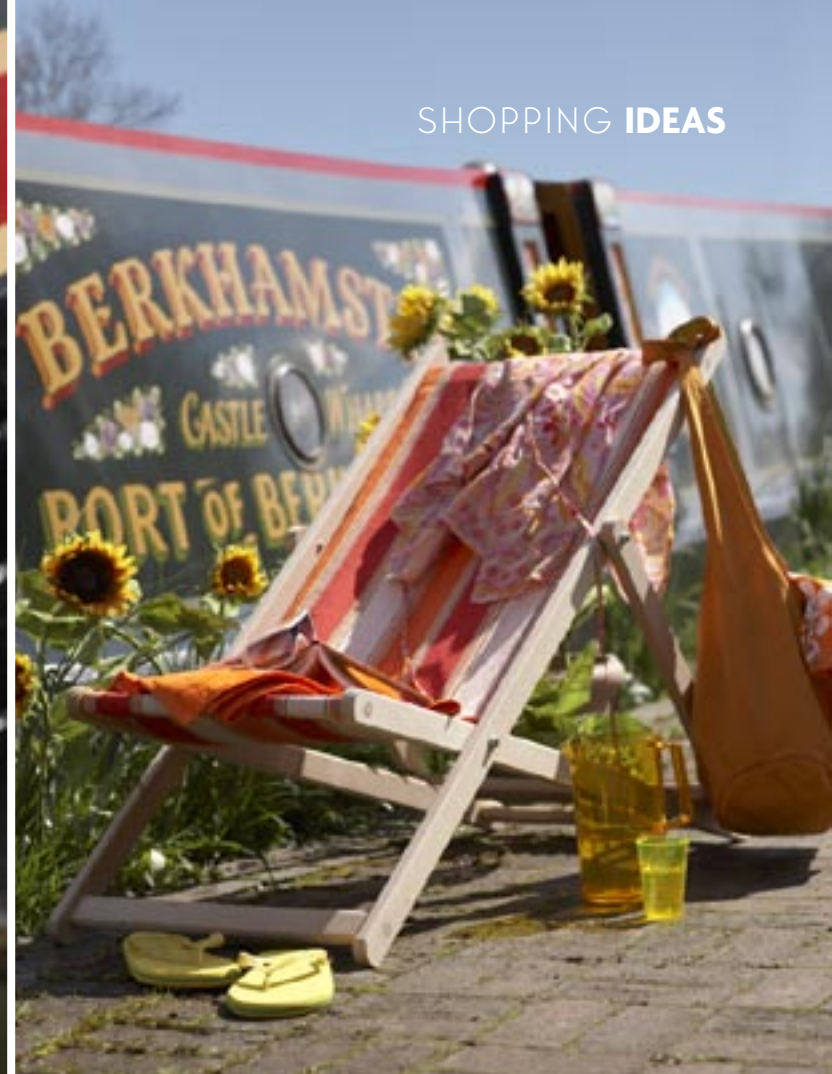


Spend the day waterside

While away a summer's day by the canal; hire a barge or enjoy a picnic by the water's edge. Bright buys add a touch of fun



SHOPPING IDEAS

Vibrant plastics are **fun** and **practical** out of doors

OPPOSITE Pack up all you need for a great day out in brightly coloured – and water-resistant – plastic baskets.

Medium patchwork market bag, £20, The Beach Hut. (In market bag) Océane picnic blanket, £72, Descamps. Red plastic laundry basket, £15; (in basket) selection of melamine picnicware, from £2.50 a piece, all Rice. Hunter wellies, ref MW011, col Yellow, £55, Plantstuf. Fishing net, col Red, ref BH0073, £12, The Beach Hut. Beach parasol, col Yellow, £4.99, Focus. Single stem sunflowers, from £8.50 each, Ruckley.

ABOVE LEFT Keep spare deck shoes dry in a plastic holdall.

Suede toe pumps, cols Sulphur and Mid Blue, £49 a pair, Boden. Crystal clear shoe box, ref SHO017, £14, The Holding Company. Linen trousers, col White, £68, The Linen Press.

TOP Soak up the sun in a classic canvas deckchair.

Crown imperial deckchair, col Orange, £69, Hen & Hammock. Plain beach towel, col Orange, £4, Matalan. Quicksilver Vega sunglasses, ref 396-855-G33, £75, Next. Eva cotton kaftan, £70, Blink Beach. Les Alizes bag, £21, Descamps. (On floor) Sadie jug, ref 993275, col Yellow, £9; tumbler, col Yellow, £5 for four, all Habitat. Plain flip flops, col Yellow, £5, Next.

LEFT Give yourself time to become absorbed by a relaxing hobby, such as painting. Take a portable easel and a sunhat.

Large Julian box easel, ref JB45, £196; Ruscombe Mill paper folder, £23.50; Windsor & Newton hog hair brushes, from £12 each; Green & Stone graphite pencil, 65p; Lyra Rembrandt graphite pencil, 98p; Faber Castell 9000 black lead pencil, 89p, all Green & Stone. Patterned notebook, cols Sails and Waves, from £29, Toast. (Holding brushes) Masons fly trap, ref FTGL03, £11.50; glass jar votive, ref VTGL02, £4, both Garden Trading. Maui kids deckchair, ref 989141, £19; sling seat, ref 994406, col Yellow, £6, both Habitat. Sunhat, stylist's own. Large single stem sunflowers, £12.50 each, Ruckley. ▶

OPPOSITE Arrange a grown-up picnic lunch on a folding table and chairs. Lightweight melamine tableware is practical for outdoors.

Cappuccino slatted chair, ref T840641, col Red, £59 for two, Marks & Spencer. Dune chair, col Savannah Stripe, £75, Burford. (On chair) Kissing Rabbit travel pillow, £19, Colloco. Rosso folding table, col Gingernut Orange, £45, Habitat. (On table) Galiote large stripe napkins, £8.50 each, Libeco. Sundae glasses, ref 63352, £12.99 for four; Urchin. Spotty jug, £4; orange polypropylene tumbler, £4 for 16-piece set; yellow polypropylene cutlery, £4 for 16-piece set, all Matalan. Oval plastic breadbasket, ref BSBRE-OIXC, £3.50. Rice. Alfresco woven mat and coaster, ref T346108, £2; melamine floral side plate, ref T346114, £2, all Marks & Spencer. (On floor) raffia basket, col Orange, £29.75; melamine picnicware, from £2.50 a piece, all Rice. Hotelin Venise flax napkins, £13 each, Libeco. Single stem sunflowers, from £8.50 each, Ruckley.

RIGHT Nature lovers will adore books to help identify butterflies, birds and flowers on the banks as you cruise along.

Dragonflies and Butterflies books, £9.95 each, The Natural History Museum. Melamine bowl, ref MELBW-4ZBXC, col Orange, £30.25 for four; melamine tumbler, col Orange, £2.50, both Rice. Sundae glass (used as vase), ref 63352, £12.99 for four; Urchin. Glass jar votive, ref VTGL02, £4, Garden Trading. Hotelin Venise flax napkin, £13, Libeco.

BELOW Pack travel versions of popular games to play on deck – try a soft fabric backgammon board or dominos, for example.

Dominos (from wooden games compendium), £60, John Lewis. Roll-up backgammon set, col Red, from £38, Travel Rollups. Miner's lantern, ref LAMS01, col String, £8, Garden Trading. Children's Make and Do notebook, from £10, Much Ado Books. Coloured crayons, ref C-CRAY, £6 for 12, Cox & Cox. Floor cushion, ref LSFC04, col Raspberry, £20, Garden Trading. Melamine mug, ref BH0207, col Red, £12 for six assorted colours, The Beach Hut.

BELOW RIGHT Camping gear, such as a pretty cotton sleeping bag, is ideal for catnaps on board. And if there's any spare space, pack a pretty lace-trimmed sheet for a touch of luxury.

Kissing Rabbit sleeping bag, £42, Colloco. Fuchsia chilli boucle alpaca throw, £120, Atlantic Blankets. (Folded inside other sleeping bag) Safarilil sleeping bag, ref 778 7774, col Floral, £25, La Redoute. Sheldon flat sheet, from £30; Sheldon standard pillowcase, £11, both col White, Viyella. Melamine mug, col Orange, £12 for six assorted colours, The Beach Hut. Orange rubber vase, £16.95, Menu. Canvas overnight bag, ref FBC7N, £85, Toast.

■ Find the perfect canal holiday for your family with Drifters, a consortium of holiday boat companies. For more information call 0845 762 6252 or visit drifters.co.uk

■ To find great ideas for enjoying the UK's waterways by boat, on a bike or by foot, as well as finding great picnic locations to moor up in, visit waterscape.com.



Pack **games** and **spotter's books** to keep everyone busy

