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Market Bosworth and the tranquil Ashby Canal and the Medieval battlefields Visitor Centre at Bosworth

Cruise this route from : Springwood Haven

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Cruising Days : 3.00 to 4.00

Cruising Time : 15.50

Total Distance : 39.00

Number of Locks : 0

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

The Ashby Canal is surrounded by rural farmland, woodlands and the occasional bridge

This lock free route takes you to Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre which tells the dramatic story of the Battle of Bosworth on Monday 22nd August 1485, which marked a major turning point in English history where Richard III fought for his crown and lost his life, and Henry Tudor became King!

Take a ride on the old steam & diesel trains which run along the Battlefield Line of 9 miles between Shackerstone & Shenton via Market Bosworth during the season.

Stoke Golding is a stunning village, it has an impressive Grade 1 listed Saxon church, the window sills of the Church still show grooves, which legend has it were caused by the soldiers sharpening their swords on the eve of the battle, and it's well worth having a walk around the village which is full of beautiful buildings from times past.

Cruising Notes

From the Marina Cruise cruise south through Nuneaton and soon the Ashby canal is seen to your left, at Marston Junction.

The Ashby canal begins at Marston Junction where it links to the Coventry Canal in urban Bedworth. There is a now disused stop lock to pass through, the gates now removed, and it's just 1 mile to Bulking Road Bridge where there is a pub – The Corner House Hotel, within walking distance.

Next along the way is the Gamecock Barracks, which used to be called RAF Bramcote during World War II, (you may recognise some of the base from TV and films!) Once you pass the boats moored at Bramcote Wharf it's just a short hop to the tiny village of Burton Hastings where the Church of St Botolph lies at the centre of the village. This little English church is a simple old stone building with a tower from the 14th century and you get a lovely view of it from the canal.

The character of the Ashby has already shown itself by this point with rural farmland, woodlands and the occasional bridge. The only town of any significant size along the entire canal is Hinckley, which it is to be found a short distance from Burton Hastings. There is the neighbouring medieval village of Stretton Baskerville which can be seen just before you pass under the A5 Watling Street which lies in the outskirts of Hinckley. The A5 is the only major road to cross paths with the Ashby but it is worth stopping by the A5, despite the noise, to enjoy a refreshing drink in the friendly waterside pub- The Lime Kilns Inn by bridge 15.

The Ashby Canal skirts around the outside of Hinckley, flanked by housing & light industrial buildings, Trinity Marina can be found at Hinckley, and can supply you with all your boating needs plus there is a laundrette, café, restaurant, and good moorings (To avoid grounding you should always moor at a designated spot- by bridge 16, or just past trinity marina on your right, or just before Bridge 17a on your left.). The town centre of Hinckley is within walking distance and offers many different shops and eateries and of course pubs. South of bridge 16 is a greyhound stadium. The Concordia Theatre offers performances all year round. The Hinckley & District Museum has been established in a row of thatched cottages once used for framework knitting, and the museum now houses displays from prehistoric to the current period.

The section of canal running through the Hinckley district is designated as a conservation area, and, as with the rest of the canal there are lots of birds and wildlife to be seen with the towpaths regularly used by walkers, cyclists and anglers alike.

Following on from Hinckley you pass the small villages of Wykin and Higham on the Hill and there are a couple of pubs at the latter- The Odd fellows Arms & The Fox Inn. Higham is 1 mile west of bridges 21 & 23. Running alongside the canal here are the remains of a loop railway built in the 1870's to carry coal , but it was abandoned in 1900 having never had a train run on its tracks. This is a short section with a few bridges carrying the country lanes over the canal, then you are on the outskirts of the village of Stoke Golding, which proudly boasts to be the “Birthplace of the Tudor Dynasty”. This is the site of the Battle of Bosworth where in 1485 The War of the Roses finally ended with King Richard III being defeated by Henry Tudor, who was crowned King Henry VII, the coronation being held here, in Stoke Golding.

Stoke Golding itself is to the right of Bridge 25, but there are good moorings by bridges 27/28. It is a stunning village, it has an impressive Grade 1 listed Saxon church, the window sills of the Church still show grooves, which legend has it were caused by the soldiers sharpening their swords on the eve of the battle.

There is a village shop where you can pick up supplies for your journey, and it's well worth having a walk around the village which is full of beautiful buildings from times past.

This is also the home of the Ashby Canal Centre (marina) who have done a lot in the restoration of the northern section of the Ashby Canal. The White Swan & George & Dragon Pubs are in the village.

There is a lovely farm shop(Tomlinsons) along Upton lane to the left of Bridge 25 on the opposite side to Stoke

Golding.

Heading north out of Stoke Golding you pass Dadlington, another small village with the Dog & Hedgehog pub , and then you find yourself in the busy Sutton Cheney Wharf.

There is a trip boat here, and a café- Cafe Canalside that opens 9-5, and it is just a short walk from here to the Battlefield Visitor Centre which has interactive displays about the battle.

There is also another café here and a shop.

You can take a walk through the woods along the battle trails, or why not take a ride on a steam train on the Battlefield Line Railway from Shenton to Shackerstone and walk back along the towpath, around a 5 mile walk.

There are also moorings at Shenton where you can also walk to the battlefield. Shenton station is here and old steam & diesel trains run along the Battlefield Line of 9 miles between Shackerstone & Shenton via Market Bosworth during the season.

After leaving the battlefield the canal crosses the road using the only aqueduct on the entire canal, the lovely little brick built Shenton Aqueduct.

Next along the journey is Market Bosworth to your left which is a good place to stop, a mile walk from the canal takes you to the town centre where there are shops, a café, and several pubs. A market is held every Wednesday.

Just to the west of bridge 42 is Bosworth water Trust, a large leisure park with a 20 acre lake for water pursuits. Craft & wetsuits for hire.

It is 2 hours to here from Stoke Golding, and you need to turn just past Bridge 42 and moor here if you wish. It is 8 hours cruising from Springwood Haven Marina to Bosworth Marina & Wharf & Winding Hole.

It is just 8 hours back to the Marina. So start your journey back leaving enough time to get back for check out at 9.30am on the last day

Useful Links

Description : Hinckley and District Museum

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

Telephone : 01455 251218

Description : Battlefield Line Railway

Website : www.battlefieldline.co.uk/

Telephone : 01827 880754

Description : Bosworth Water Trust Leisure Park

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

Telephone : 01455 291876

Description : Award winning Farm shop a short walk from Bridge 25 on Ashby Canal

Website : <http://tomlinsonsfarmshop.co.uk/>

Telephone : 01455-212199

Description : Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre and Guided Tours

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

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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