

UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Booking Office : PO Box 57, Budleigh
Salterton. Devon. EX9 7ZN. England.

Hungerford and return from Aldermaston

Cruise this route from : Aldermaston

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Hungerford and return from Aldermaston

Cruising Days : 4.00 to 5.00

Cruising Time : 23.25

Total Distance : 36.00

Number of Locks : 42

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Aldermaston wharf is close to the railway station with good connections to Paddington in London, taking 55 minutes from London Paddington , or 13 minutes from Reading railway station.

At Aldermaston Wharf is the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Visitor centre, with a picnic area, and serving light refreshments from Easter -Oct. There is also the Butt Inn pub at Aldermaston Wharf, serving real ales and excellent food for all the family.

4 night cruise through the Berkshire countryside through the busy shopping town of Newbury to Hungerford, a pleasant Market town with 18th century buildings.

Newbury developed in the Middle Ages as an important cloth town, and the town has managed to retain much of its period charm. The District Museum is one of the most interesting buildings in Newbury built in 1626 as a cloth weaving workshop. The town centre has many shops, pubs and restaurants to choose from. A short bus or taxi ride away is the Living rainforest, which gives you the opportunity to experience rainforest life under glass.

The handsome Hungerford Town Bridge gives easy access to the centre of the town which is set out along a wide main street. There are many pubs and restaurants in the town.

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Cruising Notes

Day 1

Turning out of the marina westwards, you will immediately encounter a lift bridge which is electrically operated by canalboaters, and which spans a busy road. Follow the instructions by the bridge. You will then have your first lock, once through here you will see a disused gravel pit, some a haven for wildlife since the 1960's.

The scenery is very rural until you reach Thatcham, when you get to Woolhampton be careful of the current below the lock which can cause problems.

Woolhampton village is 200 yards north of the canal, there is a pub canalside, or a couple in the village, it is an hours cruising from Aldermaston to here, and makes an ideal place to stop for your 1st night.

Day 2

Passing Woolhampton you pass through 3 locks in this rural landscape until you reach the rapidly expanding village of Thatcham, which is now almost a suburb of Newbury. There is a railway station close to the canal near bridge 42. There are various pubs and restaurants in Thatcham access is from bridge 42, and a Nature Discovery centre north of Widmead Lock with shop and cafe.

It is 3.25 hours from Aldermaston to here.

You soon pass Newbury racecourse on your left. See their website for details of race days.

The River cuts right through the town and above Newbury Lock is the delightful quiet West Mills area where rows of terraced houses face the navigation and there are extensive moorings.

Beware of the current below Newbury lock.

It is 6 hours from Aldermaston marina to here, or 5 hours from Woolhampton and an ideal place for your 2nd nights mooring.

Victoria Bridge 59 is handy for getting to Newbury to the north, or the racecourse to the south.

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Day 3

The canal soon leaves Newbury behind, and once more enters the rural Berkshire landscape. To the south of the canal is Hamstead Park, a very fine park which borders the canal, there is an old watermill by the lock. Soon the canal reaches Kintbury which is just a small village to the south of the canal up on the hill. It is a quiet village with a station, and attractive buildings by the canal, including a watermill and a canalside pub. There are also 2 pubs in the village, and stores.

It is 8.75 cruising hours from Woolhampton to here.

Once leaving Kintbury the River and canal run side by side through pretty woods, and soon Hungerford is reached. The handsome Hungerford Town Bridge gives easy access to the centre of the town which is set out

along a wide main street. There are many pubs and restaurants in the town.
You can turn just before bridge 84.

It is 5.75 hours cruising from Newbury to here.

Day 4

Make your return journey to Woolhampton which is 10.5 hours cruising.

Day 5

Get up early and cruise for 1 hour back to the marina

Useful Links

Description : Newbury Race Course

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

Telephone : 01635 40015

Description : The Living Rain Forest

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

Telephone : 01635 202444

Description : Hungerford Tourist Information

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

Telephone : n/a

Description : Beale Park Wildlife Gardens

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

Telephone : 0844 826 1761

Description : Shaw House was built in 1581 by Newbury clothier Thomas Dolman. This fine Elizabethan building was home to successive Dolman families, the flamboyant Duke of Chandos and the Andrews and Farquhar families. Shaw House then began a new life as a school for g

Website : <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29158>

Telephone : 01635 279279

Description : Newbury Tourist information

Website : <http://www.newbury.tourist-information-uk.com/>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Basildon Park, an 18th century Georgian mansion restored in the 1950

Website : <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/basildon-park/>

Telephone : 0118 984 3040

Description : Bucklebury Farm Park offers a magical experience and a great value day out in the countryside

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

Telephone : 0118 971 4002

Description : Highclere Castle, home to Lord & Lady Carnarvon and where Downton Abbey was filmed

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

Telephone : 01635 253210

Description : Donnington Castle. The striking twin-towered 14th-century gatehouse of this castle, later the focus of a Civil War siege and battle, survives amid impressive earthworks.

Website : <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/donnington-castle/>

Telephone : 0870 333 1181

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

Telephone : 01635 279279

Description : The Nature Discovery Centre offers a great day out for all the family. This fantastic visitor centre is packed full of interactive wildlife and natural history displays

Website : <http://www.bbwt.org.uk/nature-discovery-centre>

Telephone : 01635 874381

Description : The Reading paintballing centre is one of the largest in the UK and offers six huge paintball game zones, such as the epic London Apocalypse

Website : <http://www.paintballgames.co.uk/paintball-reading-centre>

Telephone : 0844 477 5115

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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