

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO



Birmingham, Hatton & Fradley's canals

Connecting me

with a
breath of
fresh air



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.

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.

Text today to help plant towpath hedgerows with honeysuckle and fruit trees - creating

a haven for wildlife right in the heart of Birmingham.

A £3 text from you could help volunteers restore the hedgerows along your canals - filling them with sweet-smelling herbs and honeysuckle, as well as apple and plum trees. These hedgerows will provide food and shelter for many species of threatened wildlife - as well as brightening up the concrete jungle for everyone to enjoy.

Text BRUM to 70007 to give £3 to our Birmingham projects.*



Open up for your local map

For more information go to canalrivertrust.org.uk



Your local canals

Birmingham



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



Birmingham

The canals of Birmingham are a destination in themselves. Though tranquil and reminiscent of days past, they also offer an enormous variety of attractions, from bustlingly urban to quietly rural. Just off the New Main Line Canal, you can enjoy a drink or a bite to eat at one of the many cafés, bars and restaurants that make up Brindleyplace. Cross the bridge and you'll find the National Sea Life Centre and the Ikon Gallery.

The Worcester & Birmingham Canal is a shopper's favourite, passing close to the Bullring and The Mailbox which includes Harvey Nichols amongst its retail delights. If you appreciate all things shiny, you'll love the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal. This will lead you to the diamonds and pearls of the famous Jewellery Quarter. Finally, just off Broad Street, Gas Street Basin is well worth a visit with its waterside pubs and pretty canal boats.

Connect with people

With an array of cafés, shops and restaurants, there are many areas along Birmingham's canals that offer great opportunities to

meet and mingle. Cycle paths provide a fun way to get out of the city, and look out for boat trips and canal cruises.

Connect with nature

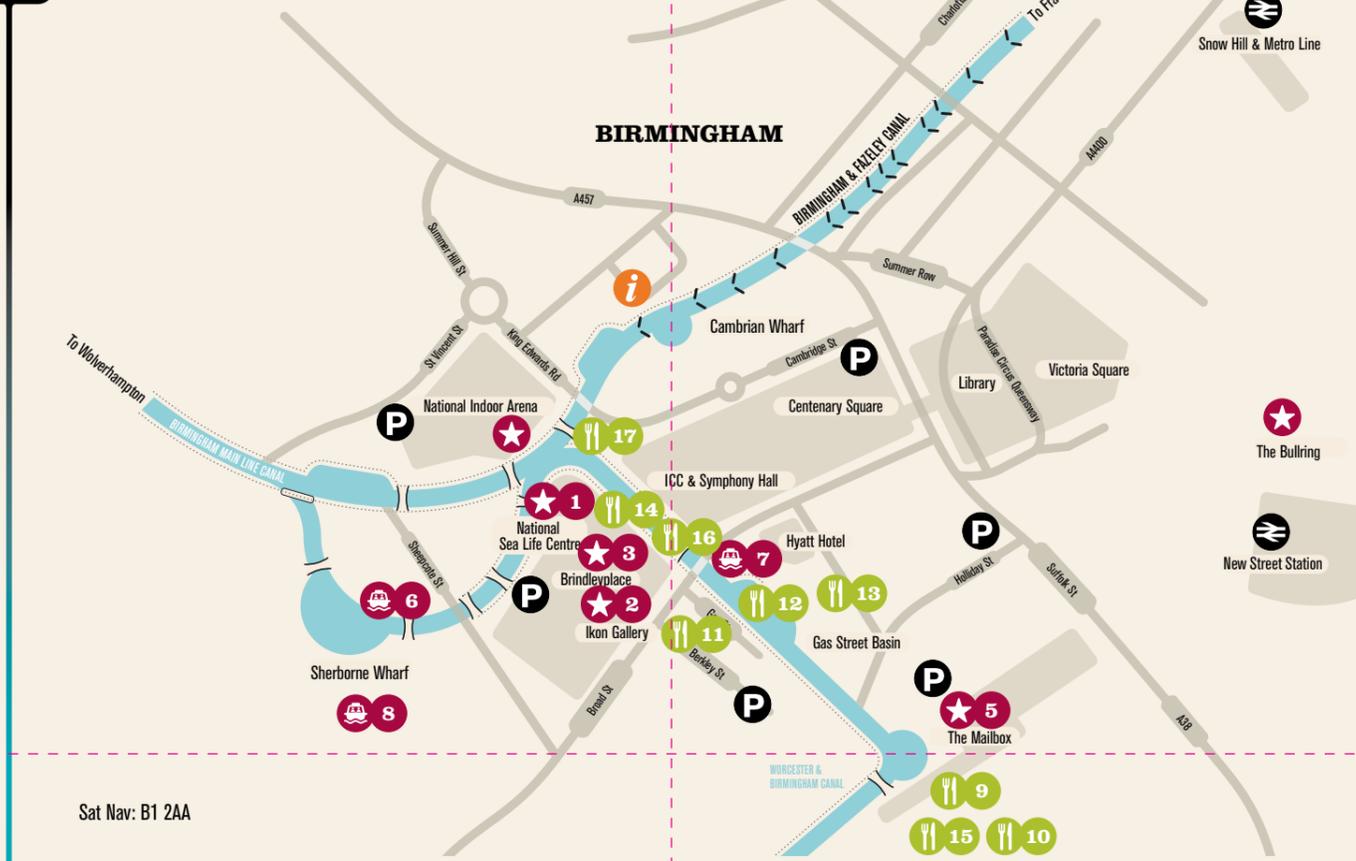
The combination of water, greenery and peace and quiet makes the canals and their banks a wildlife reserve in the city – though you may have

to be up early if you want to spot it! Look out for house sparrows, blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, wagtails, black redstarts and kingfishers.

Connect with history

The canals played a pivotal role in Birmingham's history. In 1800, Birmingham was the hub of the Industrial Revolution and the centre of the canal network stretching from Liverpool to London.

Raw materials such as coal and brass were shipped in here, and many of the buildings and original features are still preserved today. Stroll along the canal and soak up the history!



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Birmingham

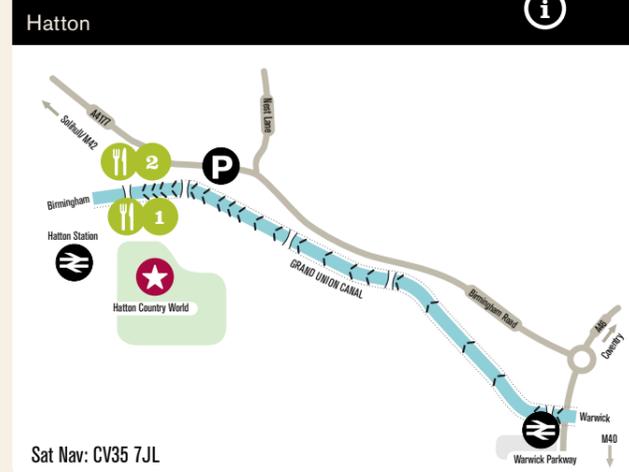
- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 National Sea Life Centre | 10 Bar Room Bar |
| 2 Ikon Gallery | 11 Canalside Café |
| 3 Brindleyplace | 12 Jimmy Spice's Buffetworks |
| 4 Jewellery Quarter | 13 James Brindley |
| 5 The Mailbox | 14 Pitcher & Piano |
| 6 Parties Afloat Birmingham | 15 Red Peppers Restaurant & Bar |
| 7 Away Group | 16 The Locks |
| 8 Heritage Narrowboats | 17 The Malt House |
| 9 Bar Epernay | |

Fradley

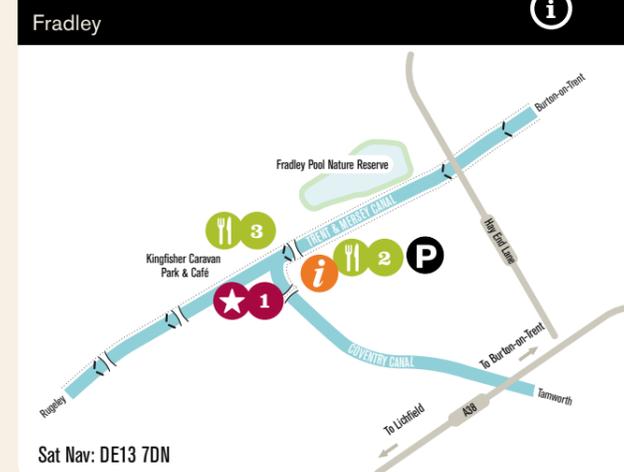
- 1 Fradley Marine
- 2 Canalside Café
- 3 Swan Inn

Hatton

- 1 Hatton Locks Café
- 2 Hatton Arms Pub & Restaurant



Sat Nav: CV35 7JL



Sat Nav: DE13 7DN

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Hatton Locks

Hatton is a fantastic place to soak up the ambience, and features a steep series of 21 locks carrying the Grand Union Canal out of the Avon Valley, fondly known as the 'Stairway to Heaven'. The canal was completed in 1799 and the flight of locks widened in the 1930s – look out for the old narrow locks hidden behind the newer locks.

The old stable block, where canal horses bedded down for the night, is now a popular café and the Hatton Arms continues to provide a welcome resting point for recuperation. And if alfresco dining is your

thing, there are some great picnic spots.

Plan your day by downloading an audio trail (canalrivertrust.org.uk) which will take you back in time as you walk along the towpath, or take a virtual tour in the comfort of the café using the tactile map. The Hatton circular walks leaflet and nature trail are ideal for exploring the area and spotting wildlife as you stroll along.

Ideal whether you are on your bike or on foot, Hatton has a dedicated pay & display car park and Warwick Parkway train station is a scenic 20 minute walk down the towpath.



Fradley Junction

18th century Fradley Junction is where the Coventry and the Trent & Mersey canals meet. Its picturesque location, lively atmosphere and ongoing programme of events for families make it a favourite place to visit all year round.

Much of the architecture is beautifully preserved and is now Grade II listed.

There's something for everyone here, with a café (why not try a famous Staffordshire oatcake?), pub and caravan park breathing new life into the junction. The kids will love discovering the underwater

pond life at the pond-dipping facilities, and if you're on two wheels, National Cycle Route 54 passes close by. The picturesque, award-winning Fradley Pool Nature Reserve natural habitat is home to an abundance of creatures – a bird hide made of native woods gives you the opportunity to study the wildlife unnoticed, and you'll find tree sculptures, pond-dipping platforms and a boardwalk suitable for wheelchairs. Fradley Pool is well stocked with fish and people come from all over to fish here – permits are available from the caravan park.

Key

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

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO



Birmingham, Hatton & Fradley's canals

Connecting you

with your
inner child



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected



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LAND
TRUST™

www.carbonbalancedpaper.com



find out more at canalrivertrust.org.uk

To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print