

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Pewsey and return from Hilperton

Cruise this route from : Hilperton

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Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 28.00

Total Distance : 41.00

Number of Locks : 72

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

The Vale of Pewsey – tranquil, spiritual and ancient.

The Vale is a beautiful area in the eastern half of the county with the village of Pewsey at its centre. It is a walking and exploring landscape, studded with pretty and unspoilt villages and forms the western extent of the North Wessex.

Devizes is a historic market town with a colourful Medieval past, wealth of history and architectural heritage with more than 500 listed buildings and a large Market Place in the heart of the town. Take a tour of Wadworth Brewery, sample their famous 6X and meet the Shire horses that still deliver to pubs in the town.

See the 29 locks of the Caen Hill flight on the Kennet and Avon canal, a triumph of Georgian engineering.

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Cruising Notes

You are on the outskirts of the delightful town of Trowbridge, the county town of Wiltshire, it is one of the three largest towns in Wiltshire.

The town's lengthy history is recorded in the museum, which tells the fascinating story of Trowbridge's people and past. The museum has also won the Association of Industrial Archaeologists award for 'best site visited' in

2008 & it is located in the last woollen mill in Trowbridge, which closed its doors as a mill in 1982. The fascinating collections in the Trowbridge Museum are accessed via The Shires Shopping Centre - built on the site of part of the woollen mill and home to a diverse selection of more than 50 shops all on one level and undercover

Day 1

Pass Hilperton marina on your right, then you know you are going in the right direction to Devizes!

The canal sweeps through undulating woodland and arable farmland past the rural village of Semington through a series of swing bridges which are something of a hallmark of this section of canal.

There are 2 locks at Semington and a swing bridge, it is a very pretty village & best access is just before the lock.

Moor up here for the night it is 1 hour cruising from the marina.

Day 2

36 locks today which includes the fantastic Caen Hill flight of 29 locks in just 2.25 miles.

As well as the many swing bridges around Seend there are 5 locks to navigate, luckily there are plentiful moorings at the ever-popular Seend Cleeve and close by pubs and quiet countryside to please the eye and fill the stomach. There is the Brewery Inn 200 yds south of Lock 19 and the Barge Inn by Lock 19. The Three magpies pub in Seend Cleeve has good quality food, nice beer garden and good ales- it is 200 yds south of Sells green bridge

The hills to the south climb steeply up to the village of Seend and to the north flat pasture land stretches away.

At Lower Foxhangers the first of 7 locks is reached which takes you to the bottom of the flight of 16 Caen Locks.

It is worth mooring up near here & take some photos of these fantastic locks as they really are quite a sight.

At the top of the locks is a cafe if you are in need of refreshment after the climb up the hill through the locks. The views from the top are well worth the effort, with views over Salisbury Plain to the south and the Avon Valley to the west charting the route taken from Bath.

You soon reach Devizes & there are moorings by Devizes Wharf. Stock up on supplies here as there are no towns until you get to Pewsey & Hungerford.

It is 9.5 hours to here

Devizes itself has the atmosphere of an old country market town. Handsome 18th century buildings now surround the square.

Devizes museum has one of the finest prehistoric collections in Europe including the Stourhead collection of relics excavated from burial mounds on Salisbury Plain.

Devizes visitor centre is home to an interactive exhibition introducing visitors to the medieval origins of the

town.

Wharf Theatre is canalside and hosts a variety of performances throughout the year.

There are the usual pubs, restaurants, take-aways. Shops and a cinema in the town.

The battle of Roundway was fought near here in 1643 between the Roundheads and the Royalists and the Roundheads were all killed or captured. The battlefield is largely intact & can be explored on foot.

Day 3

It is a leisurely day today, so time to explore Devizes .

From Devizes Wharf you set off again, with not such an energetic day as yesterday, there are no locks!

As you leave Devizes the route is lock free as you cruise through rural surroundings, the village of Bishops Cannings is accessed from Bridge 133 with a pub in the village, and All Cannings from bridge 128 where there is a small shop & pub. More small villages are passed but there is hardly any habitation canalside as you pass through the Vale of Pewsey. A miniature suspension bridge carries a private footpath from Stowell Park across the canal, as is the only surviving example of its kind. Stowell park House was built in the early 19 century, and can be clearly seen from the canal.

The Barge Inn is canalside in Honeystreet before bridge 124. Beyond the village to the north can be seen the white horse cut into the hill in 1812.

At Wilcot bridge 117 you can get to the small village of Wilcot where the Golden Swan Pub stands beyond the green at the far end of the village. A one handed ghost is said to haunt this pub.

Pewsey Wharf is a mile from the town centre but has a pub canalside. There are shops in the town which can be accessed to the north of Bridge 114. To the north, hills descend to the waters edge and to the south the land opens out, giving fine views over the Vale of Pewsey.

It is nearly 4 hours to Pewsey from Devizes, so moor up for the evening.

Day 4

Day 5

Day 6

Day 7

Take a leisurely cruise back to Hilperton which should take about 14 hours

Useful Links

Description : The Devizes Museum

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

Telephone : 01380 727369

Description : Devizes Tourist Information

Website : <http://devizes.org.uk>

Telephone : 01380 500276

Description : Wadworth Brewery Devizes Visitor Centre

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

Telephone : 01380 732277

Description : The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust

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

Telephone : 01380 721279

Description : Wharf Theatre Devizes

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

Telephone : 01380 725944

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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