

BIRMINGHAM, HATTON & STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

MY LOCAL CANAL

OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

It's quality time  
with my family



**British  
Waterways**

Looking after your canals and rivers

*Yours to enjoy anytime*

Find your nearest canal at [waterscape.com](http://waterscape.com)



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£ 10 £ 11 £ 12



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Legend of icons:

- Blue bar
- Blue arrow
- Blue double brackets
- Blue dots
- Orange circle with 'i'
- Purple circle with 'P'
- Green circle with fork and knife
- Red star
- Red circle with building
- Red circle with bus
- Blue circle with 'P'
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## Your local canal: it's 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 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, alfresco dining and so much more.



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### Things to do

You can think of Birmingham's canals as a nature reserve in the centre of the city. The combination of water, greenery and relative peace and quiet makes the canals and their banks a haven for wildlife – though you may have to be up and about early in the morning if you want to spot it.

Look out for house sparrows, blue tits, great tits, blackbirds, pied wagtails, grey wagtails, black redstarts and kingfishers.

#### Stepping out

With so many canals winding their way through Birmingham, you can follow plenty of walking routes and hardly ever retrace your steps. Having plenty to see and do – from narrowboat spotting to feeding the ducks – the canals are a great place for family walks. A central Birmingham trail for children can be found at [www.wow4water.net](http://www.wow4water.net)

#### Where to cycle

Canals make a good starting point for a quick cycle getaway out of the city, although some central areas are a little bit busy for cycling along the towpath. For more information on cycle routes in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton visit [www.waterscape.com/cycling](http://www.waterscape.com/cycling)

#### Access for all

Birmingham's central canals offer more access for disabled visitors than canals in more rural areas. However, canals, towpaths and bridges are historic structures, and by their nature may be unsuitable for disabled access.



## Get involved – Volunteer!

Imagine a world without canals. Where would you walk the dog that's so picturesque? Or, where would you go for a jog and breathe so much fresh air? How would you be so close to home and still be a million miles away from it all? Or, how would you cycle to work every morning without any road rage? It's hard to imagine, isn't it? That's why we need to look after this oasis.

### **Volunteering in the West Midlands**

Are you looking for an exciting and interesting way to make a difference in conserving the waterways and a large part of the UK's heritage? Whatever your interests or skills, we would love to hear from you.

Anyone can volunteer. We aim to make volunteering opportunities as accessible as possible and to suit you depending on your experience, enthusiasm, ability and availability.

There is more to volunteering with British Waterways than picking up litter and clearing vegetation, you could be involved in a school visit, record and monitor the wildlife, help out at events or become a towpath ranger. Just imagine what you could do...

To find out more telephone Stephen Bicknell, Volunteer Co-ordinator on *01785 284310*

Or email [volunteer@britishwaterways.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@britishwaterways.co.uk)

[www.waterscape.com/volunteer](http://www.waterscape.com/volunteer)

[www.britishwaterways.co.uk/volunteer](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/volunteer)

## Ditch the pavement, try the towpath

Whether you're walking to work, to school, alone, or with your dog, there's something about being 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](http://www.waterscape.com/walking) has a great selection of walks for those that fancy a longer breath of fresh air or some gentle exercise.

