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ENGLAND'S  
WATERWAYS



## DISCOVER THE ENGLISH WATERWAYS BY NARROWBOAT

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*Take your very own behind-the-scenes tour and experience authentic English landscapes as you follow the waterways, meandering through wonderful countryside and into the heart of some of our best loved towns and cities.*

*Journey to the heart of England*

# DISCOVER WARWICKSHIRE BY NARROWBOAT

Your journey along the Warwickshire ring will immerse you in miles of stunning canals, taking in beautiful surroundings, from historic villages and quiet country pubs to market towns bustling with Englishness, all whilst relaxing on your very own narrowboat.

Your waterways adventure will reveal wonderful English countryside, taking you to places that you won't have experienced before. You'll feel the freedom and peacefulness of cruising along the water, slowing down the pace and taking time to relax and enjoy your very own English waterways experience.



## What to expect:



### Travel and accommodation

Trains to and from airport, then travel and stay on your own traditional narrow boat.



### Unique Experiences

- Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter
- Royal Pump Rooms at Leamington Spa
- Warwick Castle



### Dining options

A range of traditional English pubs and contemporary dining option along the way.

## Arrival information:

Arrive into Birmingham International Airport and take a taxi to Stockon.

All of our hire bases are within a reasonable taxi ride or train journey from Birmingham Airport and the Great British Boating team can provide all of the necessary details and contacts for you to arrange your transfers.

Meet and greet with your boat hire operator and familiarise with your narrowboat.

Once you've learnt the ropes, begin your cruising along the canal.



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# WATERWAY ITINERARY: **WARWICKSHIRE RING**

## DURATION: **3-5 DAY SHORT-BREAK**

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### Overview

Distance: 32 km

Locks: 19

Cruising time: 18 hours



Your journey starts in Stockton where you will receive your introduction to narrow boating and safety instructions. You will set off, heading west on the Grand Union Canal and soon you will reach the Stockton Lock flight, the first of eight locks within the next mile.

Passing the “Blue Lias” pub named after the Blue Lias stone which in times gone by was heavily quarried in this area, you will reach Long Itchington which could be described as a typical middle-England village. It has a central duck pond, near to which is a half-timbered Tudor house, where Queen Elizabeth stayed twice – in 1572 and 1575. South of the village is a quarry and a small model village, built for the quarry workers. You will find some good mooring on your right after Long Itchington bottom lock which extends along the towpath to the canal-side “Two Boats” pub on your right, one of many traditional Pubs in this area.

After Long Itchington the canal meanders through countryside with very little civilisation for several miles before the canal now starts to enter the outskirts of Royal Leamington Spa. You pass the Art Deco railway station and there is plenty of mooring in this section and a good spot to moor and visit the town.

Famed as a spa town make sure you do not miss the former Royal Pump Rooms, where you find an art gallery and museum as well as the visitor information centre. A walk around the town, taking in some of the 60 pubs and restaurants and the old parish church is a relaxing way to spend a day. The Jephson Gardens is a formal Victorian park, complete with a band stand, a glasshouse of tropical plants, a goldfish pond and a café. What better place to take a relaxing break? If you haven’t had enough of being on the water, you can hire rowing boats, canoes, and stand up boats on the river Leam as well as visiting the sensory garden. You can also follow the Elephant trail, where the world famous trainer Sam Lockhart used to walk his elephants.

Continuing West there is a pub named the “Mooring”. The clue is in its name, as you can moor outside. The canal now seems to be quite high, and indeed you cross over the railway and the river Avon. Shortly after you reach the Warwick base. There are plenty of mooring spots, most by local Pubs giving you scope to explore Warwick.

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Warwick has a wealth of places to see and visit. There is the towering St. Mary's church, visible from many miles around. The "finest mediaeval castle in England" should be the centre-piece of any visit to Warwick. You will need to plan a whole day here just to visit the castle. The Lord Leycester Hospital is part of a group of mediaeval timber buildings, and you can stop at the Brethren's kitchen for lunch or afternoon tea. The High Street will take you past a wide variety of fine houses and historic buildings, including the Quaker Meeting House and numbers 1 to 3 in the High Street, all of which have carved wooden features. Most of the building were reconstructed after the Great Fire of 1694. The old market place still has a Saturday market and a particular feature is the Market Hall, built in 1670, and housing the County Museum. The Abbotsford stands close to it and is probably the most richly decorated building in Warwick.

There is a wide range of pubs and restaurants within Warwick. These range from wine bars to traditional inns and from fine dining restaurants to fast food outlets. In other words, something for every taste. Rather than taking the boat, why not take a walk up the Hatton Lock flight. There are 21 locks, taking the canal out of the Avon Valley up nearly 150 feet. Stop off at the Hatton Lock café near the top before returning to Warwick. You could also visit Hatton Country World, where several independent craft/antique outlets line the "Victorian" streets, or take in one of the local walks and stop off at the "Hatton Arms" pub. If the walk back to Warwick seems too daunting then you can catch a train from Hatton station.

