

Caring for the Shropshire Union Canal

We're the charity working to protect and bring to life this 250-year-old network of canals and rivers spanning England and Wales. Not so long ago many canals were abandoned, and some lost forever. Today, with your support, wildlife is recovering, history is alive, boats are plentiful and spending time in this environment is contributing to our health and happiness.

Our mission is to keep this extraordinary network of canals and rivers alive, teeming with wildlife, transforming places they run through and enriching all of our lives. Your support today could help us care for the Shropshire Union Canal and many more places, for today and generations to come.

DONATE



Please support our work & donate today

SCAN ME



The task of protecting the finest examples of working industrial heritage including the Shropshire Union Canal, and the wildlife that calls it home, is growing all the time. As a charity we need you by our side more than ever. Please support our work today.

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



Canal &
River Trust

Making life better by water

Keeping history alive

This stretch of the Shropshire Union Canal was once known as the Chester Canal.

In 1770 it was proposed that a canal should be built from the River Dee in Chester to the Trent & Mersey Canal at Middlewich, creating a short-cut route between the Potteries and Liverpool. However, due to engineering issues, costs and a lack of support from the Trent & Mersey Canal Company, the Chester Canal terminated at Nantwich.

In 1813, the Ellesmere Canal Company merged with the Chester Canal Company. Then in 1847 the Ellesmere Canal, Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal and the Montgomeryshire Canal came together to form the Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company and the waterway became known as the Shropshire Union Canal.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

canalrivertrust.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1146792

March 2024



Canal &
River Trust

Welcome to Chester

Escape the city on this tranquil waterway.



We're the charity making life better by water


Passing through the heart of this historic city, the Shropshire Union Canal is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

Find your way around

-  towpath
-  swing bridge
-  lift bridge
-  café
-  pub
-  food & drink
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  bench/picnic area
-  point of interest
-  information
-  nature reserve
-  parking
-  railway station



Visit us at:
Canal Basin, Tower Wharf,
Chester CH1 4EZ

 Allow 3–4 hours
for your visit

N
Map not to scale:
covers approx.
¾ mile / 1.2km

Stay SAFE
Stay Away From the Edge!
For more information on visiting safely:
canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety

Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling.

5 things to do in Chester

- 1** **Stroll** along the towpath to Northgate Locks, carved out of solid sandstone and the deepest in the country.
- 2** **See** King Charles' Tower (also known as Pheonix Tower) – it is said that King Charles I stood on the tower as he watched his soldiers being defeated at the Battle of Rowton Heath.
- 3** **Walk** to Tower Wharf to see a working boatyard and dry dock, and old canal warehouses.
- 4** **Enjoy** a boat trip along the city's famous River Dee.
- 5** **Cycle** along the towpath to Chester Zoo.

Did you know?

The Bridge of Sighs was used to take condemned prisoners from the city gaol to the former Chapel of St John on the other side of the canal. Here, they would receive their last rites before being led back to the gallows.

