

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Skipton Yorkshire Dales and Bingley from Skipton

Cruise this route from : Skipton

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Skipton-Yorkshire-Dales-and-Bingley-from-Skipton--Cruising-Route.html

Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 30.00

Total Distance : 48.00

Number of Locks : 40

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

This route is lock free until you reach the very famous and impressive Bingley Five Rise and Three Rise Flights of locks just before Bingley. Built in 1774 the top gates of the lowest lock are the bottom gates of the lock above so the locks are all joined together.

Skipton is probably the most handsome town along the Leeds & Liverpool, the town is very close to the Canal and has a splendid 900 year old Castle and romantic ruined Priory and cobbled High Street,

Enjoy a heritage train ride on Steam engines from Skipton and Keighley

Cruising Notes

Day 1

From Thorlby Swing bridge the canal turns south east towards Skipton with open countryside and moorland topped hills, and begins a 17 mile lock free pound . However there is an abundance of swing bridges that require a Handcuff Key and some that require a Watermate Key!!

You soon pass over Stirton Aqueduct.

Skipton is soon approached and there are moorings on the towpath side only after bridge 176 and before and after bridge 178 .

It is 1.5 hours to here so an ideal place to moor for the night.

Skipton is probably the most handsome town along the Leeds and Liverpool canal. You can moor about one minutes walk away from the centre. As the gateway to the magnificent Yorkshire Dales, people travel the length and breadth of the country to visit this charming market town.

With its famous 900 year old castle, romantic ruined priory and historic cobbled High Street, Skipton is endlessly rich both in history and outstanding natural beauty.

Skipton Castle is a magnificent Norman castle with 17th century additions that dominates the High Street. The 6 massive round towers have survived since the 14th Century. Open daily 10-6pm. Over 900 years old, Skipton Castle is one of the most complete and best preserved medieval castles in England and is well worth a visit at any season of the year.

Visitors can explore every corner of this impressive history-rich castle, which withstood a three-year siege during the Civil War. View the Banqueting Hall, the Kitchen, the Bedchamber and Privy. Climb from the depths of the Dungeon to the top storey of the Watch Tower.

The Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway is a heritage railway 1 mile north of Skipton, catch a bus from the town centre. A 4 mile round trip either steam or diesel powered.

The preserved railway was part of the former Midland Railway route from Skipton to Ilkley.

Day 2

On leaving Skipton the canal continues down the valley of the River Aire , with breathtaking views.

The village of Bradley has an attractive waterfront, and there is a pub the Slaters Arms ¼ mile up the hill , take the 1st turning on the right over the lift bridge. Visitor moorings on the tow path side only.

The village of Kildwick has some nice restored Canal buildings, now private residences. There are good moorings here. The streets are extremely steep and one goes under the canal. Kildwick is steeped in history, St Andrew's is a historically significant church. Fragments of 9th century crosses have been excavated from its walls, evidence of the Anglos Saxon church built here before the Norman Conquest.

Silsden is to the west of Bridge 191a , a well contained stone built industrial town with attractive canal wharves and an old corn mill dating from 1677. It is close to the Yorkshire Dales, and there are plenty of shops near the canal. Silsden was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book (Siglesdene) as the most important village in Craven. Industry came with the canal and the Industrial Revolution. The town hosted a number of mills none of which now operate in their original form.

It is 3.5 hrs to here

The green wooded hills hide the town of Keighley, and the constant succession of lift bridges impede the boats progress. All require a handcuff key.

There is a stores just south of Bridge 197 and an attractive mooring by woods to the east of Bridge 195. Compared with other industrial towns Keighley is a clean and pleasant town with a large new shopping centre.

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway is a 5-mile-long branch line that served mills and villages in the Worth Valley and is now a heritage railway line. It runs from Keighley to Oxenhope. The line was made famous by the

film *The Railway Children*.

The train stops at the lovely village of Haworth which is best known as the home of the literary Bronte sisters who lived with their father in the local parsonage. Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte, were the authors of some of the greatest books in the English language. Haworth Parsonage was their much-loved home and *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* were all written here. Haworth Parsonage, next to the interesting churchyard, is now a museum known as Bronte Parsonage Museum. It has 19th century furniture and personal mementoes of the family. The dining room is furnished with pieces bought by Charlotte Bronte from her royalties from *Jane Eyre*. It is set out just as when the three sisters discussed their literary projects in the evenings.

Set between the unique village of Haworth and the wild moorland beyond, this homely Georgian house still retains the atmosphere of the Brontes time. The rooms they once used are filled with the Brontes' furniture, clothes and personal possessions. Here you can marvel at the handwriting on their tiny manuscript books, admire Charlotte's wedding bonnet and imagine meeting Emily's pets from her wonderfully lifelike drawings. Gain an insight into the place and objects that inspired their works.

The writing desks belonging to the three sisters are always on display, and their other personal possessions are changed on a yearly basis so that you can always be sure of seeing something new.

Cliffe Castle in Keighley was originally the home of Victorian millionaire and textile manufacturer Henry Butterfield, and built in the 1880's. Visitors can see sparkling Victorian rooms and furniture, paintings, and decorative art. Special galleries deal with natural history, archaeology and social history and there is an internationally important display of stained glass by Morris and Co.

It is 1.75 hours to here from Silsden.

If you decide to moor up in Riddlesden then you must visit The National Trusts East Riddlesden Hall, a 17th-century manor house with romantic, intimate gardens. Friendly room guides bring the house to life and share the fascinating stories. Just south of Bridge 197a. The hall was built in 1642 by a wealthy Halifax clothier, James Murgatroyd. There is a medieval tithebarn in the grounds.

There is a nice pub the Marquis of Granby by bridge 197.

It is 5.5 hours from Skipton to here but plenty to see and do along the way.

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

The impressive and famous Bingley Five-Rise staircase locks mark the end of the long level pound from Gargrave, and bring the canal steeply down into Bingley. These locks were built in 1774.

See CRT website for Lock opening times - see 2019 advice- Through the 2019 summer season, our customer operations team will be on site to offer assisted passage through Bingley Three & Five Rises and Kirkstall to Newlay Locks. To help us manage boats and water resources efficiently, we are asking customers to plan their passages using the following information. Passages down through Bingley Five and Three Rise Locks as well as Newlay, Forge and Kirkstall Locks in the morning between 08:00am - 12.00pm (last entry). Passages up through these locks in the afternoon from 1.00pm with last entry into Bingley Three Rise and Kirkstall Locks at

4:00pm.

Offside visitor moorings have been created adjacent to the Damart Mill just before bridge 202. There are pubs south and west of Bridge 202

It is 3 hours to here from Granby Bridge 197 a

Bingley is listed in the Domesday book of 1086 as Bingheleia. Steeped in history going through all the ages starting with the Normans, Medieval and Tudor through to the Industrial Revolution.

The Old White Horse Inn is one of the oldest surviving buildings, a Grade II listed coaching inn, built in the mid 17th century. There has been an inn on the site since 1379. Note the two stone lanterns on the gable which signify the building was once owned by the Order of the Knights of St John.

During the Industrial Revolution Bingley had several mills and a tannery. The Bingley Building Society was also formed at that time.

The town has plenty of local shops, a street market, banks and the Little Theatre.

Most textile mills have closed except for the Damart factory.

Have a relaxing lunch ready to tackle the Bingley Locks again this afternoon, it is 10 hours cruising back to your start point , so after the Bingley locks are out of the way moor up where you like , its 7.5 cruising hours, or a days cruising from the bottom of the Bingley locks

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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