

Manchester

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's
time
well spent



YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's a chat room

Water is good for you. You only have to stroll, sit, eat, drink or just chat beside a canal or river and you can feel yourself unwind, let go of the stresses of life and generally enjoy yourself more. Try life in the slow lane by your canal or river.

A man in a dark grey suit and light purple shirt is sitting on a wooden pier. He is holding a sandwich in his right hand and a white coffee cup in his left. The background shows a canal with a bridge and buildings. The image is tilted slightly to the right.

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's a proper lunch break

We all work better when we take a break. We work even better when we take a real break. Your local canal is the perfect escape for that much needed lunchtime re-fuel.

A family of four is enjoying a walk along a canal. In the foreground, a young girl with long brown hair is looking through a magnifying glass. In the middle ground, a boy in a pink shirt is kneeling on the grass, also looking through a magnifying glass. Behind him, a man in a white shirt and a woman in a black top are standing and talking. The canal is surrounded by lush green grass and tall reeds. In the background, there are trees and a blue sky with white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's a wildlife documentary

A canal is like a nature reserve, several metres wide and many miles long. You might see kingfishers, water voles, dragonflies, bats, or herons. They've all been seen on or by canals.

Who knows, on your local canal you could even be an otter spotter!

YOUR LOCAL CANAL

It's free gym membership

Leave the monthly fees, machines and MTV behind and get fit for free. Your local canal or river is your chance to get out of the gym onto the towpath and remind yourself that getting fit is about fun, fresh air and freedom.



Manchester's canals

Manchester's canal network once brought cargo from all four corners of the world to the industrialised North West. Nowadays, you'll find something to look at, something to interest you or something fun to do along almost every mile of the canals around Manchester. We've chosen three locations to give you an idea of the enormous variety on offer from bustling urban to quietly rural.

Central Manchester

Once the lifeblood of an industrial age, the canals of Manchester are now both a haven of tranquillity and a focal point for cosmopolitan life.

Just off the towpath

The Rochdale Canal runs through the heart of Manchester and the short canal-side walk from Canal Street to the Castlefield area enables you to experience the many aspects of Manchester's waterside.

Deansgate Lock

You'll find 'The Locks' close to the site where the legendary Hacienda once stood. The slow pace by day makes it relaxing for lunchtime dining. By night it lives up and is a popular local haunt for evening revellers. These ten converted railway arches are now home to several popular bars, clubs and a comedy club. Access is via a footbridge over the canal along Whitworth Street West and Deansgate train station is just across the road.



© Ian Lawson Photography

Canal Street

One of the liveliest areas of the city, crammed with canal-side bars, clubs and restaurants. It is a hub of Manchester nightlife, and you never know who you might spot as it's a popular location for TV filming.

Castlefield

A fabulous historic setting for a relaxing waterside stroll or a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants or bars. The area is designated Britain's first Urban Heritage Park and the canal basin marks the end of the Rochdale and the beginning of the Bridgewater Canal. There are frequent events at the outdoor arena, plenty of boat trips, and the Museum of Science & Industry and the Air & Space Museum are just a stone's throw away.



© Ian Lawson Photography

Events 2009

This summer, Manchester will be buzzing with a range of fantastic events.

Manchester International Festival (2 – 19 July)
Showcases more than twenty newly commissioned works by leading international artists in the world's first international festival of original work.
www.manchesterinternationalfestival.com

Rochdale Canal Festival 2009

Come and take part in a bumper packed week of free activities to celebrate the Rochdale Canal running from Saturday 11 to Sunday 19 July 2009. All the activities are eco-friendly and include guided walks, organised bike rides, canoe and angling taster sessions, boat rides and much, much more. A full programme of events and activities will be published on www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk and Rochdale Council's website in the weeks leading up to the festival.

For more information or to get involved please contact Lucy Rogers, The Waterways Trust on [0161 242 8216](tel:01612428216) or Email: lucy.rogers@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk or visit www.waterscope.com

24:7 Theatre Festival (20 – 26 July)

Celebrating the city's theatrical history with new and original work in non-theatre venues.
www.247theatrefestival.co.uk



Where to eat and drink

1 Piccadilly Malmison

1-3 Piccadilly, M1 1L Tel: 0161 278 1000

2 Canal Street Taurus

1 Canal Street, M1 3HE Tel: 0161 236 4593

3 Churchills

37 Charlton Street, M1 3HN Tel: 0161 236 5529

4 Eden Bar

3 Brazil Street & Canal Street, M1 3PJ

Tel: 0161 237 9852

5 Velvet

2 Canal Street, M1 3HE Tel: 0161 236 9003

6 Bridgewater Hall Rain Bar

80 Great Bridgewater Street, M1 5JG

Tel: 0161 235 6500

7 Deansgate Lock Leaf

Arch 36-5, M1 5LH Tel: 0161 819 5858

8 Revolution

Arch 7 M1 5LH Tel: 0161 839 7559

9 Atlas

376 Deansgate, M3 4LY Tel: 0161 834 2124

10 The Knott Bar

374 Deansgate, M3 4LY Tel: 0161 839 9229

11 Castlefield Dukes 92

18-25 Castle Street, M3 4LZ Tel: 0161 839 3522

12 Albert's Shed

20 Castle Street, Castlefield, M3 4LZ Tel: 0161 839 9818

13 Choice Bar and Restaurant

Castlefield, Castle Quay, M15 4NT

Tel: 0161 833 3400

Bugsworth Basin

Bugsworth Basin is a living example of our North West industrial heritage, nestled in the Goyt Valley just off the A6 and forming the terminus of the relatively short – just 15 miles – yet beautiful Peak Forest Canal.

The tranquillity of this Scheduled Ancient Monument masks its previous use as a busy interchange with the Peak Forest Tramway, where the principal cargo of limestone and burnt lime furnished the building blocks of the Industrial Revolution. In its late 18th and early 19th century heyday, Bugsworth was the busiest and largest port on the waterway network – and is the only one to have survived intact. Volunteers began restoration in 1968 and the basin re-opened to leisure boat traffic at Easter 2005.

Work included sealing the basin against leakage, repairing buildings and walls, plus environmental protection for the site's valuable water vole population. The tramway brought limestone six miles from quarries to be trans-shipped via cargo boats to Manchester and beyond. The Inland Waterway Protection Society's exhibition based at Bugsworth Basin represents a fascinating journey through its history.

This season, an innovative new mode of transport in the form of a Water Bus will ferry visitors between Bugsworth and Whaley Bridge, offering a waterborne perspective on the heritage experience. The Navigation Inn at Bugsworth Basin offers refreshment in a traditional setting. Or take refreshment onboard the Judith Marj trip boat which offers cruises from Whaley Bridge along the Peak Forest Canal.

Ambitious plans continue to transform the basin and surrounding areas into a major visitor destination. Visitors this year will find the going easier with new towpaths linking the attractions, picnic areas and heritage storyboards detailing its fascinating history.

Whaley Water Weekend takes place 12 – 14 June. The ninth annual community event 'W3 takes place on Whaley Wharf at the terminus of the Peak Forest Canal's Whaley Bridge Arm. The event opens with a reception, music and presentation on the Whaley to Cromford railway. Details from www.whaleybridge.com

Visit Peak District offers a wide range of activities this season, many of which showcase the waterways. Visit www.visitpeakdistrict.com and go to 'What's On' for more information on this fascinating season of visitor attractions.



Take to the water

Whaley Bridge

Judith Marj trip boat. Tel: 01663 747808

www.trafalgarmarineservices.co.uk

Hebden Bridge

Stubbing Wharf Cruises canal trips.

Tel: 07966 808747 www.stubbingwharf.com/cruises

Bronte Boat Hire holiday boat hire & repairs

Tel: 01706 815103 www.bronteboathire.co.uk

Saddleworth

Saddleworth Canal Cruises canal trips on

the Pennine Moonscar. Tel: 0161 652 6331

www.saddleworth-canal-cruises.co.uk

Useful information

Navigation Inn

Bugsworth Basin, Buxworth SK23 7NE

Tel: 01663 732072

Inland Waterways Protection Society including

Bugsworth Basin Exhibition www.brocross.com

Chairman & Site Manager Ian Edgar MBE

Tel: 0161 427 7402 Email: ian@theadgears.co.uk

Things to do

By day you can think of Manchester's canals as a nature reserve in the centre of the city. It's like another world: you can sit next to the canal, just minutes away from the fast-paced life of the city and find a perfect relaxation spot. The canal runs through and under the centre of the city and provides a wonderful lunchtime getaway or a short cut to work. By night it's the perfect backdrop for a waterside meal or drinks with friends.

Stepping Out

With several canals winding their way through Manchester, there are ample walking routes which can mean you'll hardly ever retrace your steps. An abundance of things to see and do – from narrowboat spotting to feeding ducks – the canals are a great place for family walks. An information pack on the Rochdale Canal for children can be found at www.wow4water.net

Where To Cycle

Canals make a good starting point for a quick cycle getaway out of the city, although some areas are a little busy for cycling along the towpath. For more information on cycle routes near Manchester, visit www.waterscope.com/cycling

Anderton

If you fancy a trip out then a visit to the Anderton Boat Lift near Northwich is a great way to spend the day. Built in 1875, it provided a towering link between the ports of the mighty River Mersey and the industrial Midland heartlands. The huge structure still dominates the waterway landscape today, transferring water craft and the Edwin Clark trip boat effortlessly between the Trent & Mersey Canal and River Weaver 50 feet below as it has done for over a century. Now with a modern operations centre and interactive exhibition, the 'Cathedral of Canals' is in its eighth season since being reopened in 2002.

10% OFF Lift & River Trips

Please contact the attraction for boat trip times and prices.
Tel: 01606 786777 www.andertonboatlift.co.uk

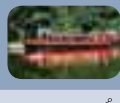
This voucher is valid on all trips until 29/11/2009. This offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer.



Portland Basin Boat Hire – A day out with a difference. 10% off hire.

Hire a day boat from us for a special occasion or simply a great day out with family and friends. You can get 10% off any weekday hire (Monday – Friday excluding Bank Holidays) on presentation of this voucher. Offer valid during January – June and September – December 2009.

Offer valid during January – June and September – December 2009.



YOUR LOCAL CANALS

Manchester



Key

- Canal or River
- Lock
- Bridge
- Bridleway
- Railway Station
- Pub, Restaurant or Café

Find more detailed canal and river maps at www.waterscape.com
Just click on the interactive map

For further information please contact
 British Waterways, Waterside House, Waterside Drive, Wigan WN3 5AZ
 Tel: 01942 405700 E-mail: enquiries.northwest@britishwaterways.co.uk
 British Waterways Customer Service Centre Tel: 01923 201120



Your local canals: yours to enjoy every day

A canal is not just a length of water. It's your escape route to another hidden world, and the best thing about it is it's right next to the everyday, noisy, busy world you're in now. All you have to do is step off the pavement, nip down a quiet pathway, or find some steps by a bridge, and you'll soon be in a completely different place. A place for a pleasant stroll or cycle, for wildlife spotting, al fresco dining and so much more.

This guide is full of useful ideas for exploring and making the most of your own local canal, as well as telling you something about the things you'll see on and alongside it.



All you have to do is step off the pavement, turn down a quiet pathway, or find some steps by a bridge, and you'll feel like you are entering a different world.

Ditch the pavement, try the towpath

Whether you're walking to work, to school, alone or with your dog, there's something about walking by the canal that's more relaxing than walking anywhere else.

It's peaceful, there's always plenty to see – from wildlife to narrowboats – and if you stick to the towpath you can't get lost! As well as your daily walking routes, www.waterscape.com/walking has a great selection of walks for those that fancy a longer breath of fresh air or some gentle exercise.



www.wow4water.net/kids

WOW stands for 'Wild Over Waterways'. The wow4water website is an educational resource, full of fun activities for children, as well as downloadable maps and trails for local canals. These help children learn more about the history and wildlife of canals and rivers, and about water safety too.

Waterside pubs

Pubs and canals go back a long way together. So it doesn't take too long to find a historic, atmospheric canalside stop for a bite to eat and a drink. You'll also find restaurants and tea shops making the most of their great locations, with outside seating, peaceful canalside gardens, and gorgeous views.

Visit www.waterscape.com/pubs for a selection of places to eat, drink and relax by the canal. We promise you'll be spoilt for choice.



On your bike

Why not cycle along the towpath, for a quick commute to work, exercise session or just for fun. There are no steep hills, no traffic, no car or lorry fumes and you'll cycle through some of the best scenery. Of course, towpaths vary in width and surface covering and not all sections are suitable for cycling. As long as you are considerate to other visitors and respect any 'dismount' signs most towpaths are great for two wheels. Check out the best for bicycles at www.waterscape.com/cycling



Get hooked

Whether you're a keen angler or just an enthusiastic dabbler, canal fishing has something to offer everyone. Lovely scenery, a peaceful environment – and plenty of fish! Your local British Waterways office has information on access and peg availability in your area. And you can find more information at www.waterscape.com/fishing. Please remember a rod licence, available from your post office or www.environment-agency.gov.uk is required by law.



“Look! It's a...”

...duck! water vole! frog! heron! swan! With more than 60 different species of wildlife spotted in a recent survey of waterway wildlife (that's not even counting the fish), you can never be sure what you might see on a walk by the canal.

The hedgerows and canal banks are ideal habitats for a whole range of creatures, so all you have to do is keep your eyes open.



