Visit Bradford-on-Avon Wharf

Bradford-on-Avon Wharf was once the busiest wharf on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Today, it’s a great place to spot historic canal features.

Map not to scale: covers approx 1.4 miles/2.4km

STAY SAFE:
Stay Away From the Edge
Can you name the different parts of a narrowboat?

1. Bow
2. Cabin
3. Tiller
4. Hull
5. Stern


A little bit of history
The Wharf was split over two sites. Coal was delivered from the Somerset coalfields to the lower wharf. Other bulky goods – including local cheeses – were unloaded on the upper wharf, beside the lock. Today, it’s still the busiest lock on the canal, but with pleasure boats rather than working boats.

Five things to do at Bradford-on-Avon Wharf

- Watch boats passing through Bradford-on-Avon Lock, one of the deepest on the canal.
- Bike to Avoncliff Aqueduct designed by John Rennie, the famous canal engineer (1.4 miles/2.3km).
- Spot old canal features such as the lock keeper’s house, now the café.
- Check out the gauging dock where the toll keeper calculated the amount of toll to be paid to use the canal.
- Walk up the towpath to the medieval Tithe barn owned by Shaftesbury Abbey. (A tithe was one tenth of produce given to the Church.)

Best of all it’s FREE!* Canalside car park Baileys Barn (off Moulton Drive) Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1BX

Parking (pay & display)
Toilets
Café
Pub
Picnic
Play area
Cycling
Boat trips
Path

Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

Information

* Don’t forget: Although the site is always open the facilities and boat trips may not be and some may be chargeable. Please check with local businesses before setting out.

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A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.