



▶ Mooring amongst the Morse murder mysteries at Oxford. A visit to the Thames is possible with a short stay licence.

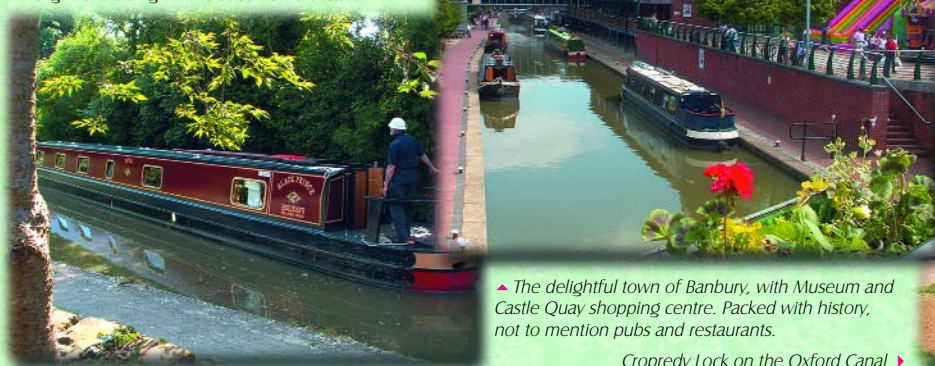
▶ The Red Lion in the village of Cropredy, famous for folk music festivals, and the civil war battle of 1644. An ideal stop on your way to Oxford.



A busier week. Down the meandering Oxford Canal which is one of the oldest in the country and follows the contours of the land, which makes you wonder whether you are getting anywhere.

The only town on the way is Banbury, but there are some lovely villages mainly towards the bottom end, such as Thrupp, Lower Heyford and Shipton-on-Cherwell, with stone built houses, cosy pubs, ancient churches and village greens.

▼ Delightful cruising on the South Oxford Canal

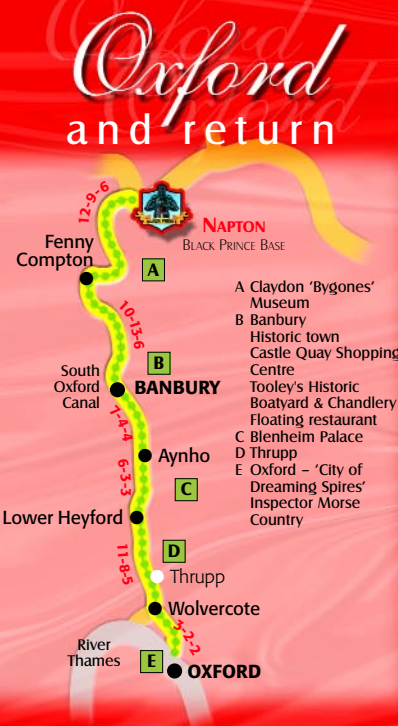


▶ The delightful town of Banbury, with Museum and Castle Quay shopping centre. Packed with history, not to mention pubs and restaurants.

Cropredy Lock on the Oxford Canal ▶



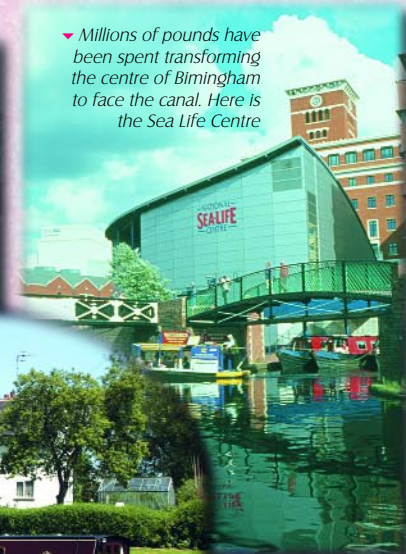
ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
S	1	98	76	9



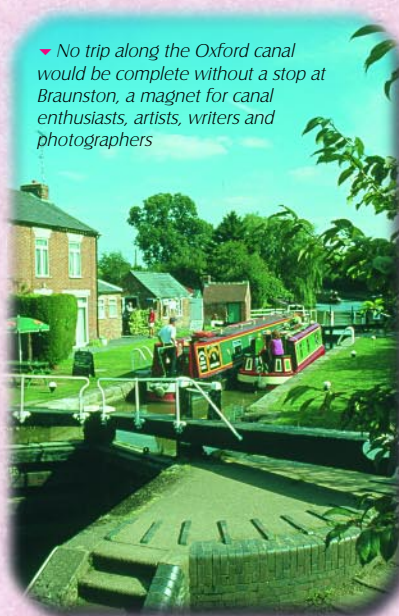
▼ This grand house stands on the junction at Fazeley.



▼ Millions of pounds have been spent transforming the centre of Birmingham to face the canal. Here is the Sea Life Centre



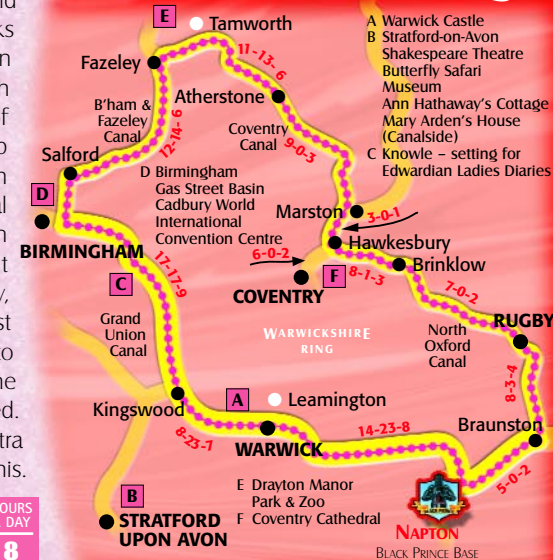
▼ No trip along the Oxford canal would be complete without a stop at Braunston, a magnet for canal enthusiasts, artists, writers and photographers



Sometimes known as the Midlands Ring, this is a route of contrasts. Starting on the wide locks of the Grand Union through various locks to the Hatton Flight, you can either divert up the North Stratford to the centre of Birmingham, or carry on up the Grand Union to rejoin near the International Convention Centre in Birmingham. Heading out on narrow canals to Fazeley, you return southwards past Coventry, Stratford, or up the Ashby should be considered. Don't forget to allow extra time for this.

ROUTE	NO. OF WEEKS	NO. OF MILES	NO. OF LOCKS	HOURS A DAY
T	1	103	118	8

The Warwickshire ring



▶ Kingswood Junction on the Grand Union Canal