

CREWED NARROWBOAT HOTEL BARGE HOLIDAYS

4 to 9-days / 8-nights on fully catered cruises aboard a traditional English canal boat



Highlights: The Llangollen Canal, Stratford-upon-Avon & the English Midlands

Departs: Birmingham, Great Haywood, Worcester, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, and Banbury, Market Harborough, Coventry. See also the Llangollen Canal, Grand Union Canal & the River Severn.

Cost: Prices from just **\$745 per person** twin share for a 5-day / 4-night cruise. Single cabins may be available subject to availability with a supplement – ask for details.

Includes: Price includes full board – breakfast, lunch and dinner each day – twin share / double cabin accommodation with private or share bathroom. Return transfers back from/to the start point can be included in the costs if required.

When most people think of canal boat holidays they picture in their mind the traditional British narrowboat or barge constructed during the industrial revolution in the 1700's to carry cargo long the narrow, shallow canal networks built to link industrial centres. Nowadays these barges are very much a part of the English countryside scene as floating accommodation that moves at a snails pace through some of the most fascinating, historical and attractive regions where canals have always been important such as the Midlands and Birmingham, North Wales and the **Llangollen** region or northern England.

Some of these narrowboats are available as self-skipped holiday options but for those interested in joining a **small group holiday** with a captain and crew to attend to the management of the boat, preparation of meals and explanations of the places you visit along the way our **narrowboat hotel barge** holiday aboard may be for you. At 70 ft long and 6ft 10ins wide this is just about the biggest barge that can go through the locks on the English Canal System yet we are limited with just three cabins for passengers on each departure.

The layout of the barge has been designed to provide maximum personal space and privacy. The interior, whilst narrow, is designed to offer **double or twin beds**, showers rooms with sink and toilet and a lounge dining area. The barge is centrally heated and has mains electric.

Space is limited but there are sitting areas to enjoy the cruise and we encourage you to join in with the workings of the boat on locks and mooring. The crew certainly want you to feel as much at home as possible.

Starting on a continuous series of journeys from easy to reach places such as Birmingham, Chester, Great Haywood, **Worcester**, Shakespeare's home of **Stratford-upon-Avon**, **Warwick** – with the hugely popular Warwick Castle, Marsworth, Market Harborough, **Coventry** with its glorious cathedral, Sawley near Nottingham, **Banbury** or Snarestone we offer a comprehensive choice of barging holidays.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

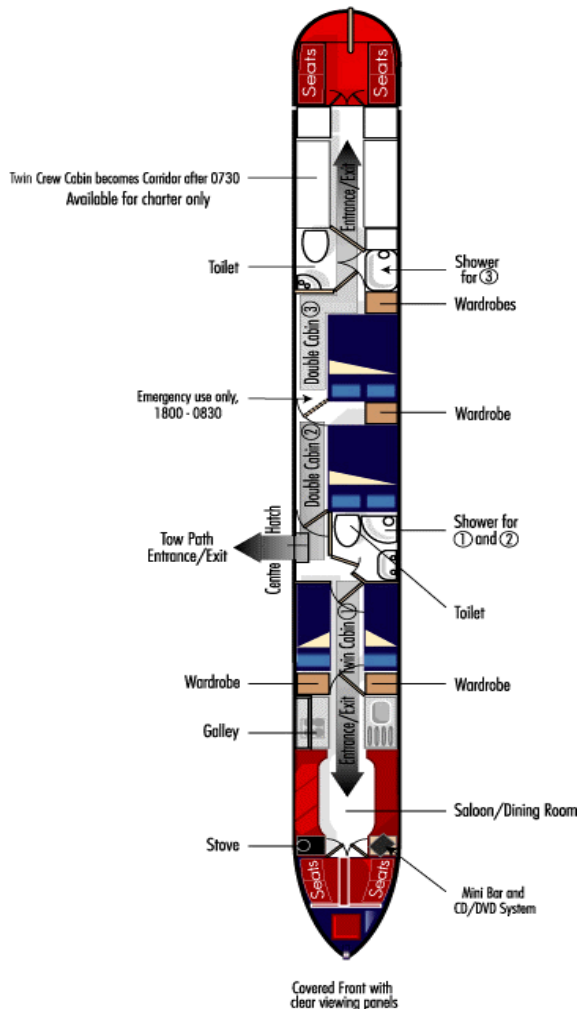
LIFE ABOARD.....

The interior of the hotel boat is designed to make the most of the space but make you feel as near at home as possible. The hotel boat is centrally heated and has mains electric. The layout has been designed to provide maximum personal space and privacy with these features.

Full width cabins each with a separate entrance, avoiding the need to walk through other guests cabins. Each cabin on the hotel boat has a wardrobe, built in drawers, reading lights and those little extras. Interior sprung mattresses are provided for your comfort.

Separate shower rooms with modern full flush toilet, washbasin and power shower is available between each cabin. Every guest is provided with a full towel bundle and complimentary toiletries.

The saloon has comfortable seating for relaxation and dining. A small bar is available; together with DVD equipment for home viewing should the weather prove inclement for an evening stroll to the local pub. Outside at the front of the hotel boat, the well deck provides comfortable seating in rain or shine to watch the world go by. Additional seating is provided at the back to sit with the steerer and see journey from a totally different aspect.



TRADITIONAL ENGLISH NARROWBOAT CRUISES

2012 CRUISE OPTIONS (see also summary & prices on page 6 & 7)

LAPWORTH LOOP

CRUISE K

A contrast in canals between the rural Stratford Canal and the Grand Union with a fascinating flight of locks through a regenerated city centre. This is ideal for spring and for autumn cruising.

5 day/4 night Weekend Break Departs: 29 March, 5 and 12 April, 4, 18, 25 October

BIRMINGHAM – STRATFORD UPON AVON – LUDDINGTON **CRUISE No 1**

Traveling the full length of the Stratford Canal, which maintains an individual charm and personality. A modern bustling city linked to a town dedicated to William Shakespeare. Experience a day on the River Avon travelling a short distance to Luddington for lunch.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 17 May, 14 June, and 9 August

STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK

CRUISE No 2

Combining the delights of Shakespeare's birthplace and the heritage of an historic town by traversing the two different styles of canal.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 13 August, and 17 September

WARWICK - BANBURY

CRUISE No 3

The trunk route of Britain's canal network, the picturesque Grand Union is the longest single canal in Britain. The Grand Union Canal was once one of the busiest in the country as the main line from London to the Midlands. This section passes through the innovative modifications completed in the 1930's before turning onto the picturesque Oxford Canal which meanders slowly through classic scenery.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 21 June and 16 August

BANBURY – COVENTRY (Hawkesbury Junction)

CRUISE No 4

A journey up the picturesque Oxford Canal meandering slowly through classic scenery and over the section adopted by the Grand Union Canal improvements from Napton to Bruanston in the early 1930's. Journeys end is at an historic junction known to working boatman as Sutton Stop.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 25 June and 20 August

COVENTRY (Hawkesbury Junction) – SNARESTON

CRUISE No 5

A study of Coventry and the complete length of the Ashby Canal. Coventry Cathedral a stunning modern building standing next to the shell of the original cathedral, bombed in World War II. This is just a short walk from the attractive terminus basin, which is visited on the first day.

Once bustling with narrowboats carrying coal, this surprising rural cruise then passes quietly by spoil heaps that are today swathed in greenery on the way up to the current end of the Ashby Canal. Steeped in history, this beautiful, tranquil canal gives the opportunity to visit the historic scene of the Battle of Bosworth. It meanders through a very level, rural environment - therefore no locks were ever needed.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 28 June

SNARESTON – COVENTRY (Hawkesbury Junction)

CRUISE No 6

A study of the complete length of the Ashby Canal from the existing terminus, Hawkesbury Junction and the historical city of Coventry. Once bustling with narrowboats carrying coal, this is a surprisingly rural cruise through quintessentially English countryside. Steeped in history, this beautiful, tranquil canal gives the opportunity to visit the historic scene of the Battle of Bosworth. It meanders through a very level, rural environment - therefore no locks were ever needed.

Leaving the Ashby Canal the cruise passes quietly by spoil heaps that are today swathed in greenery on the way to Coventry. Coventry Cathedral is just a short walk to see stunning modern building standing next to the shell of the original cathedral, bombed in World War II.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 2 July

COVENTRY (Hawkesbury Junction) – BIRMINGHAM

CRUISE No 7

Travelling the backwaters of the Heart of England canals from the Coventry Canal and Hawkesbury Junction through industrial mining heritage to a regenerated bustling city.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 5 July and 23 August

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BIRMINGHAM – WORCESTER**CRUISE No 8**

A unique opportunity to travel the full length of the Worcester - Birmingham Canal. Complete with memorable views over the Malvern Hills and the unforgettable Tardebigge flight of locks, the longest in England.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 16 April, 9 July, 10 September and 1 October

WORCESTER – BIRMINGHAM**CRUISE No 8R**

The reverse of Cruise No.8. A unique opportunity to travel the full length of the Worcester - Birmingham Canal. Complete with memorable views over the Malvern Hills and the unforgettable Tardebigge flight of locks, the longest in England.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 11 June and 6 August

WORCESTER –STRATFORD UPON AVON**CRUISE No 9**

A tranquil cruise over two rivers. The Severn to Tewkesbury and then meandering up the Warwickshire Avon to Shakespeare Country finishing at Stratford upon Avon (we suggest you plan ahead and book theatre tickets in advance if you intend taking in a play at the newly renovated Royal Shakespeare Theatre).

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 12 July and 13 September

WARWICK – STOKE BRUERNE.**CRUISE No 10**

Travel down the Grand Union through Braunston the home of English canals from the modernised section of canal in the 1930's to the original double locks finishing at another famous canal village

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 24 May and 19 July

STOKE BRUERNE - MARKET HARBOROUGH**CRUISE No 11**

Take a leisurely cruise from another village famous for canal memories, through history with the Grand Union (Leicester section) canal and down the Foxton flight.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 28 May and 23 July

MARKET HARBOROUGH – SAWLEY**CRUISE No 12**

The canal meanders its way through unspoilt rural surroundings, changing direction as it lazily motions you northwards, to the River Soar, once the most profitable waterway in England. The Soar is also a tranquil, meandering river navigation extending through Leicestershire to the junction with the River Trent which leads off to Shardlow the start of the Trent and Mersey Canal.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 31 May and 26 July

SAWLEY – GREAT HAYWOOD**CRUISE No 13**

The Trent and Mersey Canal was the most ambitious plan to the principal rivers of England. Its importance was recognised by its early name of the 'Grand Trunk' Canal. It offers rural cruising through Derbyshire leading to Staffordshire passing through the brewery town of Burton on Trent and an historical junction at Fradley with a truly boaters pub.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 4 June and 30 July

GREAT HAYWOOD – WORCESTER**CRUISE No 14**

A journey down the entire length of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, linking the River Trent and the Severn. Opened in 1772 it was the vision of James Brindley to make this canal part of the "The Grand Cross" linking his Trent and Mersey with the River Severn. The canal skirts the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation without becoming truly urban, making a delightful route through West Midlands countryside.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 7 June, 2 August and 30 August

BIRMINGHAM – GREAT HAYWOOD**CRUISE No 15**

A contrast in industrial heritage balanced with travel in rural surroundings over the Coventry Canal to a famous junction on the Trent and Mersey canal. The cruise finishes near Shugborough Hall, home of Lord Lichfield.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 27 August

EXPLORATORY CRUISES.... HEADING TO THE LLANGOLLEN CANAL

BIRMINGHAM - NANTWICH**CRUISE A**

Starting from an urbanised area mixed with a wealth of industrial heritage experience the change in scenery to rolling farmland initiated by the Wolverhampton 21 flight of locks. After passing through a historic junction at Norbury, travel on through quiet Shropshire farmlands to the original wide beam terminus of the Chester canal.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 26 April

NANTWICH – CHESTER

A relaxed cruise on the Shropshire Union Canal passing through unspoilt countryside and through Chester on its way to the terminus at Ellesmere port where there is time to visit the boat museum. It is then a return journey back to Chester with time to explore a city which has a fine cathedral, town-crier and street theatre, but it still manages to feel friendly and on a small scale

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 30 April

CRUISE B**CHESTER - LLANGOLLEN**

Travel across the Cheshire Plain on a wide beam waterway to Britain's favourite canal. The Llangollen Canal has understated rural countryside, including the market towns of Whitchurch and Ellesmere, gives way to the majesty of the Chirk and Pontcysyllte Aqueducts - two of Britain's greatest waterway landmarks.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 3 May

CRUISE C**LLANGOLLEN – WHITCHURCH**

A Llangollen experience with time to explore the town and perhaps the railway or the horse drawn canal trip. Travelling back along the Llangollen canal with its famous aqueducts and stunning scenery there is the opportunity to view the start of the controversially restored Montgomery Canal. A short visit to Ellesmere is included and then continuing on to the canal centre at Whitchurch.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 7 May

CRUISE D**WHITCHURCH - NORBURY**

Starting from the small canal centre at Whitchurch on the picturesque Llangollen Canal and travelling to Hurleston Junction to join the Shropshire Union Canal. The route then passes through rural scenery, rolling farmland and canal villages to a Historic Junction at Norbury.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 10 May

CRUISE E**NORBURY – BIRMINGHAM**

A journey starting at an historic junction on the "Shroppie" and experience the changing scenery from rolling farmland to an urbanised area mixed with a wealth of industrial heritage. The Wolverhampton 21 flight of locks initiates the changing scene.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 14 May

CRUISE F**WORCESTER – BIRMINGHAM via DROITWICH CANAL**

A chance to travel along the recently re-opened Droitwich canals. Starting from Worcester it is a short cruise up the River Severn to the Droitwich Barge Canal. Visit Droitwich the salt town and then continue on the Junction Canal to its meeting with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Turning north through rural Worcestershire the longest flight of locks at Tardebigge climbs up towards West Hill tunnel and the journey into the Birmingham urban scene.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 19 April, 6 September and 4 October

CRUISE G**WORCESTER LOOP**

A chance to travel along the recently re-opened Droitwich canals. Starting from Worcester it is a short cruise up the River Severn to the Droitwich Barge Canal. Visit Droitwich the salt town and then continue on the Junction Canal to its meeting with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Turning south travel down to your starting point in the Cathedral city of Worcester.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 3 September.

CRUISE H**WARWICK – DROITWICH**

The 21 Hatton Locks mark the start of this rural cruise travelling the Grand Union to Lapworth to join the Stratford Canal. Continuing northwards to Kings Norton and the Birmingham and Worcester Canal to turn southwards towards West Hill Tunnel. The longest lock flight at Tardebigge starts the descent towards Hanbury Wharf and the Droitwich Junction canal, which is followed through rural countryside to Droitwich.

6-day/5-night Weekend Break Departs: 20 September.

CRUISE I**DROITWICH LOOP**

A chance to travel along the recently re-opened Droitwich canals. Starting from Droitwich, the town with a history in salt, on the Droitwich Barge Canal it is a day's cruise to join the River Severn. A short cruise down river to arrive at the Cathedral City of Worcester and the start of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Travelling northwards to Hanbury Wharf join the Droitwich Junction Canal to return to Droitwich.

5-day/4-night Mid Week Break Departs: 24 September.

CRUISE J

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

DROITWICH – BIRMINGHAM via Worcester**CRUISE K**

A chance to travel along part of the recently re-opened Droitwich canals. Starting from Droitwich, the town with a history in salt, on the Droitwich Barge Canal it is a day's cruise to join the River Severn. A short cruise down river to arrive at the Cathedral City of Worcester and the start of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Turning north through rural Worcestershire the canal reaches its highest point with the longest flight of locks at Tardebigge climbing up towards Wast Hill tunnel and the journey into the Birmingham urban scene.

5 day/4 night Weekend Break Departs: 27 September

LAPWORTH LOOP**CRUISE L**

A contrast in canals between the rural Stratford Canal and the Grand Union with a fascinating flight of locks through a regenerated city centre. This cruise is ideal for spring and for autumn cruising.

5 day/4 night Weekend Break Departs: 29 March, 5 April, 11, 18 and 25 October

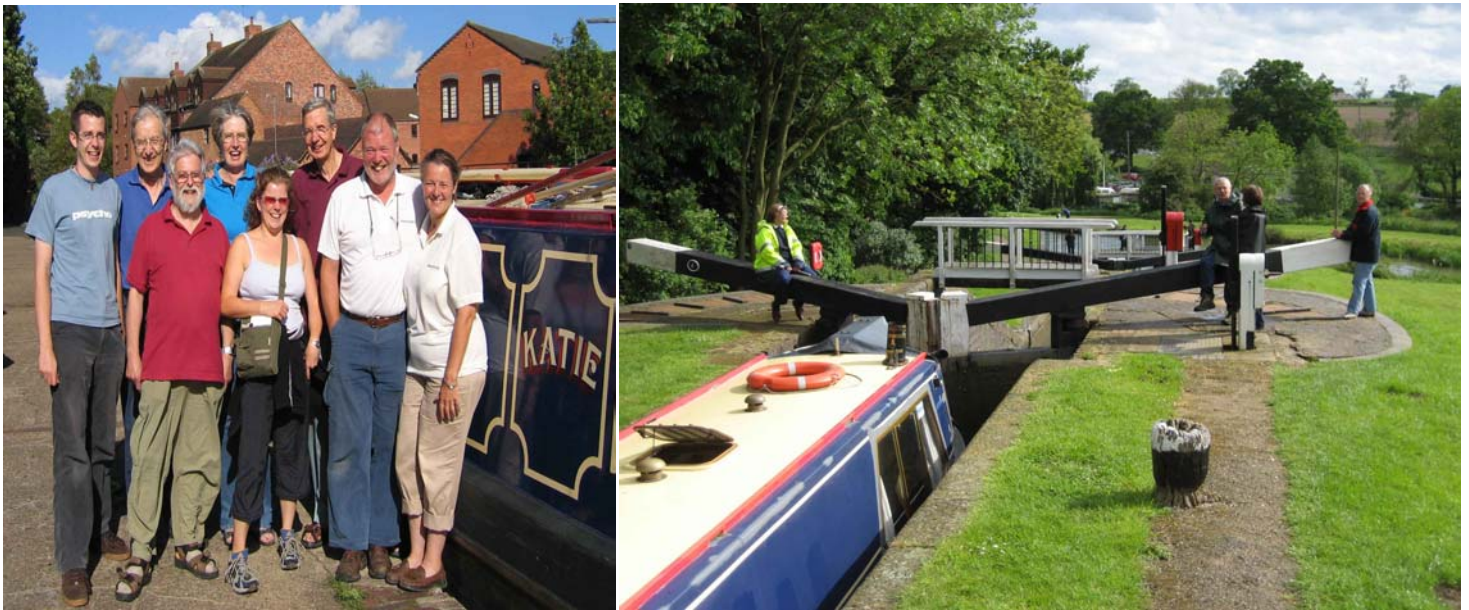
2012 CRUISE SUMMARY & PRICES IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS

DATE	CRUISE	SCHEDULED ROUTE	Days/ Nights	Start/ End Days	Cost per person
29 March	L	LAPWORTH LOOP	5/4	Thu/Mon	\$745
5 April	L	LAPWORTH LOOP	5/4	Thu/Mon	\$745
16 April	8	BIRMINGHAM – WORCESTER	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
19 April	G	WORCESTER – BIRMINGHAM via DROITWICH CANAL	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
26 April	A	BIRMINGHAM – NANTWICH	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
30 April	B	NANTWICH - CHESTER	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
3 May	C	CHESTER - LLANGOLLEN	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
7 May	D	LLANGOLLEN - WHITCHURCH	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
10 May	E	WHITCHURCH - NORBURY	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
14 May	F	NORBURY – BIRMINGHAM	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
17 May	1	BIRMINGHAM - STRATFORD UPON AVON	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
21 May	2	STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
24 May	10	WARWICK - STOKE BRUERNE	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
28 May	11	STOKE BRUERNE - MARKET HARBOROUGH	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
31 May	12	MARKET HARBOROUGH - SAWLEY	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
4 June	13	SAWLEY - GREAT HAYWOOD	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
7 June	14	GREAT HAYWOOD - WORCESTER	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
11 June	8R	WORCESTER - BIRMINGHAM	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
14 June	1	BIRMINGHAM - STRATFORD UPON AVON	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
18 June	2	STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
21 June	3	WARWICK – BANBURY	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
25 June	4	BANBURY – COVENTRY	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
28 June	5	COVENTRY – SNARESTONE	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
2 July	6	SNARESTONE – COVENTRY	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
5 July	7	COVENTRY – BIRMINGHAM	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
9 July	8	BIRMINGHAM – WORCESTER	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
12 July	9	WORCESTER – STRATFORD UPON AVON	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
16 July	2	STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
19 July	10	WARWICK- STOKE BRUENE	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
23 July	11	STOKE BRUENE – MARKET HARBOROUGH	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
26 July	12	MARKET HARBOROUGH – SAWLEY	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
30 July	13	SAWLEY - GREAT HAYWOOD	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
2 Aug	14	GREAT HAYWOOD – WORCESTER	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
6 Aug	8R	WORCESTER - BIRMINGHAM	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
9 Aug	1	BIRMINGHAM - STRATFORD UPON AVON	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
13 Aug	2	STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745

16 Aug	3	WARWICK – BANBURY	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
20 Aug	4	BANBURY – COVENTRY	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
23 Aug	7	COVENTRY – BIRMINGHAM	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
27 Aug	15	BIRMINGHAM – GREAT HEYWOOD	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
30 Aug	14	GREAT HEYWOOD - WORCESTER	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
3 Sep	H	WORCESTER LOOP	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
6 Sep	G	WORCESTER – BIRMINGHAM via DROITWICH	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
10 Sep	8	BIRMINGHAM - WORCESTER	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
13 Sep	9	WORCESTER – STRATFORD UPON AVON	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
17 Sep	2	STRATFORD UPON AVON – WARWICK	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
20 Sep	I	WARWICK - DROITWICH	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
24 Sep	J	DROITWICH LOOP	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
27 Sep	K	DROITWICH - BIRMINGHAM	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
1 Oct	8	BIRMINGHAM - WORCESTER	5/4	Mon/Fri	\$745
4 Oct	G	WORCESTER – BIRMINGHAM via DROITWICH	6/5	Thu/Tue	\$915
11 Oct	L	LAPWORTH LOOP	5/4	Thu/Mon	\$745
18 Oct	L	LAPWORTH LOOP	5/4	Thu/Mon	\$745
25 Oct	L	LAPWORTH LOOP	5/4	Thu/Mon	\$745

VALUE TOUR: Weekend & Midweek breaks can be combined in a Long Break 9/8 Thu/Fri \$1395

Please ask for more details.



Transfers from/to a rail/coach station or from/to Manchester/Heathrow airports can be arranged - at extra cost.

Hotel barge cruises or self-skippered narrowboats or motor cruiser hire is available from **Outdoor Travel** in many other regions of England or in France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Scotland and Italy.

Bike & Barge cruises on canals and rivers are available in many regions of France, Germany, Holland, Croatia, Greece and Turkey and Bike & Boat cycling cruises are available along the coast of Italy or from Venice, in Croatia, Greece, Turkey and Vietnam.

Sailing holidays with sightseeing in Corsica, Tuscany or Sicily in Italy:

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