

MARKET HARBOROUGH, FOXTON, WISTOW AND RETURN

~ RURAL ADVENTURE ~

Cruising pace: 3/5

Holiday: Midweek break

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Renowned Wistow Rural centre for crafts, farm shop, restaurant and garden centre
- Secluded landscape
- Spectacular view from The Queen's Head at Saddington
- Gin bar at Market Harborough

AT A GLANCE

- 22 miles
- 14 locks
- 2 tunnels
- Restaurant meals every day

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

MONDAY: 1 HOUR CRUISING

- Comprehensive boat handling training at Debdale marina.
- Cruise south and moor up at Foxton for the night, either in the basin itself or just before.
- Enjoy a few drinks and a meal at The Foxton Inn terrace bar (0116 279 1515 to book at busy times).

TUESDAY: 6 HOURS CRUISING

- Take a walk up the Foxton Locks flight, stopping for bacon rolls and coffee at The Top Lock café.
- Back at your boat, cast off and take the Market Harborough Arm.
- Cruise on through the stunning Leicestershire countryside, operating a road bridge along the way.
- Arrive at Market Harborough and moor up to enjoy lunch at The Waterfront Gin & Fizz bar (01858 434702).
- Allow two hours to return back through the swing bridge and on to the bottom of Foxton Locks.
- Moor up for the night on the towpath.

WEDNESDAY: 5 HOURS CRUISING

- From the Foxton Basin, keep right and cruise back up past Debdale Marina.
- Go on through Saddington tunnel.
- You then have 7 locks ahead of you before the turning point. Take your time and enjoy the stunning landscape as you move on down.
- Turn at Wain Bridge 81, go through two locks and then moor up around Newton Bridge 80.
- Take a walk to Wistow Rural Centre (www.wistow.com) to enjoy a bistro lunch and browse the lovely independent shops, model village and garden centre. In the summer months, there is a corn maze, too.

THURSDAY: 5 HOURS CRUISING

- Cruise on back through the remaining locks.
- After the tunnel, moor up on the towpath before Smeeton Road Bridge 72.
- From here, venture into the little village of Saddington and The Queen's Head (0116 2402536 to check food serving times). There is a stunning view of the Leicestershire landscape – take some coins for the telescope in the pub garden or pack your walking boots to enjoy it first hand.
- Moor up for the night at Debdale Wharf Marina.

FRIDAY

- Enjoy a final breakfast aboard, before vacating the boat by 9.30am.

PLEASE CHECK THAT YOUR ROUTE ISN'T AFFECTED BY ANY CANAL CLOSURES BEFORE YOU TRAVEL.