



Drifters' 2018 Canal Boat Holiday Facts & Figures

1. There are over 30,000 canal boats on our inland waterways, more than at the time of the Industrial Revolution
2. The popularity of narrowboating has been fuelled by the waterways renaissance which has swept across the UK in the last 15 years, with over 200 new miles of waterways re-opened and over £1billion invested¹
3. Around 380,000 people go canal boating each year in the UK, and the numbers have nearly doubled since 2005²
4. There are over 2,200 miles of navigable canals and rivers to explore in Britain
5. Drifters offers 590 narrowboats available for hire in England, Scotland and Wales, operating from 47 boat yards – this is approximately two-thirds of the total number of boats available for hire
6. Celebrity canal boaters include: Kiera Knightley; Harrison Ford; Timothy Spall; David Suchet; Timothy West; Prunella Scales; and John Sargeant
7. Drifters offers winter cruising from seven bases and day boat hire from 18 bases
8. The main hire boat Season runs from March to October
9. Narrowboats range from 32ft to 70ft and can accommodate up to 12 people
10. 2018 hire prices start at £99 for day hire on a boat for 10 people, £445 for a short break (three or four nights) and £675 for a week on a boat for four people (price includes boat steering tuition)
11. Drifters Waterway Holidays is made up of a consortium of 11 hire boat companies - ABC Boat Hire, Anglo Welsh, Black Prince, Countrywide Cruisers, Foxhangers, Kate Boats, Rose Narrowboats, Napton Narrowboats, Shire Cruisers, Valley Cruises and Union Canal Carriers
12. For more information about Drifters boating holidays call 0344 984 0322 or visit www.drifters.co.uk

¹Source: *The Canal & River Trust (Press office Tel 020 32044514)*

²Source: *British Marine's 'Watersports Participation Report 2015'*

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For Drifters press enquiries, including photos and destination details, contact Debbie Walker on 01628 318069/077486 40577 walker.debbie@sky.com