



DIRECTIONS

BY ROAD

The marina is on the western edge of the village of Alvechurch, close to the railway station.

- Exit the M42 at Junction 2 (to Birmingham South, Redditch).
- Take the A441 towards Birmingham for 1/2 mile.
- At mini-roundabout take 1st exit (to Alvechurch) for 1 mile.
- At mini-roundabout go straight on (slightly to left), 2nd exit.
- Pass under the motorway and continue into the village for 1/2 mile, straight across the 2 mini-roundabouts.
- Immediately after the pedestrian traffic lights turn right. Brown marina sign on the left points towards the marina.
- Pass over a double hump-backed bridge (the railway, then the canal) and the marina entrance is 100m on the left.

FROM AIRPORTS

From Birmingham International Airport: Take a taxi to the marina (about 30 minutes).

From Luton, Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted: Take the inter-airport coach service to Birmingham International Airport then take a taxi as above. Alternatively, make your way to London (Euston) and take a train as below.

BY RAIL

From London: Go to London (Euston) station and take the train to Birmingham (New Street) station. On weekdays and Saturdays trains depart every 30 minutes and the journey time is about 90 minutes. At Birmingham (New Street) change trains to the local service to Redditch. This service operates every 30 minutes and journey time is about 40 minutes. Alvechurch is an unmanned station which is the last stop before Redditch. The marina is only about 300 metres from the station.

On the road outside the station turn left and go over the railway and canal bridges and we are **100 metres on the left**.



You can buy rail tickets on-line at thetrainline.com or firstgreatwestern.com.



If you need assistance with luggage when you arrive at Alvechurch station please send one of your party ahead to the marina to request assistance.

TRAVEL / PLANNING

LOCAL ACCOMMODATION

Please check www.hotelshopuk.com or www.laterooms.com for special rates.

LOCAL TAXI COMPANIES

Hyde Cars: 01527 65319 or 07774 857574

Gold & Black Cars: 01527 570707 or 01527 570527

NEAREST GROCERY STORES

A selection of essential provisions is stocked at the marina shop and there is a small convenience store in Alvechurch village (a short walk from the marina). The nearest supermarket is Sainsburys on the A441 at the north edge of Redditch (10 minutes by car).

Tesco will deliver (visit www.tesco.com, 0845 6779119)



 Icon shows route colour on the map

STOURPORT RING

7 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 7.5 Hrs • Locks: 116

- A route of contrasts takes in the 21st century Birmingham city centre and 19th century heritage.
- Alongside the canal network in Birmingham city centre you will find The Symphony Hall, National Indoor Arena, the Sea Life Centre, International Convention Centre and Brindley Place.
- Birmingham city centre is within easy walking distance of the canal with its restaurants, shops, theatres, art galleries and museums (www.visitbirmingham.com).
- The Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) link the old and new main lines and take you past places such as Smethwick, West Bromwich, Tipton, Wolverhampton.
- Travel on the rural River Severn the longest river in the UK and second longest in the British Isles.

STRATFORD UPON AVON & RETURN

7 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 6 Hrs • Locks: 110

- Cruise through idyllic stretches of countryside to this historic town.
- Offers a superb mixture of culture, history and shopping.
- Moor in the beautifully maintained canal basin at Stratford.
- Visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. (01789 403444 / www.rsc.org.uk)
- All of Stratford's attractions are easy to reach from the basin.
- You will need to obtain a licence for the River Avon from Tewkesbury (see www.avonnavigationtrust.org for more details) and having a second route option is advisable as you will be travelling on the river.

THE AVON RING

10-14 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 6 Hrs • Locks: 139

- This route will take you on both the River Severn and Avon, and to fully enjoy it you will need at least 10 or 11 nights.
- You will need a licence for the River Avon (go to www.avonnavigationtrust.org for more details).
- This is an energetic route that takes in Worcester, Tewkesbury, Evesham and Stratford-upon-Avon, and is a great route to explore the history of the Heart of England.


ADDITIONAL LICENCE REQUIRED FOR THE RIVER AVON
Please go to www.avonnavigationtrust.org for more information.
The licence can be obtained on route in Stratford or Tewkesbury.

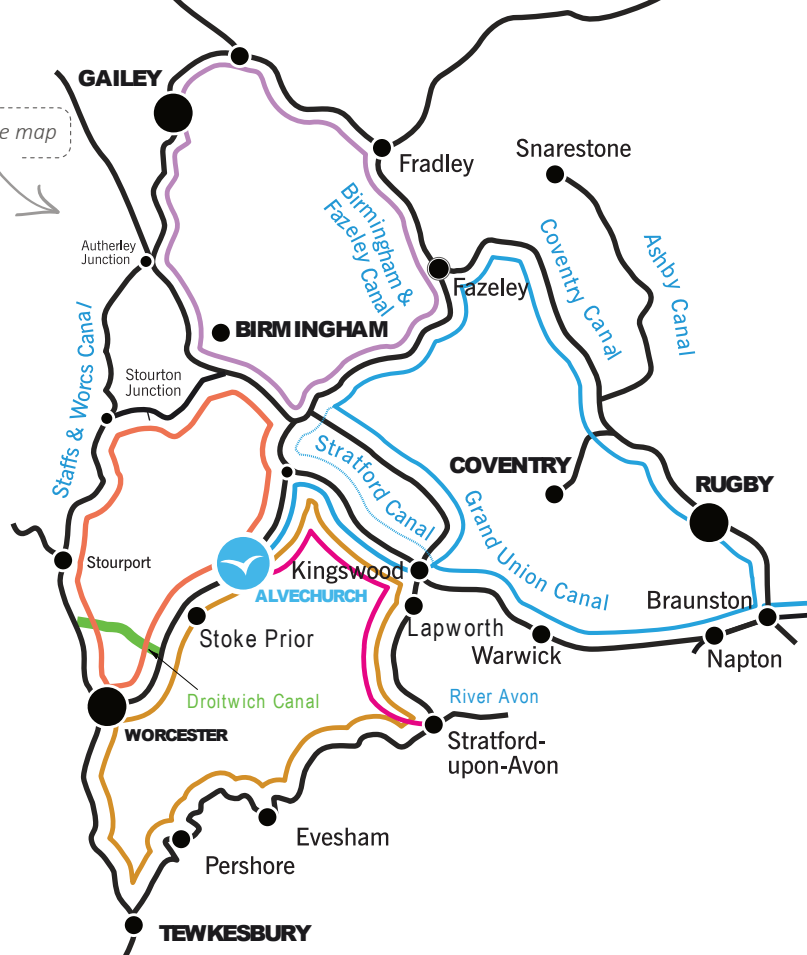


THE WARWICKSHIRE RING

7-14 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 6 Hrs • Locks: 128

- Another popular route with the option to moor at the heart of Birmingham.
- It includes the spectacular Hatton Locks and takes in the rural areas of the Grand Union Canal.
- Why not stop off at Coventry and go to the war-torn cathedral.
- The areas around Tamworth have Drayton Manor (www.draytonmanor.co.uk) and the Snow Dome (www.snowdome.co.uk).
- How could you come to Warwickshire without visiting Warwick Castle? (www.warwick-uk.co.uk).
- On a two week cruise you can include a trip along the Ashby Canal

 This route can be completed from Alvechurch Marina in 7 nights by more experienced boaters, but to fully enjoy this trip at a more relaxed pace take 14 nights to complete it.



THE BLACK COUNTRY RING

7 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 8 Hrs • Locks: 80

- This route has lots of family activities and a rich mixture of canal scenery.
- Birmingham has its shopping, restaurants and art galleries, plus the Sea Life Centre and museums for the children (see www.bmag.org.uk).
- Visit the Black Country Museum and live the story of the Black Country (www.bclm.co.uk).
- There is also Dudley Zoo and Castle (www.dudleyzoo.org.uk), Drayton Manor Park (www.draytonmanor.co.uk) and Shugborough Hall (www.shugborough.org.uk).

THE DROITWICH CANALS

7 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 5Hrs • Locks: 76-92

- This canal can be cruised as part of the Stourport Ring or as a leisurely return route by cruising down the Worcester & Birmingham canal through Stoke Prior and turning right onto the Droitwich Canal and following it all the way to the River Severn, where you'll turn around and come back.
- Doing it as part of the Stourport Ring will involve 'cutting' through by turning onto the Droitwich canal instead of going further down to Worcester.



Maps can be bought at the marina, or online from abcwebchandler.com

LAPWORTH & RETURN

3-4 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 4.5 Hrs • Locks: 0-36

- Head north towards Birmingham, but then turn onto the Stratford Canal towards the Lapworth Flight of locks.
- Stop at the top of Lapworth Flight for a relaxing route with no locks- a good first time route or for those that want to just enjoy the canal and countryside without the locks.
- Take a 4 night break and travel down the locks to Kingswood Junction, or travel a few more hours to take in Knowle, Hatton Flight or Wootton Wawen.

BIRMINGHAM & RETURN

3 Nights • Cruising Time Per day: 5 Hrs • Locks: 0

- A relaxing route that will take you through countryside and then into the hustle and bustle of Birmingham city centre allowing you to experience Gas Street Basin, the heart of Birmingham on the canal.

GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.VISITBIRMINGHAM.COM



LICENCED BAR AND FOOD

The canalside Weighbridge Pub in Alvechurch Worcestershire was once the old Weighbridge office for offloading coal barges to horse and cart for local deliveries. It has since been converted into a cozy canalside public house with a friendly atmosphere serving a selection of reasonably priced bar food and drinks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To book a meal or for further information, please call **0121 445 5111** or simply call in when you arrive at the marina.



BAR TIMES: Monday to Sunday, 12-3pm then 7-11pm **FOOD:** Thursday to Monday, 12-2pm then 7-9pm (Tuesday & Wednesday, sandwiches only)

