



A NEW FLEET
FOR A NEW ERA

NARROWBOAT HOLIDAYS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our world, the world of hidden waterways, winding through idyllic countryside and stealing through towns and villages almost unnoticed, like a thief in the night. A world of locks, bridges, tunnels and aqueducts little changed in over 200 years. Travel back in time in your 21st Century floating Tardis with all its modern comforts and conveniences to a more leisurely time, a time where you can stand and stare at the land around you and the sky above as you glide along your water highway. Marvel at the ingenuity and industry of your ancestors who built these canals that have become so much part of the landscape. Ride in the air on high aqueducts and burrow underground through long tunnels or just relax at the tiller to the mesmeric sound of the engine, the heartbeat of your floating home.

A canal holiday is like no other you will ever experience. It is outdoor pursuits with indoor luxury. It is as energetic as you like to make it or as relaxing as you could ever wish. Whether you opt for barbeques at countryside moorings or enjoyable evenings in friendly canal side pubs your boat will take you there. It is the ideal holiday for all ages. Children will really love helping at locks and taking a turn at the tiller (all under supervision of course) while grandparents can just sit and watch the scenery pass by to the gentle lapping of the water beneath the bow. It is a living history lesson in the fresh air instead of some dusty classroom. It is a nature trail where the birds, animals and wild flowers become your everyday companions. It is fascinating, exhilarating and marvellously addictive – welcome to our world.



PRINCE

58FT CRUISER STERN - 2 TO 4 BERTH



GLYNDWR (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

Owain Glyndwr was the last native Welsh person to hold the title Prince of Wales. He was a thorn in the side of the English establishment and was never captured, nor tempted by Royal Pardons and never betrayed. He was last seen in 1412 and, even today, his final years remain a mystery. As you leave Chirk Marina heading towards Chirk Tunnel you will come to a large winding hole. This used to be the transhipment wharf linking with the Glyn Valley Tramway. As Dwr is Welsh for water, the name Glyndwr is a "play on words".



CASTLE

58FT CRUISER STERN - 4 BERTH + 2



CHIRK (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

Above the Marina and the Golf Club you will find the 700 year old Chirk Castle that has been the home of the Myddelton family since the mid 16th century. It is doubly fitting that one of our boats carries the name of this ancient family seat as it is their crest that we proudly display on all our boats with the approval of Mr Guy Myddelton making the fleet unique amongst UK hire boats.

DINAS BRAN (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

The picturesque ruin high on the hill above Llangollen is a Welsh fortress dating back to the 12th century with many a romantic tale attached

to its relatively short life. It is rumoured that (in addition to its Arthurian connections) the Welsh Princess Myfanwy Fychan once lived behind its high walls and though wooed by her poet and troubadour Hywel ab Einion she spurned his advances for another with more knightly prospects leaving the heartbroken Hywel to wander the hills and valleys alone. The world famous song Myfanwy is said to be based on this legendary princess.

HARECASTLE (BASED AT FESTIVAL PARK)

Until the opening of the Standedge Tunnel over the Pennines the Harecastle, just a half hour

cruise from our Etruria base, was the longest navigable tunnel on the canal system. It still holds its own fascination as one of the wonders of the waterways. Although there were two tunnels, the first by James Brindley, it is Thomas Telford's Tunnel that you now cruise today, and it still remains as another tribute to this amazing Scottish engineer's talents. Tales of ghosts used to abound amongst the old working boatmen who plied their trade along this stretch of canal. However, the only ghostly sounds you are likely to hear today are made by the voices of the crews of the many boats that echo their way through the darkness.



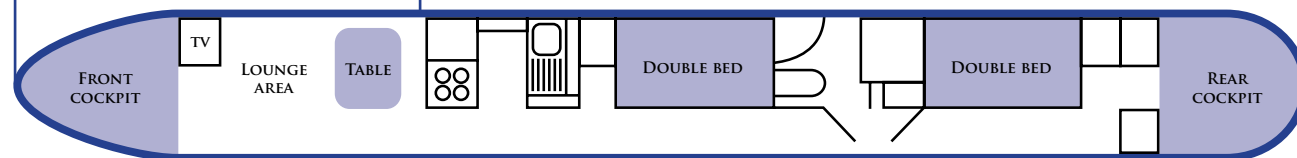
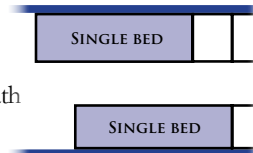
INFO

Type: Cruiser Stern
Showers: 1
Guests: 4
Location: Chirk
Length: 58' and 0"
Beds: 2 Doubles OR 1 Double and 2 Singles

Toilets: 1
Pets: Yes

WHAT'S ON THE BOAT

Double Glazed front windows. Double beds 6'3" x 4', single beds 6'3" x 2' with interior sprung mattresses Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard. Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas). Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD player. Full size shower, 140 gallon stainless steel water tank. 4-ring gas cooker, oven and grill. Electric Fridge with freezer compartment. 12v cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders. Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. 240v hairdryer. All bedding will be supplied along with bath towels, kitchen utensils and cleaning provisions.



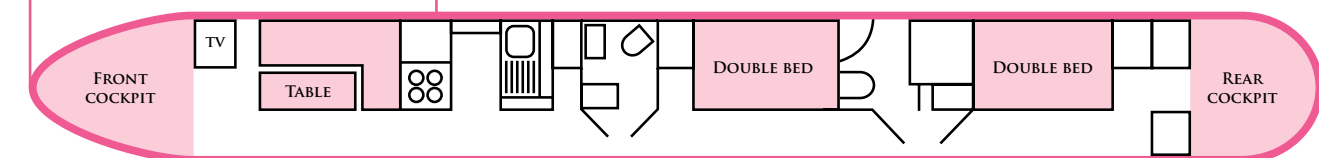
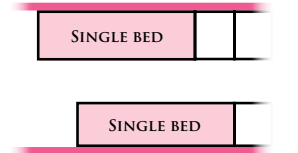
INFO

Type: Cruiser Stern
Showers: 1
Guests: 6
Location: Chirk and Festival Park
Length: 58' and 0"
Beds: 2 Doubles OR 1 Double and 2 Singles with occasional beds in lounge

Toilets: 2
Pets: Yes

WHAT'S ON THE BOAT

Double Glazed front windows. Double beds 6'3" x 4', single beds 6'3" x 2' with interior sprung mattresses. Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard. Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas). Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD player. Full size shower, 140 gallon stainless steel water tank. 4-ring gas cooker, oven and grill. Electric Fridge with freezer compartment. 12v cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders. Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. 240v hairdryer. All bedding will be supplied along with bath towels, kitchen utensils and cleaning provisions.



QUEEN

62FT CRUISER STERN - 6 BERTH + 2



MARY (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

Though only two Queens of this name who have ascended to the throne the impact they made during their reigns was significant. There was also the ill fated, and in some ways much more charismatic Mary Queen of Scots who died by order of her English sister Queen Elizabeth.

However the boat is also named in memory of another wonderful lady named Mary who was known affectionately by her family and friends as "Blossom".



HERITAGE

69FT SEMI-TRAD STERN - 6 BERTH + 2



PONTCYSYLTE (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

This is one of the most famous names on the UK canal system. The World Heritage Status granted to this 126 feet high and 1007 feet long aqueduct (just one hours cruising from our Chirk base), has made the area even more popular. To cross the towering 200 year old structure is an unmissable and unique experience akin to floating on air. It was designed by Thomas Telford and, according to recent historians, had more than a passing input from another great canal engineer, William Jessop.

SPODE (BASED AT FESTIVAL PARK)

Three generations of this World renowned pottery family have made their famous products for nearly 250 years at the factory that still exists in Stoke and was founded in 1762 by Josiah Spode. Another famous pottery, Portmeirion bought Spode from the administrators in 2009 so ensuring the continuance of this historic name. The factory is well worth a visit to pick up a souvenir of your time cruising the Trent & Mersey Canal and is a short walk from the bottom of the Stoke locks.

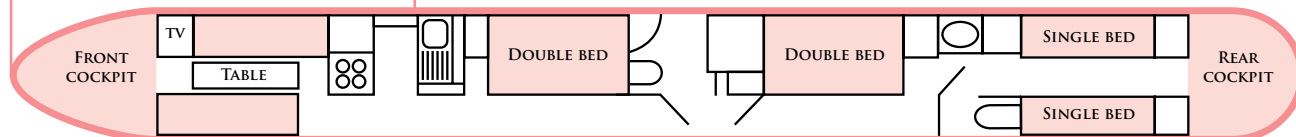
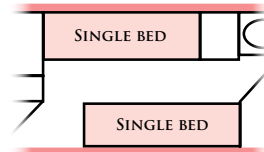


INFO

Type: Cruiser Stern
Showers: 1
Guests: 8
Location: Chirk
Length: 62' and 0"
Beds: 1 Double and 4 Singles OR 2 Doubles and 2 Singles. Each with occasional beds in lounge

WHAT'S ON THE BOAT

Double Glazed front windows. Double beds 6'3" x 4', single beds 6'3" x 2' with interior sprung mattresses. Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard. Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas). Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD player. Full size shower, 140 gallon stainless steel water tank. 4-ring gas cooker, oven and grill. Electric Fridge with freezer compartment. 12v cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders. Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. All bedding will be supplied along with bath towels, kitchen utensils and cleaning provisions.

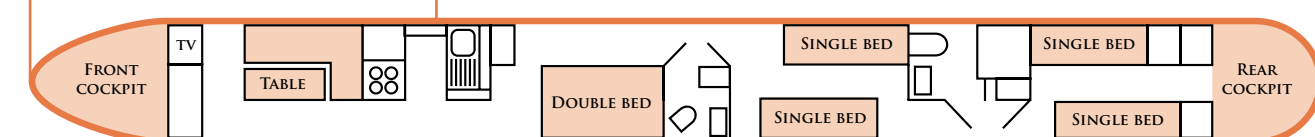


INFO

Type: Semi Traditional Stern
Toilets: 2
Pets: Yes
Location: Chirk and Festival Park
Length: 69' and 0"
Beds: 6 Singles OR 1 Doubles and 4 Singles OR 2 Doubles and 2 Singles OR 3 Doubles. Each with occasional beds in lounge

WHAT'S ON THE BOAT

Double Glazed front windows. Double beds 6'3" x 4', single beds 6'3" x 2' with interior sprung mattresses. Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard. Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas). Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD player. Full size shower, 140 gallon stainless steel water tank. 4-ring gas cooker, oven and grill. Electric Fridge with freezer compartment. 12v cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders. Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. 240v hairdryer and microwave. All bedding will be supplied along with bath towels, kitchen utensils and cleaning provisions.



KING

70FT CRUISER STERN - 8 BERTH + 2



ARTHUR (BASED AT CHIRK MARINA)

Everyone is familiar with the legend of King Arthur and his Round Table, but some recent scholars have linked the famed Camelot to various Celtic sites around Wales including Castell Dinas Bran, on the hill towering above Llangollen. Therefore a very apt name we feel because of this local connection.



CHIRK BASE

The majority of our boats are based in Chirk Marina on the beautiful Llangollen Canal. Chirk is dominated by the ancient Castle on the hill, the seat of the Myddelton family since the sixteenth century, and we are both honoured and privileged to have the exclusive right to display the Myddelton family Coat of Arms on our boats. Chirk is also in the middle of the 11 mile canal corridor granted World Heritage status by U.N.E.S.C.O. in July 2009, only the third site in Wales to achieve this status and putting it on an equal footing with such iconic structures as the Taj Mahal and Statue of Liberty. This site encompasses the majestic and unique Pontcysyllte Aqueduct completed in 1805, the masterpiece of engineer Thomas Telford rising, at its highest point, 126 feet above the River Dee.



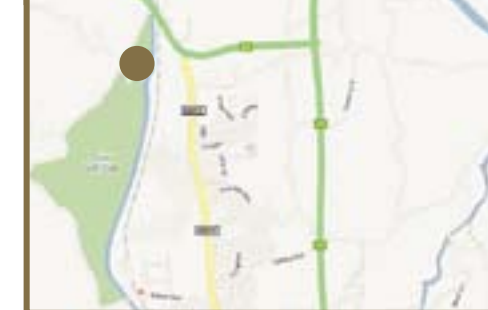
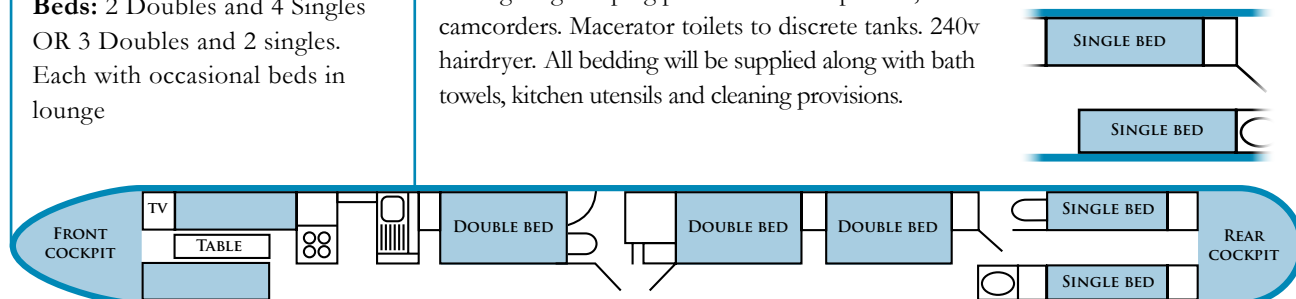
INFO

Type: Cruiser Stern
Showers: 1
Guests: 10
Location: Chirk
Length: 70' and 0"
Beds: 2 Doubles and 4 Singles
OR 3 Doubles and 2 singles.
Each with occasional beds in lounge

Toilets: 2
Pets: Yes

WHAT'S ON THE BOAT

Double Glazed front windows. Double beds 6'3" x 4', single beds 6'3" x 2' with interior sprung mattresses. Full central heating with radiators and airing cupboard. Carpeted throughout (Except kitchen and bathroom areas). Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD player. Full size shower, 140 gallon stainless steel water tank. 4-ring gas cooker, oven and grill. Electric Fridge with freezer compartment. 12v cigar lighter plug point for mobile phones, camcorders. Macerator toilets to discrete tanks. 240v hairdryer. All bedding will be supplied along with bath towels, kitchen utensils and cleaning provisions.



FESTIVAL PARK

Our other base at Festival Park Marina Etruria in the middle of the historic Potteries offers you no less a choice of history and dramatic scenery situated, as it is, on Brindley's Trent & Mersey Canal. The routes available can take you through 4 of the most scenic counties in England, the 4 Counties Ring, or an equally memorable trip through Cheshire on the Cheshire Ring and for the less adventurous a leisurely "potter" along the lovely Macclesfield Canal, or the secluded Churnett Valley of the Caldon Canal. Also well within a days cruising you will be able to visit the Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston, a real must see housed in its £10 million state of the art building opened in October 2008 that has been declared winner of the UK's biggest single arts award, the Arts Fund Prize.



ROUTES

The Llangollen Canal unarguably has a lot to offer both first time and regular holidaymakers. It meanders gracefully through the beautiful countryside where the world famous “stream in the sky” – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct spans the Dee Valley, such a feat of engineering is sure to snatch your breath away!

There is a variety of routes available from Festival Park, with the Cheshire Ring and the Four Counties Ring being the most popular. You can exchange the contrasting landscapes of the Potteries, Royal Doulton, Cheddleton Mill and Wedgwood industries for the peace and tranquility of the Llangollen Canal.

As well as offering week long holidays, we can also offer you fantastic short-breaks, a perfect way to sample life on the waterways for the first time or ideal if you can only spare 2 or 3 days. On a short-break from our Chirk base you can cross the mighty Pontcysyllte aqueduct and cruise into the picturesque valley town of Llangollen. Or, setting off from Festival Park you can journey along the beautiful Caldon Canal and discover some of Staffordshire’s hidden wonders en route.



ROUTES FROM CHIRK

1. LLANGOLLEN AND WHITCHURCH – 57 Miles, 4 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

A very pleasant and easy route. Traveling first to Llangollen you cross the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct 120 feet above the River Dee. After this the canal perches on the side of the lovely Dee Valley up to Llangollen itself.

2. LLANGOLLEN CANAL – 88 Miles, 42 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

About 40 hours. A trip along the full length of this lovely canal. Traveling towards Hurlleston you cross the Chirk Aqueduct and down the first two locks. After passing Ellesmere and its lakes, you come to the less hilly Whixall Moss to Whitchurch.

3. CHESTER AND RETURN – 115 Miles, 70 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

An arduous route, you should not be disappointed if you do not reach Chester. Traveling down the canal you go through the towns of Ellesmere and Whitchurch to Grindley Brook with its three locks in a staircase.

ROUTES FROM FESTIVAL PARK

1. CALDON & LEEK CANALS – 43 Miles, 34 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

An easy week down on one of the most beautiful and quiet canals of them all. From the junction near the marina, you progress up some locks to the outskirts of Stoke via factories and parks.

2. FOUR COUNTIES RING – 110 Miles, 94 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

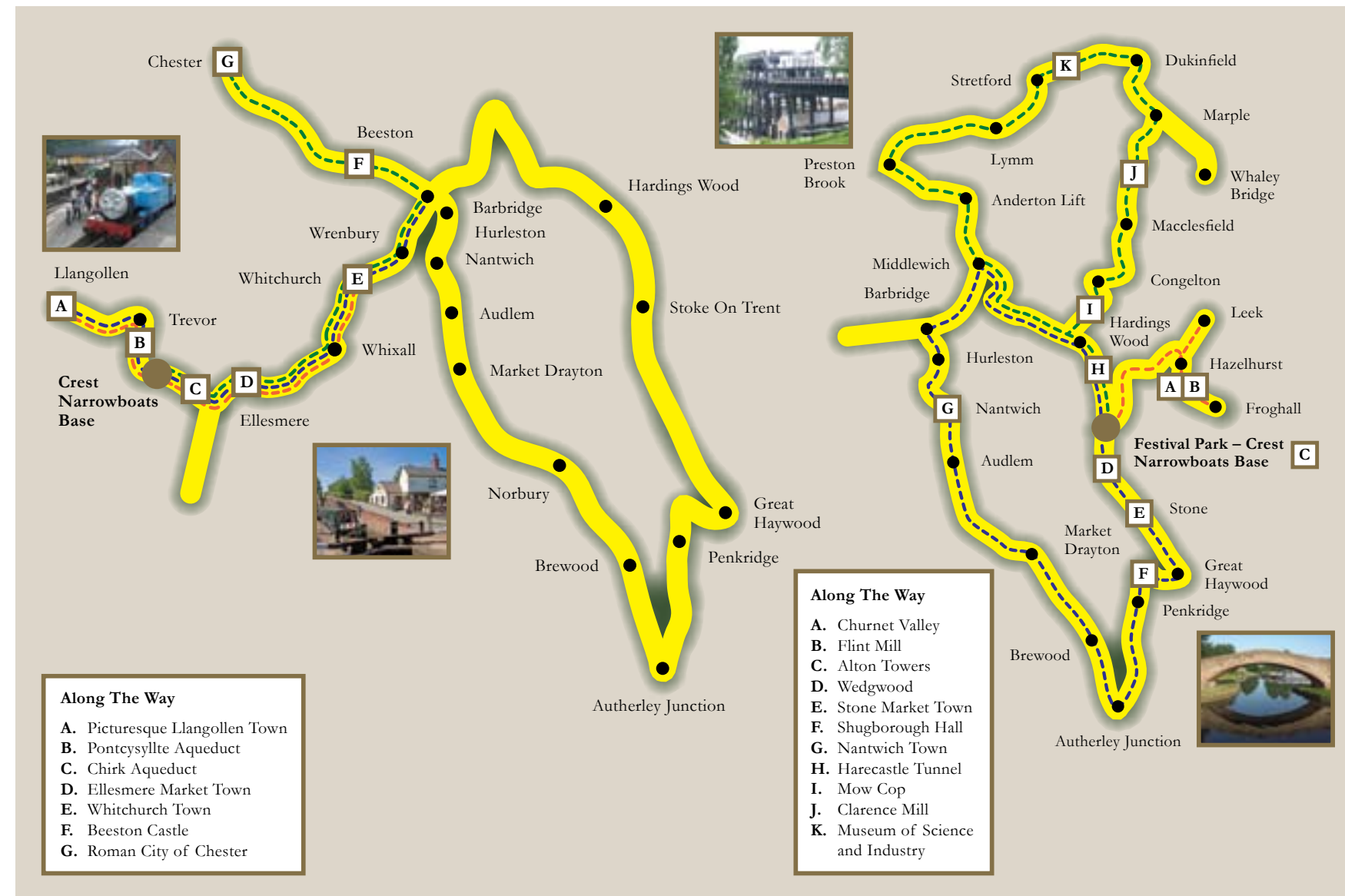
More strenuous, you travel southwards from the Marina past the Wedgwood factory through the canal town of Stone to Great Haywood, where you meet the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Traveling westwards you join the Shropshire Union at Atherley.

3. CHESHIRE RING – 102 Miles, 93 Locks, 1 Week Cruise

Another more strenuous route; you travel northwards through the Harecastle tunnel and join the Macclesfield via a fly-over. This is a lovely canal through Congleton, Macclesfield and Marple to Manchester.

CHIRK ROUTE MAP

FESTIVAL PARK MAP



For bookings, please call 01691 774558 or visit www.crestnarrowboats.co.uk for more details.





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