



City breaks, pretty villages, world class heritage, superb landscapes, entertainment, peaceful moorings

The canal can take you there

Decisions, decisions – where will you take your boat this summer? Whether you are hiring one of ours for the week or fortnight, or leaving your mooring to enjoy cruising your own boat you will have to plan ahead.

The problem with Norbury Junction, a lovely destination in itself, is that there are so many choices. Not only does it sit on one of the most popular canal rings in the country – the Four Counties, taking in many beautiful towns and villages – but it is also ideally placed for some fascinating out-and-back trips, which can be even more rewarding.

Firstly decided how long you are going to have away and then how long you want to cruise each day. Even though the canalside scenery, complete with dashing Kingfishers, cir-



From countryside to Britain's biggest cities - they're all in reach from Norbury

cling buzzards and even the occasional water vole, can be lovely, shorter days can mean more time to explore the many

interesting little corners of England best reached by the Cut.

Stourport, a lovely little inland port and resort where the canal meets the River Severn, is less than 20 hours cruising time from Norbury and takes you through some of the best English countryside as well as giving you a taste of the industrial heritage of which the canals are a key part. Heading south you pass through the Staffordshire villages of Gnosall, Wheaton Ashton and Brewood, all with pleasant pubs and useful village shops.

Skirting the outer edges of Wolverhampton you may even catch a glimpse of the new Jaguar Land Rover factory that is boosting manufacturing in this Black Country town. You are soon out in the country again with more villages like Compton (try the fish and chips) and a fascinating piece of canal history at the Bratch flight – which looks like a staircase of locks but technically isn't. Kinver with its cave dwellings is worth a pause and Kidderminster is an ideal place for stocking up on essentials as the canal passes the doorstep of large supermarkets.



The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, lit for a celebration.

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Bargains

DIESEL

- Our fuel is the cheapest at a commercial boatyard on the waterways - and FAME free. It can change on a weekly basis but it is now at:

79.9p

BATTERIES

- 110amphr batteries JUST

£64.95

each when you buy four or more in the same transaction. £69.00 each if sold singly.

ECOFANS

The original and best fan for your stove just

£109.99

Sandblasted bottom available in our dock

The dry dock at Norbury Junction was originally the first of seventeen locks that led down into Newport and beyond to Shrewsbury – but these days it leads to a better maintained boat for around a hundred boats a year. Today the dry dock is considerably wider than the original lock and is completely covered and enclosed but large windows let plenty of natural light into the building.

Due to its depth the bostocks (that's the blocks that the boat sits down on to when the water is removed) are about three feet high which allows for easy inspection of the base plate and sit the boat at an ideal level for work and it has just become even more in demand as the owners. Norbury Wharf Ltd, have started offering a shot blasting service and painting with epoxy paint.

Norbury MD, Simon Jenkins, said: "It has always been a popular dock as it operates throughout the year but the introduction of shot-blasting and epoxy paint as an option for boat hulls has meant we are taking plenty of bookings."

There are a few gaps on the dock which changes occupants on both Wednesdays and Sundays.

The dock still offers hull blacking with bitumen, International Intertuf 16 or Comastic as well as sand blasting and subsequent application of two-pack epoxy paint.

Whilst the boat is high and dry Norbury can also repaint of counter bands as well as gun-whale tops and sides and front return plates. Replacing anodes, stern gear refurbishment



Get your stern gear checked whilst your boat is high and dry

and replacement, skeg and rudder straightening, skeg cup/bottom rudder bearing replacement as well as top rudder bearing replacement and propeller changes are all best done in the dry dock.

The dock is also used for surveys for Insurance and pre-purchase as well as any hull plating that may be necessary and bow thruster repairs and installation.

Bargains ashore and afloat

June is one of those bargain months – just before the school holidays but often with some of the best weather of the year.

This year is no exception at Norbury and there are bargains to be had whether you are looking for a unique day out on the water, a narrowboat holiday or a few days relaxation in a

lovely holiday cottage beside the waterways.

You can save hundreds of pounds on a short break or a week's holiday on one of our hire boats – just check out the website or give us a call – and we will be offering last minute bookings of our day boats on weekdays for just £80 during June.

Wharf Cottage overlooks the Wharf at Norbury Junction and sleeps up to eight people. It's available on a bed and breakfast basis as well as a holiday let and enables families to enjoy the Staffordshire countryside from a peaceful and fascinating location.

Protect canals from HS2 says CRT

The Canal & River Trust is petitioning Government for protection for the waterways from the High Speed Rail plans which affect many canals in the Midlands.

It has formally submitted a petition to the Commons to seek the protection and enhancement of the waterways along the Phase 1 route. HS2 will require the construction of some significant engineering structures over and beside waterways and, while the Trust says it does not oppose its construction in principle, it has been working to mitigate any negative impacts and to maximise the opportunities presented by HS2 for regeneration.

The Trust has used the petition process, an agreed Parliamentary procedure, to ask formally for the Bill to be amended to address its concerns.

Assurances are being sought on the design quality of any waterway crossings and the Trust is also seeking provision for the safeguarding of its heritage assets, protection from noise pollution and vibrations.

The Trust has highlighted three areas of particular

concern.

The proposed HS2 route crosses the Trent & Mersey Canal at Fradley Junction in four places in close proximity and at different levels.

Embankments and crossings are in close proximity to the listed Woodend Lock and Lock Cottage.

This will have a dramatically adverse impact upon a particularly tranquil and much loved length of a rural canal. Based on an independent study commissioned jointly by the Trust and the Inland Waterways Association, the Trust is seeking adoption of an alternative HS2 alignment which it believes is technically feasible and provides potential costs savings of at least £50 million.

With Birmingham City Council, the Trust is petitioning to ensure that the plans for Curzon Street Station are designed to optimise wider regeneration opportunities through the creation of a new canal quarter in Eastside and Digbeth.

In the Scrubs Lane area on the Paddington arm of the Grand Union Canal, the Trust is seeking commitment that the construction and operation of HS2 will not have an adverse impact on the structural stability of a vital retaining wall.

From Norbury you can discover many places

Continued from page 1

Stourport itself has two large canal basins and even boasts a funfair on the banks of the River Severn, justifying its role as an inland resort for the Midlands. The return journey will be surprisingly different and you will probably have time for a short diversion at Stourton Junction to the charming little town of Stourbridge, once a glass-making town.

Whightwick Manor near Compton is lovely Arts and Crafts house owned by the National Trust and it's worth checking opening times so you can visit on the return journey. Although Norbury Wharf is the epitome of the countryside, some wonderful cities are just a short cruise away. Just a couple of six or seven hour days will put you in the heart of Birmingham, one of the country's most vibrant and fascinating cities, with theatres, restaurants and as much shopping as your wallet can handle. It is one of the top city break destinations and you can stay there for free. Don't miss the new library – the biggest in Europe, costing £185m.

In the other direction is Chester, just 22 hours cruising, which makes it easily accessible on a week's holiday. Once again the canal puts you in the heart of the city, within sight of the City Wall which can be walked in its entirety. A Roman amphitheatre, the fascinating two-storey Rows in the centre, partly mediaeval, partly Victorian reconstruction, a famous racecourse and the lovely River Dee, flow-



Check what's on in Chester - a city of many public spectacles. This was their parade of giants passing The Rows

ing through the city. Check what is on and time your visit accordingly as Chester has some great free events. If you have a fortnight or more Norbury is part of one of the largest collection of canals in the country. The Four Counties ring, taking you onto the Staffs and Worcester and Trent and Mersey canals through lovely market towns as well as the Potteries and the long Harecastle Tunnel, also gives you an opportunity to explore the Caldon Canal, a rural idyll heading towards the Peak District.

The Black Country Ring gives a real insight into the industrial past of the canals and a clear vision of how they were key to the country's growth a couple of centuries ago and the Cheshire Ring, enables you to take in the beautiful Macclesfield Canal as well as the city of Manchester and the country's first industrial canal, the Bridgewater, which gives welcome relief from locks as you head south to the Trent and Mersey, the Shropshire Union and home to Norbury. Of course, the Llangollen Canal, technically part of the Shropshire Union is

probably one of the most popular watery destinations in the country, and often very busy in the summer months. A two week break will take you all the way to the head of the canal in the little resort town of Llangollen itself, set in the Welsh hills. The views are stunning and none more so that when your boat crosses the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, an amazing piece of canal engineering and a World Heritage Site.

There are 18 piers, 126ft high, and 19 arches each with a 45ft span; the slender masonry piers are partly hollow, taper at their summit and built with mortar made of oxen blood, lime and water.

The aqueduct's 1,007ft long, with the River Dee running beneath it and is the largest in Britain. The water runs through an iron trough that measures 11ft 10ins wide and 5ft 3ins deep.

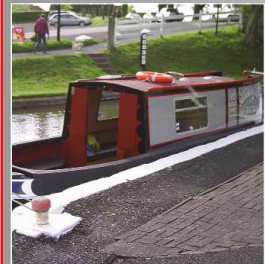
History, engineering, wonderful landscapes, bustling cities and slumbering villages; designer shops and local butchers; concert arenas and real ale pubs with live music; remote and peaceful country moorings and city centre stops – all this just a peaceful cruise away from Norbury Junction.

The canals connect you to more than just the water.

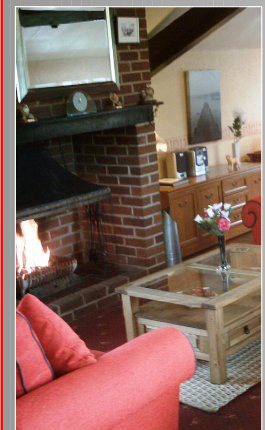


Manchester's Castlefield basin with Bentham Tower above it.

Get afloat and try the fun of boating. Take a trip on Victory, Defiant, Bounty - our day boats for 10 people. You can enjoy up to 17 miles of the beautiful Shropshire Union canal with no locks and 6 pubs!



Or stay ashore in our cosy cottage home from home



Boats for sale



REF: 10325

Tom Sandles
 Superb 57 foot traditional boat built in 2006 by Haywood boat builders and fitted out by Brittan boats. Since then this boat has been extensively refitted, she has had new cooker, new floor, rewired, brand new hand made curtains (cost over £1000) new flushing toilet, new fitted fly screens, new cupboards in the bedroom, new TV cupboard and it comes with the flat screen TV. She is lined out with light oak and the galley is solidly built using hard wood doors and not veneer. Two steel doors at the stern lead in to the engine room which has a 38HP Beta marine engine under the floor.
 There's double bedroom with plenty of storage space, a large bathroom containing a bath with shower over and a spare bedroom that could be converted to a study or office. In the open plan saloon is a feature fire place with a solid fuel stove, then comes the walk-through galley leading out on to the front deck.

Offers in the region of £55,000.00



REF: 10326

Just Sublime
 Just Sublime is a one owner boat from brand new. She is a 62 foot cruiser stern narrow boat built in 2003 by Marine Services of Chirk. She is a six berth boat and in very good condition. The rear cabin which has two separate single beds, then a toilet compartment (pump out toilet) before another bedroom with the choice of either a double bed or two singles. Then comes the shower room with another toilet, before a fixed double bedroom. The U shaped galley leads to the saloon with two fixed bench seats and front double glazed UPVC doors leading out on to the front deck.
 The boat was repainted in 2008, blacked in 2013. She is powered by an Isuzu engine that has only clocked up 2050 hours from new. The rear deck is covered by a pram hood style cover, the boat is generally in very good condition.

Priced very realistically at £34,950



REF 10322

Mydian - 57ft trad stern narrow boat built in 1998 with a 2kw 240v generator attached to the engine.
£25,995



Featured boat

REF 10319

Star boat

Rigal was built by the famous ship builders; who also built the Titanic, Harland and Wolff in 1935 for the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company. She was originally built as a composite (iron sides and wooden bottom) butty boat and was intended to be paired with Dorado.
 Her original butty stern was later removed and a conventional motor boat stern added and her wooden bottom replaced with a steel one.
 In 2005 she had a new back cabin, engine room and "under cloth" conversion constructed out of steel by Barry Hawkins at Atherstone.
 Rigal is presented in the Coronation livery of the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company of 1937. She is powered by a traditional Lister HA2 air-cooled marine diesel engine with Blackstone gearbox.
 Layout from the rear comprises of a traditionally decorated boatman's cabin and engine room. Her main cabin is then fitted out to a very high standard in solid Ash and comprises of a large open plan saloon with solid fuel stove, galley, bathroom and large double bedroom.
 The main cabin has portholes along its length, prisms in the top plank and three sets of side doors. She is heated by a solid fuel stove in the saloon. This boat benefits from a 5kVA onboard diesel generator, fridge, freezer, washing machine, inverter/charger making her an ideal liveaboard or luxury holiday boat. Rigal is licensed until February 2015.

OIRO £49,950



REF 10328

Annie C - 38 foot trad narrow boat built in 1990. The boat has a new Beta engine fitted, having only run for 114 hours.
£11,999



REF 10310

Jenilka - 50 foot traditional stern narrowboat built by Liverpool Boats and professionally fitted out by Classic Interiors.
£26,950

At Last
 A 60ft semi trad built by Cutwater boats in 2003 and powered by a Barrus Shire engine.
 From the rear there is a utility room with a washing machine, then comes the double bedroom with permanent double bed and wardrobes.
 The bathroom, with floor to ceiling tiles, has a bath with shower over, and a pump out toilet.
 The large modern galley with cooker, microwave, 12v fridge leads to a breakfast bar with side opening doors, then comes the large open plan saloon.
 This has a solid fuel fire and front doors lead out on the front deck area. The boat comes with a host of extras, 3KW inverter, cratch cover, rear pram hood cover, solar panels, roof storage



REF 10327

boxes, bow thruster, and makes an ideal live aboard or an extended cruising boat.
£39,500