




Wessex and the Cotswolds

FOR BOAT LAYOUTS

	GAYTON	38-43
	HILPERTON	38-43
	HILPERTON	36



Hungerford & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

Hilpertton 7 7 120 Hungerford

Beyond Pewsey and through

further lush Wiltshire countryside, the highest point of the Kennet & Avon is marked by the 502 yard Bruce Tunnel. The canal then follows close alongside the Great Western main railway line through the Bedwyns - Great & Little - and down to Hungerford. Pass by Savernake Forest, an ancient woodland mentioned in the Domesday Book.



Newbury & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

Hilpertton 10/11 5.5 140

Beyond Hungerford the canal shares the valley with both the railway and the River Kennet, beginning to use the river course as the navigation.

The Kennet & Avon Canal is so central to Newbury that the main shopping street passes directly over it. (Newbury TIC 01635 30267)

Take a day out at the races and visit Newbury Race Course. (01635 40015 / www.newburyracecourse.co.uk)

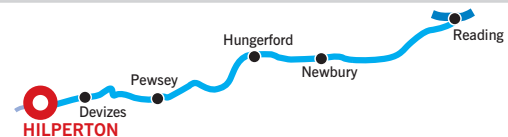


Reading & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

Hilpertton 14 6 186

Considered some of the very best countryside in the UK canal system, this route takes you through a number and variety of towns and villages to Reading. Here you could visit either Blakes Lock Museum (social and industrial history / 0118 939 0918), Reading Museum (0118 939 9800 / www.readingmuseum.org.uk) or the Museum of English Rural Life (0118 378 8660 / www.ruralhistory.org), or you could shop at the retail park known as 'The Oracle' which is located next to the canal.



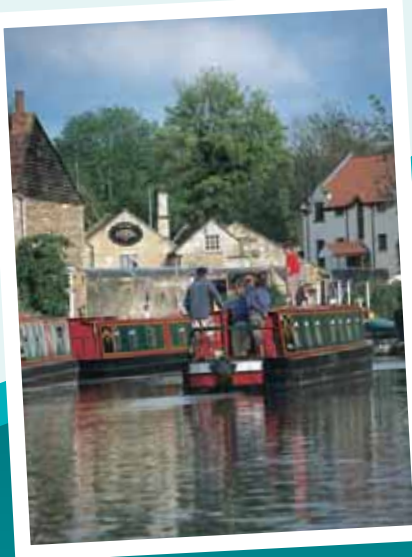
Bristol & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

Hilpertton 7 4 28

25 hours cruising would elsewhere be considered little more than a short break, but here the route includes Bradford on Avon, Bath, Bristol and, unusually, many more towns and villages that the canal passes through the centre of. Having followed the route of the River Avon by canal, after Bath the navigation uses the River itself, reverting to canal to divert into Bristol city centre.

- Some stunning weirs accompany each river lock down to Bristol.
- Museums and waterside features reflect the city's former importance as a sea port.
- Visitor moorings are available right in the centre of the city in the floating harbour (mooring charges apply).
- Frequent reminders of the route's industrial history such as the brass mill at Kelston are found within rolling valley countryside.



"Great boat, great staff, good service"

short breaks



www.visitbath.co.uk

The Grand Ring

N1 N7 G29

> Gayton ☾ 14/21 ☀ 6-9 📖 175

This ultimate ring takes two weeks to complete, or includes plenty to see and do over a three week cruise. An extra licence is required when joining the Thames at either Oxford or London. (Please talk to your marina about this at the start of your holiday.)

> The river cruising on the Thames is superb, with all locks manned during the daytime.

Visit places such as Hampton Court Palace (www.hrp.org.uk), Windsor, Eton and Henley.

> Three weeks gives time to explore The Paddington Arm which goes right up to Little Venice, London Zoo (www.zsl.org/london-zoo) and Camden market.



www.visitbath.co.uk

Weekends: Friday to Monday (3 nights)
Midweek: Monday to Friday (4 nights)

Devizes & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

> Hilperton ☾ 4 ☀ 6 📖 72

The spectacular Devizes flight consists of 29 wide beam locks, rising by 237 feet over just two miles. The flight opens at 8am each day and navigation must start no later than 2pm to ensure that ascent or descent is completed by dark.

- Devizes Visitor Centre (01380 729408) has information about the town's medieval history with the Canal Visitor Centre at The Wharf for details more specific to the waterways. (01380 721279 / www.katrust.org)
- Reward yourself after the strenuous rise studying the history of Wadworth & Co (www.wadworth.co.uk), local brewers who still make local deliveries with a shire horse team!

Bradford on Avon / Bottom of Caen & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

> Hilperton ☾ 3 ☀ 4.5 📖 14

For an easy weekend to combine cruising and exploring, spend a day in Bradford and another cruising to the base of the Devizes flight. Perhaps use this as a 'taster' weekend to take a look at the impressive rise to Devizes, incorporating the notable Caen Hill Locks.

Bath & return

P8 N7 L20 G1

> Hilperton ☾ 3/4 ☀ 4-6

📖 2 (east of Bath), 📖 14 (west of Bath)

The canal passes very close to the city centre and Bath is, without doubt, worthy of at least a couple of days of exploration. (www.bath.co.uk)

- The medieval town of Bradford on Avon, just an hour from Hilperton, offers a very pleasant stopping point.

- The splendid Dundas and Avoncliff Aqueducts both take the canal over the River Avon as it follows the river valley between Bradford and Bath.

- Claverton's pumping station (www.claverton.org) and American Museum (01225 460503 / www.americanmuseum.org) may be incongruous with each other but will certainly satisfy differing interests.

