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ENGLAND'S
WATERWAYS



DISCOVER THE HEART OF ENGLAND BY E-BIKE

Experience authentic English landscapes as you explore the National Forest on e-bikes, an area rich in heritage, tradition, scenery, crafts and culinary delights.

Journey to the heart of England
englandswaterways.com

DISCOVER THE HEART OF ENGLAND BY ELECTRIC BIKE

Criss-crossed with quiet lanes, your journey through the secret forest will uncover some beautifully authentic English landscapes and is perfect for gentle cycling.

Within a short distance you will pass through a mix of gentle rolling countryside, traditional villages, ancient and new areas of woodland, peaceful waterways and market towns bustling with Englishness. Enjoy the freedom of roaming and take time to relax, as your waterways adventure through hidden England reveals the wonderful lives lived by our locals, and takes you to places that you won't have experienced before.



What to expect:



Travel and accommodation

Trains or taxi to and from the airport (Birmingham and East Midlands are conveniently located), then travel and stay in a selection of our independent B&Bs and hotels.



Unique Experiences

- Electric bikes
- The peaceful Ashby canal
- Ashby Castle ruins
- Quaint market town of Melbourne
- Taste England's only Trappist beer
- Steam train ride



Dining options

A range of traditional English pubs, lovely independent cafes and contemporary dining options along the way.

Arrival information:

Arrive into Birmingham International or East Midlands Airport. Our team can provide advice and details to help you to arrange your transfers.

Additional nights:

If you fancy exploring a vibrant city at the very heart of England, or need an additional nights accommodation to fit with your travel plans, then a stop-over in Birmingham is the perfect complement to your waterways holiday.



WATERSIDE ITINERARY: THE SECRET FOREST

DURATION: 4 DAY SHORT BREAK

Overview - Distance: Averaging 20 miles per day on e-bike

Day 1

Your holiday begins close to the lovely village of Market Bosworth. Settle in and we will bring the electric bikes to your hotel, show you how they work and answer any questions. Enjoy a late afternoon or early evening stroll along the canal, or a gentle cycle to one of the traditional pubs in the area, where you can sample the beer from the local microbrewery.

Day 2

Begin with a visit to Bosworth Battle visitor centre and learn about the death of King Richard III and the birth of the Tudors. Continue on your e-bike tour to Thornton Reservoir, where an all-weather track follows the water's edge. The reservoir is a haven for a wide variety of birdlife, including heron and Great Egret.

It's a pleasant cycle ride to the village of Newton Linford where you will find a range of cafes and pubs to enjoy before the last leg of your ride takes you through Bradgate Park; an area which is far from unknown nor hidden, but it is easy to find your own secret spot in the 830 acres of parkland. Stay overnight in the the heart of the Charnwood area, on the edge of Bradgate Park – just perfect for a wander after a day's cycling.



Day 3

Your first stop today is Stoneywell Cottage - a wonderful National Trust arts and crafts style house tucked away in the heart of the countryside, a real delight to explore. As your electric bike tour continues through the hilly Charnwood countryside, enjoy putting your electric bike to the test.

Your next stop is Mount St. Bernard Abbey - the only Cistercian monastery in England. The Abbey is home to the only English brewer of Trappist beer, Tynt Meadow ale, joining an elite group of 11 other breweries throughout the world. Visitors are welcome to wander through the grounds of the Abbey and can of course purchase the beer at the onsite shop.

An old railway line, converted into an off-road cycle track will take you on to Melbourne, your overnight stop.



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A walk around the gardens at Melbourne Hall is the perfect way to end your day. The hall was home to Lord Melbourne, the namesake for Melbourne Australia. The gardens are home to some of England's oldest yew trees and you will find a range of craft businesses in the surrounding hall buildings. Melbourne has a wide range of restaurants and pubs to enjoy, catering for all tastes.

Day 4

Start off today's tour with a cycle alongside a small reservoir, taking you to Staunton Harold Hall. Built around a courtyard, see craftsmen at work and enjoy a break at one of the hall's neighbouring cafes - a popular stop off for cyclists. Next enjoy an off-road cycle and discover the oak Noon Column hidden in the woodland – carved by renowned sculptor David Nash. At true noon sunlight shines through a needle-like slit within the column.

Continue on to the bustling town of Ashby de

la Zouch, where, tucked away on the edge of the town you will find Ashby Castle. The castle, which provided a base for Royalists in the English Civil War and twice visited by Charles I, was made famous when it featured in Sir Walter Scott's nineteenth century novel, Ivanhoe. Today you can visit the ruins which remain after the stronghold was destroyed by the Parliamentarians.

After you've enjoyed a spot of lunch, you can take a slightly longer route past the Grade 1 listed Sir John Moore School, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, or take a more direct route to the rural village of Snarestone. Both routes pass the Battlefield Line steam railway in the canal-side village of Shackerstone.

Choose to leave your bike with us and enjoy a train ride for the last part of your journey, or race the train as you criss-cross the Ashby Canal on your way back to Market Bosworth. We will meet you here with your luggage.



This programme is provided by National Forest E-bike Holidays.

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