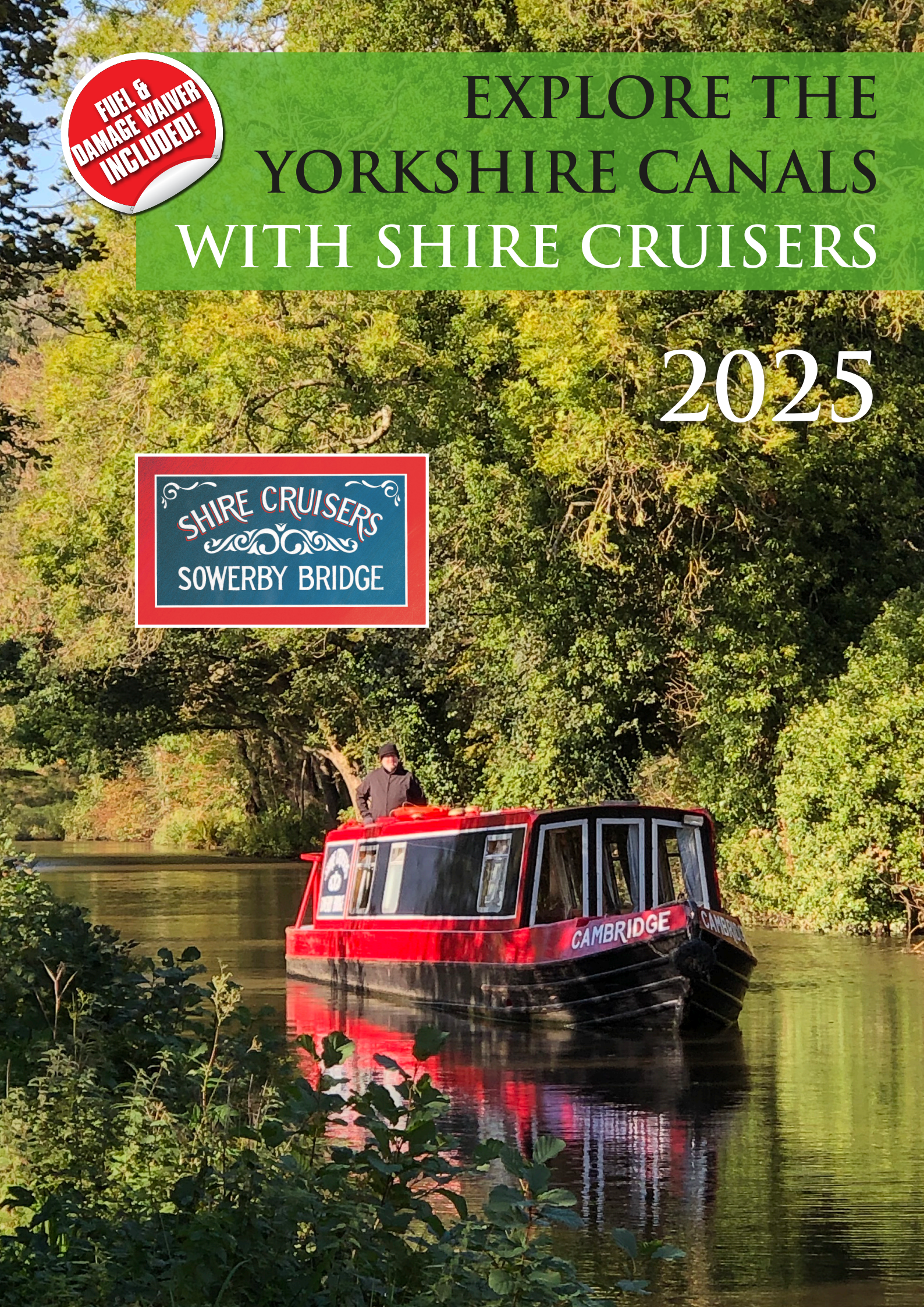


FUEL &
DAMAGE WAIVER
INCLUDED!

EXPLORE THE YORKSHIRE CANALS WITH SHIRE CRUISERS

2025



WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE...

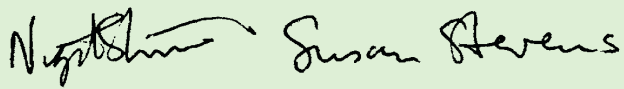
This brochure gives you all the information you need to plan and book a boating holiday with Shire Cruisers. We are a long-established family firm, and have built up a reputation for quality: both in our service and boat-handling training, and in the design, fit-out and equipment of our boats.

Our varied routes give access to the best scenery in the North, including the strikingly beautiful Yorkshire side of the Rochdale Canal, many people's favourite waterway. Our second base, on the summit of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, is ideal for a leisurely exploration of the edge of the Yorkshire Dales.

The northern waterways are uncrowded, with enough other boats for company and interest, but you seldom see queues at locks or moorings. So leave the crowds in the midlands, and find a new boating freedom with Shire Cruisers.

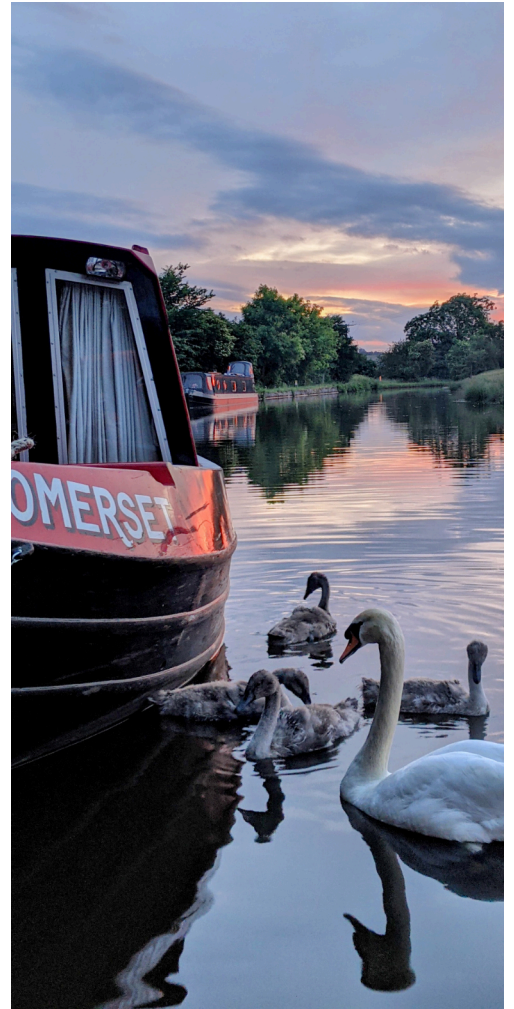
Our boats and our all-important training programme are independently assessed, to help us ensure you get the quality you deserve.

Whether you are an experienced boater or have never been before, and whether you have three days or three weeks for your boating holiday, we very much look forward to welcoming you.

 Susan Stevens

Nigel and Susan Stevens

There's more information on www.shirecruisers.co.uk.



QUALITY ASSURED...

Your holiday is important to you. So it's important to us that your boat provides everything you expect of it, and that our service is all that you require.

We design and fit out all our boats ourselves. Careful planning and meticulous craftsmanship make our boats comfortable, light and pleasant to be in. Constant attention by our dedicated team keeps the boats in excellent condition. And we make sure they're well equipped and clean. Just in case you need it, we provide 24-hour backup service. We ask VisitEngland to check that we are keeping up to standards you expect.

We believe our information service, from booking to holiday, is unrivalled. We know our local waterways well and are happy to advise on routes before you book.

As soon as you've booked, you will be able to see our Information Pack online. This contains the Canal & River Trust Boater's Handbook and film, plus our exclusive Holiday Guide and Route Companion giving detailed information on your boat and its contents, routes, arrival information, and everything you need to know.

On board are our comprehensive boat manual with safety and timing information, and guide books, so you can take your holiday with complete confidence. We take great care with our boat handover and lock instruction, which are Quality Accredited by British Marine. We shall do all we can to make your holiday with us the greatest success.

What's on board

We give you a wide choice of boats and accommodation layouts. Some boats have fixed double beds. On others you can choose whether a cabin has a fixed double or two fixed singles – we set it up as you request. The beds go lengthways so there is always room to walk past. Many boats have two loos.

All boats have forward facing windows, radiator central heating, showers, fresh water flush toilets, four-burner cookers with grill and oven, microwaves, fridges (with icebox), filtered drinking water, lots of worktop and storage space, colour TV/DVDs, radio CDs, hair dryers and power points for your phone chargers and hair straighteners.

A full inventory, bed linen and cruising guides are supplied. Please bring your own towels or order ours at £5.00 a set, unless coming from overseas when we will supply them free. Bed guards can be fitted for babies.

For detailed specifications and pictures of every boat, showing the different bed arrangements, see our website.

DISCOVER...

... a new view of Yorkshire, where the scenery is grander, the waterways less crowded – and the beer cheaper!

Three canals cross the Pennines, each having its own character, but sharing the boldness of their creators, and of those who have restored parts which once were closed. Today you can see their history all around as you travel, and also how the West Riding is adapting to 21st century life.

The **Leeds & Liverpool**, to the north, makes its way through glorious scenery from major cities to the edge of the Dales. Explore this from our Barnoldswick base, or for experienced crews, on a one way trip.

The **Rochdale**, in the middle, is a broad canal which punches across the Pennines. Boaters enjoy its romantic scenery and stone-built towns as they climb towards the summit.

The **Huddersfield Narrow**, to the south, gives dramatic views of the moors as it climbs towards the longest and highest canal tunnel in Britain.

These three canals are linked on the Yorkshire side by river navigations:

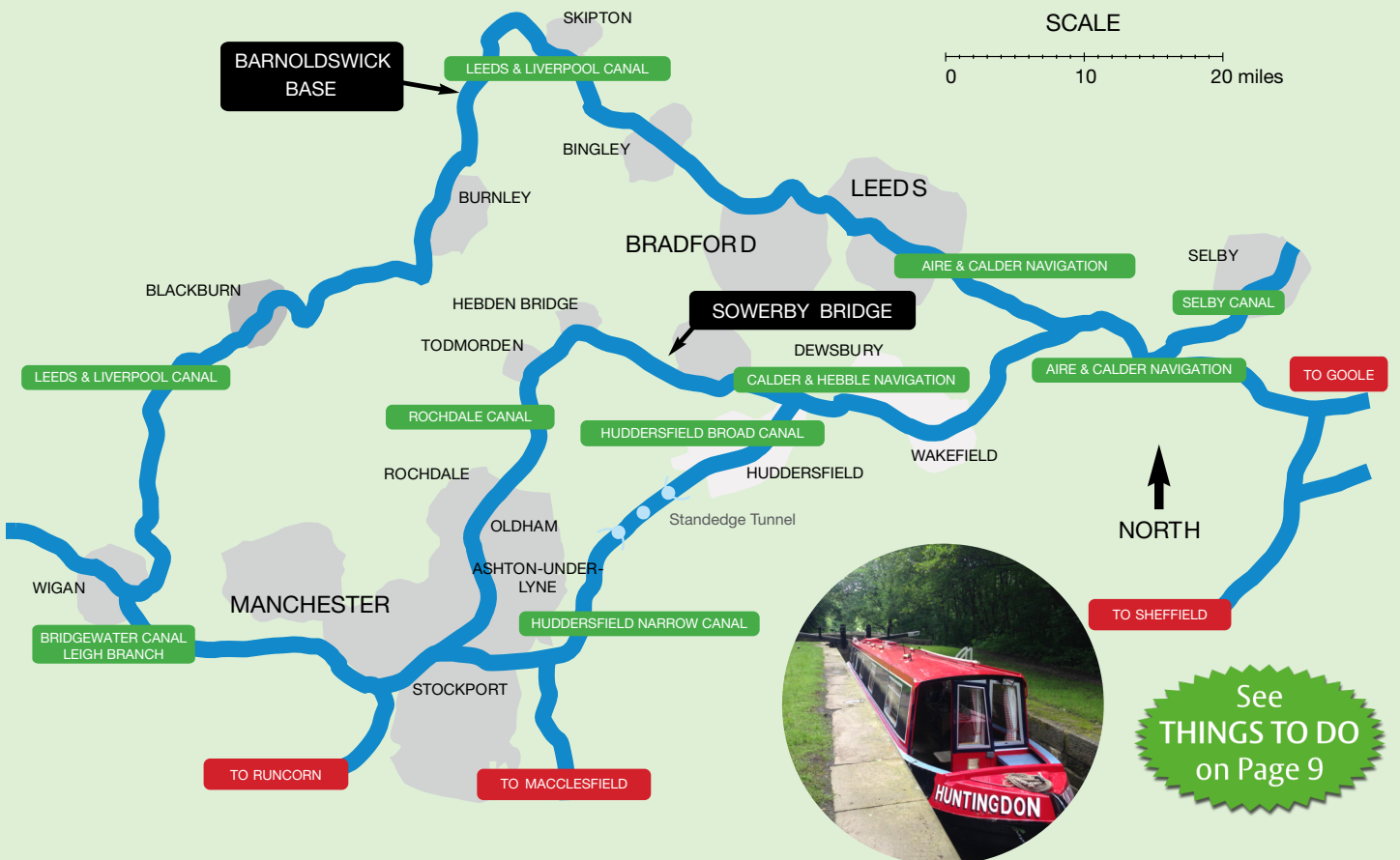
The **Calder & Hebble** is an old navigation, hidden in the trees.

The **Aire & Calder** is a modern waterway which successfully mixes growing pleasure traffic with environmentally friendly bulk transport.

Our Yorkshire waterways offer a fresh discovery round every corner. Whichever bit you want to explore, we can get you there.

The map shows where your journey can take you, and on later pages you will find descriptions of sample routes, next to the boats you can travel on.

For a lot more information on routes, recommended pubs and restaurants, and our boats, visit www.shirecruisers.co.uk.



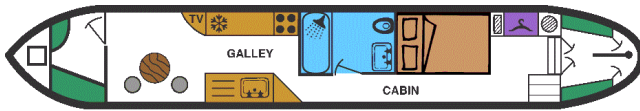
BOATS AT SOWERBY BRIDGE

Friday or Monday start and finish at Sowerby Bridge

Short breaks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Monday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Friday.
Weeks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Friday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Monday.



OXFORD Sleeps 2 Length 42ft
Berths: one fixed double



Lots of room, with everything you need just for two. Bath with shower. Saloon with two loose chairs and removable table.

LINCOLN Sleeps 2+1 Length 46ft
Berths: one fixed double and one single



A super-spacious two-berth with a fixed double bed and separate sitting and dining areas. Big shower. Third person on convertible settee.

CUMBRIA Sleeps 2+1 Length 48ft
Berths: one fixed double and one single



An extra-spacious two-berth with a fixed double bed in master bedroom. Large saloon with settee (convertible to single bed for third person) and storage. Separate dining area. Large shower.

SUFFOLK Sleeps 2+2 Length 48ft
Berths: one fixed double, or two fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



A large two berth, which also has plenty of room for four. Large shower cubicle.

FOR INTERIOR PICTURES OF ALL OUR BOATS, SEE OUR WEBSITE



Routes from Sowerby Bridge – SHORT BREAKS

The routes shown are examples – there are many more on our website, but the whole point is that you are free to go as you please. Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

1. Hebden Bridge & Stubbing Wharf 14 miles • 20 locks • 11 hours return

Leaving our historic canal basin, your journey begins with the excitement of a short new tunnel and the deepest lock in the country. The canal gradually climbs through woods, fields and small stone towns to Hebden Bridge. This old mill town nestles in a fork in the hills, houses piled tier upon tier. Hebden has excellent shops and is full of surprises – everything from horsey clothing to hand-made pottery.

Turn before Lock 12, and spend the night at the Stubbing Wharf, our customers' favourite pub.

Next day, head back home.

2. Shepley Bridge 23 miles • 32 locks • 16 hours return

Sail down the leafy Calder & Hebble Navigation to Elland, with a canalside pub. A wider part of the valley with woods, lakes and views of the river takes you to Brighouse, an interesting town with useful shops and places to eat as well as the eponymous brass band. Leave the canal and drop into the River Calder. Pass under a towering motorway viaduct, a reminder of the world you left behind. The river winds on its timeless way, until you arrive at Shepley Bridge. Pubs in Mirfield will refresh you for your return journey.

Information we provide in relation to individual waterways or suggested routes is for general reference only. Please see more about route availability on page 11.

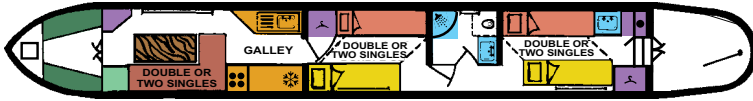
BOATS AT SOWERBY BRIDGE

Friday or Monday start and finish at Sowerby Bridge

Short breaks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Monday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Friday.
Weeks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Friday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Monday.

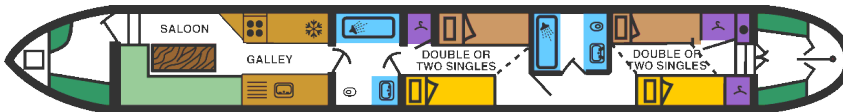
**4-6
BERTHS**

RUTLAND / YORK Sleeps 4+2 Length 54ft
Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to one double or two singles



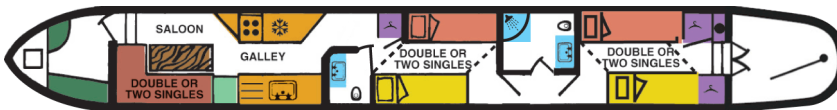
Practical and versatile layout. The fixed beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish. Our new popular corner shower.

WORCESTER Sleeps 4+1 Length 56ft
Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to one single



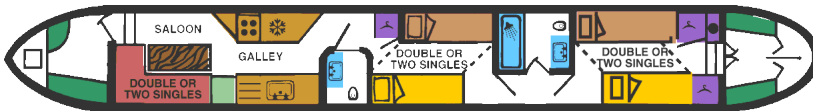
Two bathrooms, one with corner shower and one with bath and shower over. The beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish – you can walk round in either case. Two toilets.

BUCKINGHAM Sleeps 4+2 Length 56ft
Berths: two fixed doubles, or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



Great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Shower cubicle. Two toilets.

BEDFORD / HUNTINGDON Sleeps 4+2 Length 56ft
Berths: two fixed doubles, or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



Great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Corner shower cubicle. Two toilets.

FOR INTERIOR PICTURES OF ALL OUR BOATS, SEE OUR WEBSITE



Routes from Sowerby Bridge – SEVEN NIGHTS

The routes shown are examples – there are many more on our website, but the whole point is that you are free to go as you please. Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

3. Hebden Bridge & Brighouse 28 miles • 46 locks • 22 hours return

Go to Hebden Bridge (Route 1) and take time relaxing in this enticing and quirky town. Come back down to Sowerby Bridge (turn up and go for lock passage Friday to Monday, but you will need to book a lock passage for Tuesday to Thursday), then carry on down the Calder Valley, through the locks at Salterhebble and on to Elland Wharf, home of the Barge & Barrel. Stop to explore the riverside nature reserve at Cromwell Bottom, before arriving in Brighouse, an interesting town with useful shops and good pubs and places to eat as well as the eponymous brass band. At length, make your way back to Sowerby Bridge. Opportunities for walks, shops – or doing nothing!

4. Selby 96 miles • 68 locks • 40 hours return

From Shepley Bridge (Route 2), carry on through Wakefield, with its riverside Barbara Hepworth museum – then at Stanley Ferry see the aqueduct, like a miniature Sydney Harbour Bridge. You are now on the wide Aire & Calder, with electric locks. At Castleford, keep on the main line for Knottingley. At Bank Dole you drop into the Aire as it winds through farmland, stopping occasionally at pretty brick-built villages. And so to Selby, where you can explore the ancient Abbey and market, before taking the train to York for a short visit.

See overleaf for 14-night routes →

Information we provide in relation to individual waterways or suggested routes is for general reference only. Please see more about route availability on page 11.

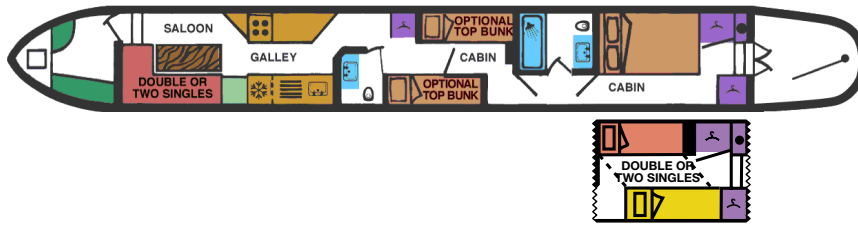
BOATS AT SOWERBY BRIDGE

Friday or Monday start and finish at Sowerby Bridge

Short breaks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Monday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Friday.
Weeks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Friday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Monday.

6-10
BERTHS

SUSSEX Sleeps 6+2 Length 56ft
Berths: one fixed double and up to six singles, or two doubles and four singles, or eight singles



A very comfortable six berth, with room for up to eight. The middle single cabins may have additional top bunks if you wish. Shower bath. Two toilets.

NORTHUMBERLAND Sleeps 6+4 Length 56ft
Berths: two doubles and six singles, or one double and eight singles



Good accommodation for a large party, but very comfortable for a smaller group. Raised dinette and settee, with two tables. Top bunks can be fitted over single beds. Generous storage. Shower and two toilets.

FOR INTERIOR PICTURES OF ALL OUR BOATS, SEE OUR WEBSITE



Routes from Sowerby Bridge – FOURTEEN NIGHTS

The routes shown are examples – there are many more on our website, but the whole point is that you are free to go as you please. Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

5. Skipton 136 miles • 128 locks • 66 hours return

At Castleford (Route 4), head up the River Aire to Leeds, sailing past the regenerated waterfront. Then join the Leeds & Liverpool Canal which quickly escapes along its own way through fields and woods. Don't miss Sir Titus Salt's Italianate mills and model town at Saltaire, with its Hockney museum. There are several staircase locks along the way, which culminate in the Five Rise Locks at Bingley, one of the Seven Wonders of the Waterways. Enjoy extensive views of Airedale all the way to Skipton. Don't miss the castle! Return the same way; this is a very energetic trip for the more experienced.

6. Sheffield 158 miles • 114 locks • 70 hours return

A fascinating canal journey through a rapidly rejuvenating area to the newly restored basin near the city centre. Enthusiasts enthuse; try it. Go almost to Goole, then turn right onto the New Junction Canal, heading straight across a flat landscape with enormous skies. Then turn again onto the South Yorkshire Navigation, still with huge electric locks. Finally you climb the older, smaller locks of the Tinsley Flight, and make your run into Sheffield Basin, where restored warehouses straddle the water, lit in strange colours at night. Take some time to explore the city centre.

Not so many locks, and many of them are electric, but still quite a long return journey.

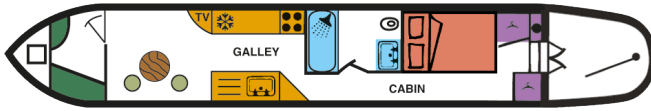
BOATS AT BARNOLDSWICK

Friday or Monday start and finish at Barnoldswick

Short breaks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Monday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Friday.
Weeks run from 1pm Friday to 9am Friday or from 1pm Monday to 9am Monday.

**2-6
BERTHS**

CAMBRIDGE Sleeps 2 Length 44ft
Berths: one fixed double



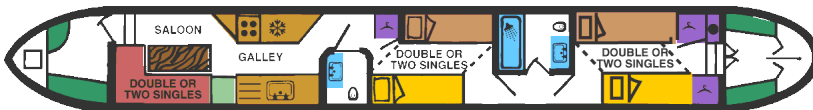
Lots of room, with everything you need just for two. Bath with shower. Saloon with two loose chairs and removable table.

NORFOLK Sleeps 2+2 Length 48ft
Berths: one fixed double, or two fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



A very spacious two berth, which also has plenty of room for four. Shower bath.

SOMERSET Sleeps 4+2 Length 56ft
Berths: two fixed doubles, or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



Great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Corner shower cubicle. Two toilets.

FOR INTERIOR PICTURES OF ALL OUR BOATS, SEE OUR WEBSITE



Routes from Barnoldswick – THREE/FOUR & SEVEN NIGHTS

The routes shown are examples – there are many more on our website, but the whole point is that you are free to go as you please. Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

THREE/FOUR NIGHT ROUTES

7. Summit relaxation 20 miles • 6 locks • 8 hours return

The ultimate in slowing down: take this route if you just want to switch off. After you set off, we'll escort you through the three locks at Greenberfield. Spend your first night near East Marton.

Next day, immerse yourselves in one of the remotest and most beautiful places anywhere on the canals, with sheep and birds in all directions. Turn before Bank Newton, and go back past the boatyard to Foulridge. Travel through the mysterious

tunnel and turn before the top of Barrowford, before making your way back. Don't miss the Abbot's Harbour at East Marton, the Anchor at Salterforth or The Wharf at Foulridge.

8. Gargrave 16 miles • 24 locks • 12 hours return

Go for Bank Newton (Route 7) and pass down into Gargrave, an unspoilt canal village with shops and a great choice of places to eat and drink – our favourite is the Masons Arms. Turn and moor above Higherland Lock before heading back.

SEVEN NIGHT ROUTE

9. Bingley 52 miles • 30 locks • 30 hours return

After Gargrave (Route 8) it's level for 17 miles, with views of the hills and lots of swing bridges. Quite suddenly, you are in Skipton, and can moor right in the centre of town. Explore the castle, cattle and street markets and shops. Carry on along the side of the Aire Valley, with extensive views

through the trees. Pass through the romantic village of Kildwick, clinging to the hillside with the canal going placidly through the middle. Silsden is a bigger town, with shops and eating places. Moor at Bridge 197A and walk down to East Riddlesden Hall NT, a 17th century manor house with fine garden; or get a bus to Keighley Station, and take the steam train (of Railway Children fame) to Haworth, and walk up the steep hill to the Brontë Parsonage. Turn at the top of the Five Rise and return to base.

You may find it more relaxing to make your turning point Skipton, in which case your journey time will be around 20 hours.

Information we provide in relation to individual waterways or suggested routes is for general reference only. Please see more about route availability on page 11.

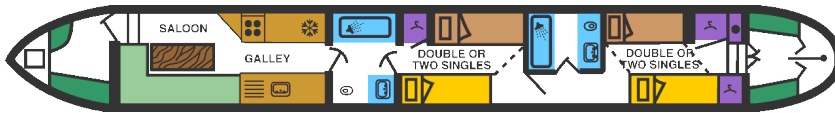
ONE-WAY TRIPS (7/14 NIGHTS)

Between Sowerby Bridge and Barnoldswick

Start 1pm Monday, finish 9am Monday
Direction of travel advised the previous week.

4-5
BERTHS

HEREFORD Sleeps 4+1 Length 56ft
Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to one single



Two bathrooms, one with shower and one with bath and shower over. The beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish. Two toilets.

FOR INTERIOR PICTURES OF ALL OUR BOATS, SEE OUR WEBSITE

One way route – 7 OR 14 NIGHTS

With a one way trip, you are committed to completing the journey – which is what makes your holiday so fulfilling. This route is for experienced and active crews. The descriptions are based on Sowerby Bridge start – actual direction of travel depends on previous passages. There is much more information on our website.

AVAILABLE ONLY ON **HEREFORD** – but see opposite for our famous Delivery Trips in April and October

10. Between Sowerby Bridge and Barnoldswick, via Leeds 79 miles • 79 locks • 45 hours

One of the great canal journeys, this takes you across the backbone of England and through the heart of the West Riding, in scenery varying from the timeless calm of the L & L summit to the hubbub of just-built waterfront Leeds. Follow Routes 2, 4 & 5, and finish on the summit of the Leeds & Liverpool.

Information we provide in relation to individual waterways or suggested routes is for general reference only. Please see more about route availability on page 11.



Navigation notes for one way trips

One way trips require an active crew, preferably of more than two fit people, all keen to do 8 hours or so boating a day; this route has many locks and the L & L also has many swing bridges! At least one of the crew must have adequate experience - you need to know how to pace yourselves. We will give details on timing etc. in your Information Pack.

Transfer arrangements for Barnoldswick

Your direction of travel will be advised the week before you start: it depends on that taken by previous crews.

You will come first to Sowerby Bridge whichever way the boat is going. All cars are parked here. The easy 20-mile transfer by minibus to or from Barnoldswick will accordingly be at either the beginning or the end of your holiday. From around £55 for a car, or £75 for a minibus, payable to the driver on the day. Full information is

in your Information Pack and details are discussed with you. Those travelling entirely by train can get to Skipton (taxi required for Barnoldswick) and Sowerby Bridge from main line trains at Manchester or Leeds.



DELIVERY TRIPS (10/11 NIGHTS)

Each spring our Barnoldswick boats go out from their winter maintenance period in Sowerby Bridge and in autumn they come back. This provides a special opportunity for 10/11 day journeys on a variety of boats which are normally not available for one-way trips.

Please see boat details on page 7

PRICES AND DATES

Friday 4 April to Monday 14 April 2025
Sowerby Bridge to Barnoldswick

Cambridge sleeps 2	£1865
Norfolk sleeps up to 4	£2060 (for 2)
Somerset sleeps up to 6 (with 2 toilets)	£2705 (for 4)

Monday 29 September to Friday 10 October 2025
Barnoldswick to Sowerby Bridge

Cambridge sleeps 2	£1755
Norfolk sleeps up to 4	£1935 (for 2)
Somerset sleeps up to 6 (with 2 toilets)	£2610 (for 4)



THINGS TO DO...

Please check opening times online

NEXT TO THE WATERWAY

- Pennine Way
- Calderdale Way
- Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills
- Hepworth Wakefield
- Royal Armouries, Leeds
- Saltaire – Hockney Gallery
- East Riddlesden Hall NT

WALKING DISTANCE

- Hardcastle Crags NT
- Selby Abbey
- Leeds Opera & Playhouse
- Henry Moore Sculpture Gallery
- Kirkstall Abbey & museum
- Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- Settle & Carlisle Railway
- Skipton Castle
- Towneley Hall, Burnley
- Locations for *Last Tango in Halifax*, *Happy Valley* and *Gentleman Jack*

BY TRAIN OR BUS

- Eureka!, Halifax
- Nostell Priory NT
- National Science and Media Museum, Bradford
- York Minster
- Yorvik Viking Centre
- Railway Museum, York
- Brontë Parsonage, Haworth
- National Mining Museum
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park

PLUS

- Swimming baths, cinemas, pubs, takeaways, sports centres, playgrounds.

Public Transport is easily accessible from all the waterways.

More things to do on
www.shirecruisers.co.uk



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS...

We have not been boating before. Do we need experience or a driving licence?

No. The boats are easy to handle. In order to control the boat through the locks you need a minimum of two participating adults, who are not also looking after other people or dogs.

If you've not been on a narrow boat before, then we'll make sure you know what you need to. As soon as you book you will have our Information Pack which includes a film showing the right way to handle the boat and work locks, as well as detailed route information. There is more information in the manual and cruising guides on your boat.

When you start your holiday we will give you a thorough briefing on the waterway and your boat. One of our experienced staff will show you how to handle the boat and work the first three locks on your journey. As a Quality Accredited Boatyard, our boat handover procedure is independently audited by British Marine.

Which route should we choose?

If this is your first time on the canals, or you want a leisurely trip, choose an 'out & back' holiday so that you are not committed to any particular schedule. Our out & back routes from Barnoldswick are relatively light on locks.

If you have canal boating experience, enjoy locks and want an active holiday with about 8 hours boating a day – a one way trip might suit you. Ensure that your whole crew is keen to do this. There is lots more information on our website.

Are there lots of locks on all routes?

To get across the Pennines, the engineers built many locks. Experienced boaters often see the activity and skill of doing locks as one of the main attractions, and so prefer our more hilly routes. But some of our routes – particularly from Barnoldswick – are less heavily locked, so there should be something to suit everybody.

Are the canals easy to use?

It's fascinating to travel on waterways which are over 200 years old, but their age means that most structures are not of modern design. This is essential to their charm and you must make allowances if sometimes things are harder to use than you'd like.

How can we turn round?

Your map on board shows frequent turning points ('winding holes') so you can plan ahead. The turn itself is easy as long as nobody's watching...

Can we bring our pets?

Yes. We make no charge for one dog (or cat, hamster, goldfish ...). Please keep it off the upholstery. Extra dogs will be charged for.

Will the children be bored?

No. Children love to help at locks when they can. There are also lots of things to do along the way. As long as children are



sensible there is no danger, but we do recommend that they (and any adult non-swimmers) wear life jackets, which we provide free.

Do we have to pay for locks or moorings?

No. We pay the boat licence fees for all the canals, and towpath mooring is free.

Will we have enough fuel and gas?

You will have enough free fuel for about 2 weeks' normal cruising. If you need a toilet pumpout or additional gas we will repay you. On adventurous fortnights or longer trips, you may need to buy more diesel.

What linen will be provided?

Double or single duvet set with pillows, pillowcases and blankets as required. Your Information Pack will include a bedding order form. Tea towels are provided. Towels are available as an extra – free for those who book from overseas.

Will our car be OK?

All parking is free. At Sowerby Bridge, you will park in our yard, behind gates locked at night (you will have a key). Parking at Barnoldswick is in the marina car park.

What if we cancel?

You will forfeit your deposit, but may receive a partial refund of the balance, depending on how much notice you give, and whether we are able to re-let the boat. We recommend you to take out cancellation insurance. See Condition 6.

What about insurance?

You are covered for damage to the boat and third party claims for accidents involving the boat up to £3m. You would be responsible for deliberate or wilful damage up to £500. Our insurance does not cover you for **personal accident**, personal possessions or cancellation. We recommend that you obtain suitable cover.

Can we charge up our phone, and bring hair straighteners?

Yes. There are normal 3-pin sockets which can handle anything up to 1000 watts, including chargers, hair straighteners and sleep apnoea machines.

Is TV reception good?

Northern canals are mostly in the bottom of valleys, and reception is often poor. We suggest you watch important matches in the pub!

Can we bring bikes or canoes?

Yes - but they have to live on the roof, so please bring something to protect our paintwork.

Can we fish?

The fishing is let to many different clubs, only some of which issue day tickets. You must have a National Rod Licence.



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS...

Why are none of your boats longer than 56'?

To fit the short locks on the Calder & Hebble Navigation.

Are all routes available?

The Canal & River Trust is committed to keeping the waterways open during the cruising season. However, a waterway may sometimes need to be temporarily closed for repair following adverse weather or breakdown. We are responsible for your boat, but not for the waterways on which you plan to travel. Therefore we do not guarantee that any suggested route or waterway will be open to navigation during your holiday. In the event of temporary closure, Canal & River Trust would work very hard to reopen as quickly as possible. You might be subject to a short delay, or have to change your itinerary. We would give you advice and backup. You must make every effort to return the boat on time to the agreed base.

It's a good idea to have a Plan B in mind before you travel. We will try to let you know any planned waterway closures at the time you make your booking; you can also check on canalrivertrust.org.uk. After booking, we will do our best to keep you informed about any closures or restrictions likely to affect your holiday. We recommend you to sign up to CRT's email closure alerts, and when travelling on rivers to use CRT's handy Strong Stream warnings, which take effect at times of heavy rainfall. This is easy and useful. Full details are in your Information Pack.

What if we break down or have an accident?

You will have our helpline number. We will give you advice, or come quickly to sort out your problem.

When will our boat be ready?

Our takeover time is 1pm. You will appreciate that we're very busy until then making sure everything is right for you. There are good lunch places in Sowerby Bridge and Barnoldswick. Please start lunch early so as to be with us promptly at 1.00pm.

...and when do we give it back?

Please be back by 9am and let us have the boat clean and tidy by 9.30am.

How do we find you?

See map on back cover. We will meet anyone coming on a long journey if we know which train. For travel from overseas and to Barnoldswick, see 'find us' on our website.

Where can we stay the night before?

Recommended hotels and B&Bs are on our website.

Any more questions?

We'll be happy to tell you anything we can. It may help to discuss the features of different boats or routes before you choose; or even better, to look at the boats - but check which will be in the yard on the day you visit. There is a lot more information on our website.

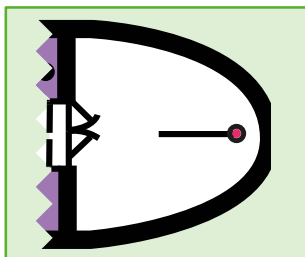


All our boats are assessed by an independent inspector.

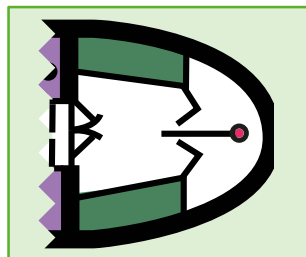
Star ratings reflect space, facilities and quality.

In 4 star boats, the saloon is only needed for a bed if extra persons are carried.

Key to Boat Layouts



Cruiser stern



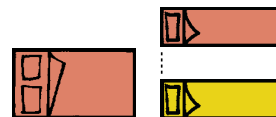
Semi-trad stern



Outside Seating

Seating

Settee Berth



Fixed Double

Fixed Single
(Optional top bunk where shown)

Single moves across to make double



washbasin

shower

cooker

refrigerator



wardrobe

cupboard/
drawers

toilet

table

PRICE LIST 2025

Prices include fuel and Damage Waiver
Extra adults £25 per week or part week. Towels £5 per set

This table is a guide. Follow the colour code to find the right route and boat.

The best way to check prices is using our web availability search.

Look for the right berth size for your chosen boat.

Colour code

- Short breaks and longer, Sowerby Bridge Friday/Monday start
- Short breaks and longer, Barnoldswick Friday/Monday start
- One way trips, Sowerby Bridge/Barnoldswick

3 NIGHTS – WEEKEND BREAKS – FRIDAY START

	Price for up to	Extra adults	March 14, 21, 28	April 4	April 11, 18, 25	May 2, 9, 16	May 23	May 30 June 6, 13, 20	June 27 July 4	July 11, 18, 25 August 1, 8, 15	August 22	August 29 September 5, 12	September 19	September 26 October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE	2	-	760	815	830	850	920	920	920	920	920	920	840	760
LINCOLN, CUMBRIA	2	1	810	870	885	910	980	980	980	980	980	980	900	810
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK	2	2	840	900	915	940	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	930	840
RUTLAND, YORK	4	2	960	985	1050	1115	1250	1180	1250	1250	1250	1180	1050	920
WORCESTER, BEDFORD, BUCKINGHAM, HUNTINGDON, SOMERSET	4	1-2	1015	1085	1160	1235	1375	1305	1380	1380	1380	1305	1160	1015
SUSSEX, NORTHUMBERLAND	6	2-4	1155	1235	1320	1360	1565	1480	1565	1565	1565	1480	1320	1155

4 NIGHTS – MIDWEEK BREAKS – MONDAY START

	Price for up to	Extra adults	March 17, 24, 31	April 7	April 14, 21, 28	May 5, 12, 19	May 26	June 2, 9, 16, 23	June 30 July 7	July 14, 21, 28 August 4, 11, 18	August 25	September 1, 8, 15	September 22	September 29 October 6, 13, 20, 27
OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE	2	-	760	815	830	850	920	920	920	920	920	920	840	760
LINCOLN, CUMBRIA	2	1	810	870	885	910	980	980	980	980	980	980	900	810
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK	2	2	840	900	915	940	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	930	840
RUTLAND, YORK	4	2	1000	1070	1140	1210	1350	1230	1300	1300	1300	1280	1140	1000
WORCESTER, BEDFORD, BUCKINGHAM, HUNTINGDON, SOMERSET	4	1-2	1100	1175	1255	1335	1490	1390	1470	1470	1470	1415	1255	1100
SUSSEX, NORTHUMBERLAND	6	2-4	1065	1140	1220	1300	1445	1370	1445	1445	1445	1370	1220	1065

7 NIGHTS – FRIDAY OR MONDAY START

	Price for up to	Extra adults	March 14, 21, 29	April 4	April 11, 18, 25	May 2, 9, 16	May 23	May 30 June 6, 13, 20	June 27 July 4	July 11, 18, 25 August 1, 8, 15	August 22	August 29 September 5, 12	September 19	September 26 October 3, 10, 17, 24
OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE	2	-	1170	1255	1335	1420	1585	1505	1585	1670	1585	1505	1335	1170
LINCOLN, CUMBRIA	2	1	1245	1335	1425	1515	1690	1600	1690	1780	1690	1600	1425	1245
NORFOLK, SUFFOLK	2	2	1290	1385	1475	1570	1755	1660	1755	1845	1755	1660	1475	1290
RUTLAND, YORK	4	2	1535	1645	1750	1860	2080	1970	2080	2190	2080	1970	1750	1535
WORCESTER, BEDFORD, BUCKINGHAM, HUNTINGDON, SOMERSET, HEREFORD	4	1-2	1690	1810	1930	2055	2295	2175	2295	2415	2295	2175	1930	1690
SUSSEX, NORTHUMBERLAND	6	2-4	1775	1900	2030	2155	2410	2280	2410	2535	2410	2280	2030	1775

HOW TO BOOK

You can check availability and book online at www.shirecruisers.co.uk.

Or phone 01422 832712 between 9.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Out of hours, please email info@shirecruisers.co.uk and we'll call you back.

You can pay your deposit immediately by card, or ask us to hold your boat for 48 hours. You may pay by bank transfer, card or cash.

We will send your Booking Confirmation by email.

Your final payment will be due six weeks before your holiday. If you would like to pay the balance by instalments, please ask. On bookings for holidays less than six weeks ahead, the whole amount is due immediately.

Your booking confirmation will contain a link to our Information Pack, which gives comprehensive guidance on boat handling, use of locks and boating safety. It includes the CRT Boater's Handbook and film, our specially written Holiday Guide and Route Companion, plus an inventory list, an order form for bedding and other requirements, and joining instructions.

If you do not already have it, we recommend that you arrange personal and cancellation insurance.

Booking Notes

What's included

Prices are per boat and include:

- Fuel for propulsion and heating (enough for about 2 weeks)
- Damage Waiver
- Information Pack and full tuition including lock demonstration
- Comprehensive Boat Manual
- Free extra children (under 18) on most boats
- First pet free
- Maps and guides on the boat
- Lifejackets
- Parking
- Bed linen
- Towels for overseas visitors
- Welcome pack (washing up liquid, 2 tea towels, oven glove, J-cloth, sponge, floor cloth & toilet paper)
- Boat licence (includes mooring) and insurance
- 24 hour service
- Colour TV/DVD and radio/CD
- Second week toilet pumpout
- VAT

Discounts

Multi-week discounts

Take 15% off a second (and third) week.

Ten or eleven night holidays starting on Friday or Monday cost the first week plus 50% of the second week.

Additional discounts

You may claim ONE only of the following discounts, calculated after multi-week discount if applicable. This must be claimed at the time of booking.

Loyalty discount

As a welcome to our many returning customers:

1 previous holiday	4%
2 previous holidays	6%
3 previous holidays	8%
4 previous holidays	10%

Applies only where holidays are booked in the same lead name.

Flotilla discount

If you book two or more boats in the same lead name for the same period, take 5% off the boat price of the cheaper boat(s).

All discounts are based on the boat price and do not apply to extras. These discounts are not available with outside offers.

Optional Extras

Extra adults or children

Many boats are shown with a variable berth number, e.g. Bedford 4+2 – meaning that there are 4 fixed berths, plus 2 convertible berths. The prices shown on page 12 are for the base number of berths – in this case, 4. The price you pay depends partly on how many people you bring – extra adults are charged £25 per week or part week; extra children are free.

When you do an online availability search (or ring us) you will be able to choose between e.g. Bedford 4 and Bedford 6 – these are the same boat priced for different numbers of adults.

Pick the version that fits the total number of your crew. If your '+2' are under 18, tell us when you book and we will reduce the price before issuing the Booking Confirmation.

Extra pets

The first pet is free; any extras (subject to our agreement) are charged at £25 per week or part week.

Towels

We provide towels free to those who book from overseas. For UK customers we can provide sets of towels – one bath and one hand towel per person – at £5 per set per head if they are ordered in advance, either at the time of booking or on your bedding Yellow Form.

Maps and guides

For planning your journey – see list on website.

Taxi transfer

From around £55 for a car, or £75 for a minibus, payable to the driver on the day.

Booking Deposit

20% of the total cost, minimum £125.

The balance is to be paid six weeks before your holiday.

Holiday Insurance

We insure the boat, including cover for your potential liability to third parties. You are only liable to pay the excess on this policy (or for non-claimable damage) if you breach Condition 9.3.

If you **cancel** for any reason, you may receive a partial or complete refund, depending on how much notice you give, and whether we are able to re-let the boat. Please see Condition 6.

Our insurance does not cover you for:

- Personal accident
- Personal possessions
- Cancellation

We strongly recommend that you take out holiday insurance to protect against these and other risks. If you do not already have suitable insurance, you can readily obtain it on the internet.



2024 CUSTOMER REVIEWS & PICTURES

“ Lovely leafy countryside and wild flowers. Lots of bird life including goslings, ducklings & cygnets. Spotted a kingfisher along the Calder & Hebble and a deer near the river on the Rochdale Canal. ”

Jackson, Oxford



“ Boat was lovely, really well designed. ”

Brown, Rutland



“ Played on park, had ice cream, went to shops. Went to The Moorings for tea. ”

Sidney (aged 9), Northumberland



“ The lovely welcome, advice and help you give make such a difference, and also the guys taking us through the first locks and then welcoming us back at the end are all so friendly, it feels like coming home! We really look forward to returning for another holiday in the not too distant future. ”

Terry, Worcester



“ We were all quite experienced but found the reception and individual handover process to be excellent, friendly and thorough. It gave us a great start to the holiday to be received so well on arrival. ”

Dewhurst, Norfolk



“ Pristine. So clean. Lovely & warm. Lovely hot shower. Very happy with our Cumbria. ”

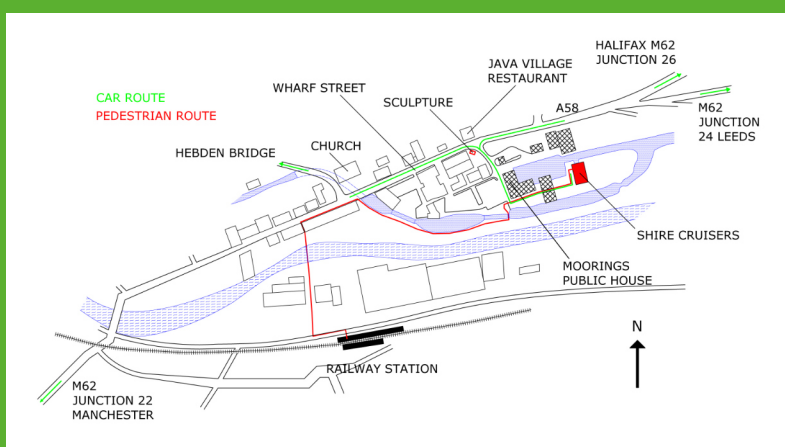
Craig, Cumbria

“ Really friendly with kids: patient and encouraging - made everyone feel comfortable and happy. ”

Meghan, Northumberland



SOWERBY BRIDGE WHARF



HOW TO FIND US

Our yard at Sowerby Bridge is easy to get to:

By car - only ten minutes from the M62.

- Birmingham two hours
- Newcastle three hours
- London four hours

By train – Sowerby Bridge station is a few minutes' walk, with good trains on the Leeds to Manchester Victoria line.

Look for brown tourist signs for 'Sowerby Bridge Wharf' and the sculpture.

You are very welcome to come and see the boats at Sowerby Bridge before you book. We're usually open 9.30 to 5.00 Monday to Friday, 1000 to 1400 Saturday (in the season only).

You can only see the boats based at Barnoldswick on their turnround days – in the winter they're at Sowerby Bridge.

Photographs

All the pictures in this brochure (except the interiors) have been taken by customers, so they show what people really get up to...

Our special thanks to the Adams, Biran, Bonnett, Bradley, Checkland, Eyles, Finley, Francis, Friend, Fulford, Glover, Goodship, Hambly, Hubbard, Jones, Kemster, Mason, Morrell, Overfield, Patel, Pickering, Spoonley, Ward, Wardle and Wilson families.

Please send us your own entries to our photographic competition.



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