

# Birmingham Wellbeing Walk

## Livery Street to The Mailbox

walk time 30-40 minutes  
distance 1.6km / 1 mile



## The Walk - Step by Step

With over 100 miles of navigable waterways, Birmingham sits at the heart of Britain's canals. A skyline of contemporary architecture meets the canal here in a lovingly regenerated meeting place between old and new. The canal isn't hiding from the city, it's just waiting quietly below the bridge, steps away from the urban flurry. You'll find locks hidden under bridges and buildings. Amble this parallel waterworld right in the city, where benches line the water to tempt you to simply sit for a while, watching boats and geese pass by.

 From Livery Street, descend the steps to the cavernous tunnel beneath Snow Hill Station, and turn back on yourself to follow the towpath under Livery Street.

**1** Head up the ramp beside lock 12 of the 13 Farmer's Bridge Locks which climb towards the city centre. These narrow locks, hemmed in by city buildings, used to get so busy with working boats that gas lighting was installed so crews could work day and night.

**2** Beyond Ludgate Hill Bridge and lock 11, overlooked by the imposing 152m BT Tower, the canal slips under an office block with lock 10 straddled by the building's pillars. Boaters watch their heads at Lock 9, directly underneath Newhall Street Bridge! Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter is just west.

**3** Look out for poetry carved into the lock arms at Lock 8. These lines were written by Roy Fisher to mark the creation of the Canal & River Trust charity in 2012.

**4** Your views open as you pass the last few locks of the flight, widening into boat moorings at Cambrian Wharf next to Top Lock and its toll house.

**5** The Birmingham & Fazeley Canal ends at Old Turn Junction, marked by the island in the water. The Birmingham New Main Line Canal heads off left and

straight ahead. Cross the Grade II-listed intricate cast-iron footbridge (marked 'Horseley Iron Works, Staffordshire, 1827') and follow the ramp past the Malt House.

**6** Just beyond Brewmaster's Bridge is a wide leafy area with handy benches to take time and watch canal life and trip boats.

**7** Cross the canal on the footbridge towards the shops, bars, cafés, restaurants and art gallery of Brindleyplace, named after James Brindley, the canal engineer.

**8** Duck your head under Broad Street tunnel into Gas Street Basin - the first place in the city to have gas lights to enable 24-hour canal operations.

**9** Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) meets the Worcester & Birmingham Canal here. The Worcester Bar, built in 1792, forced cargoes to be laboriously transhipped over it for 30 years. Sense prevailed in 1815 when a stop lock was built to allow boats through.

 Cross the footbridge where the Worcester & Birmingham Canal turns sharply southwards. The walk ends at the Mailbox (former Royal Mail sorting office). A Waterbus stop offers a fun way back to Old Turn Junction.

**CANAL:** Birmingham Canal Navigations

**START:** Livery Street Bridge  
OS Grid ref: SP067874 Postcode: B3 1AQ

**FINISH:** The Mailbox  
OS Grid ref: SP064864 Postcode: B1 1RS

**DISTANCE:** 1.6km / 1 mile

**APPROX TIME:** 30-40 minutes

**PUB/CAFÉ:** Actress & Bishop near Ludgate Hill Bridge, Queen's Arms near Newhall St Bridge, Malt House at Old Turn Junction, various in Brindleyplace, Gas Street Basin & Mailbox

**PARKING:** Nearest car parks – Ludgate Hill (postcode: B3 1AT) & Utilita Arena (postcode: B16 8AE)

**TRAIN:** Nearest train stations - Birmingham Snow Hill, New Street & Moor Street  
National Rail Enquiries  
Tel: 03457 484950 [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**BUS:** Traveline  
Tel: 0871 2002233 [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

