

**FUEL  
INCLUDED!**



[www.shirecruisers.co.uk](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk)

# EXPLORE THE PENNINE CANALS 2012 WITH SHIRE CRUISERS



# WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE...

**This brochure gives you all the information you need to plan and book a boating holiday with Shire Cruisers. We are a long-established family firm, and have built up a reputation for quality: both in our service and boat-handling training, and in the design, fit-out and equipment of our boats.**

Our varied routes give access to the best scenery in the North, including the strikingly beautiful Yorkshire side of the Rochdale Canal, many people's favourite waterway. Our second base, on the summit of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, is ideal for a leisurely exploration of this stunning canal on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales.

The northern waterways are uncrowded, with enough other boats for company and interest, but you seldom see queues at locks or moorings. So leave the crowds in the midlands, and find a new boating freedom with Shire Cruisers.

Our boats and our all-important training programme are independently assessed, to help us ensure you get the quality you deserve.

Whether you are an experienced boater or have never been before, and whether you have three days or three weeks for your boating holiday, we very much look forward to welcoming you.

*Nigel Stevens* *Susan Stevens*

## **Nigel and Susan Stevens**

For even more information about our routes and boats see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk).



# QUALITY ASSURED...



## Your holiday is important to you. So it's important to us that your boat provides everything you expect of it, and that our service is all that you require.

We design and fit all our boats ourselves. Careful planning and meticulous craftsmanship make our boats comfortable, light and pleasant to be in. Constant attention by our dedicated team keeps the boats in excellent condition. And we make sure they're well equipped and clean. Just in case you need it, we provide 24-hour backup service. Every year, we ask enjoyEngland to check that we are keeping up to standards you expect.

We believe our information service, from booking to holiday, is unrivalled. We know our local waterways well and are happy to advise on routes before you book. The Information Pack we send you six weeks or so before the holiday contains the Canal & River Trust (British Waterways) Boater's Handbook and DVD, plus our exclusive Holiday

Guide and Route Companion giving detailed information on your boat and its contents, routes, arrival information, and everything you need to know. You can also see the Pack online once your booking is confirmed.

On board are a comprehensive boat manual, again written by us, with safety and timing information, and guide books, so you can take your holiday with complete confidence. We take great care with our boat handover and lock instruction, which are Quality Assured by the British Marine Federation. We shall do all we can to make your holiday with us the greatest success.

## WHAT'S ON BOARD

We give you a wide choice of boats and accommodation layouts. Some boats have fixed double beds. On others you can choose whether a cabin has a fixed double or two fixed singles – we set it up as you request. The beds go length-ways so there is always room to walk past. Many boats have two loos.

All boats have forward facing windows, radiator central heating, showers, fresh water flush toilets, four-burner cookers with grill and oven, electric fridges, filtered drinking water, lots of worktop and storage space, colour TVs, radio CDs, phone charger points, hair dryers - and most have microwaves and DVDs. A full inventory, bed linen and cruising guides are supplied. Bed guards can be fitted for babies.

For detailed specifications and slideshows of every boat, showing the different bed arrangements, see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html).

# DISCOVER...



.... a new view of Yorkshire, where the scenery is grander, the waterways less crowded – and the beer cheaper! Our starting points are restored historic wharves, either at our main base in Sowerby Bridge, or at our Leeds & Liverpool base at Foulridge.

Three canals cross the Pennines, each having its own character, but sharing the boldness of their creators, and of those who have restored parts which once were closed. Today you can see their history all around as you travel, and also how the West Riding is adapting to 21st century life.

The Leeds & Liverpool, to the north, makes its way through glorious scenery from major cities to the edge of the Dales. Explore this from our Foulridge base, or for experienced crews, on a one way trip.

The Rochdale, in the middle, is a broad canal which punches across the Pennines. Boaters enjoy its romantic scenery and stone-built towns as they climb towards the summit.

The Huddersfield Narrow, to the south, gives dramatic views of the moors as it climbs towards the longest and highest canal tunnel in Britain.

**These three canals are linked on the Yorkshire side by river navigations:**

The Calder & Hebble is an old navigation, hidden in the trees.

The Aire & Calder is a modern waterway which successfully mixes growing pleasure traffic with environmentally friendly bulk transport.

Our Yorkshire waterways offer a fresh discovery round every corner. Whichever bit you want to explore, we can get you there.

The map shows where your journey can take you, and on later pages you will find descriptions of routes we recommend, next to the boats you can travel on.

**There is a lot more route information on our website, at [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/routes/canal-boat-holiday-routes.htm](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/routes/canal-boat-holiday-routes.htm).**

**For recommended pubs and restaurants see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/yorkshire-canal-pubs.html](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/yorkshire-canal-pubs.html).**



## THINGS TO DO...

### NEXT TO THE WATERWAY

- Pennine Way & Calderdale Way
- Industrial museums in Leeds & Manchester
- Hepworth Wakefield
- Royal Armouries, Leeds
- Saltaire - Hockney Gallery
- East Riddlesden Hall NT
- Portland Basin Heritage Museum
- The Lowry
- Standedge Visitor Centre

### WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

- Hardcastle Crags NT
- Selby Abbey
- Leeds Opera & Playhouse
- Henry Moore Sculpture Gallery
- Kirkstall Abbey & museum
- Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- Settle & Carlisle Railway
- Skipton Castle
- Towneley Hall, Burnley
- Locations for *Last of the Summer Wine* and *Where the Heart Is*

### BY TRAIN OR BUS

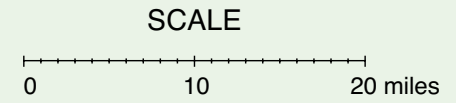
- Eureka!, Halifax
- Nostell Priory NT
- National Media Museum, Bradford
- York Minster
- Yorvik Viking Centre
- Railway Museum, York
- Brontë Parsonage, Haworth
- National Mining Museum

### PLUS

- Swimming baths, cinemas, pubs, takeaways, sports centres, playgrounds.

**Public Transport is easily accessible from all the waterways.**

**More things to do at [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boating-things-to-do.htm](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boating-things-to-do.htm)**



# SHORT BREAKS: Out & back Friday or Monday start



There's no faster way to slow down than a short break on the Yorkshire waterways. Whether you go up the valley or down, you will find attractive scenery, welcoming pubs and plenty to see and do.

- Short breaks are available from 2pm Friday to 9am Monday or from 2pm Monday to 9am Friday. All short break routes are out and back from Sowerby Bridge.
- The boats on pages 6 & 7 can also be booked for 7, 10/11 or 14 night holidays starting from Sowerby Bridge on Friday or Monday - for routes see pages 8, 9 & 7.
- Short breaks and 10/11 night holidays can only be taken with the boats on pages 6 & 7.



**DEVON** Sleeps: 2 Length: 32ft.

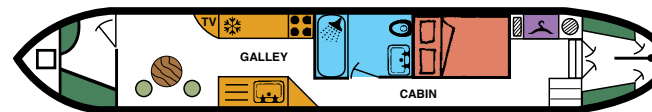
Berths: one double or two singles.



Short, cosy and easy to manage but with all the facilities of our larger boats. An inexpensive but comfortable boat for two. Forward saloon convertible to double or two singles. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Separate shower and toilet.

**OXFORD** Sleeps: 2 Length: 42ft.

Berths: one fixed double



Our honeymoon boat, with everything you need just for two. Bath with shower. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. Saloon with loose chairs and removable table. DVD player. Semi-traditional back end with open seating. Free bottle of champagne.

**NORFOLK** Sleeps: 2 + 2 Length: 48ft.

Berths: one fixed double, or two fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles.



A very spacious two berth, which actually has plenty of room for four. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.

## SHORT BREAK ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

### 1. Hebden Bridge & Todmorden 20 miles 32 locks 16 hours

Leaving our historic canal basin, your journey begins with the excitement of a new tunnel and the deepest lock in the country. The canal gradually climbs through woods, fields and small stone towns to Hebden Bridge. This old mill town nestles in a fork in the hills, houses piled tier upon tier. Hebden has excellent shops and is full of surprises – everything from horsey clothing to hand-made pottery.

Untie, and go on up the valley, its sides closing in with crags and trees and views of the moors high above. A stream runs alongside, and the locks are set among woods or stone cottages. The Pennine Way crosses at Callis.

So to Todmorden, completely untouristy yet with much to enjoy: fine Victorian buildings, especially the Town Hall, a lively market and many places to eat and drink, all dominated by a curving railway viaduct.

Make your way back. This trip gives you plenty of time for walks, the pubs or simply to sit and unwind, especially if you go Monday-Friday

### 2. Hebden Bridge & Brighouse 24 miles 34 locks 16 hours

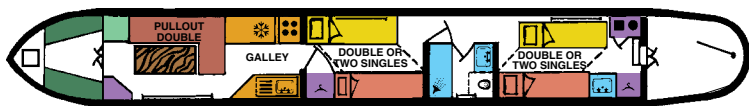
Go up to Hebden Bridge, explore a bit, then head back and down to Brighouse, through a wider part of the valley with woods, lakes and views of the river. Brighouse basin is a quiet mooring near the centre of town.

### 3. Brighouse & Shepley Bridge 23 miles 32 locks 16 hours

Sail down the leafy Calder & Hebble Navigation to Elland, with two canalside pubs. At Brighouse, an interesting town with useful shops and places to eat as well as the eponymous brass band, you leave the canal and drop into the River Calder. Pass under a towering motorway viaduct, a reminder of the world you left behind. The river winds on its timeless way, until you arrive at Shepley Bridge, where a riverside pub will refresh you for your return journey.

## LEICESTER Sleeps: 4 + 2 Length: 53ft.

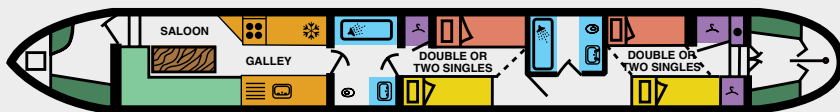
Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to one double.



*A boat with real character, and a practical and versatile layout. The centre and rear beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish. You can walk round in either case. Shower bath.*

## HEREFORD Sleeps: 4 Length: 56ft.

Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles.



*Two bathrooms, one with shower and one with bath and shower. The beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish – you can walk round in either case. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

## SUSSEX Sleeps: 6 + 2 Length: 56ft.

Berths: one fixed double and up to six singles, or two doubles and four singles.



*Beautifully designed and built, this is a very comfortable six berth, with room for up to eight. The middle single cabins may have additional top bunks if you wish. Fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Two toilets.*

## NORTHUMBERLAND & WESTMORLAND Sleeps: 6 + 4 Length: 56ft.

Berths: two doubles and six singles, or one double and eight singles.



*These boats have good accommodation for a large party, but are priced to make them attractive to a smaller group. Raised dinette and settee, with two tables. Top bunks can be fitted over single beds. Generous storage. Fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Shower and two toilets.*

## 10/ 11 NIGHT ROUTES

### 4. Skipton

136 miles 128 locks 66 hours

Climb the five-rise at Bingley (Route 11) then enjoy extensive views of Airedale all the way to Skipton. Don't miss the castle! This return journey needs long days and good timing.

## 14 NIGHT ROUTES

### 5. Barrowford

170 miles 156 locks 92 hours

After Skipton (Route 4) the canal wanders through the moors before bringing you to Foulridge Tunnel - 1640 yards driven through the top of the Pennines. Turn at Barrowford.

### 6. South Pennine Ring

71 miles 197 locks 80 hours

This exhilarating journey crosses the Pennines twice, and includes passage of England's longest and highest tunnel. The scenery varies from dramatic Pennine views to the highs (and lows) of city life. For details of the route, see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/routes/canal-holiday-ring-routes.htm](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/routes/canal-holiday-ring-routes.htm).

**Navigation note:** Previous experience essential. See p11 Notes for the HNC and Rochdale. Minimum journey time 11 days. Please tell us when you book that you intend to do the Ring so that we may advise on direction of travel, timing and booking.

## 21 NIGHT ROUTES

### 7. Outer Pennine Rings

192 miles 248 locks 130 hours via Huddersfield; 185 miles 215 locks 115 hours via Rochdale

Cross the Pennines twice, via Huddersfield or Rochdale and the Leeds & Liverpool. Demanding journeys for real enthusiasts, with an extraordinary variety of sights along the way.

**Navigation note:** as for Route 6.

For interior pictures of all our boats, see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html) and follow for individual boats



# OUT & BACK: Saturday start



These holidays give you the freedom to roam as you please, following one of our suggested routes or your own inclinations.

- The boats on pages 8 & 9 start on Saturday at 2pm and return to Sowerby Bridge Saturday 9am.
- The holidays on pages 8 & 9 can also be taken with the boats on pages 6 & 7 starting Friday or Monday at 2pm.
- For longer holiday routes, see page 7.



## CAMBRIDGE Sleeps: 2. New in 2011. Length 44ft.

Berths: one fixed double.



*Our second honeymoon boat, with everything you need just for two. Bath with shower. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. Saloon with loose chairs and removable table. DVD player. Free bottle of champagne.*

## STAFFORD Sleeps: 2 + 2. Length: 48ft.

Berths: one fixed double, or two fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles.



*A very spacious two berth, which actually has plenty of room for four. Fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Tiled bathroom, shower cubicle. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

## OUT & BACK SEVEN NIGHT ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

### 8. Walsden & Brighouse 37 miles 76 locks 30 hours

This route is packed with dramatic scenery and romantic views. Go to Todmorden (Route 1). Pass the Great Wall of Todmorden, go under a splendidly overdone Gothic railway bridge, then stop at the Cross Keys (much recommended). Turn below Lock 33.

On your return trip, go down the Calder Valley through the woods to Brighouse. Good shopping, including a Sainsbury's with its own moorings, plentiful pubs and time to relax. Finally, make your way back to base.

### 9. Littleborough 32 miles 94 locks 38 hours

This enables you to cross the summit, the second highest (just) in England at 600'. Take Route 1 to Todmorden. Soon the going gets serious – more Alpine than Pennine. Pause at the Summit Inn, your first in Lancashire, before making the steep drop into Littleborough, 12 locks in 2 miles. Turn near the railway station.

**Navigation note:** This journey is recommended for experienced crews only. Passage over the summit must be booked in advance.

### 10. Marsden (bottom of flight) 39 miles 108 locks 40 hours

This gives a good flavour of the Huddersfield Narrow. Go through Brighouse on the Calder & Hebble, then up the Broad Canal to Huddersfield. Set out on the Narrow, climbing steadily out of town towards Slaithwaite. Turn here, or go beyond to the bottom of the Marsden flight.

**Navigation note:** The Huddersfield Narrow is recommended for experienced crews only. It is not possible to go through Standedge Tunnel on an out and back holiday: see p11 for one way trips which enable this.



## OUT & BACK SEVEN NIGHT ROUTES

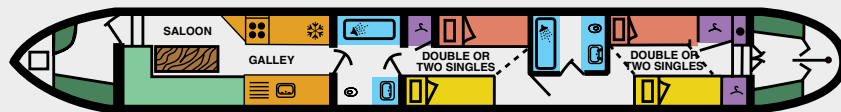
### 11. Bingley 5-rise

110 miles 118 locks 54 hours

Go to Shepley Bridge (Route 3). Carry on through Wakefield, with its new Barbara Hepworth museum – then at Stanley Ferry see the aqueduct, like a miniature Sydney Harbour Bridge. You are now on the Aire & Calder, which retains the fascination of a commercial waterway, though there are now many more pleasure boats than barges. Electric locks and a wide channel help you speed (relatively) round to Leeds, where you sail past the regenerated waterfront. Then join the Leeds & Liverpool Canal which quickly escapes along its own way through fields and woods, with spectacular views of old West Riding industry – particularly Sir Titus Salt's Italianate mills and model town at Saltaire, with its Hockney museum. There are several staircase locks along the way, which culminate in the Five Rise Locks at Bingley, one of the Seven Wonders of the Waterways. Return the same way; this is a very energetic trip for the more experienced.

### WORCESTER Sleeps: 4. New in 2010. Length 56ft.

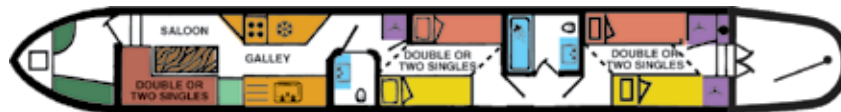
Berths: two fixed doubles or four fixed singles.



*Two bathrooms, one with shower cubicle and one with bath and shower. The beds are made up by us as doubles or singles as you wish – you can walk round in either case. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

### BUCKINGHAM Sleeps: 4 + 2. New in 2012. Length 56ft.

Berths: two fixed doubles, or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles.



*A really roomy boat, great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Fitted cooker, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower cubicle. Two toilets.*

For interior pictures of all our boats, see [www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk/boats/narrow-boats.html) and follow for individual boats



### 12. Selby

96 miles 68 locks 40 hours

From Stanley Ferry (Route 3) go to Castleford and keep on the main line of the Aire & Calder Navigation to Knottingley. This section briefly passes through an industrial hinterland, but is full of interest because water-borne freight comes through. At Bank Dole you leave the main line and its electric locks, to drop into the Aire as it winds through farmland, stopping occasionally at pretty brick-built villages. And so to Selby, where you can explore the ancient Abbey and market, before taking the train to York – you could have time for a full day there. This return trip is relatively easy.

**Navigation note:** We do not recommend passage beyond Selby onto the tidal Ouse.

# ONE WAY TRIPS: For experienced and active crews

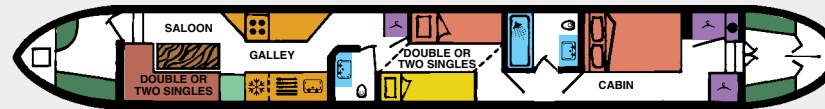


**Between Sowerby Bridge and Foulridge, by the Leeds & Liverpool.**

**Available only on Dorset or Gloucester – Saturday start.**



**DORSET** Sleeps: 4 + 2. Length 56ft. Berths: Two fixed doubles, or one fixed double and two fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles



*A really roomy boat, great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Fitted hob and oven. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

**GLOUCESTER** Sleeps: 4 + 2. Length: 56ft. Can accommodate up to 8. Berths: one fixed double and up to six singles, or two doubles and four singles.



*A boat of real character, with well-planned accommodation for four. Also suits large family or groups of mixed ages by fitting optional top bunks over single beds. Fitted hob and oven. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

## SEVEN NIGHT AND 14 NIGHT ONE WAY ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the one-way route.

### Seven Night One Way Route

**13. Between Sowerby Bridge and Foulridge, via Leeds**  
82 miles 79 locks 45 hours

One of the great canal journeys, this takes you across the backbone of England and through the heart of the West Riding, in scenery varying from the timeless calm of the L & L summit to the hubbub of just-built waterfront Leeds. Follow Routes 3, 11 & 4, and finish dramatically at the mouth of Foulridge Tunnel.

### Fourteen Night One Way Routes

**14. Between Sowerby Bridge and Foulridge, via Leeds, with extensions of your choice**

As well as making the one-way trip, explore further afield.

**15. Between Sowerby Bridge and Foulridge, via Manchester**  
107 miles 169 locks 85 hours via Huddersfield or  
100 miles 136 locks 65 hours via Rochdale

Cross the Pennines by either canal (Route 16 or 17), go through Manchester with its new canalside night-life, and then tackle the Wigan 21. A long cruise with relatively few locks through Lancashire brings you to Foulridge.

### Transfer arrangements for Foulridge and Ashton

Your direction of travel will be advised the week before you start: it depends on that taken by previous crews.

You will come first to Sowerby Bridge whichever way the boat is going. All cars are parked here. The easy 20-mile transfer by minibus to or from Foulridge or Ashton will accordingly be at either the beginning or the end of your holiday. Cost about £10 per head, minimum £40. Full information is sent to you in good time and details are discussed with you. Those travelling entirely by train can get to Ashton (Guide Bridge station), Colne (taxi required for Foulridge) and Sowerby Bridge from main line trains at Manchester or Preston. **Navigation notes: See opposite.**

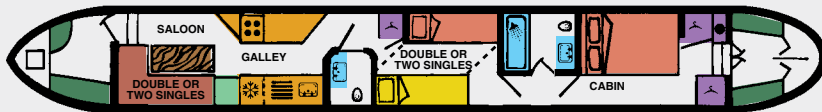


## Between Sowerby Bridge and Ashton-under-Lyne by the Huddersfield Narrow or Rochdale

### Available only on Cornwall - Monday Start

We pioneered the newly restored Huddersfield Narrow and Rochdale Canals, and are the largest operator on them. So we can give you all the information and support you need to enjoy more demanding routes such as these one way trips or the South Pennine Ring.

**CORNWALL** Sleeps: 4 + 2 Can accommodate up to 8. Length 56ft. Berths: two fixed doubles, or one fixed double and two or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles.



*A really roomy boat, great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Fitted hob and oven. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating. Can sleep upto 8, with optional top bunks in centre cabin.*



## SEVEN NIGHT AND 14 NIGHT ONE WAY ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the one-way route.

### Seven Night One Way Routes

#### 16. Huddersfield Pioneers.

33 miles 97 locks 40 hours

Sail down the Calder Valley to Brighouse, then turn up the Broad Canal to Huddersfield. The Huddersfield Narrow starts in the University, and climbs out of town, then through woods, fields and small towns towards its dramatic passage under the moors through Standedge Tunnel, the longest and highest in Britain. Canal & River Trust staff will guide you through the tunnel. On the far side, drop through Uppermill and Stalybridge to finish in Ashton.

#### 17. Rochdale Pioneers

38 miles 100 locks 36 hours

Cross the summit to Littleborough (Route 9). Then descend through town and country, right to the centre of Manchester. Pubs and restaurants welcome boaters, and the city is full of life and things to do. Finally, follow the Ashton to base.

### Fourteen Night One Way Route

#### 18. Pennines and Peaks

38 miles 100 locks 36 hours minimum

As well as crossing the Pennines, you can spend a week exploring the Peak Forest and Macclesfield, or even do the Cheshire Ring.

### Navigation notes:

One way trips require an active crew, all keen to do 8 hours or so boating a day; all routes have many locks and the L & L also has many swing bridges!

**At least one of the crew must have adequate experience** - you need to know how to pace yourselves, and we cannot give lock instruction to those who start from Ashton.

We will give details on timing etc. in the Information Pack posted to you before your holiday and viewable online after booking.

The HNC and western half of the Rochdale are not yet in as good a condition as other waterways and you may experience difficulty or delays. Standedge Tunnel and certain locks on the Rochdale must be booked; we will do this for you. One way trips may not be available at the very start and end of the season.

# FOULDRIDGE BASE: Out and Back Weeks Saturday start



These holidays give you the freedom to roam as you please, following one of our suggested routes or your own inclinations.

- The boats on pages 12 & 13 start on Saturday at 2pm and return to Foulridge Saturday 9am.
- The boats on pages 12 & 13 can also do the Outer and Northern Pennine Rings – see page 7.



**WARWICK** Sleeps: 2 + 1. Length: 46ft.

**Berths:** one fixed double and one single.



*A super-spacious two-berth with a fixed double bed and separate sitting and dining areas. Kitchen with fitted hob and oven, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower bath. Semi-traditional back end with open seating. Third person on convertible settee.*

## GOING EAST - OUT & BACK SEVEN NIGHT ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.

### 19. Skipton 32 miles 30 locks 20 hours

This route winds along the contours on the side of Airedale, with extensive views of sheep country, and stone growing out of the landscape – farmhouses, barns, stone walls in all directions and the occasional village or small town. At Greenberfield, you leave the summit level, and paradoxically pass into the wildest scenery, where you could moor for days with no human contact but the occasional passing boat, walker or cyclist. Across the valley, you may see a boat behind a stone wall, apparently heading in the same direction as you on a parallel canal – only to find that you meet on a hairpin bend, and pass. Then the Bank Newton flight leads you round and down into Gargrave, an unspoilt canal village. From here it's level for 17 miles, with views of the hills and lots of swing bridges. Quite suddenly, you are in Skipton, and can moor right in the centre of town. Explore the castle, cattle and street markets and shops, before turning to head back.

### 20. Bingley 58 miles 30 locks 30 hours

Head for Skipton (Route 19), then carry on along the side of the Aire Valley, with extensive views through the trees. Pass through the romantic village of Kildwick, clinging to the hillside with the canal going placidly through the middle. Silsden is a bigger town, with shops and eating places. Keighley Golf Course has astonishing rhododendrons in May. Moor at Bridge 197A and walk down to East Riddlesden Hall NT, a 17th century manor house with fine garden; or get a bus to Keighley Station, and take the steam train (of Railway Children fame) to Haworth, and walk up the steep hill to the Brontë Parsonage. Turn at the top of the Five Rise.

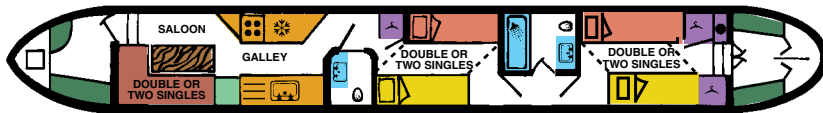
### 21. Rodley 78 miles 62 locks 45 hours

Follow Route 20, then pass down the Five Rise, the first of several staircases – the most dramatic sort of lock. Soon you arrive in the World Heritage Site of Saltaire, Sir Titus Salt's Italianate mills and model town founded on the wool of the alpaca. See the streets named after his eleven children, and find his statue in the nearby park. There's also a splendid display of Hockneys – he is a Bradford lad. Turn after Bridge 218.



**SOMERSET** Sleeps: 4 + 2. Length 56ft.

**Berths:** two fixed doubles, or four fixed singles, plus saloon convertible to double or two singles.



*A really roomy boat, great for two couples but with room for more. Whichever way you ask us to arrange the beds, you can walk round. Fitted cooker, tiled worktop. Microwave. 230 volt service. DVD player. Shower cubicle. Two toilets. Semi-traditional back end with open seating.*

## GOING WEST - OUT & BACK SEVEN NIGHT ROUTES Mileages and times (for guidance) are for the return trip.



### 22. Rishton 47 miles 14 locks 20 hours

Plunge straight into Foulridge Tunnel, and then drop down Barrowford Locks onto the level you will stay with for 20 miles. Sail above Burnley's rooftops on its embankment, another of the Seven Wonders of the waterways. Stop to visit the Weavers' Triangle, full of textile history. Regain more open scenery, and carry on through Church and Rishton. Turn after Bridge 106A. This trip has fairly long urban stretches as well as views of the (Lancashire) Calder valley and Pendle Hill, and is full of industrial history and other interest.

### 23. Wigan 90 miles 40 locks 40 hours

A journey entirely in Lancashire, this is ambitious but rewarding for experienced boaters. After Rishton (Route 22), carry on through Blackburn. At the bottom of Johnson's Hillock flight you pass a never-completed link to the Lancaster Canal. Carry on along the contour above the River Douglas, till you arrive at the top of Wigan. Take a bus into this interesting town with excellent shops and covered market, but the passage down the flight is for another time....



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS...

## **We have not been boating before. Do we need experience or a driving licence?**

No. The boats are easy to handle. In order to control the boat through the locks you need a minimum of two participating adults, who are not also looking after other people or dogs.

If you've not been on a narrow boat before, then we'll make sure you know what you need to. Before your holiday we'll send you our Information Pack which includes a DVD showing the right way to handle the boat and work locks, as well as detailed route information. There is more information in the manual and cruising guides on your boat.

When you start your holiday we will give you a thorough briefing on the waterway and your boat. One of our experienced staff will show you how to handle the boat and work the first three locks on your journey. Our boat handover procedure is Quality Assured by the British Marine Federation.

## **Which route should we choose?**

If this is your first time on the canals, or you want a leisurely trip, choose an 'out & back' holiday so that you are not committed to any particular schedule. Our out & back routes from Foulridge are relatively light on locks.

If you have canal boating experience, enjoy locks and want an active holiday with about 8 hours boating a day – a one way trip might suit you. Ensure that your whole crew is keen to do this. Each route description has more information and there are maps and slideshows on our website.

## **Are there lots of locks on all routes?**

To get across the Pennines, the engineers built many locks. Experienced boaters often see the activity and skill of doing locks as one of the main attractions, and so prefer our more hilly routes. But some of our routes are less heavily locked than others, so there should be something to suit everybody.

## **Are the canals easy to use?**

It's fascinating to travel on waterways which are over 200 years old, but their age means that most structures are not of modern design. This is essential to their charm and you must make allowances if sometimes things are harder to use than you'd like.

## **Will the children be bored?**

No. Children love to help at locks when they can. There are also lots of things to do along the way. As long as children are sensible there is no danger, but we do recommend that they (and any adult non-swimmers) wear life jackets, which we provide free.

## **Can we bring our pets?**

Yes. We make no charge for one dog (or cat, hamster, goldfish ...). Please keep it off the upholstery. Extra dogs will be charged for.

## **Do we have to pay for locks or moorings?**

No. We have paid the boat licence fees for all the canals, and towpath mooring is free.

## **Will we have enough fuel and gas?**

You will have enough free fuel for about 2 weeks' normal cruising. If you need a toilet pumpout or additional gas we will repay you. On adventurous fortnights or longer trips, you may need to buy more diesel.

## **What linen will be provided?**

Double or single duvet set with pillows, pillowcases and blankets as required. We will send you a bedding order form. Tea towels are provided. Towels are not, except for those who book from overseas.

## **Will our car be OK?**

All parking is free.

At Sowerby Bridge, you will park in our yard, behind gates locked at night (you will have a key).

Parking at Foulridge (for out & back boats only) is in the Café Cargo car park.

We have no parking in Ashton.



### What if we cancel?

You may receive a partial or full refund, depending on how much notice you give, and whether we are able to re-let the boat.

### What about insurance?

You are covered for damage to the boat and third party claims for accidents involving the boat up to £3m. You are responsible for the first £500 of any claim, repairs, or loss of equipment. You will buy a non-returnable waiver of that liability for £50. Our insurance does not cover you for personal accidents and personal possessions, or for cancellation. We strongly recommend that you obtain suitable cover.

### Can we charge up our phone/laptop/camcorder?

Yes. There is a normal 3-pin socket for chargers and shavers.

### Can we bring hair straighteners?

Yes - on all boats except Devon, Leicester, Westmorland and Northumberland.

### Is TV reception good?

Our canals are mostly in the bottom of valleys, and reception is often poor. We suggest you watch important matches in the pub!

### Can we bring bikes or canoes?

Yes - but they have to live on the roof, so please bring something to protect our paintwork.

### Can we fish?

The fishing is let to many different clubs, only some of which issue day tickets. You must have a National Rod Licence.

### Why are none of your boats longer than 56'?

To fit the short locks on the Calder & Hebble Navigation.

### Are all routes available?

On any waterway holiday, traffic may occasionally have to stop because, for instance, of emergency repairs to structures, flood on rivers, or water shortage on canals. Canal & River Trust (British Waterways) works very hard to prevent delays, but be prepared to change your route if something goes wrong. We would do everything we could to help, but

you would not be entitled to compensation and must make every effort to get the boat back on time.

### What if we break down or have an accident?

You will have our helpline number. We will give you advice, or come quickly to sort out your problem.

### When will our boat be ready?

Our takeover time is 2pm. You will appreciate that we're very busy until then making sure everything is right for you. There are good lunch places in Sowerby Bridge and Foulridge, so you can meet up with the rest of your party.

### ...and when do we give it back?

Please be back by 9am and let us have the boat clean and tidy by 9.30am.

### Any more questions?

We'll be happy to tell you anything we can. It may help to discuss the features of different boats or routes before you choose; or even better, to look at the boats - but check which will be in the yard on the day you visit. There is a lot more information on our website.

### How do we find you?

See map on back cover. We will meet anyone coming on a long journey if we know which train. For travel from overseas, see 'find us' on our website.



**All our boats are assessed by an independent Tourist Board inspector.**

Star ratings reflect space, facilities and quality.

In 4 star boats, the saloon is only needed for a bed if extra persons are carried.



## Key to Boat Layouts



# PRICE LIST 2012

Prices include fuel. Add £50 non-returnable damage waiver.  
Extra adults £25 per week or part week. For details and how to book see page 17.

## 3 NIGHTS - WEEKEND BREAKS FRIDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 16, 23	March 30 Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20, 27	May 4, 11, 18	May 25	Jun 1	Jun 8, 15	Jun 22, 29 Jul 6, 13	Jul 20	Jul 27 Aug 3, 10, 17	Aug 24, 31	Sep 7	Sep 14	Sep 21	Sep 28 Oct 5, 12	Oct 19	Oct 26 Nov 2
DEVON	2	-	330	395	360	335	390	445	470	420	445	470	485	445	420	395	390	335	390	335
OXFORD	2	-	385	500	455	420	490	560	590	530	565	590	615	565	530	500	490	420	490	420
NORFOLK	2	2	425	550	495	460	535	615	650	585	615	650	675	615	585	550	535	460	535	460
LEICESTER	4	2	455	620	535	490	575	655	780	735	780	805	820	780	735	620	575	490	575	490
HEREFORD	4	-	495	710	580	535	625	715	850	800	850	895	940	850	800	685	625	535	625	535
SUSSEX	6	2	590	805	700	645	755	860	1020	915	970	1020	1075	970	915	805	755	645	755	645
NORTHUMBERLAND	6	4	585	795	690	635	745	850	1010	905	955	1010	1030	955	905	795	745	635	745	635
WESTMORLAND	6	4	585	795	690	635	745	850	1010	905	955	1010	1030	955	905	795	745	635	745	635

## 4 NIGHTS - MIDWEEK BREAKS MONDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 19, 26	Apr 2, 9	Apr 16	Apr 23, 30	May 7, 14, 21	May 28	Jun 4	Jun 11, 18	Jun 25 Jul 2, 9, 16	Jul 23	Jul 30 Aug 6 13, 20	Aug 27 Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17	Sep 24	Oct 1, 8, 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
DEVON	2	-	330	395	360	335	390	445	470	420	445	470	485	445	420	395	390	335	390	335
OXFORD	2	-	385	500	455	420	490	560	590	530	565	590	615	565	530	500	490	420	490	420
NORFOLK	2	2	425	550	495	460	535	615	650	585	615	650	675	615	585	550	535	460	535	460
LEICESTER	4	2	475	650	560	515	605	690	845	755	805	845	890	805	755	670	625	535	625	535
HEREFORD	4	-	520	730	610	590	695	790	970	920	970	1020	920	870	710	660	565	660	565	
SUSSEX	6	2	545	745	645	595	695	795	1020	845	895	940	995	895	885	745	695	595	695	595
NORTHUMBERLAND	6	4	540	735	640	590	685	785	1010	835	880	935	980	880	835	735	685	590	685	590
WESTMORLAND	6	4	540	735	640	590	685	785	1010	835	880	935	980	880	835	735	685	590	685	590

## 7 NIGHTS - OUT & BACK FRIDAY OR MONDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 16, 23	March 30 Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20, 27	May 4, 11, 18	May 25	Jun 1	Jun 8, 15	Jun 22, 29 Jul 6, 13	Jul 20	Jul 27 Aug 3, 10, 17	Aug 24, 31	Sep 7	Sep 14	Sep 21	Sep 28 Oct 5, 12	Oct 19	Oct 26
DEVON	2	-	470	640	555	515	600	685	810	725	770	810	855	770	725	640	600	515	600	515
OXFORD	2	-	590	805	700	645	755	860	1020	915	970	1020	1075	970	915	805	755	645	755	645
NORFOLK	2	2	650	885	765	710	825	945	1120	1005	1060	1120	1180	1060	1005	885	825	710	825	710
LEICESTER	4	2	755	1030	890	820	960	1095	1300	1165	1235	1300	1370	1235	1165	1030	960	820	960	820
HEREFORD	4	-	865	1180	1020	940	1100	1255	1490	1335	1415	1490	1570	1415	1335	1180	1100	940	1100	940
SUSSEX	6	2	910	1240	1075	995	1160	1325	1570	1405	1490	1570	1655	1490	1405	1240	1160	995	1160	995
NORTHUMBERLAND	6	4	900	1225	1065	980	1145	1310	1555	1390	1470	1555	1635	1470	1390	1225	1145	980	1145	980
WESTMORLAND	6	4	900	1225	1065	980	1145	1310	1555	1390	1470	1555	1635	1470	1390	1225	1145	980	1145	980

## 7 NIGHTS - OUT & BACK SATURDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 17, 24	March 31 Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21, 28	May 5, 12, 19	May 26	Jun 2	Jun 9, 16	Jun 23, 30 Jul 7, 14	Jul 21	Jul 28 Aug 4, 11, 18	Aug 25 Sep 1	Sep 8	Sep 15	Sep 22	Sep 29 Oct 6, 13	Oct 20	Oct 27
CAMBRIDGE	2	-	590	805	700	645	755	860	1020	915	970	1020	1075	970	915	805	755	645	755	645
STAFFORD	2	2	650	885	765	710	825	945	1120	1005	1060	1120	1180	1060	1005	885	825	710	825	710
WORCESTER	4	-	865	1180	1020	940	1100	1255	1490	1335	1415	1490	1570	1415	1335	1180	1100	940	1100	940
BUCKINGHAM	4	2	850	1160	1005	925	1080	1235	1470	1315	1390	1470	1545	1390	1315	1160	1080	925	1080	925

## 7 NIGHTS - ONE WAY, FOULRIDGE SATURDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 17, 24	March 31 Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21, 28	May 5, 12, 19	May 26	Jun 2	Jun 9, 16	Jun 23, 30 Jul 7, 14	Jul 21	Jul 28 Aug 4, 11, 18	Aug 25 Sep 1	Sep 8	Sep 15	Sep 22	Sep 29 Oct 6, 13	Oct 20	Oct 27
DORSET	4	2	825	1125	975	900	1050	1200	1425	1275	1350	1425	1500	1350	1275	1125	1050	900	1050	900
GLOUCESTER	4	4	825	1125	975	900	1050	1200	1425	1275	1350	1425	1500	1350	1275	1125	1050	900	1050	900

## 7 NIGHTS - ONE WAY, ASHTON MONDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 19, 26	Apr 2, 9	Apr 16	Apr 23, 30	May 7, 14, 21	May 28	Jun 4	Jun 11, 18	Jun 25 Jul 2, 9, 16	Jul 23	Jul 30 Aug 6 13, 20	Aug 27 Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17	Sep 24	Oct 1, 8, 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
CORNWALL	4	4	850	1160	1005	925	1080	1235	1470	1315	1390	1470	1545	1390	1315	1160	1080	925	1080	925

## 7 NIGHTS - OUT & BACK, FOULRIDGE SATURDAY START

	Charges for up to	Extra Adults	March 24	March 31 Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21, 28	May 5, 12, 19	May 26	Jun 2	Jun 9, 16	Jun 23, 30 Jul 7, 14	Jul 21	Jul 28 Aug 4, 11, 18	Aug 25 Sep 1	Sep 8	Sep 15	Sep 22	Sep 29 Oct 6, 13	Oct 20
WARWICK	2	1	590	805	700	645	755	860	1020	915	970	1020	1075	970	915	805	755	645	755
SOMERSET	4	2	850	1160	1005	925	1080	1235	1470	1315	1390	1470	1545	1390	1315	1160	1080	925	1080

# HOW TO BOOK

## Choose the route and boat you want and check the prices.

You can check availability and book online at [www.shirecruisers.co.uk](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk)

Or phone 01422 832712 between 9.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday; or email [info@shirecruisers.co.uk](mailto:info@shirecruisers.co.uk)

You can pay your deposit immediately by card, or ask us to hold your boat for 48 hours. You may pay by bank transfer, UK debit card, credit or overseas debit card (1.5% charge), cheque or cash.

We will send your Booking Confirmation by email or post. Your final payment will be due six weeks before your holiday. If you would like to pay the balance by instalments, please ask. On bookings for holidays less than six weeks ahead, the whole amount is due immediately.

About six weeks before your holiday, we will send your Information Pack, which contains comprehensive guidance on boat handling, use of locks and boating safety. It includes the CRT/BW Boater's Handbook and DVD, our specially written Holiday Guide and Route Companion, plus an inventory list, an order form for bedding and other requirements, and joining instructions.

If you do not already have it, we recommend that you arrange personal and cancellation insurance.

## Booking Notes

### What's included

Prices are per boat and include:

- Fuel for propulsion (enough for about 2 weeks) and heating
- Information Pack and full tuition including lock demonstration
- Comprehensive Boat Manual
- Free extra children (under 18) on many boats
- First pet free
- Maps and guides on the boat
- Lifejackets
- Parking
- Bed linen
- Towels for overseas visitors
- Welcome pack (washing up liquid, 2 tea towels, oven glove, J-cloth, sponge, floor cloth & toilet paper)
- Boat licence (includes mooring) and insurance
- 24 hour service
- Colour TV, radio/CD – plus DVD on most boats
- Second week toilet pumpout
- 20% VAT

### Compulsory Damage Waiver

Add £50 damage waiver per boat to the boat price.

This is non-returnable. It removes your liability for damage and third party claims.

## Discounts

### Multi-week discounts

Qualify for these discounts off a second (and third) week:

June 1, July 20 – August 17 = 10%  
All other dates = 15%

Dates are the start of second/third week; Saturday and Monday as for previous Friday.

Boats on intensive fortnight or longer holidays may need extra diesel fuel, at hirer's expense.

Ten or eleven night holidays starting on Friday or Monday cost the first week plus 50% of the second week.

### Additional discounts

You may claim ONE only of the following discounts, calculated after multi-week discount if applicable. This must be claimed at the time of booking.

### Loyalty discount

As a welcome to our many returning customers:

1 previous holiday	2%	up to £20
2 previous holidays	4%	up to £40
3 previous holidays	6%	up to £60
4 previous holidays	8%	up to £80
5 previous holidays	10%	up to £100

Applies only where holidays are booked in the same lead name.

### Flotilla discount

If you book two or more boats in the same lead name for the same period, take 5% (maximum £50) off the boat price of the cheaper boat(s).

All discounts are based on the boat price and do not apply to damage waiver or extras. These discounts are not available with outside offers.

### 2013 early booking offer

Book and pay your booking deposit for 2013 before 31 August 2012 and we'll give you the 2013 price on the equivalent week (taking account of bank holidays). Not available with any offer other than those above.

## Optional Extras

### Extra adults

Where a boat is shown as for instance, 4 + 2 berth, the boat price is for the lower number, 4, and fifth and sixth adults are charged £25 per week or part week (but children under 18 go free).

### Extra pets

The first pet is free; any extras (subject to our agreement) are charged at £25 per week or part week.

### Maps and guides

For planning your journey – see list on booking form.

### Taxi transfer

For one-way trips, about £10 per head, minimum £40. Payable to the driver on the day.

### Credit Card charge

For payments made by credit card and overseas debit card, we make a 1.5% processing charge. There is no charge for payment by UK debit card.

## Booking Deposit

20% of the total cost, minimum £125. The balance is to be paid six weeks before your holiday.

## To work out the cost of your holiday

First take the boat price from the main table, deduct any discount (e.g. for a fortnight), and add £50 for the damage waiver. These are the compulsory parts.

Then add any optional extras you want.

**For example: Buckingham, June 9-16; 5 adults, 1 child and 2 dogs**

Boat price for 4	£1,315.00
Damage Waiver	£50.00
Extra adult	£25.00
Extra child	£0.00
2nd pet	£25.00
Loyalty (twice before)	-£40.00

**Total** **£1,375.00**

Less Booking Deposit -£275.00

**Balance payable by April 28** **£1,100.00**

*Price under £33 per head per night.*

### Holiday Insurance

We insure the boat, including cover for your potential liability to third parties. Your damage waiver removes your liability for the excess on this policy and for non-claimable damage.

If you cancel for any reason, you may receive a partial or complete refund, depending on how much notice you give, and whether we are able to re-let the boat. Please see Condition 5.

### Our insurance does not cover you for:

- Personal accident
- Personal possessions
- Cancellation

We strongly recommend that you take out holiday insurance to protect against these and other risks. If you do not already have suitable insurance, you can readily obtain it on the internet. To make it easy, there's a link to an insurer from the Booking page of our website.

# BOOKING FORM

## MAPS & GUIDES

To order guides to help plan your holiday, please tick as required and add the amount to your initial payment. This order form will be sent again with your Information Pack.

**Pearson's Canal Companions** Full colour, beautifully illustrated and well written guide with 2 inches to 1 mile maps.

### Cheshire Ring (2009)

Rochdale Canal; Cheshire Ring. £10.50

### Pennine Waters (2010)

Leeds & Liverpool from Wigan; Calder & Hebble/Aire & Calder to Castleford; Selby Canal; Huddersfield Broad & Narrow. £11.50

### Richlow Guides

Up to date and authoritative, with many pictures and good maps; two inches to one mile.

**Rochdale & Ashton Canals (2012)** £9.00

**Huddersfield Broad & Narrow Canals (2012)** £9.00

### Nicholson Ordnance Survey Guides

2 inches to 1 mile OS maps with detailed text and pictures. 5 North West & The Pennines (2009) - Leeds & Liverpool; Rochdale, Huddersfield Broad & Narrow; Calder & Hebble/Aire & Calder to Castleford; Cheshire Ring. £16.75

### West Yorkshire Waterway Guide (1992)

2½ inches to 1 mile maps with detailed text, 2 colour; Sowerby Bridge to Leeds, Selby, Goole, plus Huddersfield Broad. £4.50

**Geoprojects - Coloured maps, approx. 1 inch to 1 mile with much detail and town centre plans.**

**Leeds & Liverpool Canal (2008)** £6.00

**South Pennine Ring (2009)**

Rochdale, Huddersfield & Links. £6.00

**Lockmaster Maps ½ inch to 1 mile; large, flat, white, incredible detail.**

### Pennine Waters East

Sowerby Bridge to Burnley via Skipton. Rochdale Canal. £4.50

### Rochdale Ring

Rochdale, Huddersfield & Links. £4.50

**TOTAL**

£

Prices include packing and first class UK postage. Overseas postage charged extra at £1 per item.

More maps and guides on [www.shirecruisers.co.uk](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk) (Booking)

## Please reserve for me

..... (boat)

from ..... (day) ..... (date)

to ..... (day) ..... (date)

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone ..... (home)

..... (office)

..... (mobile)

email .....

## Names of Party

(Please give ages of children)

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

6 .....

7 .....

8 .....

9 .....

10 .....

Number of pets (1 permitted free, £25 for extras) .....

OFFICE USE ONLY			
HF		DIS	conf
DW		MAPS	DVD
EP		PETS	
<b>Total</b>		By	
LESS DEP		TAKEN	
BALANCE			

## Booking Deposit

(20% of total cost to nearest £, min £125) £ .....

Maps & Guides £ .....

Total £ .....

I declare I am over 18 years of age. I agree to be held responsible for the balance which becomes payable as shown on your confirmation, and to be bound by the Boat Hire Conditions.

## Signed

Date .....

## I wish to pay by

UK Debit card

Cheque payable to Shire Cruisers

Credit card (1.5% fee)

## \*Please complete this card payment section very clearly

(especially for faxing)

Security code       Expiry date

(last 3 digits on signature strip)

For Maestro only Issue No.    or Start date

Name & initials shown on card .....

Address of card account if different from above .....

## I authorise Shire Cruisers to charge the above card account for

The initial payment shown above

The whole cost of my holiday now

**Cardholder's signature** .....

PS Where did you hear of Shire Cruisers? .....

# BOAT HIRE CONDITIONS 2012

Please read these conditions carefully. They are part of the agreement and contain legal obligations and liabilities of the Hirer.

## 1. DEFINITIONS

In these Conditions and the Agreement the following words have the following meanings:-

**"Agreement"** means the Hire Agreement between You and the Company which is evidenced by your booking request and the Booking Confirmation and is made on the basis of these Conditions

**"Booking Confirmation"** means the written confirmation issued to You by the Company confirming the hire period, price, place of delivery and other key particulars of the booking

**"Company"** means Britannia Narrow Boats Ltd trading as Shire Cruisers.

**"You"** means the person or persons named in the Booking Confirmation. If there is more than one of You each of You shall be individually responsible for complying with the Agreement

**"Conditions"** means these Boat Hire Conditions

**"Price"** means the price in the Booking Confirmation

**"Start Date"** means the start date in the Booking Confirmation

**"End Date"** means the end date in the Booking Confirmation.

**"Hire Period"** means the hire period in the Booking Confirmation

**"written"** means that the item has been printed, typed, written out by hand or sent or displayed by email or other electronic means.

## 2. AGREEMENT TO HIRE

**2.1** When You request a booking you are making an offer to hire a boat on these Conditions. The Hire Agreement itself only comes into existence when the Company sends out the Booking Confirmation. A provisional or conditional booking is not binding and You may cancel it at any time before the Booking Confirmation is sent out to You by the Company. Similarly the Company may hire the boat to another party in place of You at any time before a Booking Confirmation has been sent to You. The entire Agreement between You and the Company is contained in these Conditions, the booking request and the Booking Confirmation.

**2.2** In accepting a booking, the Company's responsibility does not extend beyond the provision of the Boat and in particular there is no warranty that any particular route will be available for navigation during the Hire Period. Bookings for optional extras are taken subject to availability on the start date.

**2.3** Nothing in these Conditions affects Your statutory rights.

## 3. PRICES AND PAYMENT

**3.1** The Company's advertised Prices are in pounds sterling and include Value Added Tax. If the rates of VAT or any other government tax are changed so that a different rate applies to Your hire any difference will be charged or refunded to You as the case may be.

**3.2** The Company reserves the right to correct errors in advertised or quoted prices at the time of booking Confirmation.

**3.3** Payment is deemed to have been made when cash or cleared funds have been received by the Company.

**3.4** The Deposit is payable at the time of the booking request. The deposit is 20% of the total price, minimum £125.

**3.5** The balance of the Price, including Damage Waiver, is due not less than 6 weeks before the Start Date as shown in the booking confirmation. Time of payment shall be of the essence of the Agreement.

**3.6** For bookings made less than 6 weeks before the Start Date You must pay the full price including Damage Waiver at the time of the booking request.

**3.7** The Company may charge interest at the rate of 3% p.a. over Bank of England base rate on any money which is overdue from the due date until the actual date of full payment.

**3.8** The Booking Confirmation is not a VAT invoice.

## 4. YOUR PARTY

### Personal agreement and obligations

#### Group Bookings, Age Limits and Unsuitable Hirers

**4.1** The Hire Agreement is a personal one between You and the Company and Your identity is a material factor in the Company's decision to enter into the Agreement. You must be at least 18 years of age at the time of booking. You must be authorised by all other members of Your party to enter into the Agreement on their behalf. The full names, ages and permanent addresses of all members of Your party must be provided to the Company at the time of booking. All changes in Your party (the addition, substitution or removal of any member of the party) which take place at any time after the Booking Confirmation has been issued (including during the hire period) must be communicated in writing and approved by the Company (such approval is not to be unreasonably withheld). You are responsible for making all members of Your party aware of the terms of the Agreement.

#### School parties, youth groups, hen or stag parties, business purposes.

**4.2** The Company's general policy is that it will not enter into Hire Agreements for school parties, youth groups, hen or stag parties or for any commercial purpose without more information about the members of the party and the purpose and nature of the hire occasion. If the Company later becomes aware that Your party actually falls within this policy but that You have not disclosed it to the Company then the Company may terminate Your booking. In this event the deposit and any other part of the Price which you have paid will be retained by the Company and You will remain liable to pay the balance of the Price.

#### The use of alcohol and controlled drugs; Company's right of immediate cancellation

**4.3** The boat shall not be navigated while anyone on board is, or appears to be, under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the Company may cancel Your booking and refuse to hand the boat over to You or repossess it if You or any member of Your party is or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In such a case the Company shall be entitled to recover any loss, damage and expense from the monies already paid by

You and if this is insufficient to cover its loss it shall be entitled to bring a claim against You for the balance of such claim.

#### Company's right to decline handover for safety reasons

**4.4** The Company may cancel Your booking and refuse to hand the boat over to You if, in its reasonable opinion, You are unsuitable to take charge of the boat for any reason that may adversely affect the safety of any person or property. In this event (and provided that You have fully complied with Your obligations under this Agreement) the Company will refund the Deposit and any other monies which You have paid to the Company and the contract shall be discharged without further liability on either party.

#### Company's right to repossess during the hire

**4.5** The Company may repossess the boat at any time after commencement of the Hire Period if in the reasonable opinion of the Company You are unsuitable to be in charge of the boat for any reason affecting the safety of any person or property including in particular if You or any member of Your party is or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs or if You are not behaving responsibly or if there has been a material breach of the terms of this Agreement.

## 5. CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES REQUESTED BY YOU

**5.1** The Agreement is a legally binding contract and may only be amended or cancelled in accordance with these Conditions.

**5.2** If You want to change or cancel Your booking You must give the Company written notice and return the Booking Confirmation. The date of receipt of the written notice shall be the effective date of change or cancellation but in order to increase the prospects of re-letting the boat You should pre-advise the Company of any impending change or cancellation by telephone.

**5.3** The Company shall make the following charges for cancellation, depending on the date on which the Cancellation Notice is received:

Days before Start Date when Cancellation Notice received	Cancellation Charge
More than 56	Loss of Deposit
43-56	50% of Total Price
29-42	70% of Total Price
8-28	85% of Total Price
7 or less	100% of Total Price

**5.4** If the Company re-lets the Boat to a new customer for the Hire Period or part of it then the proceeds will first be applied to make up any shortfall between the Cancellation Charge previously paid by You and the full Price of Your holiday.

**5.5** Any remainder not exceeding the total previously paid by You will be returned to You after deducting an administration fee of £50 for each replacement booking together with any commission paid to agents for re-letting the Boat.

**5.6** Any holiday may be cancelled for any reason before 31 December the previous year and the Company will refund all monies paid.

**5.7** Credit card charges are non-refundable.

**5.8** Bookings may be transferred at the Company's discretion and subject to availability up to 42 days before the start date. A fee of £20 will be charged for any necessary re-invoicing.

**5.9** YOU ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO PROTECT AGAINST CANCELLATION LIABILITIES BY TAKING OUT CANCELLATION INSURANCE.

## 6. CANCELLATION BY THE COMPANY

**6.1** The Company may cancel the Agreement by written notice in the following circumstances:

**6.1.1** For any of the reasons described in Conditions 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 or 4.5

**6.1.2** In the event of an accident affecting the safety or navigability of the boat

**6.1.3** For breach of any of the rules set out under Condition 9.1

**6.1.4** For non-payment of any sum due under the Agreement

**6.2** The Company is entitled to recover from You any loss which it suffers as a result of cancellation under any of the provisions of Conditions 4.2, 4.3, or 4.5 or for breach of Condition 9.1 and it may retain all or part of any payments which You have made as security for such claims. Subject to this if the Company is able to re-let the Boat for all or part of the Hire Period it will give credit for the net sums received as a result of such re-letting and shall prepare and submit to You an account of the claim and of any payment which may be due to You or to the Company within 7 days of the End Date.

## 7. HIRE PERIOD, COLLECTION AND RETURN OF BOAT

**7.1** The Boat will normally be available between 2.00pm and 5.00pm on the Start Date from the base shown on the Booking Confirmation or in the case of one way trips as otherwise indicated to You, subject to the provisions of Condition 7.7.

**7.2** You must notify the Company as soon as possible if Your estimated arrival time is delayed or disrupted as this may lead to difficulties and delays in making the Boat available to You. If you arrive late the Company may not be able to complete the handover till the following day. There will be no rebate of the Price for late arrival nor will the Company accept responsibility for any overnight costs which You may incur if you fail to reach the Boat during normal working hours.

**7.3** Before You take the boat over the Company will give You such instructions, demonstrations and trials as are appropriate, and You will then be required to check and sign the Handover Certificate to indicate that these instructions and demonstrations have been understood.

**7.4** In the event that the boat is not available on the Start Date due to any circumstance for which the Company is not responsible (for example adverse weather or navigation conditions, damage, mechanical breakdown, late return by previous hirer) the Company may substitute a boat of similar accommodation or at a different location but if no such boat is available the Company shall immediately refund You any payments You have made.

**7.5** The Boat must be returned to its start point or as otherwise agreed or notified under Condition 7.7 and vacated by You by 9.30am on the End Date and it is Your responsibility to allow sufficient time to ensure timely return.

**7.6** If You return the Boat late or to the wrong place because of poor planning on Your part or for another reason which is Your responsibility then You will be liable to pay £50 for every hour or part hour of the delay in returning the Boat or giving possession and the cost of recovering the Boat and any other expenses and losses which the Company may incur as a result of the delay including the loss or cancellation of a subsequent booking.

**7.7** The Company reserves the right to change the place of handover and return for operational reasons. In such event the Company shall be obliged to give You written notice of the change in sufficient time (consistent with the circumstances) to allow any necessary re-planning of Your itinerary and to organise any transport which is reasonably necessary for You and Your party as a result of such change.

## 8. INSURANCE AND DAMAGE WAIVER

**8.1** The Company insures the boat and its equipment against physical loss and damage and against public liability risks. You are entitled to any protection that may be afforded by the Company's insurance policy (subject to any applicable policy excess) but You and members of Your party may become legally liable to the Company or to third parties for loss or damage caused or contributed to by Your acts, omissions or negligence.

**8.2** The Company's policy does not cover personal accident or Your personal belongings and excludes the first £500 of any claim. You are strongly advised to take out Your own personal insurance cover.

**8.3** You will pay a non-refundable Damage Waiver at the same time as payment of the balance Price to cover the Company's policy excess and any uninsured risks except where any loss or damage is caused by speeding, contact with a lock pill causing damage to the rudder, skeg or stern gear, the deliberate or negligent act or omission of You or any member of Your party (including where the person concerned is under the influence of alcohol drugs or any similar substance) or any failure by You to comply with these Conditions. In this case the Company has the right to make an additional charge to cover the loss or damage.

## 9. SAFETY AND OTHER RULES

**9.1** You agree to comply with the following rules at all times during the Hire Period:-

**9.1.1** To ensure that at all times while the Boat is being navigated or is transiting locks or moveable structures the minimum age both of the operator onboard and in charge, and of the person in charge of the lock or structure, is 18 years.

**9.1.2** Not to tow or be towed other than in exceptional circumstances.

**9.1.3** To moor the Boat securely.

**9.1.4** Not to navigate after sunset or before sunrise.

**9.1.5** To observe all speed limits, and not to navigate at a speed which creates a breaking wash or disturbs or inconveniences other waterway users.

**9.1.6** Not to race the Boat.

**9.1.7** Not to bring onto the Boat any dinghies, inflatables, portable heaters, 230 volt electrical appliances (other than battery chargers, electric razors and toothbrushes, or in the case of boats marked '230 volt' appliances rated at not more than 1.5kw), inflammable liquids or substances, gas cylinders, firearms or any other items which might create danger or hazards unless expressly authorised. Canoes and bicycles may be kept on the Boat roof providing that You place matting to protect the Boat's painwork.

**9.1.8** Not to use the Boat for any commercial purpose.

**9.1.9** To allow the Boat to be occupied only by the persons named on the booking form.

**9.1.10** Not to allow to be on the Boat at any time more persons than the maximum number of berths and in no circumstances more than 12 persons being the legal limit.

**9.1.11** To give way to laden or unladen cargo boats, sailing craft, rowing boats and other human-propelled craft.

**9.1.12** Not to take the Boat onto sea or tidal waters without the written consent of the Company. To cruise only on canals and rivers approved by the Company.

**9.1.13** Not to have or carry any live bait on the Boat.

**9.1.14** At all times to observe all bylaws and navigational limits and abide by the instructions and advice of the relevant Navigation Authorities and the Company and their respective officers and employees.

**9.2** The Company reserves the right at its reasonable discretion and without liability to restrict cruising areas or routes in the light of prevailing weather and navigation conditions.

## 10. ACCIDENTS

**10.1** You are in charge of the Boat and are responsible for its safe navigation. In the event of any accident or damage involving You or any other person or any property You must:-

**10.1.1** Obtain and record the name of any other boats and the names and addresses of any other people involved on the form provided by the Company (when available);

**10.1.2** Notify the Company as soon as practically possible with full details of the accident and any damage sustained;

**10.1.3** Proceed in accordance with and follow the Company's reasonable instructions;

**10.1.4** Not in any circumstances admit or allow any other person on the boat to admit liability to any other person.

## 11. LOOKING AFTER THE BOAT

**11.1** You are responsible for and will keep the Boat and its equipment in clean and tidy order during the Hire Period.

**11.2** You must notify and provide full details to the Company of any breakdown, damage, theft or loss involving the Boat as soon as practically possible. You must not undertake or commission any repairs, adjustment or service without the Company's prior approval.

**11.3** Although the Boat and its equipment are insured by the Company against many risks You remain responsible to the Company for any damage or loss arising from Your breach of the Agreement. Your deliberate acts or from Your negligence.

**11.4** You shall be responsible for getting the Boat off mud banks or other grounding and for removal of weeds, rope or other matter from propellers and steering gear and for keeping the Company informed of any incidents of this nature.

## 12. HIRER'S PROPERTY

**12.1** Vehicles may be left entirely at their owners' risk in the Company's car park. The Company will be under no liability for any loss or damage to vehicles or their contents or for Your property on the Boat or elsewhere unless caused by the Company's negligence.

**12.2** The Company may take such reasonable action as it shall consider necessary to silence car alarms in the Company's car park and to recover the costs from You. This is inclusive of any requirements and obligations under the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993.

**12.3** The Company will return Hirer's property which it finds which has been accidentally left on the Boat provided that it is claimed promptly and that You either arranged for its collection or agree to pre-pay for any postage and packing. Property not claimed within two months from the End Date may be disposed of by the Company.

## 13. FUEL

**13.1** The Boat is handed over ready fuelled and the Price includes the cost of fuel consumed, not exceeding one tankful.

**13.2** The Company may make a fuel surcharge if the cost of diesel at Tesco Brighouse increases by 10% or more between the date of the Booking Confirmation and the Start Date. The surcharge shall be limited to the actual percentage increase in the cost of diesel.

## 14. PETS

**14.1** Pets are allowed on the boat only with the Company's permission. You shall give notice of any pets You wish to bring at the time of making the booking.

**14.2** The Company's charges for pets are set out in the brochure.

**14.3** You must provide any pet baskets or blankets.

**14.4** All pets must be properly house trained or caged as appropriate, must never be left unattended and may not be allowed on bedding or seats.

**14.5** Pets and pet damage are not covered under the Company's insurance policy and You will be liable for any damage or loss caused by them or extra cleaning required.

## 15. INVENTORY

**15.1** You will be required to sign for the inventory on taking the boat over. Any shortcomings discovered during the Hire Period must be notified to the Company as soon as practically possible so as to afford the Company the opportunity to rectify the matter.

## 16. EXCLUSION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

**16.1** The Company shall not be liable to pay any compensation, damages, costs or expenses for any claim arising from any cause beyond the Company's reasonable control which could not have been mitigated or avoided by the Company including but not limited to: death or personal injury of Hirers their crew and passengers; loss of or damage to any person's property (including the Boat), non-fulfilment, interruption or delay to the booking; breakdowns, mechanical problems, latent defects, damage to the Boat; restrictions on cruising, obstructions, repairs damage or closure of waterways; non-availability of routes, navigational works, storms, floods, droughts, ice, shortage of water or other weather or climatic conditions; rationing, shortage or non-availability of fuel; consequential loss, damage or expense which You incur including the cost of alternative transport, accommodation or other holiday provision.

**16.2** The Company's total liability to You and any person claiming through You in respect of all claims which may arise under the Agreement (other than in respect of claims for personal injury or death due to negligence on the part of the Company) shall be limited in aggregate to twice the Total Price actually paid by You to the Company in respect of the Agreement in question.

## 17. BROCHURE

The specifications of boats, their accommodation, facilities and equipment in the brochure or website are intended as a general guide and the Company shall not be liable in the event of any insubstantial differences in the boats supplied and reserves the right to make modifications. In particular alterations may occur during rebuilding or refitting, boats within classes may differ, colours may vary, layout plans are for guidance only and are not to scale and boats may have steps which are not shown. If Your party includes any infirm or disabled persons You should make relevant enquiries at the time of booking - see Accessibility.

The Company reserves the right to change boat specifications without prior notice.

## 18. LAW AND JURISDICTION

**18.1** This Agreement shall be governed by the law of England and Wales.

**18.2** Any dispute arising under this Agreement shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.

## 19. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

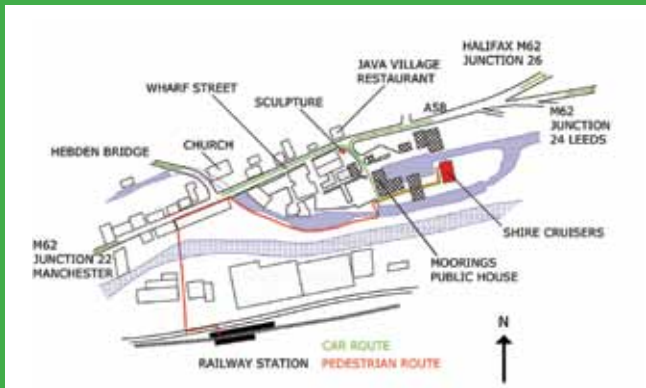
**19.1** The British Marine Federation and the Royal Yachting Association recommend that disputes arising under this Agreement which cannot be resolved by negotiation, should, with the written agreement of the parties, be submitted to mediation or failing that to arbitration under the British Marine Federation's Dispute Resolution Scheme, which is approved by the Royal Yachting Association.

**19.2** Details of the mediation scheme operated by the British Marine Federation are available at [www.britishmarine.co.uk/mediation](http://www.britishmarine.co.uk/mediation).

**19.3** Matters suitable for arbitration shall be submitted to a single Arbitrator in accordance with the British Marine Federation's Dispute Resolution Scheme. The provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996 shall apply.

## 20. THIRD PARTIES

Only the named parties to this Agreement may enforce the terms of the Agreement. The parties agree that the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 shall not apply to this Agreement.



## HOW TO FIND US

You are very welcome to come and see the boats before you book. We're usually open 9.30 to 5.00 Monday to Friday, 11.00 to 3.00 Saturday and in the season only, 12.00 to 2.00 Sunday.

Our yard at Sowerby Bridge is easy to get to:

**By car** - only ten minutes from the M62.

- Birmingham two hours
- Newcastle three hours
- London four hours.

**By train** - Sowerby Bridge station is a few minutes' walk, with good trains on the Leeds Manchester line.

Look for brown tourist signs for 'Sowerby Bridge Wharf' and the sculpture.



Shire Cruisers, The Wharf Sowerby Bridge  
West Yorkshire HX6 2AG

T: 01422 832712 F: 839565

[www.shirecruisers.co.uk](http://www.shirecruisers.co.uk)

Email: [info@shirecruisers.co.uk](mailto:info@shirecruisers.co.uk)



Britannia Narrow Boats Ltd Regd. In England & Wales 1462318  
Directors: Nigel Stevens MBA, Susan Stevens BA, ARCO