



Day Boat Route Guides

Your Day Hire Routes

With our Day Boats you have lots of route options; from short journeys of a few hours cruising with time for a pub lunch, to all-day adventures taking you out to explore the further reaches of the Middle Levels.

Our most popular routes are listed here; we are happy to work with you to create a bespoke itinerary if you would like something different.

All Day Routes

Please note, your entire crew will need to be here by 09:30 ready to begin in order to have time for these routes

Upwell & Outwell 7½ hours, 1 lock

Whittlesey 7½ hours, 1 lock

Ramsey Forty Foot 8 hours, 0 locks

Shorter Routes

These routes are ideal if you will be arriving later, or just want a more relaxed day out on the river

Marmont Priory Lock 4½ hours, 0 locks

Three Holes 5 hours, 0 locks

Benwick 4½ hours, 0 locks

All our boats are continuously tracked by GPS – if at any point you are concerned you may be lost, please call us on 07769 973882 – we can tell you exactly where you are and guide you where you need to go.



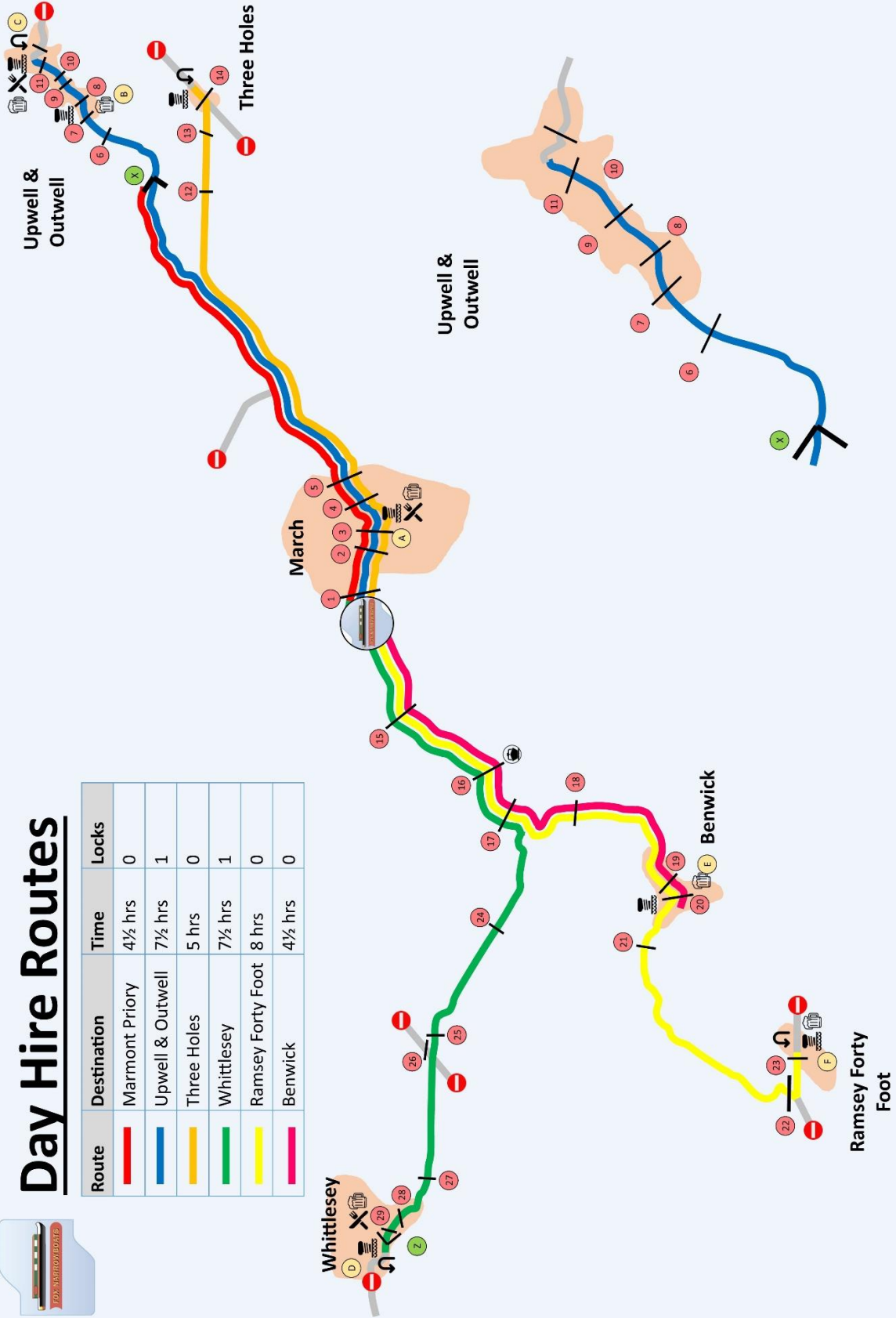
FOX NARROWBOATS

Day Boat Handbook

Day Hire Routes



Route	Destination	Time	Locks
—	Marmont Priory	4½ hrs	0
—	Upwell & Outwell	7½ hrs	1
—	Three Holes	5 hrs	0
—	Whittlesey	7½ hrs	1
—	Ramsey Forty Foot	8 hrs	0
—	Benwick	4½ hrs	0





Day Boat Handbook

Upwell & Outwell – BLUE Route

Distance: 17.6 miles

Cruising Time: 7½ hours

Locks: 1

March

Turning left out of the marina you pass under the bypass bridge (1) and into the town of March. Through town you will need to keep your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

After passing under the green footbridge (2) you will soon see the stone town bridge (3) ahead. Immediately after this bridge you will find moorings on the left where you can access the pubs, shops & restaurants in March. Carrying on, you pass under another footbridge (4), then the black railway bridge (5) as you leave March behind. The river now becomes much wider & deeper so you can increase your speed.

Twenty Foot Junction

1.4 miles further on will bring you to the junction of the Twenty Foot River on the left. Do not be tempted to turn off here; around the corner is Infields Bridge, which your boat will not fit under. Carrying on, you pass in the shadows of the turbines of Coldham Wind Farm. There are 5 turbines close to the bank; once you have passed these you will arrive at the junction of the Old Nene & Popham's Eau where you will need to turn left.

Old Nene & Well Creek

Following the course of the Old Nene for 1.6 miles, you will arrive at Marmont Priory Lock where you will raise up around 6' to continue into the villages. The river now becomes known as the Well Creek

Marmont Priory Lock

Pull up at the landing stage to the left, sending one or two of your crew to operate the lock. Don't forget to take the windlass from the back of the boat. If the lock is already empty, you can push the gates open and bring the boat in; if it is full you will need to empty the lock by turning the windlass on the winding gear mounted to the gate arms. Once you have emptied the lock and opened the gates, don't forget to close the winding gear otherwise the water will escape when you try to fill the lock. It takes around 90 whole turns to open/close

With the boat in the lock, loop the stern line around one of the bollards and hold on to it. DO NOT tie the boat up, you will need to take in line as the boat rises. While the lock is filling, the boat will move about a bit – this is normal, but try to keep the boat roughly central in the lock – you should not be near the gates at either end to avoid getting the boat caught up.

Fill the lock by opening the ground sluice at the top end with your windlass. Start slowly, and open further as the level begins to rise. Once the lock is full, you can open the top gates and bring the boat out to the far landing stage to collect your crew.

Please make sure you shut all gates, paddles & winding gear before retuning to your boat. Don't forget to pick up your windlass!

**Locks - Key Points To Remember**

- Don't tie the boat up – the level will change and you need to adjust the rope length
- Keep the boat central in the lock – don't get caught on the gates or cill
- Only 1 boat in the lock at a time
- Make sure all paddles, gates and winding gear are closed after use
- Don't forget to bring your windlass back on board

Upwell

After leaving the lock, you enter the village of Upwell. Please be respectful of your speed through the villages - it is very shallow; you should not be travelling much more than slow walking pace. While the speed limit is 4mph, you should only be travelling around 2mph to avoid damaging the banks and moored boats. All the bridges are low in the villages – the boat will fit, but you must duck down level with the roof as you pass under – make sure all your crew are aware they are approaching.

After passing under a footbridge (6) you approach the New Bridge (7) with mooring on the right for access to The Globe pub. You now move under another footbridge (8) before Upwell Church Bridge (9). Immediately after this bridge you will find a large mooring on the right, giving access to Joanne's Pantry & the village shop.

Outwell

Proceeding onwards, through a narrow walled in channel, you will pass under another footbridge (10) before the river widens again. Approaching the next bridge, you will see a mooring on the right for Stotts Fish & Chip shop – customers using his shop are welcome to stop here. Passing under the road bridge (11), you will soon come to a sharp right-hand bend with a large turning basin. This is the end of your journey on the Well Creek – beyond this point it is not possible to turn for 2 hours. Turn in the basin, taking care to avoid any moored boats. You can moor here and make use of the picnic benches, visit The Crown pub, Stotts Fish & Chips or Ali's Pizza & Kebab.

In order to get back on time you need to leave the turning basin at Outwell by 2:30pm. The return journey is simply a case of retracing your outward route back to the marina.

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the SECOND left turning AFTER passing the wind turbines
- Take care when passing through the lock
- Be ready to duck when passing under the village bridges
- DO NOT go beyond the turning basin at Outwell – there is no turning point for 2 hours
- Leave the turning basin at Outwell by 2:30pm



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Marmont Priory Lock – RED Route

Distance: 13.6 miles

Cruising Time: 4½ hours

Locks: 0

March

Turning left out of the marina you pass under the bypass bridge (1) and into the town of March. Through town you will need to keep your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

After passing under the green footbridge (2) you will soon see the stone town bridge (3) ahead. Immediately after this bridge you will find moorings on the left where you can access the pubs, shops & restaurants in March. Carrying on, you pass under another footbridge (4), then the black railway bridge (5) as you leave March behind. The river now becomes much wider & deeper so you can increase your speed.

Twenty Foot Junction

1.4 miles further on will bring you to the junction of the Twenty Foot River on the left. Do not be tempted to turn off here; around the corner is Infields Bridge, which your boat will not fit under. Carrying on, you pass in the shadows of the turbines of Coldham Wind Farm. There are 5 turbines close to the bank; once you have passed these you will arrive at the junction of the Old Nene & Popham's Eau where you will need to turn left.

Old Nene

Following the course of the Well Creek for 1.6 miles, you will arrive at Marmont Priory Lock. Stop at the landing stage on the left to have a look around the lock; please take care around the lock edges; it is easy to slip in. If another boat comes along wishing to use the lock, signal for them to go ahead, or allow them to moor alongside you to get off for the lock.

When you are ready, turn around in front of the lock and begin retracing the journey back towards March. Once in March you can stop off at the town moorings, on the right just before the Town Bridge (3). From here you have options for lunch or a drink at The Acre, The Ship or The Exchange Tea Parlour.

It takes around 30 minutes to return to the marina from the town moorings. If you have spare time, please feel free to carry on beyond the marina to enjoy boating further. Take note what time you pass the marina; you will need a similar time to get back. Turning is easy at most points along this stretch.

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the SECOND left turning AFTER passing the wind turbines
- Take care when looking around the lock
- DO NOT go through the lock – there is no turning point for 2 hours
- Leave the lock by 4pm or March Town Moorings by 5:30pm



Three Holes – ORANGE Route

Distance: 14.8 miles

Cruising Time: 5 hours

Locks: 0

March

Turning left out of the marina you pass under the bypass bridge (1) and into the town of March. Through town you will need to keep your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

After passing under the green footbridge (2) you will soon see the stone town bridge (3) ahead. Immediately after this bridge you will find moorings on the left where you can access the pubs, shops & restaurants in March. Carrying on, you pass under another footbridge (4), then the black railway bridge (5) as you leave March behind. The river now becomes much wider & deeper so you can increase your speed.

Twenty Foot Junction

1.4 miles further on will bring you to the junction of the Twenty Foot River on the left. Do not be tempted to turn off here; around the corner is Infields Bridge, which your boat will not fit under. Carrying on, you pass in the shadows of the turbines of Coldham Wind Farm. There are 5 turbines close to the bank; once you have passed these you will arrive at the junction of the Old Nene & Popham's Eau where you will need to turn right.

Popham's Eau

Follow the course of Popham's Eau for 2 miles, passing under a farm bridge (12) & road bridge (13). You will arrive at a junction; turn left here for the Three Holes mooring.

Three Holes

Pass under the large road bridge (14); you will find the public mooring on the left just after the bridge.

When you are ready, turn around and begin retracing the journey back towards March. Once in March you can stop off at the town moorings, on the right just before the Town Bridge (3). From here you have options for lunch or a drink at The Acre, The Ship or The Exchange Tea Parlour.

It takes around 30 minutes to return to the marina from the town moorings. If you have spare time, please feel free to carry on beyond the marina to enjoy boating further. Take note what time you pass the marina; you will need a similar time to get back. Turning is easy at most points along this stretch.

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the FIRST right turning AFTER passing the wind turbines
- DO NOT go beyond the mooring in Three Holes – there are no circular routes back
- Leave the Three Holes Moorings by 3:30pm or March Town Moorings by 5:30pm



Day Boat Handbook

Whittlesey – GREEN Route

Distance: 19.5 miles

Cruising Time: 7½ hours

Locks: 1

Leaving March

Turning right out of the marina you will see several moored boats on your right. While the river is wide & deep, you will be able to progress at a good speed. When passing any boats, moving or moored, you will need to reduce your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

Carry on out into the fens. Keep an eye out for canoes & paddleboards at Four Winds on your right – give them plenty of space and pass at slow speed. When you approach the first farm bridge (15) make sure all your crew are aware and ready to duck – there is limited headroom under this and the other bridges you will come to

Floods Ferry

Progressing on, you will soon see the next bridge (16); immediately after this you will see Knightsbridge Marina & Caravan Park on your left. Slow down to avoid rocking the moored boats on their lines.

Around a long bend, you will see another bridge (17) approaching; just before the bridge look out for the Greenwich Meridian marker on the left – you have now passed from the eastern to the western hemisphere. After passing under the bridge the river splits; you need to take the right hand fork into Whittlesey Dike.

Angle Corner

Following the course of Whittlesey Dike, you find a long straight section with Burnthouse Farm bridge (24) halfway along. Round another couple of bends you will see another road bridge (25) ahead. After this bridge you arrive at Angle Corner where the Twenty Foot River crosses Whittlesey Dike.

It is important to go straight over here – do not turn left (dead end at pumping station) or right under the bridge (26) which leads to a low bridge you cannot fit under. Carry on towards Whittlesey.

Ashline Lock

After another long straight section, you pass under a road bridge (27) and start to come in to Whittlesey. Passing under the railway bridge (28) and road bridge (29), you arrive at Ashline Lock.

Pull up at the landing stage to the left, sending one or two of your crew to operate the lock. There is a safety fence around the lock; you will need to take the key from out of the galley drawer to gain access. Don't forget to take the windlass from the back of the boat. If the lock is already empty, you can push the gates open and bring the boat in; if it is full you will need to empty the lock by turning the windlass on the winding gear in the black pillars either side



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of the gate arms. Once you have emptied the lock and opened the gates, don't forget to close the winding gear otherwise the water will escape when you try to fill the lock.

With the boat in the lock, loop the stern line around one of the bollards and hold on to it. DO NOT tie the boat up, you will need to take in line as the boat rises. While the lock is filling, the boat will move about a bit – this is normal, but try to keep the boat roughly central in the lock – you should not be near the gates at either end to avoid getting the boat caught up.

Fill the lock by opening the ground sluice at the top end with your windlass. Start slowly, and open further as the level begins to rise. Once the lock is full, you can open the top gates and bring the boat out to the far landing stage to collect your crew.

Please make sure you shut all gates, paddles & winding gear before retuning to your boat. Don't forget to pick up your windlass!

Locks - Key Points To Remember

- Don't tie the boat up – the level will change and you need to adjust the rope length
- Keep the boat central in the lock – don't get caught on the gates or cill
- Only 1 boat in the lock at a time
- Make sure all paddles, gates and winding gear are closed after use
- Don't forget to bring your windlass & gate key back on board

Whittlesey

Exiting the lock, you will see Whittlesey Park on your right. Around 100m after the lock you will find the mooring on the right, shortly after a turning point for larger boats. This is where you should moor up; if the mooring is full you can stop on the park bank adjacent and use your mooring pins to tie the boat up. Do not go beyond the park; there is nowhere to turn the boat around for 2 hours.

If you want to go in to Whittlesey, walk across the park to the leisure centre and exit through the car park gates, turn left and follow the road into the town centre (about ½ mile).

You should return to your boat and depart by 2:30pm to make it back in time.

Return is simply a case of retracing your journey though the lock and back to the Marina.

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the RIGHT turning AFTER passing THREE bridges
- Go straight over at Angle Corner; you cannot get through left or right
- Take care when passing through the lock
- Be ready to duck when passing under bridges
- DO NOT go beyond the park at Whittlesey – there is no turning point for 2 hours
- Leave Whittlesey Moorings by 2:30pm



Day Boat Handbook

Ramsey Forty Foot – YELLOW Route

Distance: 22.2 miles

Cruising Time: 8 hours

Locks: 0

Leaving March

Turning right out of the marina you will see several moored boats on your right. While the river is wide & deep, you will be able to progress at a good speed. When passing any boats, moving or moored, you will need to reduce your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

Carry on out into the fens. Keep an eye out for canoes & paddleboards at Four Winds on your right – give them plenty of space and pass at slow speed. When you approach the first farm bridge (15) make sure all your crew are aware and ready to duck – there is limited headroom under this and the other bridges you will come to

Floods Ferry

Progressing on, you will soon see the next bridge (16); immediately after this you will see Knightsbridge Marina & Caravan Park on your left. Slow down to avoid rocking the moored boats on their lines.

Around a long bend, you will see another bridge (17) approaching; just before the bridge look out for the Greenwich Meridian marker on the left – you have now passed from the eastern to the western hemisphere. After passing under the bridge the river splits; you need to take the left hand fork towards Benwick & Ramsey.

Follow round the bend in the shadow of the wind turbine. You will then see White Fen Farm bridge (18) ahead of you. This is the lowest bridge you will come to; the boat does (just) fit under, but everyone out on deck will need to duck down below the roof line. As you go along this stretch, you will see a line of WW2 pillboxes on the right.

Benwick

You now enter the village of Benwick. The river is narrower & shallower here – slow down to avoid damaging moored boats as you pass. Go under the road bridge (19) & wooden footbridge (20). The river now bends sharply to the right; just around the bend is the Benwick village mooring on the right. From here you can access the Five Alls pub & village shop over the footbridge. If you are running later than planned, you can stop here to make a shorter day.

Old Nene

Leaving Benwick behind, you head out through farmland, passing under Four Hundreds Farm bridge (21), eventually reaching Wells Road Bridge (22). You will see Wellsbridge Motorhomes on you right just before the bridge. Pass under the bridge and immediately make a very sharp left turn in to the Forty Foot River. Do not carry straight on here.

*Ramsey Forty Foot*

Continue on the Forty Foot River for around ½ mile to the road bridge in Ramsey Forty Foot. Shortly after passing under the bridge, you will see the mooring on the right, just below The George pub.

Do not go beyond the pub mooring; the round trip back to March along the Forty Foot would take you 11 hours. You need to leave the mooring at Ramsey Forty Foot by 2pm to get back in time. Turn around and retrace your journey back to the marina.

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the LEFT turning AFTER passing THREE bridges
- Be ready to duck when passing under bridges
- Go slowly through the villages and when passing other boats
- If you have not got to Benwick by 12:45, you do not have time to complete this route and should stop and turn around there
- DO NOT go beyond the mooring at Ramsey Forty Foot
- Leave Ramsey Forty Foot Moorings by 2pm



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Benwick – PINK Route

Distance: 22.2 miles

Cruising Time: 4½ hours

Locks: 0

Leaving March

Turning right out of the marina you will see several moored boats on your right. While the river is wide & deep, you will be able to progress at a good speed. When passing any boats, moving or moored, you will need to reduce your speed low to avoid making waves that damage the bank or pull moored boats on their mooring lines.

Carry on out into the fens. Keep an eye out for canoes & paddleboards at Four Winds on your right – give them plenty of space and pass at slow speed. When you approach the first farm bridge (15) make sure all your crew are aware and ready to duck – there is limited headroom under this and the other bridges you will come to

Floods Ferry

Progressing on, you will soon see the next bridge (16); immediately after this you will see Knightsbridge Marina & Caravan Park on your left. Slow down to avoid rocking the moored boats on their lines.

Around a long bend, you will see another bridge (17) approaching; just before the bridge look out for the Greenwich Meridian marker on the left – you have now passed from the eastern to the western hemisphere. After passing under the bridge the river splits; you need to take the left hand fork towards Benwick & Ramsey.

Follow round the bend in the shadow of the wind turbine. You will then see White Fen Farm bridge (18) ahead of you. This is the lowest bridge you will come to; the boat does (just) fit under, but everyone out on deck will need to duck down below the roof line. As you go along this stretch, you will see a line of WW2 pillboxes on the right.

Benwick

You now enter the village of Benwick. The river is narrower & shallower here – slow down to avoid damaging moored boats as you pass. Go under the road bridge (19) & wooden footbridge (20). The river now bends sharply to the right; just around the bend is the Benwick village mooring on the right. From here you can access the Five Alls pub & village shop over the footbridge.

When you come to leave Benwick, carry on 200m beyond the mooring and turn opposite a large house on the right. It is now a simple journey to retrace your steps back to the marina

Important Notes For This Route

- When leaving March, take the LEFT turning AFTER passing THREE bridges
- Be ready to duck when passing under bridges
- Go slowly though the villages and when passing other boats
- Leave Benwick Moorings by 3:30pm