

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

West Midlands Safari Park and Severn steam valley railway from Worcester

Cruise this route from : Worcester

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Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 30.00

Total Distance : 53.00

Number of Locks : 44

Number of Tunnels : 4

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Lovely cruise up the tranquil River Severn to the pretty Canal basins at Stourport on Severn, then up the Staffs & Worcs Canal to Kidderminster where you can alight the Severn Valley railway which runs restored steam trains along 16 miles of one of the most beautiful sections of the Severn Valley.

Disembark from the train at Bewdley which is a magnificent 18th century riverside town , and make your way to the West Midlands Safari park which is home to some of the world's most beautiful and endangered exotic animal species, also it has an adventure theme park with over 20 thrilling rides .

Cruising Notes

Day 1

Turn right out of Lowesmoor wharf down the Birmingham & Worcester canal & soon you will encounter 2 locks, one called Blockhouse lock, followed by Sidbury lock. which will get you into the swing of things. It takes about an hour to get to Diglis basin, and if time is passing it is best to stop there for the night, and then you will have time to explore the city of Worcester. There is a water point just above Diglis lock.

The marina is a short walk from the City centre, where you can explore the lovely cathedral dating from 1074. There is a wealth of stained glass and monuments to see including the tomb of King John. Also a good place to visit is the Museum of Worcester Porcelain, which not surprisingly has the largest collection of Worcester Porcelain in the world. The Guildhall in the High street was built in 1721 and has a fantastic elaborate facade

with statues of Charles I and II and Queen Anne.

In Friar Street is Greyfriars, dating from 1480, this was one part of a Franciscan priory, and is one of the finest half timbered houses in the country. Charles II escaped from this house after the Battle of Worcester in the civil war in 1651. In the George Marshall Medical museum you can meet the past heroes of medicine. Regular bus service from Crown Gate Bus station.

Close to Sidbury lock is the Commandery Civil War Centre, a museum devoted entirely to the story of the Civil War. The museum dates from the reign of Henry 8th and served as Charles 11's HQ before the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

It should take 1 hour from Lowesmoor to Diglis basin

Day 2

From Diglis basin you enter the Diglis locks- 2 deep locks which take you out onto the River Severn. The locks are under the supervision of the lock-keeper, who should tell you whether it is alright to proceed onto the River Severn, but to make sure look out for the red, amber and green water level gauge to see if the Severn is in flood or not.

After coming out of the last lock onto the Severn, it is best to head towards the far bank heading south (in the opposite direction to which you will be headed) and then turn the boat to pick up your crew from the pontoon near the lock. So you do a half circle anti clockwise, the river is very wide so it is easy to do.

Heading upstream the River passes the imposing cathedral and then the fine five arched bridge. The famous racecourse is on your right, and there are moorings here, also a water point.

The River winds through pleasant countryside to Bevere lock, but just before here is the Camp House inn pub on your left, with moorings. If you moor on the River leave your rope loose because it is tidal.

Bevere Lock has a traffic light system, and when its green you can proceed into the lock which is all automated by overseen by the lock-keeper.

A mile beyond Bevere the river swings right, and soon you will see the entrance lock at the start of the Droitwich barge Canal. You do not turn off the River Severn however.

The River winds its way through the picturesque Worcestershire countryside, Holt Lock is also automated so look for instructions from the lock-keeper there.

You leave the River Severn at Stourport on Severn & join the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal.

This canal is one of the prettiest and most interesting waterways in England.

The canal basins at Stourport are full of pretty moored boats, there are 2 entrances to the basins from the Severn one through broad locks, and the second one through narrow locks which is the one you should take.

The locks are open 24 hrs, and form a staircase, the lock-keeper is usually around in case of difficulties. You should proceed to the eastern corner of the upper basins to join the Staffs & Worcs canal. There is a useful tea room & craft shop by the lock and temporary moorings.

It is 7 hours to here from Diglis Basin

Day 3

You soon leave Stourport behind and approach Kidderminster with its smart new developments.

In Kidderminster there are good moorings at Weavers wharf , with supermarkets & cafes nearby.

It is 2 hours cruising to here from Stourport on Severn .

Take a train ride on the Steam Railway from Kidderminster station off to your right from Bridge 15 Caldwell hall Bridge.

The Severn Valley railway is a full-size standard-gauge railway line running regular steam-hauled passenger trains for the benefit of visitors and enthusiasts alike between Kidderminster in Worcestershire and bridgnorth in Shropshire, a distance of 16 miles. The train journey is full of interest, for the route follows closely the meandering course of the River Severn for most of the way on its journey between Kidderminster and bridgnorth. One highlight of the trip is the crossing of the River Severn by means of the Victoria bridge - a massive 200-foot single span, high above the water which, incidentally, features in the film 'The Thirty-nine Steps' with Robert Powell in the leading role. There being few roads in the Severn Valley, some of the views are only visible from the Railway. The scenery is varied and largely unspoiled, punctuated by the quaint 'olde worlde' charm of country stations, each one giving ready access to local villages and riverside walks.

Why not disembark at Bewdley & take a trip to the safari park with it's free roaming giraffes, elephants & big cats and small theme park with over 20 rides. Bewdley is a magnificent small 17/18th century riverside town, & is well worth a visit.

Day 4

Leaving Kidderminster behind you soon enter the open countryside again, until the canal is encroached by trees and cliffs which make you feel you are in the jungle.

Take a look at Wolverley, which is north west of bridge 20 . This is a fascinating village with a church standing on a sandstone rock so steep that it has to be approached by a zigzag path. Many of the houses close by are partly carved from the rock, their dark back rooms actually caves.

At Debdale lock a doorway reveals a cavern cut into the solid rock, which may have been used to stable towing horses.

The canal continues through secluded woodland and pretty locks to the very pretty village of Kinver, where you can stock up on provisions or get some fish & chips!

It is worth having a look at the fascinating Rock houses, carved out of the cliffs and in continuous occupation for 150 years until 1935.Walk up Stone lane close to the White Hart Hotel until trees appear on your left, then follow the path into the trees, the rock houses are at Holy Austin Rock).

Beyond Hyde Lock the canal wanders along the edge of the woods and the sandstone is supported on brick pillars as it has eroded away.

The lovely Dunsley tunnel has been hewn out of the rock, and is just 25 yards long. Look out for the Toll house at the next lock- Stewponey, and the interesting wharf. Just across the river from the wharf is the impressive bulk of Stourton castle which was the birthplace of Cardinal Pole a friend of Mary Tudor in 1500, it is now privately owned.

At the junction with the Stourbridge Canal on your right, make the turn to turn your boat round for the journey home.

It is worth turning your boat and mooring for the night back in Kinver with its pubs & shops.

The journey will take 6.5 hours.

Day 5 6 7 8

Cruise back to Worcester marina , it is just over 13 hours back, so plenty of time to explore and take your time

Useful Links

Description : Severn Valley Railway.

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

Telephone : 01562 757900

Description : West Midlands Safari Park, Bewdley

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

Telephone : 01299 402114

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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