

Cruise the River Thames and Oxford Canal in a narrowboat



How long do I need? One day
Where is it? Oxford

Highlights

For a quick way to slow down, hire a narrowboat and savour life at four miles an hour. From their base in Thrupp on the pretty Oxford Canal, Oxfordshire Narrowboats hire out easy-to-operate day boats that provide the perfect introduction to the joys of narrowboating. Boats have a cabin and toilet and a removable cover at the front for all-weather cruising. They take up to ten people, so large families or groups of friends can take a picnic and all go along to enjoy the ride. Boats are available from March to October, with a day's hire running from 9.30–17.30 – enough time to enjoy our suggested seven-hour trip.

Take a tour of Oxford by water

The day begins at the Canal Centre at Thrupp, a classic canal-side village featured frequently in rural scenes of TV's *Inspector Morse*. From here you turn south to begin a circular trip through the memorable landmarks and scenery of the Oxford Ring - one of Britain's smallest circular cruising 'rings'. Bringing together the River Thames and the Oxford Canal, this route is popular with boating enthusiasts and sightseers alike.

Leaving Thrupp, you'll cruise gently amongst the pleasant pastures of the Oxford Canal to slip through the secretive Duke's Cut that links the canal to the adjacent River Thames. The distinctive spires of the Oxford skyline come into view, seen across the peaceful expanse of ancient Port Meadow with its grazing cattle and seasonal flocks of migratory birds. From here cruise gently downstream to central Oxford, to moor at Folly Bridge. Now you are at the heart of the Isis, Oxford's local name for the River Thames. Passenger boats, rowing boats and punts gather here near the Head of the River pub, which overlooks the finish of the Oxford college rowing races – the famous summer Eights Week and the Torpids Regatta which takes place in February/March. Enjoy the busy buzz of life at the bridge but leave enough time for the leisurely journey back to base. You have a choice of routes, either along the river or the Oxford Canal. The latter is particularly full of interest, passing through St Ebbes and Jericho - the

historic community loved by students, where former industry and workers' houses grew up along the banks of the canal.

Time to spare on the water?

For more of the leisurely life afloat, take a short break or longer holiday amongst the snug home comforts of a fully-equipped narrowboat. Oxfordshire Narrowboats offer breaks from Friday to Monday, and Monday to Friday, from their bases at Lower Heyford on the Oxford Canal and Lechlade on the River Thames. For a longer holiday, make the return trip from Lechlade to Upper Heyford (or vice versa) following the route of our itinerary [Cruise from The Cotswolds to Oxford](#) - the round trip by narrowboat will take you a sedate seven days. Boats for hire at the Lechlade base sleep four to six and six to eight people. Boats for hire from Lower Heyford sleep two to four and 12 to 14 people.

Oxfordshire Narrowboats

Canal Wharf, Station Road, Lower Heyford, Bicester, OX25 5PD

Opening hours: 9.00 - 16.00, every day, except winter weekends

Costs: Costs vary – see website for the latest brochure

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