

THE GRAND UNION CANAL, WEST LONDON

MY LOCAL CANAL

OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

It's quality time
with my family



**British
Waterways**

Looking after your canals and rivers

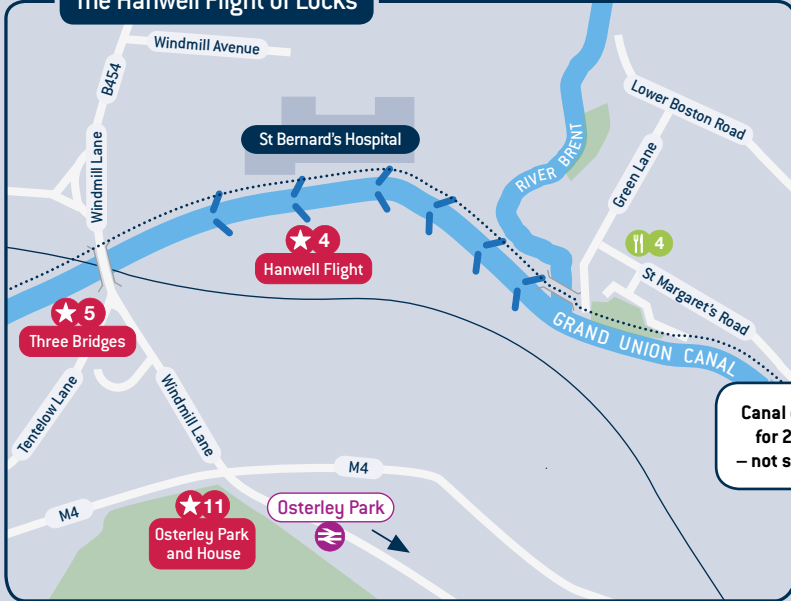
Yours to enjoy anytime

Find your nearest canal at waterscape.com

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

The Grand Union Canal

The Hanwell Flight of Locks



Brentford Lock & Basin



Canal continues for 2.5 miles – not shown here

Key

- Canal
- Towpaths
- Information
- Lock
- Railway Station
- Pub, Restaurant or Café
- Bridge
- Tube Station
- Place of Interest

For further information please contact
 British Waterways, 1 Sheldon Square,
 Paddington, London W2 6TT.
 Tel: 020 7985 7200
 E-mail: enquiries.london@britishwaterways.co.uk
 British Waterways Customer Service Centre.
 Tel: 01923 201120

Find local area canal and river maps at
www.waterscape.com/map



Brentford and Hanwell's Waterways

Water is at the heart of West London. There's a wealth of waterway heritage to discover in Brentford and neighbouring Hanwell as you tread the towpaths, ramble along the riverside and walk by the water.

The famous industrial engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel put his mark on the area by creating the Grand Junction Canal, now called the Grand Union Canal. Brentford is the gateway to the Grand Union Canal that winds its way along a 137-mile course all

the way to Birmingham. From 1805 the canal was used as the motorway of its day, transporting goods and raw materials as the Industrial Revolution took hold. Now the dramatic feats of engineering, such as the Hanwell Flight of Locks, are used as a leisure resource, as places to walk, cycle and to spot wildlife or to cruise along. The waterway factories and warehouses have been replaced by green spaces, places to eat and drink or simply a haven to watch the world go by.

New life for Brentford Lock West

An 11 acre site at Brentford Lock West is currently being redeveloped, bringing the area back to life. Some of the current buildings will be demolished during 2010, leaving space for temporary projects. If you have ideas for creative uses of the site please visit the website www.brentfordlockwest.com or email info@brentfordlockwest.com



Key canal sites



1 Thames Lock and Brentford Dock

To see a piece of working waterway, head down to Thames Lock and the Dock beside it. Boats and barges travel to the boatyard to be fixed up and checked out before they continue their travels around the waterways. The large electric lock is manned by a British Waterways lock keeper whose job it is to see boats safely through the structure and on their way up the canal or out onto the Thames. You could catch a boat passing by before you set off north along the towpath to Brentford Basin.



2 Brentford Gauging Locks and Basin

The locks here were once used to 'gauge' the amount of cargo being carried by craft hoping to cross the country on the Grand Union Canal and the toll required to use it calculated and charged. For this the small toll house was used. Today, the basin is a picturesque hub with shops and eateries sitting alongside homes



3 Gallows Bridge

This iconic black and white iron footbridge is notable for its physical appeal as it gracefully curves across the navigation, as well as its impressive lineage. Attributed to the famous industrial era engineer, Thomas Telford, the structure is a delightful reminder of the waterway's working past as well as a handy crossing point. The steeply sloping sides provide an interesting challenge to the unsuspecting jogger.



4 Hanwell Flight of Locks

This ancient scheduled monument is the jewel in the crown of West London's waterways. The series of six locks which raises the canal by 53ft in a third of a mile makes for a fascinating landscape to look

Where to eat and drink



1 Grounds Café

Overlooking the water at Brentford Basin, there's no better place to watch the watery world go by than this excellent café and coffee bar.

Unit 1, Brentford Lock, High Street,
Brentford TW8 8JZ
Tel: 020 8847 5777



2 The Weir Bar and Dining Room

With a large garden running down to the water's edge, this stylish gastro-pub offers a warm welcome on Brentford High Street.

22 – 24 Market Place, Brentford TW8 8EQ
Tel: 020 8568 3600



3 Watermans

As if the waterside location and varied programme at this excellent arts space weren't enough, the café and restaurant should satisfy all appetites!

40 High Street, Brentford TW8 0DS
Tel: 020 8232 1010



4 The Fox, Hanwell

This friendly pub serving food a step away from the towpath is well worth seeking out. Pop in to hang out in the garden in summer months or hunker down in the cosy bar when winter sets in.

Green Lane, Hanwell, London W7 2PJ
Tel: 020 8567 3912



5 Open House Café

at St. Paul's Church and Parish Centre. Find food for the body and soul with fresh, healthy fare at this friendly parish centre at the heart of the community. Open daily 11am – 2pm.

The Parish Office, St Paul's Church,
St Paul's Road, Brentford TW8 0PN
Tel: 020 8568 7442



6 The Royal, Harvester pub and restaurant

A short walk from the waterside, wander to this pub, which is part of the well-known national chain, for its traditional menu and family friendly atmosphere.

Boston Manor Road, Hanwell, London W7 2AX
Tel: 020 8567 3711



5 Three Bridges by Brunel

While at first sight this may not strike you as a particularly fascinating feat of engineering, look a little closer and you can see how this structure is made up of a canal crossing a railway, being crossed by a road. The combination of all three of these pieces of infrastructure intersecting at one point makes this, particularly for its time, a real wonder of the waterways. It was also one of the last structures built by Brunel – one of the foremost figures of England's Industrial Revolution – and is deservedly admired by enthusiasts the world over.



Just off the towpath

★ 6 Kew Bridge Steam Museum

It's hard to miss the impressive tower of the historic water supply building, which now houses the Kew Bridge Steam Museum. Inside you'll find a magnificent collection of steam pumping engines, which tell the incredible story of how steam power changed the world.

*Kew Bridge Steam Museum,
Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0EN
Tel: 020 8568 4757
www.kbsm.org*

★ 7 The Musical Museum

From the talented to the tone deaf, whatever your musical skills this fascinating museum has something for everyone. With an incredible array of instruments from the 'Mighty Wurlitzer' to the tiny clockwork Musical box, a busy programme of concerts and temporary exhibitions as well as a museum café it's well worth a visit.

*399 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0DU
Tel: 020 8560 8108
www.musicalmuseum.co.uk*

★ 8 Watermans

Combining an exhibition space, cinema, theatre, café and bar, this riverside centre is a really exciting waterside stop. Find details of upcoming events on their web pages.

*40 High Street, Brentford TW8 0DS
Tel: 020 8232 1010
www.watermans.org.uk*

★ 9 Syon Park and House

A short walk from Brentford Lock and Basin, this stately home of the Duke of Northumberland is an impressive estate. The beautifully landscaped grounds sweep up from the banks of the Thames to the house whose elegant façade hints at the breathtaking interiors inside. With a flourishing garden centre and café, London Tropical Zoo, children's activity centre and great conservatory among the other attractions also on this site, it's well worth a detour from the towpath.

*Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 8JF
Tel: 020 8560 0882
www.syonpark.co.uk*



★ 10 Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

This UNESCO world heritage site is one of South West London's most unforgettable attractions. The 300 acre site shows off their incredible collection of specimens, beautifully landscaped grounds, museum, wildlife areas, glasshouses, formal gardens, restaurants, cafés and much more.

*Royal Botanic Gardens,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB
Tel: 020 8332 5655
www.kew.org*

★ 11 Osterley Park and House

This National Trust property is a lovely site in which to while away an afternoon in West London. As the drive curves around the landscaped lake and grounds, the beautiful neo-classical house comes into view and you'll wish you were staying forever! With lots to see and do in the property and around the grounds, including a tea room, gift and farm shop and events throughout the year, you're sure to have an unforgettable visit.

*Osterley Park and House,
Jersey Road, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 4RB
Tel: 020 8232 5050
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley*

More ways to take to the water

Elsdale II – West London floating classroom

Available for private hire when its schools and community commitments allow, this exciting electric wide beamed barge is a spectacular venue for up to 60 people from which to survey the scenic sights of West London's waterways.

Tel: 01895 839 849 www.elsdale.co.uk

Thames River Adventures

Take to the water by canoe or kayak, as part of an organised tour with fully qualified guides. Thames River Adventures offer both river and canal packages, and offer a unique view of London from the water.

www.thamesriveradventures.co.uk

The way forward for walkers

Walking is a wonderful way to see the waterways of West London. The Grand Union Canal offers everything from a short cut to work, a more pleasant route to the station and a green running circuit. If you have more time to spare, you will find that it is a fantastic part of several circular walks that could easily entertain you and your friends and family for a half-day or more if you visit one of the canalside eateries or visitor attractions.

Download the dedicated walking leaflets for the local area: Walking in Brentford and Syon Park and Walking in Hanwell free at www.waterscape.com or call British Waterways London on 020 7985 7200 to request a copy.

More information on walking in the local area including group and guided walks can be found from:

*Hounslow Heritage Guides, Tel: 020 8230 8583
www.hounslow-heritage.org.uk*

*Walk London, Tel: 0870 240 6094
www.walklondon.org.uk*



Wizzbike

Brentford is a wonderful base for exploring the canal and the nearby River Thames by bike. You can hire bikes, or pick up spares and cycling provisions, from WizzBiKE, close to the gauging locks in Brentford High Street. A larger facility is available from Thames Cycle Hire, under Richmond Bridge.

WizzBiKE

*113 – 114 Brentford High Street,
Brentford TW8 8AT
Tel: 0208 326 2819*

info@wizzbike.com; www.wizzbike.com

*Thames Cycle Hire
Tel: 0208 948 8270*

*info@thamescyclehire.com
www.thamescyclehire.com*

*Both facilities are open 7 days a week, 9 – 6
and 11 – 5 on Sundays and Bank Holidays.*

*20% discount is available for hire of
two or more bikes.*

Angling around West London

Angling is one of the many leisure activities that 'reel' people in to canals and rivers. Get a permit from British Waterways (just £20 for adults, £10 for concessions) and see if you could fall hook line and sinker for this popular waterside pursuit.

For fishing on the Grand Union Canal between Brentford Lock and Thames Lock contact Barnes and Mortlake Angling Society, Tel: 020 8741 1755

Wildlife around the waterway

The Hanwell Flight, and the waterway that stretches south from it, hosts some of London's best natural environments. This green corridor is a tree-lined haven for kingfishers who dive for the small fish which inhabit the underwater world. During the summer months dragonflies and damselflies emerge as gorgeous winged creatures and are an ever fascinating waterside sight. Download a wildlife guide and set out to see if you can be an otter spotter or a kingfisher counter at www.waterscape.com/wildlifesurvey

Cycling with consideration

Saddling up and setting off on the towpath by bike is an increasingly popular pursuit across London. It's important that cyclists travel with caution and consideration for other users alongside canals and rivers. British Waterways' Two Tings campaign identifies a code of conduct for everyone to adhere to. So make sure you review the rules before you set off to enjoy the waterway sights from the comfort of your saddle.



Visit: www.waterscape.com/twotings



Canalside events

Walking events with Hounslow Heritage Guides

With a busy and varied programme of guided walks led by extremely knowledgeable local historians throughout the year, stretching your legs has never been so stimulating. Walks cost £2 per person.

Find the latest schedule on their web pages.

Tel: 020 8230 8583

www.hounslow-heritage.org.uk

Osterley Day

Sunday 27 June, 12 – 5pm

Osterley's community fun day returns, packed with free activities and entertainment for all the family. Music and dance, Art in the Park, face painting, craft activities and much more.

Free. No booking required.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley

Wild Child at Osterley

Thursday 29 July, Thursday 5 August,
Thursday 12 August, Thursday 19 August,
Thursday 26 August
1 – 4pm

Free nature and wildlife themed activities for families in the Park.

Free. No booking required.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley

London Open City Weekend on the Hanwell Flight

This annual event sees local members of the Inland Waterways Association share their knowledge and enthusiasm for this historic structure with a series of free guided walks around the site.

18 – 19 September 2010

Hanwell Flight, Grand Union Canal

Find out more at www.londonopenhouse.org



www.wow4water.net/kids

WOW stands for 'Wild Over Waterways'. The wow4water website is an educational resource full of fun activities for children that help them to learn more about the history and wildlife of canals and rivers, and about water safety. It also gives advice to teachers and youth leaders planning a visit to the canal.