



Drifters' 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 boating has been fuelled by the waterway 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. In 2015, 379,000 people went canal boating in the UK, and the numbers have increased by 45% since 2005 (261,000 people went canal boating in 2005)²
4. There are over 2,200 miles of navigable canals and rivers to explore in Britain
5. Drifters offers 580 of the 970 narrowboats available for hire in England, Scotland and Wales from 44 bases
6. Drifters Waterway Holidays is made up of a consortium of 10 hire boat companies: ABC Boat Hire, Anglo Welsh, Black Prince, Countrywide Cruisers, Kate Boats, Rose Narrowboats, Napton Narrowboats, Shire Cruisers, Valley Cruises and Union Canal Carriers
7. Inland waterways hire and passenger boats generate £90million a year and employ 1,500 people
8. Celebrity canal boaters include: Kiera Knightley; Kevin Spacey; Harrison Ford; Timothy Spall; David Suchet; Timothy West; Prunella Scales; and John Sargeant
9. Drifters offers winter cruising from seven bases and day boat hire from 18 bases
10. The main hire boat Season runs from March to October and narrowboats range from 32ft to 70ft and can accommodate up to 12 people
11. 2017 hire prices start at £99 for day hire on a boat for 10 people, £395 for a short break (three or four nights) and £625 for a week on a boat for four people (price includes boat steering tuition)
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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