

Foxton, Welford and Return

~ Waterside escape ~

Cruising pace: 3/5

Holiday: midweek break

Cruise highlights

- Stunning scenery
- Waterside terrace restaurant
- World-famous flight of locks at Foxton
- Boutique shopping in the historic town of Market Harborough

At a glance

- 30 miles
- 22 locks
- 4 swing bridges
- 2 tunnels
- Relaxed pace
- Ideal for first-timers

Suggested itinerary

Monday: 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.)

Tuesday: 5 hours cruising

- Cruise on to the basin at the bottom of Foxton Locks and moor up. Find the volunteer lock keeper and book your ascent (you can check the lock opening times on www.foxtonlocks.org.uk/boaters).
- Make the most of the stunning views as you progress up the locks.
- Enjoy a leisurely cruise through the waterways, navigating through Husbands Bosworth tunnel.
- Turn left onto the Welford Arm and take the sleepy route into the basin where you can turn round.
- Moor up and enjoy dinner and a drink at The Wharf Inn.

Wednesday: 6 hours cruising

- Cruise back up the Welford arm, keeping right at the junction.
- Go on through Husbands Bosworth tunnel and up to the top of Foxton Locks.
- Find the volunteer lock keeper and book your descent down Foxton locks, checking the lock opening times. In the winter, the last boat through the locks is permitted at 3:15 PM.
- Once you are down the flight, take the right arm towards Market Harborough and then moor up to enjoy a meal at The Foxton Locks Inn or Bridge 61.

Thursday: 3 hours cruising

- There are two swing bridges to navigate back to Harborough, where you can moor up in the basin and enjoy lunch at The Waterfront (01858 434702.) In the warm months, choose a table outside and watch the boats as they navigate their way around the basin. In the winter, the restaurant offers outdoor “igloos” which are fun.
- Ensure you “plug in” to the electricity supply on your pontoon.
- 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>