



ENGLAND'S  
WATERWAYS

## DISCOVER BIRMINGHAM... THE CITY AT THE HEART OF ENGLAND

*The perfect start or finale to your waterways holiday, or a  
delicious excuse for a short break.*

*Journey to the heart of England*  
[englandswaterways.com](http://englandswaterways.com)

# DISCOVER BIRMINGHAM

## THE CITY AT THE HEART OF ENGLAND

The perfect start or finale to your canal holiday, or a delicious excuse for a short break. Birmingham city centre is just 10 minutes by direct train from Birmingham Airport, and the hub of the UK's rail network. Birmingham is a vibrant city with extensive shopping, entertainment and galleries, and a wide choice of bars and restaurants, set against a backdrop of parks and gardens linked by the canals.

### What to expect:



#### Travel and accommodation

Direct trains to and from airport, and stay in one of our city centre hotels.



#### Unique Experiences

- Explore a city, guided by its network of canals.
- A hotbed of culture that's rich and diverse.
- A colourful & eclectic calendar of festival and events.



#### Dining options

Everything from Michelin starred restaurants, stylish eateries, world cuisine, street dining, the world famous Balti Triangle, farmers' markets, sweet delights and locally sourced produce!

### Day 1

Make your way to your city centre hotel on the canalside. Download a copy of your 'Waterways in Birmingham map' at <https://visitbirmingham.com/plan/maps> which will guide you around the city with the canals as your focal point.

Start at the Ikon Gallery for an engaging look at contemporary art. This internationally acclaimed bite-sized gallery is housed in a magnificent neo-gothic school building. Stop here for a light lunch, at Yorks Café Ikon, for fresh delicious food and great coffee.

Wander down to the canal side outside the ICC for a canal boat tour on the Sherborne Wharf narrowboat. Marvel at the transformation and regeneration of this old industrial city as you glide along areas off the beaten track.

Alternatively, orientate yourself with a guided canal walk or city tour with Discover Birmingham, or simply follow the suggested city centre route on the waterways map. You can also download the WalkRunCycle app – and choose canal walks amongst others.



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# WATERSIDE ITINERARY: ESCAPE TO THE CITY

## DURATION: 2-3 DAY SHORT-BREAK

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Head up to the top of the Cube to view the city from above and notice the canals winding away into the countryside. Enjoy a pint of beer, or glass of champagne in the buzzing rooftop bar.

For dinner head to the residence of 18<sup>th</sup> Century canal icon James Brindley. It has been transformed into The Canal House where the old meets new, with great tasting food, drinks and live music! They're famous for their delicious hanging kebabs.



### Day 2

Stroll along the Birmingham New Mainline canal for a gentle start to the day, to head out for brunch. Rated one of the best in town, Juju's is a local, independent family-run cafe, much loved by its regulars for its fresh, colourful food, overlooking the canal.

Did you know that Birmingham has nearly 100 independent festivals throughout the year – check out [visitbirmingham.com](https://visitbirmingham.com/whats-on/festivals-and-events/annual-festivals) to see what you can experience in the city this weekend.

Enjoy your festival of choice or continue along the canal to the award-winning Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, built around a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop offering a unique glimpse of working life in 1900s Birmingham. Tours are available throughout the day and you can browse and buy from a beautiful selection of jewellery made right here in the quarter by its many artisans.

A trip to England isn't complete without proper afternoon tea. It dates back to the 1840s and was created as a means of avoiding hunger pangs in the long gap between an early lunch and a late supper. There are so many places to choose from, but one of our favourites is a half hour stroll back through the gorgeous little Georgian square with St Paul's Church, down Ludgate Street and back to the city's core, at Hotel du Vin & Bistro. This ornate early Victorian red brick building has a magnificent sweeping staircase and granite pillars.

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Pop your head into Birmingham Cathedral on the way back into the city centre – it features one of the world's finest collections of Burne-Jones stained glass windows. There are volunteers on hand to tell you about this church which became a Cathedral, in the town that became a city.

Wander back to the hotel and chill out before supper. Curry has become as much a staple of British cuisine as fish and chips or the roast dinner. Birmingham has long been considered the birthplace of the balti - a fusion dish popularised in the 1980s and 1990s by the city's Pakistani community.

Take a cab out to Royal Watan Kashmiri Restaurant in Selly Park – this is slightly outside the traditional Balti Triangle but it's the local's favourite Balti Restaurant, in this predominantly student area.



### Day 3

You may have time for a visit at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. The internationally significant discovery of the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found is now on display. Find out about the exquisite craftsmanship used to create the items in the hoard and learn how the designs of the objects can be linked to many regions across Europe. Make time for a morning coffee in the gorgeous surroundings of the Edwardian Tea Rooms.



Another English institution is the Sunday Roast, which can be enjoyed at Away to Dine. Combine this with a narrowboat cruise, boarding at The Water's Edge, Brindleyplace.

Time for some last-minute shopping before heading back to the airport? Choose Bullring, Grand Central, The Mailbox or Great Western Arcade. Meet our famous Bull at the entrance of the Bullring. The Great Western Arcade is a vintage hidden gem - a must see!