

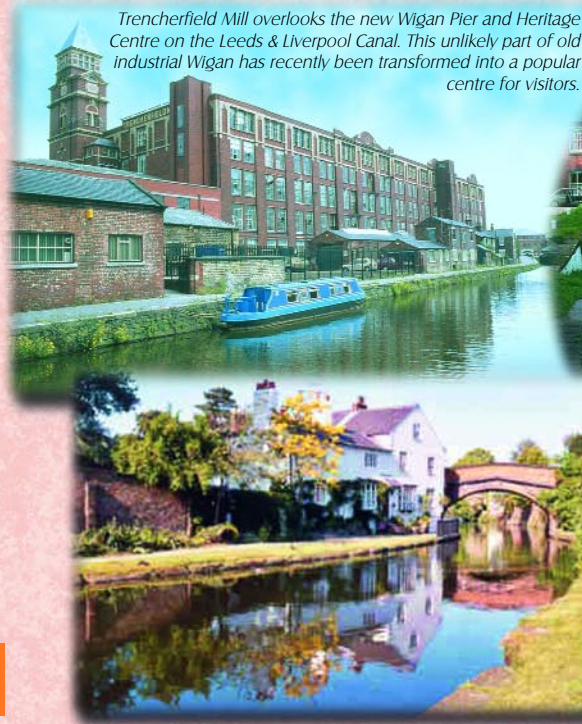
Wigan & return



A very pleasant and easy run with many miles of lock-free cruising. Leaving the base you travel onto the first British canal built by the Duke of Bridgewater to transport coal to Manchester. On this you can see the mine entrances, together with the later Barton Swing Bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal, where the whole canal is swung to let large ships through.

At Wigan the Pier Museum, and the Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine (the world's largest), are well worth a visit.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
M	1	83	6	4



Trencherfield Mill overlooks the new Wigan Pier and Heritage Centre on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal. This unlikely part of old industrial Wigan has recently been transformed into a popular centre for visitors.

▶ Preston Brook Tunnel

◀ Lymm on the Bridgewater Canal

▶ The Packet House at Worsley on the Bridgewater Canal. Not only pretty but has an important place in canal history. It's where the Duke of Bridgewater built the canals to his coalmines.



Chester & return



A slightly more vigorous route, but still easily manageable at about five hours per day, this trip includes varying canals and countryside.

Travelling southwards past the old salt mines to Middlewich you turn onto the Middlewich arm to join up with the Shropshire Union.

The trip up to the medieval City of Chester is particularly pleasant with the canal built next to the old city walls. You should also have time to visit the boat museum at Ellesmere Port.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
N	1	98	52	5



▶ River Dee, Chester

◀ Take time out to visit The Rows in the town of Chester.

▶ A spot of shopping in St Michael's arcade

Beeston Castle on the Shropshire Union Canal, built in 1220 by the Earl of Cheshire ▶