

Kennet & Avon Canal Devizes to Honey Street Easy Trail

Route Summary

This linear canal route passes through lovely countryside and small villages, and finishes at the highest point of the Kennet and Avon canal, which crosses from Reading to Bristol. The canal gives views of many narrow boats, locks, aqueducts, and landscapes, with a level towpath to either walk or cycle on. Many paddlers know the stretch from Devizes (west of this route), to London, through taking part in the annual Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, run every year since the 1960s.

The charming historic market town of Devizes lies at the very heart of Wiltshire. Founded in Norman times at the boundaries (the Latin 'ad Divisas') of surrounding villages, the town grew up around the castle. The outline of the town walls shows in the 'D' shape of the centre which retains its mediaeval street plan. The town is compact and, being on the level, easy to walk round so do take the opportunity to visit the town too.

Nearest Town - Devizes

O.S. Sheets - Landranger 173 Swindon & Devizes

Start - The Wharf, Devizes Wiltshire SN10 1EB

Follow signs to the Wharf and park in the large car park on the Wharf. It is a pay and display car park. There are no toilets on the wharf (other than those in the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum ... an excuse for a drink before you go?) so do use the ones in the public car park just along from the Wharf on the way in from Marlborough.

Finish - The Barge Inn, Honeystreet, Pewsey, Wiltshire. SN9 5PS

The Barge Inn is located right on the towpath of the Kennet and Avon canal, and you can see it as you come to it from the water. The pub is a magnificent Georgian building constructed from Bath stone and was purpose built at the same time as the canal in 1810, to act as the 'motorway services' of its time

<http://www.the-barge-inn.com/index.php>

There is a campsite here too so you can make this a longer trip. Do call to check out spaces for parking and events.

Waterways Travelled – Kennet and Avon Canal

Type of Water - rural canal

Distance – 7.8 miles (but the opportunity is there to make it an out and back trip just simply turn around and head back to the start)

Licence Information - A licence to paddle the river is included in the [Canoe England membership](#) fee. Otherwise licenses can be obtained from [Canal & River Trust](#)

We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable.



(Take your Canoe England membership card with you as it is your licence as well)

Local Facilities – There are facilities at the start and at the end is a Public House.

Vehicle Shuttle Required - This is a one way trail, so a car shuttle is needed.

Portages and Locks

There are no locks or portages as this is part of the Long Pound. This trail does have some swing bridges and we would advise that you ensure you have considered, the craft you are in, the river levels and the potential need to portage. If you do go under these bridges please look out for any nuts and bolts protruding below the bridge.”

Description

Launch on the Wharf going east alongside the Wharf Theatre. If you go the other way you will soon come across the famous Caen Hill flight and lots of locks to portage!

Paddle under the famous bridge next to the Wharf building. It is famous as it is the start of the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race so each Easter weekend canoeists can be seen heading off from here to Westminster with many adventures to be had along the way.

From the Wharf you are very quickly out in to the countryside once you are past the Devizes Marina. This is a peaceful paddle through mainly open chalk downland. Towards the end of the journey you will see the Alton Barnes White Horse to the North.

<http://www.wiltshirewhitehorses.org.uk/altonbarnes.html>

The Barge Inn is located right on the towpath of the Kennet and Avon canal, and you can see it as you come to it from the water.

This area is also known for crop circles so if you leave the canal here enjoy a drink or meal at the Barge Inn and look at the latest crop circles (time of year dependent!)

The journey takes you from

Devizes Wharf	0.00 miles
Horton Bridge	2.60 miles
Townsend Farm	4.00 miles
All Cannings Bridge	6.00 miles
Honey Street	7.80 miles

Useful Information

<http://devizes.org.uk/>

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/kennet-and-avon-canal>

<http://www.wiltshirewhitehorses.org.uk/altonbarnes.html>

www.katrust.co.uk/index.html

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Recommended Next Trail

If you have enjoyed this trail why not try out one of the many trails available.

Safety Information

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great work out and spend time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules.

Wear appropriate clothing

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90per cent of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, additional dry clothing towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

Be sure to

- Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing.
 - Familiarise yourself with the local area, it's sensitive places and protected areas.
 - Leave the environment as you found it. Please read [You, Your Canoe and the environment](#)
 - Take your litter home with you.
 - Follow the navigation rules for the waterway you are on.
 - Keep noise to a minimum.
 - Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing. (No Seal Launching)
 - Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
 - Canoe a safe distance away from wildlife.
 - Check your equipment.
 - Observe the navigation rules for this waterway.
 - Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.
- Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

Checklist:

1. Boat
2. Paddle
3. Buoyancy Aid
4. Bailer/sponge
5. Small First Aid Kit
6. Penknife
7. Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag....Please note that in some areas due to the location mobile telephone reception might be nonexistent)
8. Fresh drinking water
9. Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
10. Light waterproof jacket
11. Footwear
12. Licence

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ALWAYS be certain to let other know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

Specific Environmental Information:

Please ensure you don't remove or damage any plants or animals from the waterway as they may be protected or harmful if transferred to other catchments.

Canoeists and kayakers take very seriously environmental concerns and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct, including Canoe England's own guidance notes outlined in the "You your canoe and the environment" publication.

By following the simple steps below you can ensure your presence is not detrimental to the freshwater environment, minimize and avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Find out about the area before you go, noting its sensitive places, species and breeding seasons.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home with you.
- When clearing litter left by others, handle it with care.
- Leave the environment as you find it
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not "seal" launch or drag boats to avoid wearing away natural banks. Float your canoe for launching, lift out when landing and carry it to and from the water.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
- On rivers, avoid paddling over gravel banks in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- Constantly assess wildlife. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.

Be the eyes and ears on the water. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities.

Canal & River Trust - Emergencies- Telephone 0800 47 999 47

RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress – Telephone 0990 55 59 99 (24 hours)

Environment Agency - Telephone 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

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