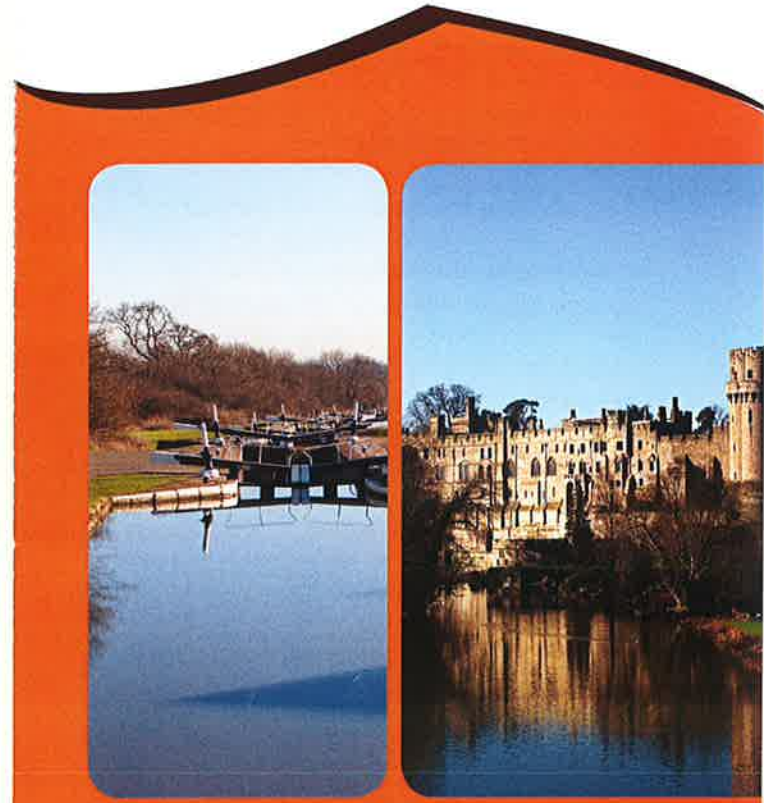


# WARWICK

## Stairway to Heaven

### Hatton Flight Canal Walk

Enjoy a 3½ mile canal walk along the 21 lock flight



**Warwick Tourist Information Centre**

The Court House, Jury Street,  
Warwick, CV34 4EW

@morewarwick

Warwick Visitor Centre

01926 492212  
info@visitwarwick.co.uk  
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**A 3¼ mile walk from the town centre along the Hatton Flight of the Grand Union Canal with a return by bus or a circular walk of 6¾ miles**

1. Start the walk from the Visitor Information Centre, turn right from the Castle Street entrance and left along High Street. After crossing the road at the pelican crossing, turn right along Swan Street. Continue past the Market Hall Museum, turn left along Market Street, pass the Bus Station and turn right and take the pelican crossing. Turn right and next left down Linen Street to enter the racecourse. Cross the track, and keep straight ahead following the path at the edge of the golf course. At the other side of the race-track turn right and follow the track to the bend. Now cross the track to the left, passing under the rails, to follow the fence around the left end of the reservoir to take a gate. Follow the path and cross the railway bridge. Continue along the path to the road. Turn right and follow the road over the Saltisford arm of the **Grand Union Canal** to the Birmingham Road.
2. Turn left along the road and at a pedestrian barrier turn left along a footpath. Follow the path. Just after the 3rd lamp post, turn left through a gap in the hedge to the canal tow-path. Turn right along the canal, under the A46 viaduct and reach the first lock of the 'Stairway to Heaven'. The 21 locks raise the canal 144 feet (45 metres) in 2½ miles (4km). Continue up the gradual climb to reach Bridge 53. Take the opportunity from the bridge to enjoy the views, up and down the lock flight. It is at this bridge, that the circular walk or connection with the bus back to Warwick leaves the canal.
3. However if you continue to Bridge 54 you can take the opportunity to either cross the bridge and reach the Top Lock Café or climb the hill

right to the Hatton Arms Pub. Returning to Warwick from Bridge 53 leave the canal and join the track to the road.

- A. Cross the road. Turn right and left to follow the surfaced footpath at the edge of a wide area of parkland to Barcheston Drive. (To take the No. 68 bus turn right to the bus stop at the roundabout – check bus times at Warwick Bus Station). Continuing the walk, cross the road following the footpath up the hill with a view across the parkland to the imposing **Tredington Park**. At the top of the hill the footpath continues between houses to Barcheston Drive. Cross the road, take the gate opposite and continue down the bridleway. At the bottom of the hill, at the waymarking post, close to a large oak tree, turn right to return to Warwick.
- B. From the way mark post the path follows a ditch downhill at the edge of an ancient area known as **Wedgnock Park**. The path eventually turns left to a gate on the right, at Wedgnock Park Farm. Take the gate and follow the drive past the farm buildings to reach the Birmingham Road.
- C. Cross the road at the traffic lights and continue along Old Budbrooke Road over the canal and turn left along the lane. Follow the lane past the canal car park and take the footpath left under the A46. Follow the footpath into Budbrooke Industrial Estate. Then turn left along Budbrooke Road to reach the footpath on the right and return, via the outward route, over the railway and the racecourse to the Warwick Town centre.

**Historical notes**

The **Grand Union Canal** was originally a number of separately owned lengths of canal and the Saltisford arm was the termination of the 22 mile long Birmingham-Warwick Canal opened in 1799. In 1925 the canal became part of the newly formed 137 mile long Grand Union Canal linking Birmingham with the River Thames. In 1931, in order to compete with the railways, the single width locks were replaced with the present locks enabling the capacity to be doubled. The old lock channel remains to the side of the lock. The old boaters name for the flight was 'the Stairway to Heaven'. It is believed that this name refers to the relief felt by boaters on reaching the top of the flight, after which their reward was the last easy stretch to the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company offices at Camphill and their wages.

**Tredington Park**, built in 1852, was the central building of the Warwick County Mental Hospital. At its peak the hospital housed 1,600 patients and operated as a self contained village even running its own farm. The hospital was closed in 1995 and in 2000 the housing estate was developed converting the main hall and its associated listed buildings to residential use.

**Wedgnock Park** was established in 1119 by Henry de Beaumont, the first Constable of Warwick Castle, who was created Earl of Warwick by William II. Initially the area was quite small and consisted of agricultural land but over the centuries more land was acquired including woodland and a deer park. By 1845 it extended to 2,831 acres but over the next 100 years the park was gradually sold off but still remains an area of largely typical rural south Warwickshire landscape.

Surveyed and written by Town & District Councillor Stephen Cross.