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# UK Canal Boating

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Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Booking Office : PO Box 57, Budleigh Salterton. Devon. EX9 7ZN. England.

## Warwick and return from North Kilworth

Cruise this route from : North Kilworth

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Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 42.00

Total Distance : 79.00

Number of Locks : 76

Number of Tunnels : 4

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Most famous for its incomparable Castle, Warwick offers much, from its racecourse to the beautiful Priory Park. There is certainly enough here to fill a couple of days.

Warwick Castle is well worth a visit, and is possibly the finest medieval castle in the country. It is open all year, except Christmas. See the Kingmaker Exhibition, which uses wax sculpture to recreate the preparations for battle in 1471, as well as the dungeons, ghost tower, and sumptuous state rooms.

## Cruising Notes

Day 1

North Kilworth has a couple of pubs- The White Lion & the Swan Inn.

Gently continue your journey passing the Hemplow Hills to your left, and open fields of grazing sheep.

2 Miles east of Bridge 31 is Stanford Hall, a William & Mary brick mansion built in the late 17th Century. On display also here is a replica on an experimental flying machine built in 1898. Teas, shop & craft centre. Open pm Easter -Sept.

Moor near Bridge 31 Stokleys Bridge as it is 2 hours since you set off and probably time for you to wind down

for the night.

## Day 2

The next stretch of the canal wanders southwards in a series of loops through wonderful rural scenery with not much signs of habitation.

Yelvertoft is a delightful village to stop for a while and there are moorings between bridges 19 and 20. The local is the Knightly Arms which serves real ales & home cooked food. You can stock up on supplies here as there is a stores, off licence & butcher. It is 4 hours to here from North Kilworth in case you want to stop for the 1st night here instead.

Moor up at bridge 12 & visit Edwards of Crick, a restaurant & coffee house offering a wide ranging menu. Stroll into the village of Crick, home of one of Britain's largest annual boat show held each year in May and have a pint and a meal at one of the local pubs . There is an intriguing second hand shop here open Wed Fri & Sat that is worth a visit (14.00-18.00)

Crick Tunnel is 1528 yards long, & has no tow path so if you wish to walk it you will have to go over the top. Meet the lock-keepers at the Watford Locks and they will cheerfully help you on your way through their complex set of locks. Watford Locks raise the canal to it summit level of 412 feet. Four of these locks form a staircase, with a one up one down procedure. The new Inn is Canalside at Buckby Top lock & has moorings.

The small village of Watford is not to be confused with the large town of Watford in Hertfordshire. Moor up at Bridge number 6 for a true taste of the Orient at the Thai Garden, Restaurant in Station Road.

Once through the Watford Locks continue towards the Norton Junction were we meet the Oxford Canal.(You soon will find that the M1 motorway swings away from you, but if you want 24 hr provisions you can moor up by Bridge 6 which is right beside The Watford Gap motorway services.)At Norton Junction you can then go down the Grand Union towards London, or we recommend that you head west towards Braunston.

From Norton Junction to Braunston the canal runs westward through hills and wooded country, then into a wooded cutting whichs leads to Braunston Tunnel.

Off to the north on your right you will pass the small village of Welton on a hill. At Bridge 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the Canal you can find a 400 yr old pub – The White Horse Inn.

Braunston Tunnel was opened in 1796 & is 2042 yards long.

Long rows of moored craft flank the canal, but there is usually plenty of places to moor, as it is worth strolling into Braunston as there are a fine selection of old buildings here. The British Waterways office in the Stop House, was originally the Toll office between the Oxford and the Grand Union canal. It is worth stocking up on supplies here. By lock 3 there is a haunted pub- the Admiral Nelson. In Braunston itself there is the Wheatsheaf which also has a Chinese & Thai takeaway. The Millhouse Hotel has a canalside garden, and the Old plough in the High street dates from 1672. The village has stores & a takeaway.

It is a good place to moor for the night, it is 6.5 hours to here.

## Day 3

At Braunston Turn, turn left onto the Grand Union Canal.

The village of Flecknoe is by bridge 102 off to your left, where The Old Olive Bush, a nice pub about a mile from the canal, is in the village.

The Oxford Canal and Grand Union, part ways just before the village of Napton on the Hill. The Grand Union veers off to the north, so turn right here, and soon you will encounter the Calcutt Locks - 3 locks quite close together.

The agricultural landscape continues, although soon you will reach the Stockton locks, a group of 8 locks, with 2 more fairly shortly afterwards. The Boat Inn besides Bridge 21 can provide refreshment just before the locks, and the Blue Lias Inn is just after them by bridge 23. There are old blue lias quarries around here and huge fossils have been found from the Jurassic period in the blue lias clay.

In the village of Long Itchington there are 2 canalside pubs on either side- The two Boats Inn and the Cuttle Inn. There are stores and a garage in the village.

Moor for the night by Bridge 26 Bickleys Bridge . its is 7 hours to here

Day 4

At Bascote, the only staircase locks you will encounter are reached. These are just 2 staircase, followed by 2 other locks. This is the last rural stretch before you reach Leamington Spa. Read the instructions on the board before negotiating the locks.

The canal descends through the quiet Fosse Locks, to the village of Radford Semele, which is an outlying village of Royal Leamington Spa.

You can moor up by Radford Bottom Lock, and walk to the village of Radford Semele, to your left.

The canal now heads westerly, through the suburbs of Leamington, getting to within half a mile or so of the town centre.

There are plentiful visitor moorings in Leamington, the Old High Street is just a minutes walk from the moorings, next to the Aga factory by Bridge 40, which has a few convenience stores, and several Indian restaurants.

The walk into the centre, goes past the old Pump Rooms that gave the town its name. Passing over the River Leam, you will reach the beautiful main shopping street, called the Parade. There are many restaurants in Leamington, and every taste and budget is catered for. There are even more pubs to enjoy, and if walking through pleasant parkland is appealing, then stop at Jefferson Gardens next to the Pump Rooms, for a good picnic spot where there are some impressive plants and flowers on show.

The gap, in between Leamington and Warwick, is almost indiscernible, but the difference in the two towns could not be mistaken. Where Leamington has wide straight roads, and white buildings in the spa style, Warwick's twisting roads, old buildings of every type and shape, and more olde world feel, is a pleasant contrast.

You will need to turn around at Saltisford, then moor up for the night at Coventry Road Bridge No. 49.

Most famous for its incomparable Castle, Warwick offers much, from its racecourse to the beautiful Priory Park.

The historic centre of Warwick lies a ten minute walk from the canal to the south, and is well worth getting off the boat for, and you can moor up by Bridge 49.

Warwick Castle is well worth a visit, and is possibly the finest medieval castle in the country. It is open all year, except Christmas. See the Kingmaker Exhibition, which uses wax sculpture to recreate the preparations for battle in 1471, as well as the dungeons, ghost tower, and sumptuous state rooms.

Warwick itself, is a lovely little town with some Tudor buildings.

You can get all your provisions here, if you need to stock up.

The Warwick County Museum in the Market Hall, houses a tapestry of Warwickshire dating from 1588.

The Lord Leycester Hospital is a superbly preserved group of C14th timber framed buildings.

It is 6.5 hours to here

Days 5 6 7

It is 20 hours abck to the marina so cruise for about 7 hours per day

## Useful Links

Description : Warwick Castle

Website : <http://www.warwick-castle.com/>

Telephone : 0871 265 2000

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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