

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO



Milton Keynes, Banbury & Tring's canals

Connecting me

**with a time
gone by**



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected



Step onto the towpath and

connect...

with the great outdoors

Think of your canals and rivers and the surrounding hedgerows as long, winding nature reserves. An ideal habitat for tiny creatures like dragonflies and butterflies, birds such as kingfishers and herons, and even larger mammals such as badgers, stoats or water voles, it's a great way to enjoy the Great British countryside right on your doorstep. In fact, a recent wildlife survey spotted over 60 different species, and that's not including the fish!

So make sure that you keep your eyes peeled as you amble through the scenery.



with great times

If you're looking to break from routine, to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life or to find a peaceful place to enjoy a spot of lunch, your local canal is just a stone's throw away. With so much to do and see, your canal is ideal for meeting friendly, like-minded people or spending quality time with your family and friends. Or just bring yourself and a book for a moment of peaceful solitude.

The handy map inside this leaflet is full of information on the unique activities and attractions that you'll find on your local waterway. So if you're after some fresh air and freedom, grab the kids or grandparents and get out on the towpath!



with your great-great grandfathers

Our canal system is a vital part of the nation's heritage, dating back to the Industrial Revolution. And it still helps make Britain great today. Locks, aqueducts, tunnels and incredible boat lifts are all testament to the golden age of British engineering, and most of it is beautifully preserved.

Get involved, join us

In an increasingly fast-paced and crowded world, our historic canals and rivers are a local haven for people and nature. The Canal & River Trust is the new charity entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales.

Donate time – volunteer!

Fancy getting involved with the valuable work of the Trust? Whether you want to get stuck in at your local canal or take on more of an office-based role, look at our website to find out what's happening in your area; there's never been a better time to get involved.

Give a dragonfly a home with your mobile

We are undertaking 50 amazing projects to help celebrate our launch. And we promise that 100% of your donation will go directly to your local project.

Please text today to help plant new flora and provide a home for British wildlife on the Grand Union Canal, near Tring reservoir.

This planting will provide a habitat that will encourage birds, newts and dragonflies to the area. Your donation could also help build viewing platforms and a new path between the canal and the reservoir. Support this project now, and play your part in encouraging and preserving nature at this special area of the Grand Union Canal.

So please text a gift of £3 today – every penny you give will help to transform the area and provide a special place for people and wildlife to use.

Text TRING to 70007 to give £3 to our Grand Union project.*



Open up for your local map

For more information go to canalrivertrust.org.uk



Your local canal



Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes boasts a scenic stretch of the Grand Union Canal running from historic Bletchley to picturesque Cosgrove. The canal passes Fenny Stratford Lock (great for a pub lunch or waterside pint) and leafy Giffard Park. Much of the town remains hidden behind greenery, pretty bridges and narrowboats. It's a perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle, and you could imagine yourself being deep in the English countryside. Follow the towpath and you soon will be!

Connect with people

Walking trails are a great place to say "hello" and you'll find plenty of bars, cafés and restaurants along the canal, making it ideal to grab a bite of lunch. Look out for canal cruises too for a real taste of the waterways.

Connect with nature

Taking in scenery such as the magnificent Campbell Park and Willen Lakes, your local canal provides an idyllic way to enjoy the British countryside. It also makes an attractive natural habitat, so look out for dragonflies, damselflies, herons, barn owls and kingfishers amongst the various wildflowers. The Redway Nature Trail is a great place to start.

Connect with history

The stretch of the Grand Union Canal around Milton Keynes has barely changed since it was constructed 200 years ago, when it was an integral part of the Industrial Revolution. The impressive Cosgrove 'Iron Trunk' aqueduct between Wolverton and Cosgrove was added in 1811, replacing a failed brick structure, and was restored in 2012. Stroll along and soak up the history.

Milton Keynes



Milton Keynes

- 1 Cosgrove Narrowboat Company
- 2 Milton Keynes Canal Cruises
- 3 thecentre:MK
- 4 Gulliver's Theme Park
- 5 Xscape
- 6 Campbell Park
- 7 The Galleon
- 8 The New Inn
- 9 The Black Horse
- 10 The Giffard Park
- 11 Pear Tree Bridge Inn & Marina
- 12 The Plough
- 13 The Red Lion

Banbury

- 1 Tooley's Boatyard
- 2 Café Quay at Banbury Museum
- 3 Ye Olde Auctioneer
- 4 Ye Olde Reindeer Inn
- 5 Great Western Arms

Tring

- 1 Take to the Water
- 2 The Red Lion
- 3 White Lion Pub and Dining
- 4 The Anglers Retreat
- 5 Bluebell Tea Rooms
- 6 The Grand Junction Arms
- 7 Mead and Sons Farm Shop and Café
- 8 Half Moon

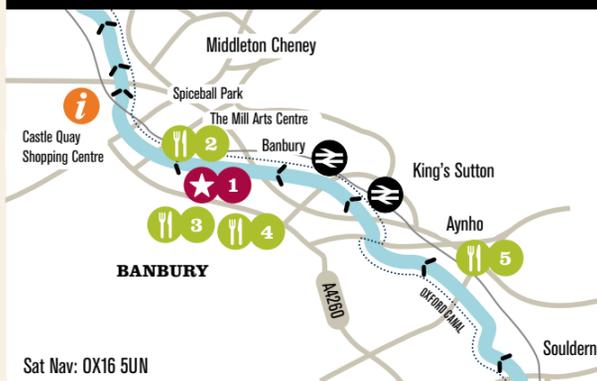
Cropredy

- 1 The Red Lion
- 2 The Brasenose Arms

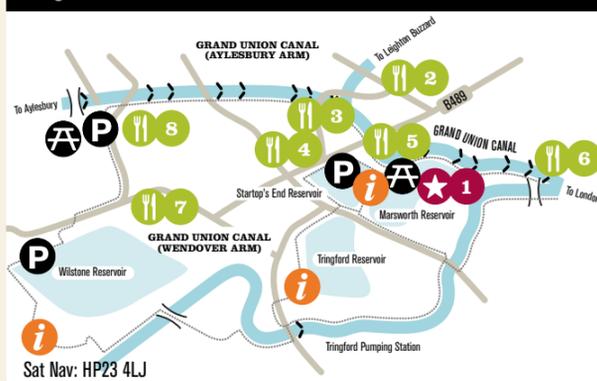
Go to canalriverexplorers.org.uk to download family trail maps



Banbury

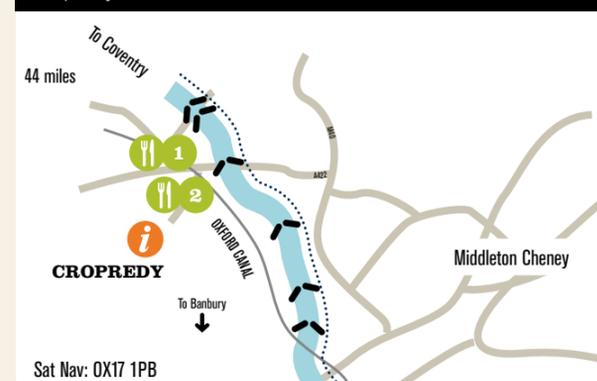


Tring



Sat Nav: MK9 4AD

Cropredy



Banbury

Here you'll find the oldest working dry dock in Britain – Tooley's Boatyard – which has been building and repairing narrowboats since 1790. Now it's also where you can stock up on canal souvenirs, or learn a canal-related craft like painting Roses & Castles.

A few minutes' stroll from the canal is the centre of this historic market town, and the

famous Banbury Cross (yes, there really is one). And why not treat yourself to an equally famous Banbury Cake?

If you're up for a longer walk, you can take the towpath alongside the Oxford Canal to Cropredy, four miles away. You're almost certain to spot moorhens, mallards and perhaps even a shy water vole.

Tring

In many ways this is the heart of the Grand Union Canal. Tringford Pumping Station was built in 1818 to pump water into the canal network from Tring Reservoirs. These reservoirs are not just essential for the canal, but also vital for wildlife, with a large population of birds either passing through or making their home here. The reservoirs are designated as an SSSI for bird interest.

Harder to spot but also abundant here are tench, bream, carp, roach, perch, pike and catfish. Fishing tickets are available.

For something more active, there are 11 miles of waymarked walking trails taking in woods, fields, locks and towpaths. At the start of the Aylesbury Arm Canal is the only staircase lock on the Grand Union Canal.



Cropredy

Before the Fairport Convention Folk Festival made Cropredy famous, it was better known for being the site of a famous English Civil War battle in 1644. King Charles I's Cavaliers defeated Oliver Cromwell's parliamentary troops so Charles was able to cross Cropredy Bridge.

If you would like to see more of the village, you can't do better than to follow the village trail, which is a leisurely mile-long stroll around the village streets. If you walk along the Oxford Canal itself, you may be fortunate enough to spot a kingfisher, or if you are really lucky, an otter.

Key

- Canal, River or Dock
- Lock
- Bridge
- Canal Towpaths
- Railway Station
- Pub, Restaurant or Café
- Place of Interest
- Boat Trip & Hire
- Marina
- Picnic Area
- Information
- Parking



YOUR FREE GUIDE TO

Milton Keynes, Banbury & Tring's canals

Connecting you

**with your
inner child**



**Canal &
River Trust**

Keeping people, nature & history connected



**WORLD
LAND
TRUST™**

www.carbonbalancedpaper.com



find out more at canalrivertrust.org.uk

To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print