

Make yourself at home

Looking after you is our priority. Every member of staff at our boatyards prides themselves on their customer service.

From the moment you arrive, to the farewell until next time, professionalism with a personal touch is the balance we strive to strike. Many of our yards are family-owned and family-run and they're all part of the Blakes family. Fleets may differ, but first class service is a constant.

Narrowboats are so called because they're built to navigate the 7ft width of the narrower locks. And while this has stayed the same for 200 years, almost everything else about the design of a modern narrowboat has changed.



Calder and Hebble Canal



Canal Boat Interior



Courtesy of Cambrian Cruisers



Ranging from 26ft to 70ft in length, you can choose a boat perfectly fitted to your party size and level of experience. They've got all the comforts of home with surprisingly spacious interiors. Most people can move about unrestricted – head room is usually at least 6ft (though you may have to bend for doors).

Come inside

Settle down and feel at home. Just like houses, individual decoration and furnishing of boats varies. Our quality ratings will guide you (see opposite). All narrowboats are equipped to the following minimum standards unless otherwise stated:

Galley & dining area

Sink, gas cooker and fridge. Dining table or convertible dinette and seating. Crockery, cutlery and cookery equipment.

Bathroom

Flush toilet, shower and/or bath, (some boats have more than one).

Berths

Latex foam or interior-sprung mattresses, blankets, duvets or sleeping bags, pillows and all bed linen. Please note, towels are not included, (unless otherwise stated). Some have bunk beds, others have double beds.

Throughout

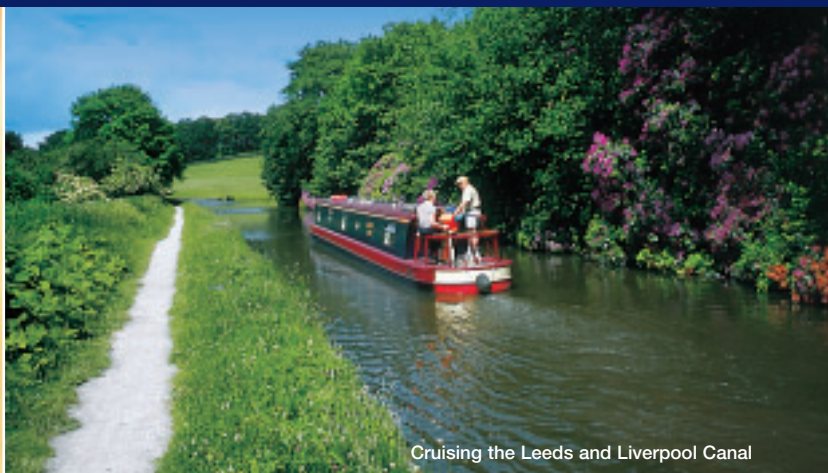
Cabin heating. Hot and cold water. Ample storage space.

Plus...

Economical diesel engine with single lever gear and throttle control. Tunnel light. Deck gear – lifebelt, mooring ropes, boat pole, deck mop, mooring stakes and hammer plus windlass.



Enjoy all the comforts of home



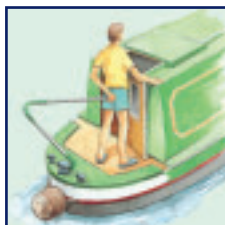
Cruising the Leeds and Liverpool Canal

What's in a stern?

There are three main boat 'shapes'. Each of these has steering by way of a tiller at the stern (rear). Although there are exceptions to this.

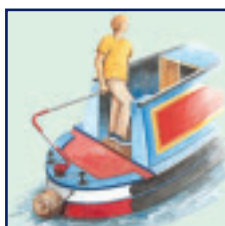
Traditional Stern

This boat has an elegant shape with a small open rear deck, providing more space inside the vessel.



Semi-Traditional Stern

A little more standing room for the tillerman and will sometimes have fixed seats for other crew members.



Cruiser Stern

These have a much larger rear deck, surrounded by a guard rail, particularly useful if there are children on board.



Area	Boatyard	Berths				
		2-4	4-6	6-8	8-10	10-12
Kennet & Avon Canal	Sally Boats	C/S	C/S	C/S	S	-
	Anglo Welsh (Bath, Bristol, Monkton Combe)	C/S	C/S	C	-	-
The Brecon Beacons	Cambrian Cruisers	C/S	C	-	-	-
	Red Line Boats	C	C	C	-	-
Grand Union, Oxford Canals & The River Thames	Oxfordshire Narrowboats	C/T	C	C	C	C
	Adventure Fleet	C/S/T	C/S/T	S	S	-
The River Thames	Wyvern Shipping Co.	C	C	C	-	-
	Willow Wren	-	-	-	-	S
	Lee Valley Boat Centre	C	C	C	C	C
	Anglo Welsh (Eynsham)	C	C/S	C/S	C/S	-
The Warwickshire & Leicestershire Rings	Valley Cruises	S/T	S	C	C	-
	Swan Lane Wharf	T	C/S	C	S	S
	Premier Canal Cruisers	C	C	-	-	-
	Grand Waterway Voyages	S	C	C	C	C
The Stourport, Avon Rings & River Severn	Evesham Marina	C	C	C	C	-
	Anglo Welsh (Tardebigge, Wootton Wawen)	C/S/T	C/S	C/S	C/S	S
Llangollen, The Four Counties & Cheshire Rings	Canal Cruising Co.	C	C	C	C	-
	Chirk Marine Cruises	C	C	C	C	-
	Marine Cruises	C	C	C	C	-
	Mid Wales Narrowboats	C	C	C	C	-
Waterways of Yorkshire & Lancashire	Anglo Welsh (Bunbury, Great Haywood, Norbury Junction, Trevor)	C/S/T	C/S	C/S	C/S	S
	Shepley Bridge Marina	C/S	S	-	-	-

Types of stern design available from Blakes boat bases shown in the index.
C=Cruiser Stern S=Semi-Traditional Stern T=Traditional Stern.

Quality Rating

Your holiday cruiser or narrowboat will qualify for the VisitBritain star rating if based on inland waterways in England. Graded boats are inspected by an independent VB assessor on an annual basis. The grade awarded to the boat is based on the number of permanent berths. All of the boats featured in this brochure state the standard and maximum berths available. If you are in any doubt about the sleeping arrangements for your holiday, please check when making your reservation.

Five grades of award reflecting the range of quality standards and facilities provided are indicated by a one to five stars system.

VB ★

Acceptable level of overall quality. Clean boat, with adequate provision of furniture, furnishings and fittings.

VB ★★

Quite good to good overall level of quality and customer care.

VB ★★★

Good to very good overall quality supported by good standards of décor, furnishings, fittings and maintenance.

VB ★★★★★

Very good to excellent overall quality. Higher comfort levels and evident attention to detail throughout.

VB ★★★★★

Excellent to exceptional overall quality. Highest levels of décor, fixtures and fittings. Highest standards of management efficiency and guest care.

VB Applied

For some boats the VB grading has been applied for, but was not available at the time of publication. In this case the wording 'VB Applied' will be shown in the boat entry.



VisitBritain grading is only available to all cruisers and narrowboats in England. Non VB grading of a boat may be due to time constraints and is NOT indicative of poor quality, for the latest information please visit www.blakes.co.uk