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UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

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Skipton gateway to the Yorkshire Dales

Cruise this route from : Skipton

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Cruising Days : 4.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 16.00

Total Distance : 29.00

Number of Locks : 24

Number of Tunnels : 0

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Cruise through outstanding scenery through the Yorkshire Dales to Skipton which is probably the most handsome town along the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

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.

Cruising Notes

Day 1

The scenery is beautiful, with countless hillocks and distant mountains, as the canal twists and turns along its meandering path.

Near the small village of East Marton, there are Moorings on the right, and the Cross Keys Inn awaits you on the left bank, also the Abbots Harbour a cosy restaurant serving home-cooked food just past bridge 162 on the left, or via a lane by the Cross Keys.

The 268 miles long Pennine way joins the towpath for a short distance here, you will notice that the stones here abound with fossils.

The 6 Bank Newton locks interrupt the outstanding scenery with excellent views across the valley to the hills

and moors beyond.

The canal crosses the river over the stone-built Priest Holme aqueduct and more locks take you around Gargrave.

Locks 41-30 require a Handcuff key which should have in a cupboard in the boat or hanging up.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park borders the Canal. Some of England's finest walking country is contained in this area of fine views, deep valleys, open moorland and rugged hills.

Gargrave is a much-visited attractive village with some pretty stone cottages.

There are various pubs and local stores.

There are visitor moorings before lock 32 and the village is off to your right.

It is 3 hours cruising to here.

Day 2

The canal now turns south-east towards Skipton with open countryside and moorland topped hills and begins a 17-mile lock-free pound (after lock 30). However, there is an abundance of swing bridges that require a Handcuff Key and some that require a Watermate Key!!

Skipton is soon approached and there are moorings on the towpath side only after bridge 176 and before and after bridge 178. It is 3 hours from Gargrave.

Spend some time exploring Skipton and the surrounding area.

Skipton is probably the most handsome town along the Leeds and Liverpool canal. You can moor about one-minute 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.

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.

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

Turn around at Bridge 183a Farnhill Bridge which is 1.5 hrs from Skipton, and then moor back in Skipton for the night or stop at the canalside pubs by Bridges 182 or 182, or you can wind a 60' boat outside the hotel just before Snaygill swing bridge No 181 just after Skipton.

If turning at Bridge 183a its 6 hours in total from Gargrave to Bridge 183a and then back to Skipton.

Day 3 Day 4

So carry on back to the marina taking time to see what you didn't have time for on the way! It is 6 hours back to

your starting mooring from Skipton

Useful Links

Description : Gargrave

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

Telephone : n/a

Description : Yorkshire Dales

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

Telephone : n/a

Description : Skipton Castle

Website : <http://www.skiptoncastle.co.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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