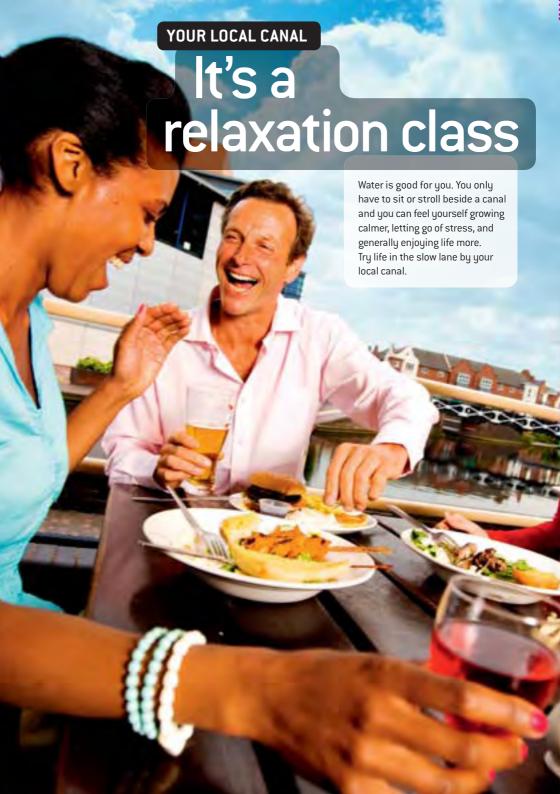


British Waterways Find your nearest canal at waterscape.com



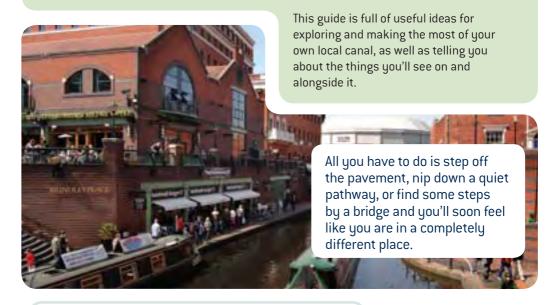






# Your local canal: it's yours to enjoy every day

A canal is not just a length of water. It's your escape route to another hidden world, and the best thing about it is it's right next to the noisy, busy world you're in now. All you have to do is step off the pavement, nip down a quiet pathway, or find some steps by a bridge, and you'll soon be in a completely different place. A place for a pleasant stroll or cycle, for wildlife spotting, al fresco dining and so much more.



# Ditch the pavement, try the towpath

Whether you're walking to work, to school, alone, or with your dog, there's something about walking by the canal that's more relaxing than walking anywhere else.

It's peaceful, there's always plenty to see — from wildlife to narrowboats — and if you stick to the towpath you can't get lost! As well as your daily walking routes, www.waterscape.com/walking has a great selection of walks for those that fancy a longer breath of fresh air or some gentle exercise.



#### www.wow4water.net/kids

WOW stands for 'Wild Over Waterways'. The wow4water website is an educational resource, full of fun activities for children, as well as downloadable maps and trails for local canals. These help children learn more about the history and wildlife of canals and rivers, and about water safety too.

# Things to do

You can think of Birmingham's canals as a nature reserve in the centre of the city. The combination of water, greenery and relative peace and quiet makes the canals and their banks a haven for wildlife - though you may have to be up and about early in the morning if you want to spot it.

Look out for house sparrows, blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, pied wagtails, grey wagtails, black redstarts and kingfishers.

#### Stepping out

With so many canals winding their way through Birmingham, you can follow plenty of walking routes and hardly ever retrace your steps. Having plenty to see and do – from narrowboat spotting to feeding the ducks - the canals are a great place for family walks. A central Birmingham trail for children can be found at www wow4water net

#### Where to cycle

Canals make a good starting point for a quick cycle getaway out of the city, although some central areas are a little bit busy for cycling along the towpath. For more information on cycle routes in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton visit www.waterscape.com/cycling

#### Access for all

Birmingham's central canals offer more access for disabled visitors than canals in more rural areas. However, canals, towpaths and bridges are historic structures, and by their nature may be unsuitable for disabled access.

The British Waterways Visitor Information Centre at Cambrian Wharf is fully accessible to disabled visitors. There are also wheelchair accessible moorings at Gas Street and Tindal Bridge.

# Canal events 2008

#### Tours through the subterranean world beneath Dudley

Throughout May, June, July, August

#### Black Country Living Museum, Dudley Half-term activities 24 May - 1 June

'More canals than Venice' walks, Birmingham 14 & 21 June, 5, 19, 26 July, 2 & 9 August

#### **Bratch Gala weekend**

14 & 15 June

### Brownhills 5th annual canal festival

24 June

#### Dragonboat races, Birmingham

28 June

#### Celebrating 150 years of Victorian engineering, Netherton

2 & 3 July, 2 & 3 August

#### Rosie's walk & festival, Aldridge 13 July

IWA National Black Country Festival, Pendeford

#### Heritage working boats open weekend, **Hatton Locks**

24 & 25 August

23 to 25 August

#### Flow festival, Stourport

12 & 13 July

Full details of events taking place on or by local canals can be found in the 2008 West Midlands Canalside Events leaflet downloadable from www.waterscape.com/westmidlandsevents or by emailing enquiries.westmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk

## West Midlands canals

You'll find something to look at, something to interest you or something fun to do along almost every mile of the canals at the heart of England. We've chosen three great locations to give you an idea of the enormous variety the canals offer, from the vibrant urban to the quietly rural.

# Central Birmingham

Once the lifeblood of an industrial age, the canals of Birmingham are now both a haven of tranquility and a focal point for cosmopolitan life.

# Just off the towpath

Ideal for a visit in all weathers, Brindleyplace lies just off the New Main Line Canal and only a short walk from the Worcester & Birmingham Canal. This is where you will find the National Sealife Centre and the Ikon Gallery, as well as cafés, bars and restaurants.



The Worcester & Birmingham Canal is an easy way to reach the Bullring's 140 shops, or The Mailbox – which includes Harvey Nichols amongst its retail attractions.

Jewellery Quarter

Leave the canal at Lock 11 of the Farmers Bridge flight, Ludgate Hill, and you're only a short walk from the diamonds and pearls of the famous Jewellery Quarter.

#### **Gas Street Basin**

Named because it was the first place in Birmingham to be lit by gaslights, Gas Street Basin was a busy canal terminal for the loading and unloading of coal, glass and chocolate crumb. It lies mostly on the New

Main Line Canal – built by Thomas Telford to cut seven miles off the journey from Birmingham to Wolverhampton. The Basin is still bustling, but now as the heart of the city's modern regeneration.

# Take to the water

There are a number of trip boats in central Birmingham:

Away2dine

Worcester Bar Basin, Gas Street, Birmingham B1 2JU Tel: 0845 644 5244

6 Sherborne Wharf Heritage Narrowboats

Sherborne Wharf, Sherborne Street, Birmingham B16 8DE Tel: 0121 455 6163



## Where to eat & drink

The Water's Edge,

Brindleyplace B1 2JB Tel: 0121 665 6542

Floating Coffee Company

Narrowboat George The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace B1 2JU Tel: 0121 633 0050

35 Worcester Bar, 6as Street Tel: 0121 248 7979

3 Canalside Café Canalside Cottage

Regency Wharf Tel: 0121 643 2111

1 5 James Brindley 12 Bridge Street

Tel: 0121 644 5971

Pitcher & Piano The Water's Edge Brindleyplace Tel: 0121 633 4171 Slug & Lettuce

The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace 66 Broad Street B1 2HL Tel: 0121 633 3049

The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace Tel: 0121 633 3049

The Malt House

75 King Edwards Road, Brindleyplace Tel: 0121 633 4171

More waterside pubs and restaurants can be found at www.waterscape.com/pubs

## When you visit the canal make use of these great voucher offers

# 1 free child place with each full paying adult



## National Sealife Centre Tel: 0871 716 2612

Terms & Conditions This voucher is valid for one free child admission when accompanied by a full paying adult. This voucher is valid until 31/12/08. Voucher valid at Sealife Centre Birmingham only. This offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer, promotion, fast track entry, tickets purchased on-line, pre-paid tickets or voucher. This voucher has no cash value, is non refundable and non exchangeable. Photocopies are not accepted. This vouche is not for re-sale. This voucher is not valid for entry at Chessington World of Adventure. SEA LIFE/Sanctuaries reserves the right to alter exhibits without prior notice. SEA LIFE/Sanctuaries reserve the right to refuse entry without explanation. (BRITISHW08)



## Voucher valid until 31.12.08

# **Fradley Junction**

This is where the Trent & Mersey and Coventry Canals meet. Its picturesque location, lively atmosphere, and ongoing programme of events for families make it a favourite place to visit all year round.

# Key canal sites

#### Fradley Junction

Fradley Junction is the meeting point of the Trent & Mersey and Coventry Canals. Its picturesque location, nature reserve, canalside café, gift shop and information centre, make it perfect for walks, children's activities and events. A children's wildlife detective pack is available from the visitor centre.

Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 7DN. Signposted off A38. Tel 01827 252 000

A walk on the wild side

Fradley Pool is an award-winning nature reserve.

It is also in the British Waterways' Top Ten places

to spot wildlife, so you're bound to see something

interesting. Just keep your eyes open! The reserve

has a bird hide, pond dipping platforms by the pool

There are four leisurely circular walks around Fradley

Junction, taking in towpaths and public footpaths through fields, with some sections on roads. For details

please visit www.waterscape.com/fradleywalks

#### Where to eat & drink

Canalside Café and British Waterways Visitor Centre

For light refreshments, cakes, drinks and the famous Staffordshire oatcake. Location as left. Tel: 01827 252 247

Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton-on-Trent Staffordshire DE13 7DN Tel: 01283 790 330

National Cycle Route 54 – from Stourport to Dudley and on to Matlock – passes close by Fradley Junction. For details please visit www.sustrans.org.uk

The trail around Fradley Pool Nature Reserve, including the pond dipping platforms, is fully wheelchair-accessible. (Wheelchair loan is available.) There are ample disabled parking spaces.



# Hatton Locks

and tree sculptures.

Originally built to link the industrialised Midlands with London, the canal from Warwick to Birmingham features a steep series of 21 locks at Hatton, carrying it out of the Avon Valley, fondly known as the stairway to heaven by the boating community.

## A walk on the wild side

The interpretive Nature Trail around Hatton Locks features six wildlife markers, positioned at specific locations, to help you spot the wide variety of wildlife to be found in the area.

There are three circular walks around Hatton Locks, which take in towpaths, public footpaths through fields, and some roads. You can follow the routes from the Hatton Circular Walks leaflet (available from the café or www.waterscape.com), or combine walks to create your own route.

### Where to fish

Course fishing is available at nearby Blythe Waters 10 miles from Hatton Locks for further details contact enquiries.westmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk

# Access for all

The café is accessible for wheelchairs.

Many interpretive displays are tactile, to help visually impaired visitors, and promotional literature is available in text-only format, downloadable via www.waterscape.com



### Where to eat & drink

112 The Waterman Canalside Pub & Restaurant

Birmingham Road, Hatton Warwickshire CV35 7JJ Tel: 01926 492 427

13 Hatton Locks Café

Canal Lane, Hatton, Warwickshire CV35 7JL. The café was once the stables for the horses which pulled the barges. Tel: 01926 409 432

# 10% off the total bill

at Handmade Burger Company

handmade burger Co

Our award-winning, family friendly restaurant is open seven days a week

Terms & Conditions Voucher valid until 31st August 08. Management reserve the right to refuse voucher for any reason. Photocopies of voucher will not be accepted

Voucher valid until 31.08.08. Valid at Handmade Burger Co, Brindleyplace Birmingham.

# One free bottle of house wine

between two people at Away2dine Away2dine

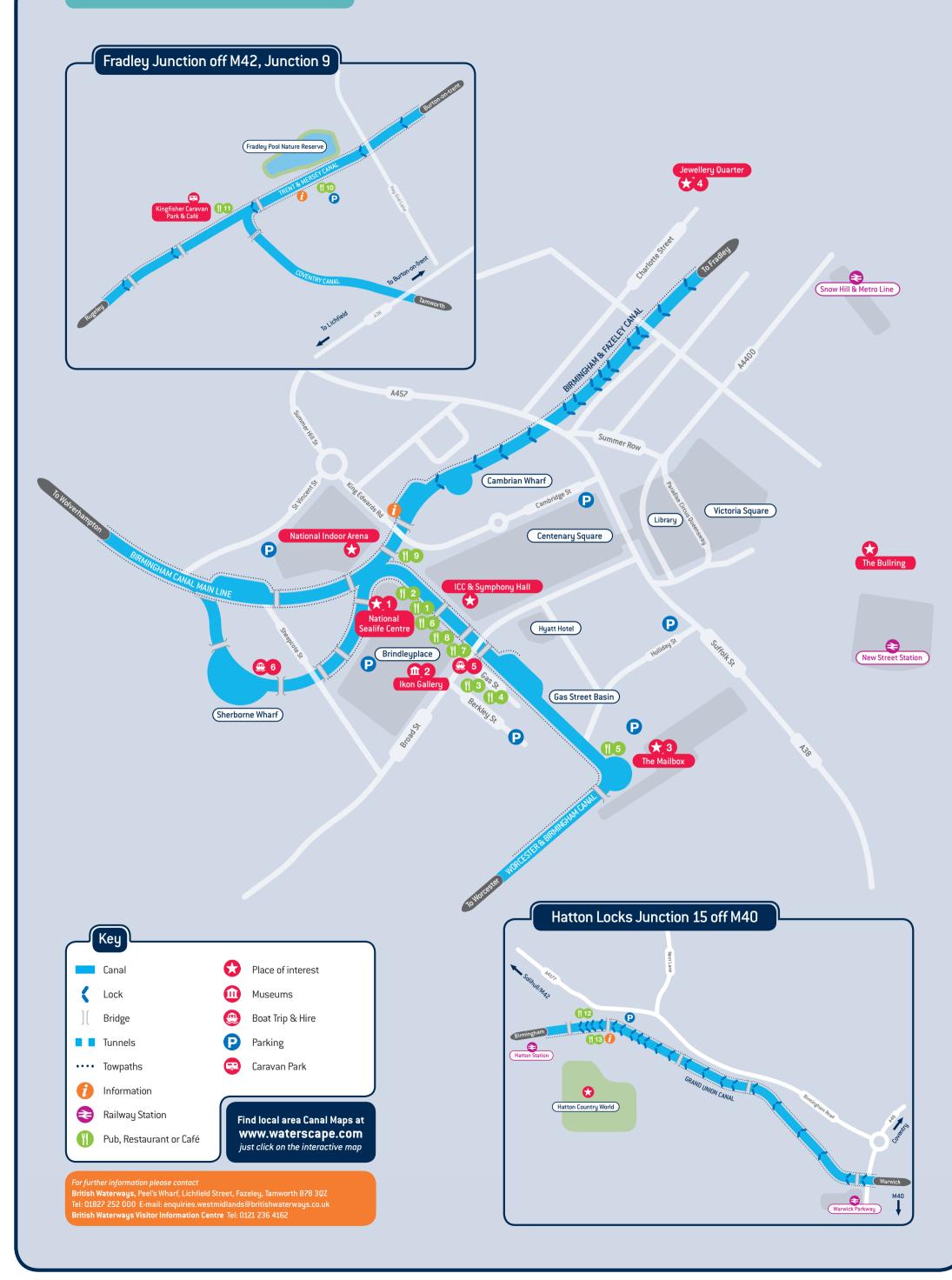
www.away2dine.co.uk Terms & Conditions Must be over 18. One free bottle of wine with each full price dining cruise booking for two people. Photocopies of vo Voucher valid until 31st August 08. Only one voucher per visit. Management reserve the right to refuse voucher for any reason.

Voucher valid until 31.08.08

Birmingham's unique luxury canal cruising restaurant



# YOUR LOCAL CANAL Birmingham, Fradley Junction & Hatton Locks







Find your nearest canal at waterscape.com