

# Foxton, Wistow and Return

~ Rural adventure ~

Cruising pace: 3/5

Holiday: Midweek break

## Cruise highlights

- Renowned Wistow Rural centre for crafts, farm shop, restaurant and garden centre
- Secluded landscape
- Spectacular view from The Queen's Head at Saddington
- The Waterfront Restaurant and Gin bar at Market Harborough

## At a glance

- 22 miles
- 14 locks
- 2 tunnels
- Restaurant meals every day

# 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: 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 right fork away from the locks, up past Debdale Marina.
  
- Go on through Saddington tunnel.
- You then have 7 locks ahead of you before the turning point. Take your time and enjoy the stunning landscape as you move on through.
- Turn at Wain Bridge 81, go through two locks and then moor up around Newton Bridge 80.

## Wednesday: 5 hours cruising

- For breakfast, take a walk across the fields to Wistow Rural Centre ([www.wistow.com](http://www.wistow.com)) to enjoy a bistro lunch and browse the lovely independent shops, model village and garden centre. In the summer months, there is a corn maze, too.
- Cruise on back through the remaining locks.
- After the tunnel, moor up on the towpath before Smeeton Road Bridge 72.
- From here, venture into the little village of Saddington and The Queen's Head (0116 2402536 to check food serving times). There is a stunning view of the Leicestershire landscape – take some coins for the telescope in the pub garden or pack your walking boots to enjoy it first hand.

## Thursday: 5 hours cruising

- Cruise on to the basin at Foxton again, keeping left towards Harborough.
- Pop into The Foxton Locks Inn for lunch (0116 2791515 to book at busy times) and then take a look at the museum.
- There are two swing bridges to navigate back to Harborough, where you can moor up in the basin for the night and enjoy an evening meal at The Waterfront (01858 434702) or take a 15 minute stroll into the town centre.

## 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>**