

England

The Thames



Perfectly Royal



The famous River Thames winds its way through the beautiful green countryside of southern England and is a delight to explore. Cruise past immaculate gardens that sweep down to the water's edge and admire the stunning homes of the rich and famous.

old villages. The turreted skyline of the Royal Palace of Windsor Castle is an impressive sight; its surrounding parks perfect for cycling, walking and picnics. Spend time in the wonderful 'Dreaming Spires' city of Oxford, home to Royalty and scholars for over 800 years - and now a thriving cosmopolitan town that seamlessly blends ancient and modern lifestyles, art and culture.

Relax in the warm sunshine with a pint of traditional ale at one of the many waterside pubs and take a stroll through the colourful streets of historic cities and tiny

Why not enjoy your summer holidays in the UK this year!

"The River Thames is easy to cruise and takes you through some of England's best-loved towns. We had a picnic at Windsor Castle and watched some great sunsets from the pub!"



Regional highlights



- Graceful Mute swans on the river - they all belong to the Queen
- 14th century Tudor villages with oak-beamed waterside pubs
- Spectacular homes of pop stars and film stars
- Windsor Castle - the flag flies when the Queen is at home
- Manned locks and friendly lock-keepers!

Some cruising ideas to help you choose...

The Scholars Cruise
 Benson - Oxford - Henley - Benson
 1 Week - Return trip
 186kms • 30 locks • 32hrs

Head up river to Oxford, where England's oldest university has educated many prestigious alumni. Enjoy a barbeque in Beale Park and cycle through Pangbourne's quiet meadows. Cruise past the Victorian red brick buildings of Reading to the typically English town of Henley-on-Thames, home to rowing and the famous summer regatta. Watch the racing ashore or stay on board for a prime view!

The Royal Cruise
 Benson - Windsor - Benson
 1 Week - Return trip
 155kms • 36 locks • 30hrs

Cruise the idyllic waters of the Thames to Windsor Castle and its immaculate Royal Parks - perfect for picnics, cycling, walking and horse-riding. Watch the changing of the guard and have a guided tour of the castle's imposing staterooms. Enjoy a flutter at the famous racecourse at nearby Ascot. Discover the stories of power and politics associated with the Cliveden Estate, which perches high on the cliffs overlooking the River while the pretty village of Cookham has excellent restaurants and pubs dating from 1417.

The Willow Tree Cruise
 Benson - Goring - Benson
 3 Days - Short Break
 75kms • 8 locks • 15hrs

Spend a delightful long weekend on the water cruising this beautiful stretch of the River Thames between our base at Benson and the little village of Goring. Spot homes of pop stars and movie stars en route and raise a glass on deck to the pleasures of waterways cruising.



Cruising Notes
 Only return-to-base cruises are possible from Benson.

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|--|---|
| ✎ History & heritage | 🚣 Watersports |
| 🍷 Culture | 🎣 Fishing |
| 🍴 Gastronomy | 🏌️ Golf |
| 🚲 Cycling | 🦉 Wildlife |
| 🐎 Horse-riding | 🏊 Swimming |

The Thames Fleet

- Match a boat to your choice of cruise
- 🚢 **Crown Blue Line Fleet**
 - Comfortably sleeping 8+**
 - 🛋 **Classique**
 - Comfortably sleeping 6+**
 - 🛋 **Crusader**
 - Comfortably sleeping 4+**
 - 🛋 **Tamaris, Tango**



Please see pages 50-74 for more details

England

Norfolk Broads



A wildlife haven

The River Ant, near How Hill



Regional highlights

The Norfolk Broads, an area of great natural beauty and a haven for wildlife, is one of England's most popular cruising grounds and renowned for its boat-building traditions.

“*Waking to the sound of birds on the peaceful Norfolk Broads evoked childhood memories of fun times on the water - which we were happy to share again with our grandchildren.*”

Cruising Notes

All areas on the Norfolk Broads are within close proximity and easily accessible by boat. Visitors to the area can choose to cruise as much or as little as they like to see the surrounding villages and countryside.

The Norfolk Broads is Britain's largest nationally protected wetland and home to an abundance of rare and beautiful flora and fauna. Six lock-free rivers and over 40 broads make up this magical cruising area where you can't help but be charmed by the picturesque villages and beautiful English countryside at its very best. Slow down, relax and explore at your leisure scenery that changes frequently from open meadowlands and reed-lined riverbanks, to thickly wooded areas and open water, perfect for sailing and watersports of all kinds.

With a history steeped in boat building, Wroxham is your starting point to cruise this part of England. Exquisite waterfront properties with manicured gardens and traditional thatched roofs greet you as you leave the base and head out onto the waters.

Bring your binoculars to see kingfishers, terns, owls, crested grebes, otters, herons and even the rare swallowtail butterfly. Ashore, the area offers ample opportunity for walking and exploring - take your bikes to nature reserves and centuries-old villages where you can stop in the sunshine at the local pub to enjoy a pint of local Norfolk ale. With their uneven floors, wooden beams and cosy interiors the traditional English village pub is a lasting reminder of an age gone by.



- Lock free cruising on shallow lakes and rivers – perfect for beginners
- Popular with nature lovers and watersports enthusiasts
- Traditional English village way of life
- Specially adapted boats to manage low bridges

Some cruising ideas to help you choose...

North Broads Cruise

Wroxham - Horsey Mere - Wroxham

1 Week - Return trip
52kms • 0 Locks • 8hrs



Although just short distance away by road, it is easy to spend a week cruising this idyllic northern section of the Broads as there is so much to see and do. At the village of Woodbastwick on the edge of Cockshoot Broad visit the local Norfolk Brewery and taste some real ale! Climb the 97 steps to the top of the ancient church tower at Ranworth for panoramic views over the Broads - the views on a clear day are spectacular. Also visit the local nature reserve - an excellent information centre and birdlife viewing station where children will love to find out all about life on the Broads and the delicate balancing act between man and nature. Passing carefully through the lowest bridge on the Broads at Potter Heigham, head for the large Hickling Broad - home to an important national nature reserve and popular with sailing boats. Or follow in Admiral Lord Nelson's footsteps and learn to sail at Barton Broad. The North Broads are threaded by the rivers Ant and Thurne and have some lovely villages hidden away. Visit Toad Hole Cottage on the How Hill Nature Reserve at Ludham for a glimpse of Victorian country life and a chance to explore the nearby woodland and marshes.

The Three Rivers Cruise

Wroxham - Oulton Broad - Wroxham

128kms • 0 Locks • 22hrs



Seaside, cathedral cities and sailing are all aspects of this lovely coastal cruise on the Broads. From Wroxham, head to Oulton Broad via the Rivers Bure, Yare and Waveney. By the coast at Oulton Broad spend some time at the Lowestoft Maritime Museum and see the international Sailing Craft Association's fascinating display of boats from every continent. For a change in pace, the seaside resorts of the east coast are also only a short cruise away. Children and the young at heart won't want to miss out on some fun at Great Yarmouth, the region's premier seaside resort. Or follow the River Yare to visit the wonderful cathedral city of Norwich. You can moor in the heart of the city and visit not one but two cathedrals and wander its cobbled streets to shop and explore at your leisure.

The Great Norfolk Broads tour

2 Weeks - Return trip

300kms • 0 locks • 50hrs



A fantastic chance to visit the whole area taking in all the major sites, towns and villages and cruising on all the best parts of the Broads, encompassing all the highlights of the other featured cruises.



Short Breaks are perfect in the Norfolk Broads

The Norfolk Fleet

Match a boat to your choice of cruise

■ **CONNOISSEUR Fleet**

Comfortably sleeping 6+

■ Emperor (C45 A), C45A/B/C

Comfortably sleeping 4+

■ Admiral (C40)

Comfortably sleeping 2+

■ Swallowtail (Grande Luxe)



Please see pages 50-74 for more details