

ACCESSIBLE BOATING ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No 295034

MADAM BUTTERFLY

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

These suggested itineraries for three and four night breaks are designed to enable you to make the most of your break on Madam Butterfly. Maps and other information will be available on board. Don't be afraid to ask our volunteer boatmen for any other advice or tips. Feel free to vary the itinerary to suit yourselves. This information is provided in good faith and was correct at the time of preparation. Any feedback you can provide would be welcome.



“The Hampshire Explorer”

A three night break which would be suited to new canal boaters that enables you to see almost the entire Hampshire pound of the Basingstoke Canal.

No locks to pass through but you will see one.

One swing bridge (manual) and one lift bridge (electric)

Day 1

Pick up Madam Butterfly at Colt Hill, Odiham and get settled. Travel West (upstream) under Colt Hill Bridge. After passing Swan Bridge you will reach the Lift Bridge at North Warnborough. Follow the instructions and continue on to Odiham Castle.

See the ruins and learn about the role the castle played in Magna Carta. This is a delightful spot and worth exploring. For example, walk along the towpath to the entrance to the Greywell Tunnel. The Mill House restaurant www.brunningandprice.co.uk/millhouse/ with its beautiful mill pond is only a short walk away from the lift bridge and is accessible for wheelchairs. N.B. The Mill House can be very busy on Sundays and during the first weekend in August for the Odiham Fire Show.

Slightly further afield is Newlyn's Farm Shop and Cafe www.newlyn-sfarmshop.co.uk This is reachable on foot following the River Whitewater. It may be reachable by motorised wheelchair but would entail crossing a busy road.

Head East (downstream) to the Barley Mow Wharf (2.25 hours approx) and stay overnight in a pretty spot. On the way, look out for the Old Thatch cottage with the horse sculpture just after Stacey's Bridge. The Barley Mow PH www.barley-mow.com is nearby and reachable by wheelchair. Note that it does not have a disabled toilet and may be closed on Monday evenings. N.B. There is a water point at Barley Mow Wharf should you wish to top up.

Day 2

After a good breakfast, you could go for a circular walk (unsuitable for wheelchairs) using the towpath, over Blacksmith's bridge and then past Tundry Pond with its picturesque views. When you reach Spratt's Hatch Lane walk back along it to the Barley Mow bridge and wharf. It's about 3 miles (5 km) and takes about 1.3 hrs. Motorised wheelchair users can go over Barley Mow bridge and along the lane to the end where it meets the footpath from Tundry Pond.

Now head East (downstream) to Ash Lock. This takes you past Crookham Wharf (not recommended for wheelchairs). Near Crookham Wharf / Chequers Bridge is The Exchequer PH and restaurant www.exchequercrookham.co.uk

By Poulter's Bridge on the offside is a cottage which has been rebuilt and extended. The front central part of the cottage has retained the distinctive 'ratrap' style of brickwork.

Pass through the Swing Bridge at Zebon Copse. Between the Swing Bridge and Malthouse bridge you will see a huge badger sett on your left. Continue through Fleet and into the countryside past the end of the runway at Farnborough airport at Eelmoor Flash. There is a mooring just beyond Eelmoor Bridge. You will then pass the new Wellesley Woodlands development with its wheelchair accessible trails before reaching Farnborough Road Bridge.

Continue on through the Aldershot military garrison and you will reach Ash Lock. There is a water point at the end of the building on the right and it is recommended that you top up here.

Turn the boat round and head back towards Fleet.

Moor overnight either at Reading Road wharf or at the popular Fox and Hounds PH www.foxandhoundsc.co.uk If you need any provisions the shops in Fleet are a short distance from both locations and suitable for wheelchairs. There is also a good variety of pubs, restaurants and takeaways in Fleet.

Calthorpe Park and The Views open spaces are nearby and are suitable for wheelchairs and dogs. Keen joggers and walkers might wish to stretch their legs and go round Fleet Pond Nature Reserve or Velmead Common. The new Hart Leisure Centre has opened www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hart-leisure-centre/ and can be reached on foot via Calthorpe Park (about 30 mins on foot). The Harlington Centre www.theharlington.co.uk has a varied entertainments programme.

Enjoy the evening!

Day 3

After a good night's sleep, have a leisurely trip back to Colt Hill Wharf at Odiham. Moor at the wharf. The Waterwitch www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/waterwitch-odiham-hook/c3350/ is very close by if you don't feel like cooking. During the fishing season the wharf is popular at night with anglers hoping to catch a big one!

Day 4

Enjoy your breakfast and return the boat.

Have a safe journey home.

“Two Counties Voyager”

A four night break which would be suited to canal boaters with a bit of experience that enables you to see the entire Hampshire pound and part of the Surrey pound of the Basingstoke Canal. New canal boaters can also use this itinerary with appropriate support from ABA if need be.

One lock to pass through each way.

Two Swing Bridges (manual) and one Lift Bridge (electric)

Day 1

Pick up Madam Butterfly at Colt Hill, Odiham and get settled. Travel East (downstream) to Fleet.

Look out for the Old Thatch cottage with the horse sculpture just after Stacey’s bridge.

By Poulter’s Bridge on the offside is a cottage which has been rebuilt and extended. The front central part of the cottage has retained the distinctive ‘rattrap’ style of brickwork.

Pass through the swing bridge at Zebon Copse and look out for the large badger sett on your left between there and Malthouse bridge.

Moor overnight either at the popular Fox and Hounds PH www.foxandhoundscc.co.uk or at Reading Road Wharf. If you need any provisions the shops in Fleet are a short distance from both locations and suitable for wheelchairs. There is also a good variety of pubs, restaurants and takeaways in Fleet.

Calthorpe Park and The Views open spaces are nearby and are suitable for wheelchairs and dogs. Keen joggers and walkers might wish to stretch their legs and go round Fleet Pond Nature Reserve or Velmead Common. The new Hart Leisure Centre has opened www.everyoneactive.com/centre/hart-leisure-centre/ and can be reached on foot via Calthorpe Park (about 30 mins on foot). The Harlington Centre www.theharlington.co.uk has a varied entertainments programme.

Enjoy the evening!

Day 2

Head East (downstream) towards Ash Lock.

Continue through Fleet and into the countryside past the end of the runway at Farnborough airport by Eelmoor Flash. There is a mooring just beyond Eelmoor Bridge. You will then pass the new Wellesley Woodlands development with its wheelchair accessible trails before you reach Farnborough Road Bridge.

Continue on through the Aldershot military garrison and you will reach Ash Lock. There is a water point at the end of the building on the right and it is recommended that you top up here.

Pass through Ash Lock and over the Blackwater Valley Aqueduct.

You will come to a pair of bridges after which the canal makes a left turn at Ash Vale. Take care here on the approach and post a lookout on the bow for approaching craft. There are some shops and eateries at Ash Vale. Moor by the piling if you need to stop.

A short distance further on is The Swan PH at Ash Vale www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/swan-ash-vale-aldershot/c2187/ which has a single mooring suitable for wheelchairs. The gate in the fence lines up nicely with the ramp access for the wheelchair. This could be a suitable place for lunch.

Continue on past Great Bottom Flash and Mytchett Lake to the Basingstoke Canal Visitor Centre. There is a cafe at the canal centre and a water point. Potters Restaurant <http://potterssteakhouse.com/> is a short distance away and reachable by wheelchair.

Alternatively you could continue to Frimley Lodge Park www.surreyheath.gov.uk/residents/sport-leisure-parks/frimley-lodge-park Explore the park which has a miniature railway running on certain days www.flmr.org. If you wish, you could eat at The Kings Head www.harvester.co.uk/restaurants/southeast/thekingsheadcamberley After your meal you could proceed to the winding hole immediately after Guildford Road Bridge, turn the boat and then moor at the canal visitor centre.

It also possible to continue beyond Frimley Lodge Park to the top of Lock 28 at Deepcut and turn the boat there before returning to the canal centre.

Day 3

Head West (upstream) back to Fleet and moor overnight at Reading Road Wharf or the Fox and Hounds PH. Enjoy your evening here.

Day 4

Head towards Colt Hill Wharf and continue on to Odiham Castle at North Warnborough.

You will pass Crookham Wharf just after Chequers Bridge. This is not recommended for wheelchairs except in an emergency when they could be unloaded at the bridge hole. You could stop at the wharf if you wish. There are footpaths via Poulter's Bridge leading to Crookham Village where there is a small shop and post office. The Exchequer www.exchequercrookham.co.uk is a short walk from the car park at the bridge.

Continue on to the Barley Mow wharf and break your journey here. The Barley Mow PH www.barley-mow.com is nearby and reachable by wheelchair. Note that it does not have a

disabled toilet and is closed on Monday evenings. N.B. There is a water point here should you wish to top up.

There is a circular walk (unsuitable for wheelchairs) using the towpath, over Blacksmith's bridge and then past Tundry pond with its picturesque views. When you reach Spratt's Hatch Lane walk back along it to the Barley Mow bridge and wharf. It's about 3 miles (5 km) and takes about 1.3 hrs. Motorised wheelchair users can go over Barley Mow bridge and along the lane to the end where it meets the footpath from Tundry Pond.

Continue on towards Odiham and past Colt Hill Wharf.

After passing Swan Bridge you will reach the Lift Bridge at North Warnborough. Follow the instructions and continue on to Odiham Castle.

When at the castle, see the ruins and learn about the role the castle played in Magna Carta. This is a delightful spot and worth exploring. For example, walk along the towpath to the entrance to the Greywell Tunnel. Continue to the Fox and Goose if you wish. The Mill House restaurant www.brunningandprice.co.uk/millhouse/ with its beautiful mill pond is only a short walk away from the lift bridge and is accessible for wheelchairs. N.B. The Mill House can be very busy on Sundays and during the first weekend in August for the Odiham Fire Show.

Slightly further afield is Newlyn's Farm Shop (Lodge Farm) and Cafe www.newlyn-farmshop.co.uk. This is reachable on foot following the River Whitewater. It may be reachable by motorised wheelchair but would entail crossing a busy road. You can moor here overnight. Alternatively, return to Colt Hill Wharf and eat at The Waterwitch www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/waterwitch-odiham- if you wish.

Day 5

Enjoy your breakfast and return the boat. Have a safe journey home.

Telephone numbers:

The Exchequer, Crookham Village	01252 615336
The Fox and Goose, Greywell	01256 702062
The Fox and Hounds, Fleet	01252 663686
The Kings Head, Frimley	01252 835431
The Mill House, North Warnborough	01256 702953
Potters Steakhouse, Mytchett	01252 513934
The Swan, Ash Vale	01252 325212
The Waterwitch, Odiham	01256 702778

Cruising times (approximate)

Colt Hill Wharf to Odiham Castle	1 hr
Colt Hill Wharf to Barley Mow Wharf	1 hr 15 mins
Barley Mow Wharf to Crookham Wharf / Chequers Bridge	1 hr
Crookham Wharf to Fleet (Fox & Hounds)	45 mins
Fox & Hounds to Fleet (Reading Road Wharf)	15 mins
Reading Rd Wharf to Ash Lock (29)	2 hrs 30 mins
Transit Ash Lock	20 mins
Ash Lock to Ash Wharf (Ash Vale)	30 mins
Ash Wharf to Canal Visitor Centre (Mytchett)	1 hr
Canal Visitor Centre to Guildford Rd Bridge (Kings Head)	30 mins