



**Canal &  
River Trust**

Making life better by water

## Canal Boat Holiday Facts & Figures

1. There are over 35,000 canal boats on our inland waterways, more than at the time of the Industrial Revolution.
2. Drifters offers hire boats from 45 bases across England, Scotland and Wales, with day boat hire offered from 18 boat yards.
3. Drifters Waterway Holidays is made up of nine hire boat companies: ABC Boat Hire; Anglo Welsh; Black Prince; Countrywide Cruisers; Foxhangers; Kate Boats; Napton Narrowboats; Shire Cruisers; and Union Canal Carriers.
4. There are around 1,000 holiday hire boats in the UK, and Drifters' members operate 550 of those boats.
5. The popularity of narrow boating has been fuelled by the waterways renaissance which has swept across the UK in the last 25 years, with over 220 new miles of waterways re-opened and over £1.5billion invested.
6. Around 450,000 people go canal boating each year in the UK (*Source: British Marine's 'Watersports Participation Report 2018'*).
7. There are over 3,000 miles of navigable canals and rivers to explore in Britain, 2,000 run by the Canal & River Trust.
8. On the Canal & River Trust's network there are: 1,569 locks; 53 tunnels; 3,112 bridges; 370 aqueducts; and 74 reservoirs.
9. Research by the Canal & River Trust shows that spending time by the waterways can make people happier and improve their life satisfaction (*Source: 'Assessing the wellbeing impacts of waterways usage in England and Wales', Canal & River Trust 2018*).
10. The main hire boat Season runs from March to October, narrowboats range from 32ft to 70ft and can accommodate from two to 12 people.
11. 2023 short break prices start at £590 on a boat for four people, and £815 for a week.

For information about Drifters boating holidays call 0344 984 0322 or visit [www.drifters.co.uk](http://www.drifters.co.uk)

For information about visiting canals and rivers go to [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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