YOUR FREE GUIDE TO
Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Devizes’ canals

Connecting you

with a breath of fresh air

For more information go to canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Bath, Bradford-on-Avon and Devizes’ canals

Connecting me

with a time gone by

To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print

Get involved, join us

with your great-great grandparents

Your mobile

with the outdoors

Step onto the towpath and

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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! Be sure to 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 friends, 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!

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. A £3 text from you could help our team plant wildflowers and grow a fruit orchard, full of apple, damson and greengage trees. The orchard will enhance the beauty of this glorious waterside spot – as well as providing food and shelter for threatened birds, bees and butterflies for many years to come. For more information go to canalrivertrust.org.uk

Open up for your local map

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.

Plant some honeysuckle 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. A £3 text from you could help our team plant wildflowers and grow a fruit orchard, full of apple, damson and greengage trees. The orchard will enhance the beauty of this glorious waterside spot – as well as providing food and shelter for threatened birds, bees and butterflies for many years to come.

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Text today to help volunteers plant fruit trees at Caen Hill – one of the ‘Wonders of the Waterways’ on the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Charity number: 1146792

*You will be charged £3 plus one message at your standard network rate of which the Canal & River Trust will receive a £3 donation, except from O2 customers where the donation received will be £2.96. If we receive more money than we need then the extra donations will be used on similar work. By using this service, you agree that we may contact you in the future. If you’d rather we didn’t, reply DECLINE to 70007*.
huge amounts of coal by their part by transporting seen, and the canals played the day came to see and be was where the ‘A-listers’ of the manner of the Chinese’. that were designed ‘in the bridges in Sydney Gardens like the elegant cast-iron

Look out for original features you can literally walk in the remains of a former pumping station and say ‘cheese’ in front of Claverton House, one of the most photographed features, built half on land and half over the canal.

Connect with people
In its Georgian heyday, Bath was where the ’A-listers’ of the day could be seen, and the canals played their part by transporting huge amounts of coal by barge to heat the mansions of the rich and famous. Now the canal offers the perfect viewpoint for seeing Bath. The Thermae Bath Spa, the stylish shops, the busy bars and trendy restaurants re-create the buzz of the Georgian era.

Connect with history
Built between 1784 and 1815, you can literally walk in the footsteps of your ancestors. Look out for original features like the elegant cast-iron bridges in Sydney Gardens that were designed ‘in the manner of the Chinese’.

Connect with nature
Winding its way through the countryside, the Kennet & Avon Canal is a nature reserve offering an attractive habitat for all kinds of creatures large and small. Keep your eyes peeled – for slow worms, grass snakes, dragonflies and damselflies and if you are lucky you may even catch a glimpse of the ever-so-shy common lizard.

Bath

Compared to the Roman baths in this historic city, the Kennet & Avon Canal is a relative newcomer at just 200 years old. However, its gentle curves are the perfect complement to the formal elegance of Bath’s Georgian architecture, making your on-tranquil towpath walks out towards the Wiltshire Downs.

Bath

To Bath

Sat Nav: BA2 7BH

Connect with nature
The Kennet & Avon Canal runs through Devizes – an historic town dating back to the 11th century, full of impressive architecture and Norman churches. Pack a shopping bag too and see what you can find in the small specialist shops hidden away in the many courtyards and alleyways. One sight not to be missed here is the impressive 16-lock Caen Hill Lock Flight. It still carries out its original function of lifting boats to the summit of Caen Hill. The area has a wealth of cycle trails and walking routes out into the surrounding countryside, or stay close to the canal and you may see kingfishers and waterfowl. You can also go pond-dipping from one of the platforms or just relax with a cup of tea at the Caen Hill Café.

Devizes

The town of Bradford-on-Avon is a history lesson brought to life. Highlights include the remains of an Iron Age fort and a Roman villa just outside the town. The Kennet & Avon Canal runs from Reading to Bristol, and includes the magnificent Avoncliff Aqueduct that crosses the River Avon and the railway line. There are lots of ways to explore the canal and its surroundings, with boats, canoes and bicycles all available for hire. It also offers plenty of pubs and restaurants. The Lock Inn Café is the perfect place to reward yourself after a towpath walk.

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Step onto the towpath and 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. The waterways are home to a plethora of wildlife, with over 60 different species spotted in a recent wildlife survey. So keep your eyes peeled as you amble through the scenery.

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 the perfect spot. Take a moment to pause, to enjoy the soothing sounds of the water and the natural beauty around you. Or bring your family and friends along for a fun day out and make memories that will last a lifetime.

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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.

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