

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO



Chester and the surrounding canals

Connecting me

with my  
smile



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.

### Give a vole a home 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 volunteers maintain 1000m of the Llangollen Canal's bank, where local wildlife like endangered water voles can thrive.

A £3 text from you could help volunteers repair the canal bank and restore vital hedgerow along the towpath. This hedgerow will provide food and shelter for threatened species of wildlife like water voles – as well as a blossom-filled corridor for ramblers, joggers and picnickers to enjoy in springtime.

Text CHESTER to 70007 to give £3 to our Llangollen Canal project.\*



Open up for your local map

For more information go to [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)



# Your local canals & rivers



## Chester

The Shropshire Union Canal runs right through the centre of Chester. From there it's a short walk to perhaps one of the first examples of a shopping mall: the 13th century Rows. Chester will introduce you to interesting sights, such as a Roman amphitheatre.

The natural landscape is just as attractive as the man-made one, with the area offering breathtaking scenery making it ideal cycling country.

### Connect with people

Chester welcomes you with open arms: namely The Old Harkers Arms and the Oddfellows Arms. Or if you don't want to stray too far from the canal, may we suggest the Lock Keepers Inn or the Canalside Inn?

### Connect with nature

The canal winds its way through green and verdant countryside, with attractive views and a good chance of spotting some of the wildlife which makes its home on the water. Trentham Gardens, The Quinta Arboretum and Dunham Massey Hall Gardens are all well worth a visit.

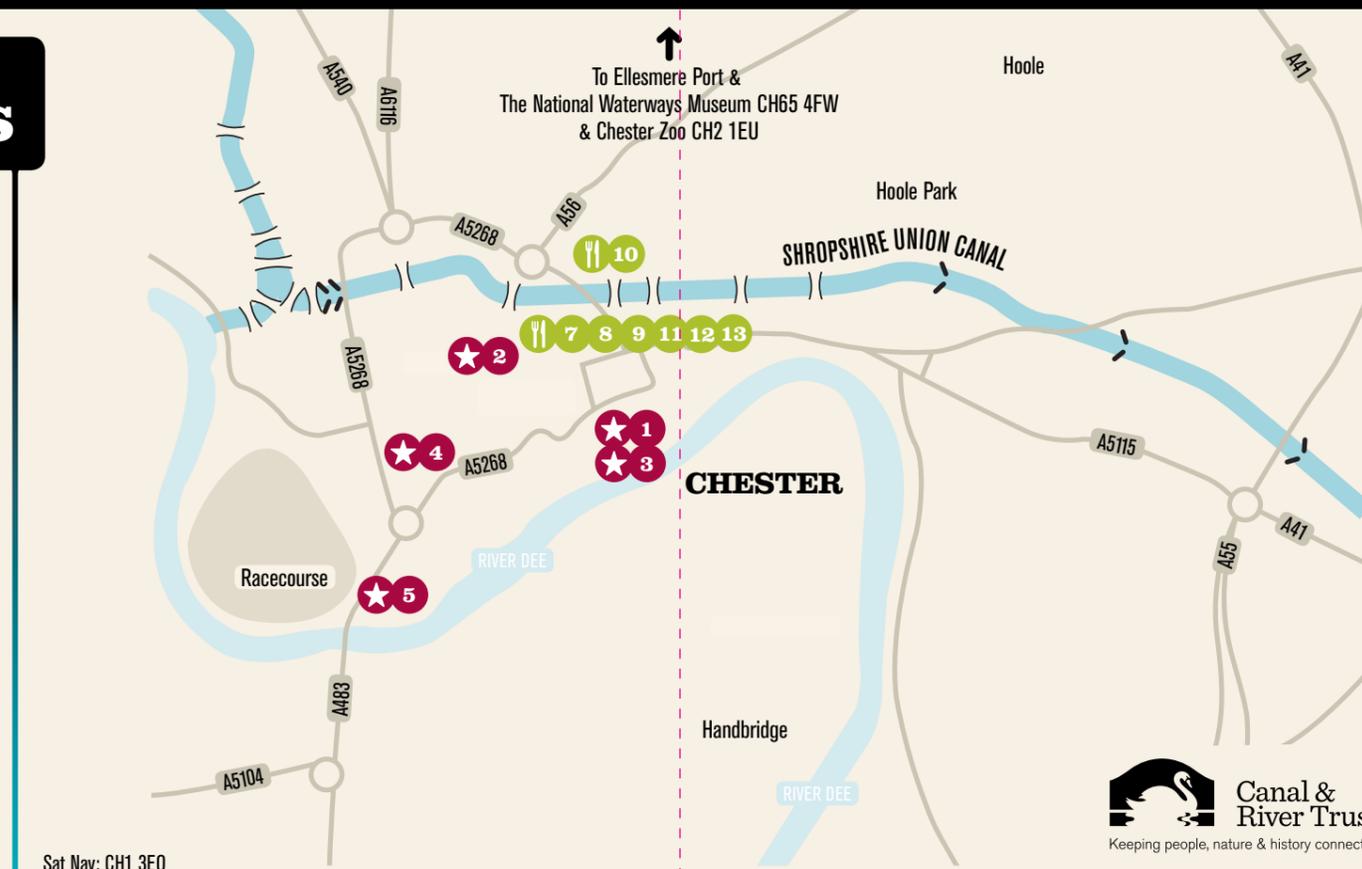
### Connect with history

Chester was an important industrial and trading centre in the 18th century, utilising the River Dee. When this began to silt up, the canal was built to maintain the city's prominent trading position. The Wirral Arm from Chester to Ellesmere Port provided a transport and trading link with the Mersey, Liverpool and, from there, with the world.

## Ellesmere

Idyllically located next to The Mere – one of the lakes in 'Shropshire's Lakeland' – Ellesmere was where famous canal engineer Thomas Telford once had his office. Canal developments are still going on here, with a new marina and overnight moorings just a short walk from the town centre. If you haven't brought your own boat, you can hire one to row out on The Mere, or hop on a steamboat for a trip. Or you can cycle along the Llangollen Canal as far as the awe-inspiring Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

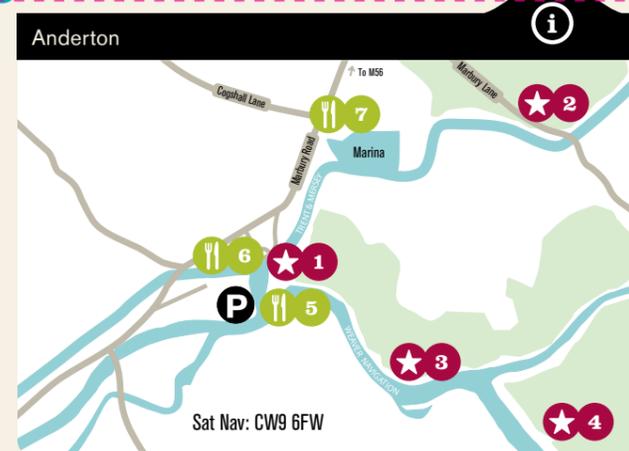
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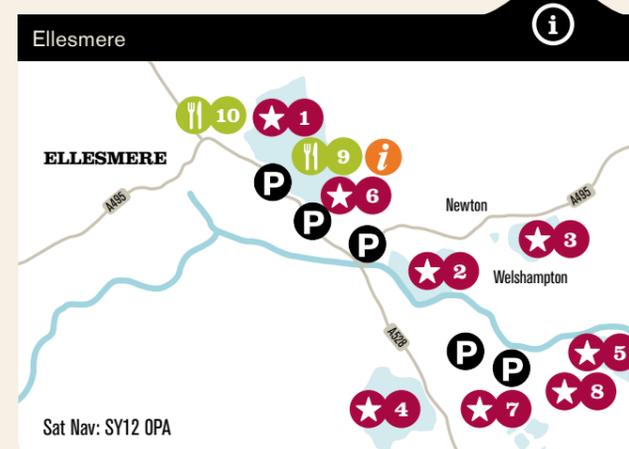
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Go to [canalriverexplorers.org.uk](http://canalriverexplorers.org.uk) to download family trail maps

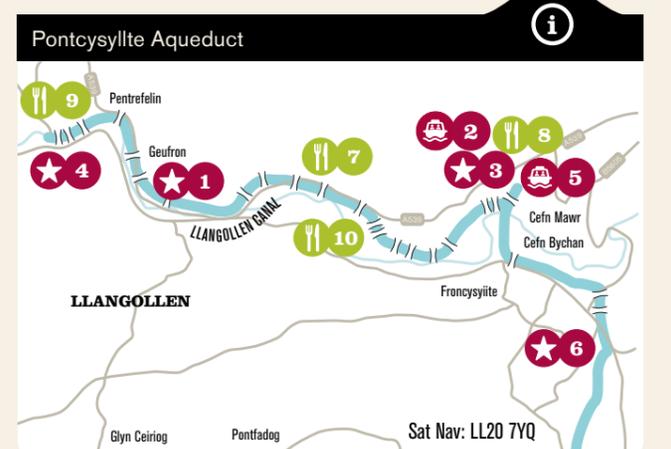


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- | Chester              |                              | Anderton                  |  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 Miniature Railway  | 7 The Old Harkers Arms       | 1 Anderton Boat Lift      |  |
| 2 Roman Amphitheatre | 8 Barton Rouge               | 2 Marbury Country Park    |  |
| 3 Chester Cathedral  | 9 Lock Keepers Inn           | 3 Anderton Nature Park    |  |
| 4 Dewa Experience    | 10 Mill Hotel and Spa        | 4 Carey Country Park      |  |
| 5 Chester Castle     | 11 Oddfellows Arms           | 5 Anderton Boat Lift Café |  |
|                      | 12 Canalside Inn             | 6 Stanley Arms            |  |
|                      | 13 Artichoke Café Bar Bistro | 7 The Moorings Restaurant |  |
- 
- | Ellesmere     |                            | Pontcysyllte Aqueduct    |                     |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 The Mere    | 6 Ellesmere Visitor Centre | 1 Llangollen Wharf       | 7 Sun Trevor        |
| 2 Blake Mere  | 7 Woodland Nature Reserve  | 2 Jones the Boat         | 8 Telford Inn       |
| 3 Newton Mere | 8 Colemere Country Park    | 3 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct  | 9 Chainbridge Hotel |
| 4 White Mere  | 9 The Boat House           | 4 Horseshoe Falls        | 10 Bryn Howel Hotel |
| 5 Cole Mere   | 10 The Red Lion Pub        | 5 Anglo Welsh Hire Boats |                     |
|               |                            | 6 Chirk Marina           |                     |



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## National Waterways Museum

Ellesmere Port played a major role in the Industrial Revolution in the North West. So it's a fitting location for the world's finest collection of narrowboats, barges and ice-breakers. Amongst warehouses, docks, stables

and pump houses, you can learn more about the pioneers who helped to create the world's first major man-made transport network. Log on to [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk) to download your 25% off boat trips voucher.



## Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

A World Heritage Site, Grade I listed structure and Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is essentially a water-carrying iron trough on stone piers. Breathtaking in its stature, it was designed by Thomas

Telford to carry the Llangollen Canal across the River Dee. Don't miss the chance to take a trip across with Jones the Boat, or on a horse-drawn canal boat from Llangollen Wharf. Alternatively, you can walk across on the Towpath Trail.



## Anderton Boat Lift

Often known as The Cathedral of the Canals, this three-storey iron giant was built to lift cargo boats 50ft from the river to the Trent & Mersey Canal above. You can find out how it's done, and discover the history of this incredible structure in the Visitor Centre (March to Christmas Eve). From April to October, you can take a ride in the lift in the Edwin Clark trip boat.

Signposted walks through the Northwich Woodlands give you plenty of chances to spot some of the 2,100 different animals and plants that have been recorded here, including mammals, birds, moths, butterflies, dragonflies and 150 species of beetle. Log on to [canalrivertrust.org.uk/anderton-voucher](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/anderton-voucher) to download your £5.00 off a family ticket voucher.

**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

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Connecting you

with your  
inner child



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WORLD  
LAND  
TRUST™

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find out more at [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print