lined left bank becomes a tall, concrete quay. The final hundred metres or so before the lock has chains and vertical lines let into grooves in the concrete for mooring. If the lock is not ready, do not try to turn the boat upstream. Have the stern line available, and keeping as close to the quay wall as possible bring the boat to a halt with reverse gear. Slip the stern line around one of the mooring chains as far back from the lock as possible and fix it to a stern stud, then allow the boat to drop back onto the line. Just in front of the lock, the river sweeps sharply to the right and will take the bows of the boat around very rapidly if there is any current flowing. Aim for the left hand wall. Be prepared to enter the lock a bit faster than normal: there is plenty of room inside to stop. In most years boats have to be recovered from below the lock: the channel below the lock is very narrow, rubbish-strewn and fast-flowing, and leads quickly to the weir. There are vertical mooring straps set into the lock side, or the lock-keeper may lower a hook to take bow and stern lines around a bollard. As the lock is very deep, lines of at least 10 m, preferably 15 m, are needed. The lock is quite turbulent when filling, so keep as far back from the front gates as possible (avoiding the bridge at the tail of the lock!).

If you want to visit Gloucester, there are plenty of moorings which will give easy access.

There are many, many pubs and restaurants in Gloucester, among them The Fountain Inn, The Dick Whittington, The Linden Tree, and The Tall Ship. To see all that Gloucester has to offer, see tourist information link below

You can moor here & explore the historic city of Gloucester

Its is 3 hours to here. There are visitor moorings near Llanthony Bascule Bridge at Llanthony pontoons. Access onto Llanthony road is by BW key.

Turn the boat around and after you have explored Gloucester begin the journey home.

Its is 10 hours back.

Day 4 Day 5

Continue the journey back to Worcester marina

## Useful Links

Description : Tewkesbury Tourist Information

Website : <http://www.tewkesbury.cotswolds.info/>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Worcester Porcelain Museum

Website : <http://www.worcesterporcelainmuseum.org.uk/>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Worcester Cathedral

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

Telephone : 01905 732900

Description : Tewkesbury Abbey

Website : <http://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/>

Telephone : 01684 850959

Description : River Severn users guide

Website : <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/refresh/media/thumbnail/27339-new-river-severn-navigation-guide-april-2016.pdf>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Severn waterways information

Website : [https://www.waterways.org.uk/gloucandhereford/gs\\_boaters\\_guide](https://www.waterways.org.uk/gloucandhereford/gs_boaters_guide)

Telephone : n/a

Description : Gloucester Tourist information

Website : <http://www.visitgloucester.co.uk/things-to-do>

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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