

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Saddington from Market Harborough

Cruise this route from : Market Harborough

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Cruising Days : 5.00 to 5.00

Cruising Time : 17.50

Total Distance : 34.00

Number of Locks : 22

Number of Tunnels : 2

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Leisurely cruise to the village of Welford through the fantastic Foxton staircase flight of locks & to the village of Saddington just north of Foxton. Very rural route with just small villages & beautiful countryside.

The marina at Union Wharf has been redeveloped by British Waterways over the last few years. The marina is located at the northern end of Market Harborough - a quaint, traditional English market town that dates from 1203. You can enjoy delicious food and fine ales in the town's historic coaching inns or just potter around the market and the fine selection of family owned shops. From Union Wharf it's just two hours cruising to the 'Leicester Line' of the Grand Union Canal.

Market Harborough – A market town mid way between Leicester and Northampton. Visit Welland Park, the town's museum and the old grammar school, a 17th school built on stilts. Visit nearby Rockingham Castle built by William the Conqueror. If you need to entertain the children then visit Wicksteed Park one of the biggest and best playgrounds in Europe.

The town has many nice pubs, and shops. there is an antique and collectors market every Sunday in the market hall. Eat at the Italian Restaurant based at Union Wharf Marina. Open 12-14.15 & 18.00 til late.

The Old Union Canal Society gives guided walks along the canal during summer months and follow the historic town trail.

You are welcome to stay moored up in the Marina and use the car or public transport to visit the many local attractions.

The Grand Union canal boasts an extraordinary variety of wildlife, from feeding herons, and hunting owls, to water voles. A number of diverse species thrive in this tranquil and often unique environment.

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Cruising Notes

Day 1

The base at Union Wharf Marina is at the end of the Market Harborough Arm, & you need to cruise for about 2 hours (5 ½ miles) to get back on the the main Grand Union Canal.

It is a lovely rural cruise to Foxton which is at the base of the lovely Foxton flight of locks.

Foxton is the site of a steam powered Inclined Plane, which replaced ten locks and lifted narrow boats 75 feet. It was opened in 1900 but suffered from mechanical and structural problems. The locks were reopened in 1908 and now work beautifully. Whilst here visit the Foxton Museum and gift shop. The well stocked canal side shop offers you groceries, hardware as well as the traditional “roses and Castles” canalware, made and hand-painted on site.

Stop for a cream tea in the canal side cafe or a well deserved pint in the Foxton Locks Inn. Spend a couple of hours watching the colourful narrow boats passing through the staircase locks. British Waterways organise events based on Foxton Locks

Cruising time from Market Harborough to here- 2 hours

Day 2

On the 2nd morning walk along the tow path until you find the friendly British waterways lock-keepers by the Locks. They will take a note of your boat name & tell you roughly how long the wait will be to go through the locks, but there is plenty to do whilst you wait.

The Canal weaves its way through an remote but attractive stretch. There are no villages on the canal here, Husbands Bosworth being hidden by the tunnel.

Look out over the vale of Welland and to the nearby Laughton Hills. Slow down, cruise on and watch mile after mile beautiful and unspoilt countryside unfold .

Enjoy an easy cruise as the canal meanders through unspoilt surroundings passing through the Husband Bosworth Tunnel. The Tunnel is 1166 yards long and was opened in 1813. Stop and moor for a while, stroll into Husband Bosworth for a pub, newsagents and general store. The Bell Inn here serves Real Ale & food daily.

North Kilworth is off to your right, with a couple of pubs- The White Lion & the Swan Inn.

At the Welford Junction turn right up the Welford Arm an overnight mooring makes a pleasant stay with the facilities of the village close by, and you can spend your 2nd night here.

There is even a local on your doorstep – The Wharf Inn, with large well kept gardens by the River Avon. Some open air theatre functions during August. Nearby are the Welford & Sulby reservoirs – a public footpath from the village crosses the causeway between the two reservoirs that supply the canal & provides good views of the

wildfowl on both.

It is 4.5 hours cruising to here from Foxton.

Day 3

Turn around in Welford basin, and cruise back through the Foxton locks.

Cruising north will take you towards Leicester and you can visit some of the pretty villages on the way. The canal section just before Leicester is very rural, surrounded by pleasant, typical English countryside.

Just a mile or so away to your left- access from Bridge 72 before the tunnel, is the village of Saddington, the award winning pub - Queens Head in the main street has superb views over Saddington reservoir, and serves a wide range of food.

Visit Saddington reservoir built to keep the canal well watered now a wildlife haven.

Turn just after Bridge 71 & walk into Saddington from there.

It is 6 hours cruising to here.

Day 4

Day 5

It is 4 hours back to Market Harborough, so take a leisurely cruise back.

Useful Links

Description : The Foxton Locks

Website : www.foxtonlocks.com

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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