

UK Canal Boating

Escape with a canal boating holiday!

Braunston and return from Foxton

Cruise this route from : Foxton

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Cruising Days : 8.00 to 0.00

Cruising Time : 33.00

Total Distance : 58.00

Number of Locks : 46

Number of Tunnels : 6

Number of Aqueducts : 0

Situated just north of the famous Foxton staircase Locks and former Foxton Inclined plane , Debdale Wharf provides an ideal cruising base from which to explore this peaceful and much underrated section of the canal network.

Travelling south, it takes just 20 minutes to reach the bottom of Foxton Locks with plenty to see and do at Foxton. Keep going to the left and you're onto the Harborough arm with bustling Market Harborough 5 miles distant and just a couple of hours lock free cruising away.

Climb the Foxton Staircase and you reach the top pound of this section of canal with 20 miles of lock free cruising until you reach the Watford flight. In around two and a half hours you'll reach Debdale's sister marina at North Kilworth. Complimentary moorings are available here for Debdale moorers wishing to break their journey.

[Braunston and return from Foxton](#)

Cruising Notes

Day 1

Situated just North of Foxton Locks, Debdale Wharf provides an ideal cruising base from which to explore this peaceful and much underrated section of the canal network.

Travelling south, it takes just 20 minutes to reach the bottom of Foxton Locks with plenty to see and do at Foxton. To the left is the Harborough arm with bustling Market Harborough 5 miles distant and just a couple of hours lock free cruising away.

Walk along the tow path until you find the friendly British waterways lock-keepers by the Locks. They will take a note of your boat name & tell you roughly how long the wait will be to go through the locks, but there is plenty to do whilst you wait, it takes 45 minutes to go through the flight, see here for opening times <https://www.foxtonlocks.org.uk/>

Foxton is the site of a steam powered Inclined Plane, which replaced ten locks and lifted narrow boats 75 feet. It was opened in 1900 but suffered from mechanical and structural problems. The locks were reopened in 1908 and now work beautifully. Whilst here visit the Foxton Museum and gift shop. The well stocked canalside shop offers you groceries, hardware as well as the traditional “roses and Castles” canalware, made and hand-painted on site.

Stop for a cream tea in the canal side cafe or a well deserved pint in the Foxton Locks Inn. Spend a couple of hours watching the colourful narrow boats passing through the staircase locks. British Waterways organise events based on Foxton Locks

2 hours cruising time from Debdale once you are through the flight.

Day 2

Cruise from Foxton towards the Watford Locks to the South, 20 miles of lock free cruising so your crew can have a lie in!!

The Canal weaves its way through an remote but attractive stretch. There are no villages on the canal here, Husbands Bosworth being hidden by the tunnel.

Look out over the vale of Welland and to the nearby Laughton Hills. Slow down, cruise on and watch mile after mile beautiful and unspoilt contryside unfold

Enjoy an easy cruise as the canal meanders through unspoilt surroundings passing through the Husband Bosworth Tunnel. The Tunnel is 1166 yards long and was opened in 1813. Stop and moor for a while, stroll into Husband Bosworth for a pub, newsagents and general store. The Bell Inn here serves Real Ale & food daily.

North Kilworth is off to your right, with a couple of pubs- The White Lion & the Swan Inn.

Kilworth Wharf Marina – overnight mooring maps & gifts - Complimentary moorings are available here for Debdale moorers wishing to break their journey.

The Battle of Naseby 1645 was fought 2 miles east of Welford. Here Fairfax's New Model Army routed the Royalists under King Charles I, ensuring the end of the Civil War.

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.

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 7 hours cruising to here.

Day 3

Before you pass through the Crick Tunnel, you can 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 its 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.

See here for Watford Locks opening times <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notice/9573/watford-locks-manned-winter-opening-times-for-201617-leicester-line-grand-union-canal>

Once through the Watford Locks continue towards the Norton Junction where 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 which 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 ¾ 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 7.5 hours cruising to here

Days 4 5 6 7

You can take a very leisurely cruise back to Debdale, or perhaps cruise back through Foxton Locks and cruise the 2 hours to Market Harborough , it is lock free, and a very attractive canal basin with restaurant, and the very attractive Market town is about 15 mins walk away from the Canal Basin

Useful Links

Description : Foxton Locks

Website : <https://www.foxtonlocks.org.uk>

Telephone : n/a

Description : Foxton Inclined Plane

Website : <http://www.fipt.org.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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