

Foxton, Leicester and Return

~ City adventure ~

Cruising pace: 4/5

Holiday: 1 week

Cruise highlights

- City centre mooring
- Kings Lock tearooms
- Cathedral & Richard III visitor centre
- Navigate River Soar and Grand Union Canal (Leicester Line)

At a glance

- 52 miles
 - 70 locks
 - 4 tunnels
 - Mix of rural and urban experiences
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Suggested itinerary

Friday: 2.5 hours cruising

- Comprehensive boat handling training at Union Wharf marina.
- Cruise along the Harborough Arm, opening the swing bridge along the way.
- Moor up just after the bridge for the night.
- Enjoy a few drinks and a meal at The Black Horse (01858 545250 to check food serving times.)

Saturday: 6 hours cruising

- Cruise on through a narrow swing bridge into the basin at Foxton Locks and moor up.
- Take a walk up the Foxton Locks flight, stopping for bacon rolls and coffee at The Top Lock café.
- Return to your boat, cast off and take the route up past Debdale Marina.
- Cruise on through the stunning Leicestershire countryside, on through Saddington Tunnel.
- Enjoy a towpath lunch before embarking on the Kibworth locks.
- Continue on until you have an urge to find a nighttime towpath mooring – around Bowden Road Bridge 77 would be perfect.

Sunday: 6 hours cruising

- This is a straightforward day, moving from rural landscape to skirt the south of the city of Leicester.
- A good pub lunch can be found at The Navigation on Welford Road, Kilby Bridge LE18 3TE.
- Pause for the night at Blaby, finding a mooring around Whetstone Lane Bridge 99.

Monday: 5 hours cruising

- Enjoy your journey on through the lower reaches of Leicester.
- Take a break for morning coffee at Kings Lock tearooms.
- Cruising on, you will encounter the first of two weirs at Freemans Meadow lock (number 40). Keep well away, over to the opposite side.
- Stop in the heart of Leicester at the visitor moorings to be found between footbridge 111A and Westbridge (112). From here you can walk to shops, markets, bars and restaurants and spend the afternoon in city-break mode. For those seeking culture, there are at least three museums within walking distance and the cathedral, with its homage to the recently-discovered remains of Richard III.

Tuesday: 6 hours cruising

- Cruise up past a second weir, to Memory Lane Wharf, where you can turn and begin to retrace your steps, back past the two weirs and on out of the city.
- Take your time meandering through our waterways and moor up at Kilby Bridge. The Navigation does a good evening meal (LE18 3TE 0116 288 2280).

Wednesday: 6 hours cruising

- Cruise back through the Leicestershire countryside, making your way through the locks at Kibworth.
- Take the Saddington Tunnel in the afternoon.
- Choose a picturesque tow path mooring for the night just before the Foxton Locks basin.

Thursday: 3 hours cruising

- Cruise on to the basin at Foxton again, keeping left towards Harborough.
- Then walk back up the towpath to the basin to take a look around the museum and walk up to the top lock for coffee and cakes.
- Back on your boat, there are two swing bridges to navigate back to Harborough, where you can moor up in the basin and plug in to the electricity supply.
- Take a walk into the historic town centre to enjoy an afternoon of shopping. There are many boutique and independent shops, cafes and bars, and you will have lots of options for evening meals if you wish.

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 at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices>