

Suggested routes from Glascote Basin

Glascote Basin Boatyard is located just outside Tamworth on the Coventry Canal within easy reach of the heart of England's historic canal system. Ideally positioned for short or long breaks, Heart of England canal holidays offer a variety of cruising durations and destinations which are equally suited to the inexperienced or seasoned canal boat cruiser.

When planning your route, please remember that your boat will be ready around 2.30p.m. on the first day of your holiday and that handover procedures take about 90 minutes. Leaving Glascote Basin at approximately 4 p.m. will give you approximately 3 to 4 cruising hours depending on the time of year. Working on an average of 3 miles per hour cruising and 10 minutes per lock will give you an estimate of where you will be able to reach by the end of the first day. Full days are based on 7.5 to 8 hours travelling so if you are planning a more leisurely trip, please take this into account. Travel duration in the following suggested routes is for indication only and not representative of exact hire periods.

Please also remember that the boat must be returned to Glascote Basin no later than 9.00 a.m. on the last day of your holiday so do take account of this when planning your return journey.

Please note, these routes are suggestions only and you should always check that the route is possible within your time frame, current weather conditions and canal stoppages etc. before you make a journey. Navigational advice is available at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices>

SHORT BREAKS

Glascote to Fradley Junction – there and back

Duration – 11 hours (2.5 days) travelling

Distance – 25 miles return

Locks – 4

Day 1 - evening: Starting from Glascote Basin, turn right onto the Coventry Canal and work your way through Glascote Top and Bottom Locks and then cruise for just over a mile, southwest to Fazeley Junction where the Coventry Canal meets the Birmingham and Fazeley canal. Depending on timings, you could moor up here, at Fazeley Junction, for your first evening and enjoy the local hostelry or continue your journey for a further 2.5 miles to Hopwas which offers visitor moorings and accessibility to both the Lazy Otter and The Red Lion canalside pub/ restaurants.

Day 2: Continue along this route for approximately 11 miles (from Fazeley), taking in opportunities for canalside refreshment breaks at along the way, which if not visited the evening before, include those at Hopwas or, further along the canal, the Red Lion at Huddleston, until reaching your destination at Fradley Junction where the Coventry Canal joins the Trent & Mersey Canal. Here you will find a popular visitor attraction, which includes the Swan Inn, two shops and two cafes. The Swan, together with an attached warehouse, both of which date from the 1770s, are grade II listed structures. Fradley Pool Nature Reserve is adjacent to the junction, and British Waterways have an office there which can advise on mooring and other boating services.

Day 3: Turn at Fradley junction and return along your outward route, and back through Glascote locks to Glascote Basin, mooring up for the evening.

LONGER BREAKS

Glascote to Burton upon Trent – there and back

Duration – 24 hours (5 days) travelling

Distance – 45 miles return

Locks – 26

Day 1 - evening: Starting from Glascote Basin, turn right onto the Coventry Canal and work your way through Glascote Top and Bottom Locks and then cruise for just over a mile, southwest to Fazeley Junction where the Coventry Canal meets the Birmingham and Fazeley canal. Continue your journey for a further 2.5 miles along the Coventry Canal to Hopwas which offers visitor moorings and accessibility to both the Lazy Otter and The Red Lion canalside pub/ restaurants.

Day 2: From Hopwas, continue along the Coventry Canal, taking in a refreshment break at Fradley Junction before turning right, through the locks, and onto the Trent and Mersey Canal. Continue to Barton under Needwood; this trip of 14 miles includes 7 locks.

Day 3: From Barton under Needwood, continue the short journey to Burton-on-Trent where you can enjoy the visitor attractions and leisure activities this town and the local area offers, returning towards Barton under Needwood or Alrewas for your evening's mooring.

Days 4 and 5: Meander back to Glascote Basin, taking the opportunity for exploring the area and enjoying the canalside refreshments available.

Glascote to Coventry – there and back

Duration – 24 hours (4 days) travelling

Distance – 50 miles return

Locks – 22

Day 1 - evening: From Glascote Basin, travel eastwards along the Coventry Canal for just over 3 miles, passing alongside the open countryside beyond Amington and enjoying views over Alvecote Pools and towards Alvecote Priory. Moor for the night at Polesworth and take advantage of the shops and pubs. Also look out for the remnants of an Abbey and a tithe barn which lends the village considerable character and interest.

Day 2: Continue along the Coventry Canal for just over 16 miles for a full day's cruising which will take you on to Hawkesbury junction. You will pass through Atherstone Locks, a flight of 11 locks of narrow canals which have a total rise of 80 feet. Allow approximately 2 hours for this section of the journey and reward your labours with well-earned refreshments at Atherstone or Hartshill. Passing to the south of Nuneaton, and through Marston Junction which sees the beginning of the lockless Ashby Canal, continue your journey along the Coventry Canal towards your evening's mooring at Hawkesbury. Take in refreshment at the Greyhound, a pub which dates from the 1800's, on the junction with the Oxford Canal.

Day 3: Staying on the Coventry Canal – known as the Coventry Arm, take the 2-hour journey to the restored canal basin at Coventry and take the opportunity to moor up and visit the historic city, about a 15-20 minutes' walk from the canal basin. Coventry Cathedral was built in 1962 to replace the old

cathedral which was destroyed in 1940. Leaving Coventry, make your 10.5-mile journey back through Hawkesbury Junction, famous from the many photographs taken at this picturesque spot, and on to Nuneaton. The canal passes near to the recently redeveloped shopping centre and offers large supermarket shopping, pubs and modern shops within easy walking distance of boat wharf at bridge 20. Today's trip covers approximately 15 miles and will include passing through the Heath Crescent Tunnel on your outward and return journeys.

Day 4 From Nuneaton, continue along the Coventry Canal for approximately 15 miles, allowing time for passing back through Atherstone Locks, and arriving back for your evening mooring at Glascote.

Glascote to Birmingham Gas Street – there and back

Duration – 25 hours (5 days)

Distance – 35 miles return

Locks – 80

Day 1: Starting from Glascote Basin, turn right onto the Coventry Canal and work your way through Glascote Top and Bottom Locks and then cruise for just over a mile, southwest to Fazeley Junction where the Coventry Canal meets the Birmingham and Fazeley canal. Turn left to join the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal and continue your journey, passing alongside the nature reserve and through two locks to Bodymoor Heath. This is a trip of just under 4 miles all together.

Day 2: Continue along the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal from Bodymoor Heath on your 7 mile journey towards Bromford, between Minworth Services and Salford Junction South. You will pass through the Curdworth Locks, through Curdworth Tunnel and through Minworth Locks.

Day 3: Travel through to Gas Street Basin on the Worcester and Birmingham Canal and although only just under 5 miles, there are 24 locks in total with Aston Locks and Farmer's Bridge Locks. You will also pass through Factory Tunnel before arriving at the heart of Birmingham, where you can moor overlooked by the National Indoor arena and the Sea Life Centre.

Days 4 and 5: This return journey takes you from the centre of Birmingham back to the more rural Midlands. Start by descending the flights of locks, pass back underneath the Spaghetti Junction motorway intersection, cruise through empty countryside, once again meeting the Coventry Canal at Fazeley Junction. Continue eastwards on the Coventry Canal, through two sets of locks and back to Glascote Basin for your final mooring. You will travel at total of 21 miles in these 2 days and pass through 40 locks.

Glascote to Braunston – there and back

Duration – 40 hours (6 days).

Distance – 85 miles return

Locks – 30

Day 1- evening: From Glascote Basin, travel eastwards along the Coventry Canal for just over 3 miles, passing alongside the open countryside beyond Amington and enjoying views over Alvecote Pools and towards Alvecote Priory. Moor for the night at Polesworth and take advantage of the shops and pubs.

Also look out for the remnants of an Abbey and a tithe barn which lends the village considerable character and interest.

Day 2: Continue along the Coventry Canal for just over 16 miles for a full day's cruising which will take you on to Hawkesbury junction. You will pass through Atherstone Locks, a flight of 11 locks of narrow canals which have a total rise of 80 feet. Allow approximately 2 hours for this section of the journey and reward your labours with well-earned refreshments at Atherstone or Hartshill. Passing to the south of Nuneaton, and through Marston Junction which sees the beginning of the lockless Ashby Canal, continue your journey along the Coventry Canal towards your evening's mooring at Hawkesbury. Take in refreshment at the Greyhound, a pub which dates from the 1800's, on the junction with the Oxford Canal.

Day 3: Join the Oxford Canal at Hawkesbury Junction and travel south passing through Brinklow and Hillmorton for a full day's cruising through to Braunston Junction where can you reward yourself for your hard work within one of the many eating and drinking options available. Today's total distance is just under 23 miles, with 4 locks, and a tunnel.

Days 4, 5 and 6: Your return journey provides you with options to enjoy a more leisurely return journey over three days. The canal is home to a rich variety of wildlife which can be enjoyed from the tranquillity of the canal boat. Sit back and take in the views afforded from the Oxford and Coventry Canals before returning to your mooring at Glasgote Basin.