

UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

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## Middlewich from Nantwich

Cruise this route from : Nantwich

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[Middlewich-from-Nantwich-Cruising-Route.html](#)



Cruising Days : 4.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 11.50

Total Distance : 26.00

Number of Locks : 8

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Rural cruise along the Middlewich branch which is an attractive and under-rated canal with some wonderful tranquil moorings.

Middlewich was once a thriving centre for the excavation of salt, the canal played an important part in the success of the industry in the town. Since the decline of the salt industry, the town is a friendly place with a good range of shops and pubs to be found.

The town is home to a popular folk and boat festival which runs for three days every year over a bank holiday

weekend. It has been going since 1990 missing only one year due to foot and mouth. Folk musicians play at a number of venues, and it is estimated to bring in 30,000 visitors and 400 narrowboats over the course of the weekend.



## Cruising Notes

### Day 1

You are only travelling for an hour today before the 1st stop, so just enough time to get the hang of the boat, and stow your belongings, and not have to feel that you are rushing, as you are about to slowwwww right down!!

You may even want to spend your first night in Nantwich and not move off until tomorrow, as you have plenty of time, and Nantwich is a beautiful town, adorned with boutiques, antiques, cafes, pubs and restaurants and steeped in history, it is a medieval market town famous for the black and white timbered buildings dotted around the town.

Nantwich also hosts the International Cheese Awards, a prestigious event that celebrates the finest cheeses known

to man.

If moving off tonight then turn right from the marina turning north towards Chester.

There are no locks on this stretch, so your crew can relax and put the kettle on!

You pass the Llangollen Canal off to your left at Hurleston Junction , and at the next junction you can moor- Barbridge Junction, there is a pub canalside at the junction with moorings, also a pub in Barbridge with access from Bridge 100.

Buses frequently go from Barbridge from the Jolly Tar Pub into the city of Chester.

Chester has much to offer, including Chester Castle, Heritage Tours, Market, Military Museum, Visitor and Craft Centre. Or perhaps you might like to visit Chester Zoo with the children?

Chester Roman Amphitheatre is managed by English Heritage, and is near Chester Castle. The Amphitheatre was the largest in Britain and was used for military training as well as for entertainment. Parts of it mirrored the amphitheatre at Pompeii.

## **Day 2**

Turn right along the Middlewich Branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, this is an attractive and wonderfully tranquil canal, with some rural moorings.

The canal crosses the River Weaver over an aqueduct as it approaches the village of Church Minshull which can be accessed by bridge 14.

Moor by Bridge 14 and walk into the village on Church Minshull, to your left, the Badger Inn is in the village and serves lovely food and ales.

The canal continues through quiet farmland interspersed with woods until it reaches Middlewich, there are good moorings at the boatyard to the left of the junction.

The town centre is in easy walking distance from the canal, and is known for its heritage events and festivals. Once a thriving centre for the excavation of salt, the canal played an important part in the success of the industry in the town. Since the decline of the salt industry, the town is a friendly place with a good range of shops and pubs to be found.

The town is home to a popular folk and boat festival which runs for three days every year over a bank holiday weekend. It has been going since 1990 missing only one year due to foot and mouth. Folk musicians play at a number of venues, and it is estimated to bring in 30,000 visitors and 400 narrowboats over the course of the weekend.

It is just under 5 hours to here from Barbridge.

Days 3 4

Make your way back to Nantwich, if you have time cruise back past Nantwich to the winding hole just before Hack Green Locks, and walk along the canal to the Hack Green secret bunker past bridge 85 which was a secret bunker reserved to protect the privileged in case of attack during the Cold War. Today it is open to the public and it has a substantial collection of military and Cold War memorabilia, including one of the largest collections of decommissioned nuclear weapons in the world. If you are planning a visit to Hack Green be sure to check opening times to avoid being disappointed.

It is 7 hours from Middlewich to Hack Green winding Hole, and one hour from there back to the Marina

## Useful Links

*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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