

Waterways of Cheshire & North Wales. With Patcham U3A

30th June to 4th July 2025

With so many attractions on offer in Cheshire and North Wales, it is difficult to decide which to visit first. This itinerary explores the regions waterways, illustrating the important part it has played in our nation's Heritage. Our excursions incorporate city, garden and a technological masterpiece or two.

Itinerary

Monday 30 June - Travel to Cheshire

We depart Patcham and make way to Cheshire. On route to the hotel we stop at Charlecote Park. The house was built in 1558 making it a Grade 1 listed building by national trust. Deep in the Warwickshire countryside, Charlecote lies peacefully on the banks of the Avon between Warwick and Stratford. A grand Tudor house surrounded by a deer park and formal gardens, it is still the home of the Fairfax-Lucy family. After taking in the beautiful sights we depart Charlecote and make way to our hotel.



Tuesday 1 July - Cruise on River Dee & Ness Botanic Gardens

We leave the hotel in the morning and travel towards the boating station in Chester. There we will embark on A river cruise to take in some spectacular sites throughout River Dee. See picturesque sights such as the suburbs of Boughton or the riverside homes and gardens. If luck is by your side there is potential of seeing Kingfishers and other wildlife such as swans and Moorhens. As we return back to the boating station we make our way to Ness. There we visit the beautiful Botanic Gardens. See the different types of plants which have been gathered around the globe. After taking in the beautiful sights we make our way back to the hotel for our evening meal.



Wednesday 2 July - Anderton Boat lift & Nantwich

We learn about Britain's industrial heritage this morning as we begin with a visit to the Anderton Boat Lift, known as the "Cathedral of the Canals". The lift is a working engineering marvel of the waterways, created in 1875 and is one of the greatest monuments to Britain's working canal age. The lift is now restored to its former working glory and links the Trent & Mersey Canal with the Weaver Navigation 50 feet below. We spend some time in the Visitor Centre (with café facility), where we can view the exhibition and lift control centre, as well as enjoy a trip on the Lift itself together with a river cruise. After our trip we Visit Nantwich a market town full of Georgian and Tudor architecture. We enjoy time at leisure here before heading back to the hotel for an evening meal.



Anderton Boat Lift

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Thursday 3 July - Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Today we travel to Llangollen via the Horseshoe Pass, known in Welsh as Bwlch yr Oernant or Pass of the Cold Stream, which provides fantastic views of the North Wales countryside. After taking in the sights we arrive at Llangollen Wharf, where we embark on a 2 hour motorised boat trip over the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Travelling from Llangollen to Froncysyllte, this relaxing cruise takes us through the stunning Dee Valley, which boasts World Heritage Status, and over the famous Aqueduct itself, built by Thomas Telford in 1805.

Friday 4 July - Homeward Journey

We say goodbye to our friends in Chester and make our way towards Shugborough's estate. A Georgian house with global treasures, explore the walled garden, formal gardens and arboretum. Discover the centuries of history within its walls. After taking in the history and glorious sights we head back home.



Accommodation - Mercure Chester Abbots Well, Chester (4 Star)

Mercure Chester Abbots well Hotel is located 2 miles from the city centre making it a great base for the Chester area. It sits in pleasant gardens overlooking farmland to the rear. Rooms are equipped with HD TV's, hairdryers and tea/coffee making facilities, many of the bedrooms overlook the attractive hotel courtyard. The public areas provide a pleasant and welcoming area to relax and dine. The stand alone Leisure Club, accessed down a few stairs (stair-lift available) and under a short covered walkway, has a very attractive pool, spa-bath, steam room and sauna. We will stay here on a half board basis our evening meal consisting of 3 courses with a minimum of 3 choices per course.



The Tour includes:

4 nights' accommodation on a half board basis at the Mercure Abbots Well Hotel, Chester 4 Star

5 days coach services

30 Minute River Dee cruise

Admission to Ness Botanic Gardens

Ride on Anderton Boat lift

Canal Cruise across Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

Visit to Charlecote Park (National Trust admission not included)

Visit to the Shugborough Estate (National Trust admission not included)

Porter service

It does NOT include:

Travel Insurance

Additional entrance fees to places of interest other than those detailed in the itinerary

Tour Price per person	£ 542.00
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Deposit per person	£ 50.00
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Single Room Supplement	£ 113.00
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(The final balance is due not later than 21/04/25)

Travel insurance

If you have not already arranged cover, please visit <https://normanallen.b2ctravel.co.uk> who offer travel insurance.

For any travel insurance purchase, you should check the individual policy wording provided to you carefully to ensure this meets the specific needs for your chosen holiday.

Lunches and refreshments, other than those detailed in the itinerary

You can obtain Booking Forms and Booking Conditions from your Group Organiser. Please send completed booking forms and payments (cheques payable to Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd) to your Group Organiser, Pamela Hubbard. You can contact her by email by clicking on the Holiday Organiser in the Group area.

No admission costs have been incorporated to the National Trust properties featured on this tour. Admission for N.T. Members is free of charge on production of a valid membership card.

The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 require us to provide security for the monies that you pay for the package holidays booked from this brochure. We provide this security by way of a bond held by ABTA (W9928) Please see our booking conditions for more information.

At any time prior to the tour departure, we reserve the right to make changes (of equal value or difference will be refunded) to attractions, visits and excursions should such suppliers' requirements and/or unforeseeable circumstances make it essential to do so. During the tour, details in the itinerary may be subject to alteration at the discretion of the tour manager and in accordance with the wishes of a clear majority of the passengers. We reserve the right to cancel this tour not later than 8 weeks before departure, if insufficient bookings have been received to justify its departure.