

Drifters, a consortium of holiday boat companies, offers only quality tourist board-inspected vessels and its website shows their availability on-line. The base we travelled from was Black Prince's smart marina at Napton in the Heart of England which offers three directions in which to sail, including Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick Castle and the big-city Birmingham or south to Oxford.



With distinctive humpback bridges, lock-side cottages and wooden lift-bridges, it is easy to imagine yourself back in 1790 when this canal opened, yet the boats are recently built and fitted with all mod-cons including comfortable berths, a bathroom with shower and plenty of hot water and a kitchen and lounge area with television. Meals and drinks are served at friendly waterside pubs. Do not expect to cover large distances this way: the adventure is in the journey and there is some physical work involved in operating locks and boat handling.

My waterways holiday was with DRIFTERS, www.drifters.co.uk 08457 626252.

Your readers can enjoy the following incentive to get out on the water, if they quote Castle Wharf Promotions - £50 off a part week - £100 off a full week - £250 off two weeks.

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.