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Things to do

- **Take time** to enjoy Blue Bank Lock, where mooring is available with access to Everards Meadows, Jenno's Cafe, Everards Restaurant and Beer Hall, and Rutland Cycling Leicester
- **Shop** at Fosse Park. A 20 minute walk across the meadows from Blue Banks Lock
- **Enjoy** refreshments at Kings Lock tearooms. Kings Lock is convenient for Aylestone Village where there are pubs and shops
- **Admire** the 15th century Packhorse Bridge, originally built to cross the flood plain of the Rivers Soar & Sence
- **Travel** on to Leicester through the beautiful Aylestone Meadows, where you can walk or cycle, and enjoy the wildlife
- **Visit** Richard 111 Centre, Jewry Wall Museum, The Guildhall, The Cathedral, and the Jain Centre. Boaters can moor at either Castle Gardens or Friars Mill secure moorings. The National Space Centre, Abbey Park and Abbey Pumping Station are a 20 minute walk along the towpath

Planning your visit

Getting Here

By train: Leicester has excellent frequent rail connections to London and Sheffield as well as across the country to Peterborough and Birmingham.

By bus: There are bus stations at Haymarket and St Margaret's for services across the city and county.

By boat: There are moorings at Castle Gardens and Friars Mill. Both moorings are secure as a BW key is needed for access. Take care and check the water level markers at the tail of the locks on the River Soar. Water levels here can rise quickly during heavy rainfall.

Come and visit Leicester by boat and be surprised by its greenery, its history and its diversity.

Sign up to our newsletter and get regular news and updates from the Canal & River Trust. Simply go online and search for **'canal newsletter'**.

E enquiries.eastmidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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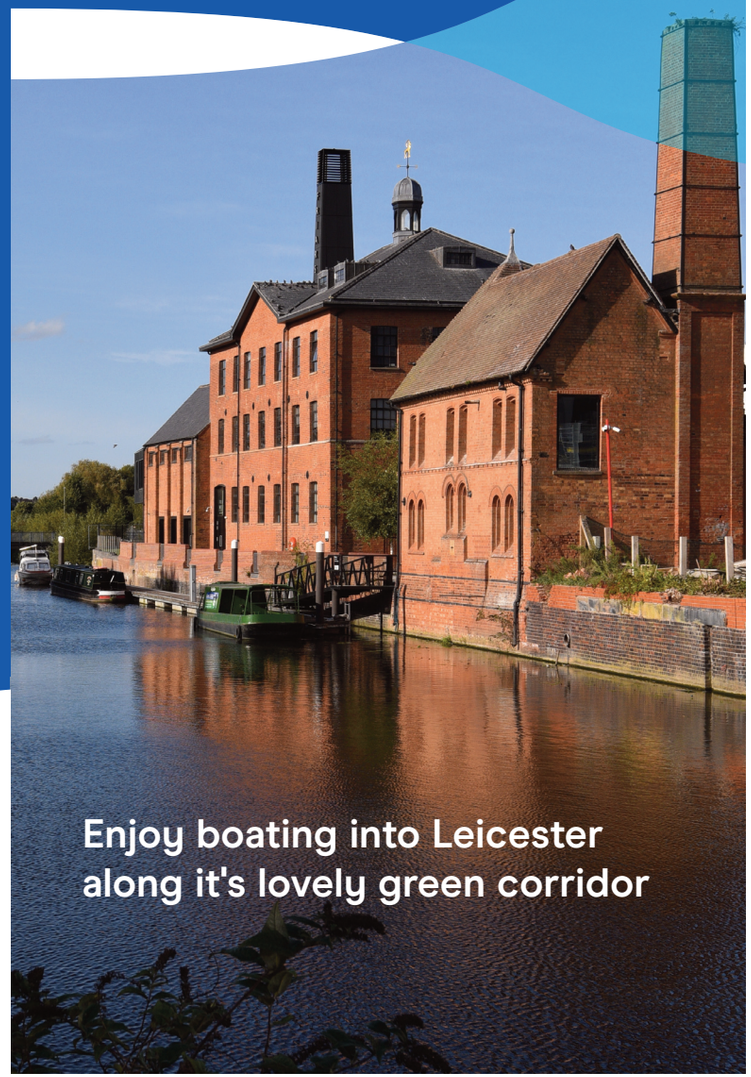
Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Visit Leicester
on the Grand Union Canal



Enjoy boating into Leicester along it's lovely green corridor

Discover historic Leicester and its surrounding area

Search 'local canal' to find out more

Enjoy Leicester's cultural diversity

The Grand Union Canal joins the River Soar just north of Kings Lock, and the two meander together through the city.

Volunteer Lock keepers are often in attendance at Kings Lock and can be found at other locks along the south section to give advice and information.

Restaurants & Cafes

When visiting the city, take advantage of the wide range of international cuisine. Or enjoy one of the vibrant cafes that's on offer.

Cinemas & Theatres

The area boasts the internationally acclaimed Curve theatre, De Montfort Hall, The Y Theatre and the Little Theatre. There are three multi-screen cinemas.

Shopping

Leicester offers all the main stores you would expect from a city, plus its famous open market, and range of independent shops.

King Richard 111

National Space Centre

Leicester Town Hall Square

Go for a stroll and see the wildlife

Kings Lock Tearooms

History of the Leicester Line

What's now called the 'Leicester Line' comprised two canals that were bought by the Grand Junction Canal in 1894: the Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal and the 'old' Grand Union Canal.

The River Soar had been made navigable up to Loughborough by 1780, and the route was extended to Leicester in 1794. The Leicestershire & Northamptonshire Union Canal was promoted to continue the waterway to Market Harborough and Northampton, where it would meet the River Nene and the planned branch from the Grand Junction Canal at Gayton.

By 1797, when construction had only reached Gumley Debdale, the money had been used up. More was raised in 1805, and the canal got to Market Harborough four years later.

STAY SAFE: Stay Away From the Edge