

YOUR FREE GUIDE TO



Leeds, Skipton & Bingley's canals

Connecting me

with a time
gone by



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.

Help us – give a little

We provide canals and rivers that offer you an authentic, unfenced, 'no turnstiles' opportunity to interact with history, wildlife and nature first-hand. It's a very big job looking after them and one we relish and enjoy but we can't do it without your support.

A simple £3 text donation today could help to encourage more wildlife, such as endangered bats or dormice to your local canal or river, or it may help provide fruit trees and hedgerows line their banks. Please help today and text 'LEEDS' to 70007 to donate £3 to the Canal & River Trust*.

We promise that every penny you give will go directly to keeping the canals and rivers special, not on administration and management overheads. We call this the golden pound.



Open up for your local map

For more information go to canalrivertrust.org.uk



Your local canals & rivers



Leeds

Clarence Dock on the Aire & Calder Navigation was once one of the busiest in the country, with wool, cotton, limestone and potatoes all passing through its gates. So many potatoes in fact, that it earned the nickname of 'Tattie Basin'.

Now, after a period of decline, the Dock has been redeveloped. Together with Granary Wharf and Brewery Wharf, it's the ideal place to catch a breath of fresh air and recharge the batteries.

Connect with people

The towpath is just a stone's throw away from the bustle of the city, and will lead you to the Aireside Centre or Warehouse Hill. There are also tranquil walking routes between Leeds and Castleford.

Connect with nature

Even in the heart of the city, you can feel closer to the countryside by spotting wildlife by the canal. To really connect with Mother Nature, check out the dedicated trail through the Rodley Nature Reserve.

Connect with history

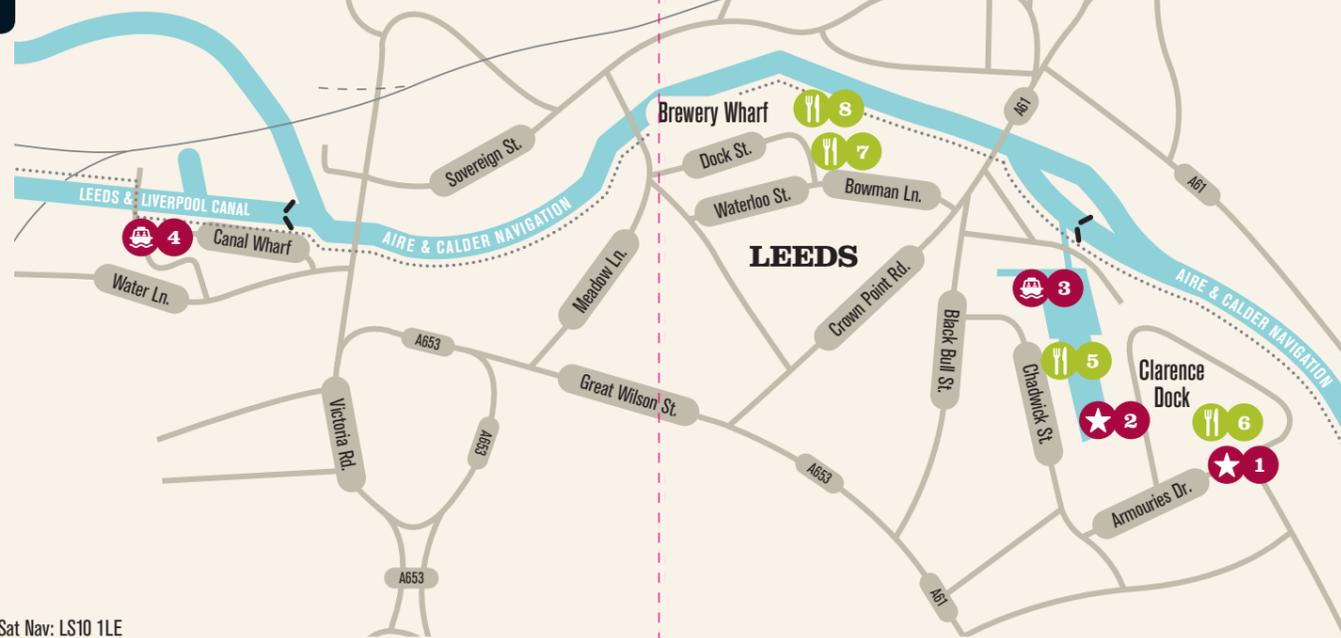
By the 1990s, many of the Victorian industrial buildings were derelict. Now fully restored, the area is worth a visit not only for its own history, but also for the artefacts to be found in the Royal Armouries Museum.

Standedge Tunnel

The longest canal tunnel in the UK, Standedge Tunnel stretches 3¼ miles under the Pennines, from Marsden in the Colne Valley to Diggle in Saddleworth. Originally opened in 1811 and worked on by the great canal engineer Thomas Telford, Standedge Tunnel reopened in 2001 after a 20-year restoration. It's part of the glorious Marsden Moor Heritage Trail, and is a perfect family gateway into the foothills

of the breathtaking South Pennine Moors. Don't miss the informative glass-topped boat trip into the tunnel, and look out for the Visitor Centre and exhibition, as well as the new children's playground and wildlife garden. If you're feeling peckish, there's a café for delicious drinks or snacks. Log on to canalrivertrust.org.uk/standedge-voucher to download your 25% off boat trips voucher.

Leeds



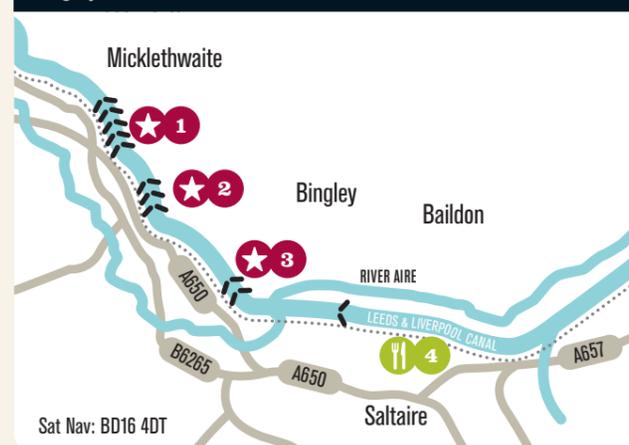
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Skipton



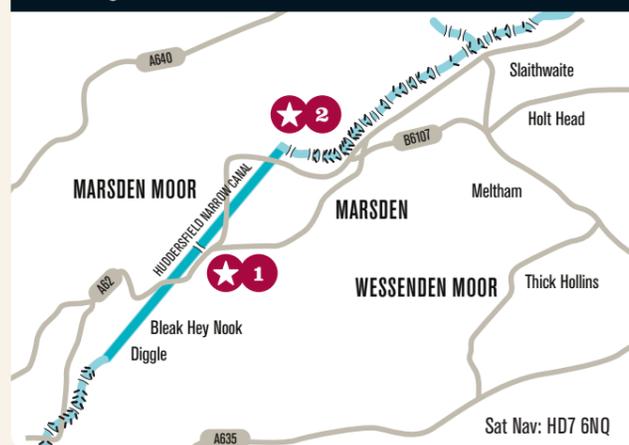
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Bingley



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Standedge



Sat Nav: HD7 6NQ

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

Leeds

- 1 Royal Armouries Museum
- 2 Alea Casino
- 3 Leeds River Trips
- 4 Kirkstall Flyboat
- 5 Café Aagrah
Pizza Express
Mumtaz
- 6 Express By Holiday Inn
- 7 Jurys Inn
- 8 The Oracle Bar
Azucar Tequilla and Tapas Bar
Yum Yums Café Bar and Deli

Skipton

- 1 Pennine Boat Trips of Skipton
- 2 Pennine Cruisers
Silsden Boats
- 3 Snaygill Boats
- 4 Quay Café & Bar
Bizzie Lizzies Fish and Chip Restaurant
The Royal Shepherd
Rose and Crown Pub

Bingley

- 1 Bingley Five Rise Locks
- 2 Bingley Three Rise Locks
- 3 Dowley Gap Aqueduct
- 4 Don't Tell Titus
The Old Tramshed

Standedge

- 1 Standedge Tunnel
- 2 Standedge Visitor Centre

Skipton

The gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, Skipton is a beautiful market town with an award-winning High Street and market, as well as a 12th century castle.

Picturesque walks head towards Gargrave village, or if you're feeling energetic why not ride the Aire valley

towpath route, which passes by the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. The main line of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal offers a convenient walking route to reach the High Street or Skipton station. If you need refreshment on your way, the Royal Shepherd pub is a handy place to stop.



Bingley

This area has more than its fair share of engineering marvels, but Bingley Five Rise Locks is certainly near the top of the list. Grade I listed, and known as a wonder of the waterways, this is an awesome staircase flight of locks.

The same stretch of canal also features the Bingley Three Rise Locks – Grade II listed – close to Bingley town centre, and the Grade II listed Dowley Gap Aqueduct.

There is a choice of places to eat and drink by the canal – put your feet up and stop off for a bite!

Bingley Five Rise to Skipton is one of the local trails you could

tackle on foot, and there are four sections of the cyclists' Trans Pennine Trail in the area.

Before visiting Bingley, be sure to download the Bingley phone app from iTunes for free. The app tells stories, plays animations and video clips, and links Bingley, through a QR code trail, with the World Heritage Site of Saltaire.

Bespoke educational resources are also available to be booked for groups of children for fun learning experiences both in the classroom and on-site. If you don't have a smartphone, there are three interpretation panels to view and an attractive free leaflet to download at canalrivertrust.org.uk

Key

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



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To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print