

Prices and Availability.....

For current prices, special offers and availability please view our web site or call us for details and information. The prices and availability page is updated on a regular basis, and you can also book on-line.



Road House Boats – Circa 1955

Road House Narrowboats Holiday Hire

50 Main Road, Gilwern, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. NP7 0AS

Telephone: Nigel or Sally Curtis 01873 83024

Email: info@narrowboats-wales.co.uk

www.narrowboats-wales.co.uk

Additional services at our premises:

Gift & Craft shop at reception.

Off road car parking available.

Single phase electric vehicle charging available.

Collection from Abergavenny train or bus station

Hand Made Jewellery, Hand Made Cards, Hand Crafted Glass Art, Original Paintings/Prints, Photography, Canal Art & Goods, Welsh Souvenirs & Gifts, Local Literature & Maps, Welsh Confectionery, Greetings/Post Cards, Stamps, Duck Food, Ice Cream.



Road House Narrowboats

RHN QM IP 01 REV 0 2024

Holiday Hire on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal



Spectacular scenery through South Wales' Brecon Beacons National Park.

Plenty to do, to see and to visit for a memorable narrowboat holiday.

Comfortable, fully equipped traditional holiday narrow boats, centrally heated.

Beginners and experienced enthusiasts equally welcomed.

Full tuition & support throughout your holiday with us.

Bedding, Toiletries, Gas, Diesel, Damage waiver cover, Car parking and VAT are inclusive on the web site prices.

Up to two dogs are welcome on most of our boats at an extra cost of £15 per pet.

Fishing is permitted without permits during your hire period.

Remember the all-inclusive boat hire price is for your accommodation, transport and entertainment for the duration of your holiday.



RHN Conditions of Hire

Once the booking is confirmed the hirer becomes responsible for the whole of the hire fee, and the balance is due 28 days before the hire date.

Crew: All crew members must be named on the booking form and only those named are allowed on board during the hire. Bookings from groups and single sex groups are only accepted under exceptional circumstances. If you wish to have visitors aboard during the period of hire this must be agreed beforehand. Extra people on board the boat will not be covered by our insurance whilst cruising. Boat hires commence at 2.00pm on the start date and the boat must be returned to the owners' moorings and vacated no later than 9.00am on the day of return. We cannot accept responsibility for delays or limits to cruising due to British Waterways directives. No return of Hire Fees can be made in these circumstances.

Hirers Responsibility: The Hirer and passengers will be shown over the boat and will receive full instruction from us on handling the boat. After this the Hirer becomes responsible for the boat and its equipment. A non-refundable damage waiver is included in the hire price, and this gives you cover in the event of accidental damage to the boat and loss or damage to equipment and fittings. We reserve the right to make an additional charge for damage or loss caused deliberately or by negligence. In the event of any accident or damage to the boat, other craft or property, it is the responsibility of the hirer to obtain the names and addresses of the owner and hirer of any other boat involved together with those of any witnesses. Do not admit liability or arrange any repairs to the boat. Any such damage must be reported to the hire base as soon as possible. Particular care should be given to the correct operation of locks (refer to information we provide) as the Hirer is responsible for any claims made by British Waterways for loss of water or damage to property.

We use all reasonable care to ensure that the boat is in good condition when handed over, but no responsibility is accepted for loss of time, non-fulfilment of programmes or expense through any defect, breakdown or accident to the boat, equipment or machinery. Personal injury to the hirer or crew is not covered by our insurance and hirers should check that they have adequate insurance of their own. Boats are insured to cruise from 8am to 8pm or before dusk autumn/winter, they are not insured or equipped to cruise at night and therefore this is forbidden. The Hirer is required to return the boat in a clean and tidy condition, and failure to do this could result in an additional fee of £20.

Owners' Rights: We reserve the right to refuse to hand over a boat to any Hirer we consider not suitable to take charge. In such a case the Hire Fee will be returned in full and all liability of the Hirer and ourselves shall cease. We reserve the right to terminate the hire of a boat at any time if the conduct of the Hirer endangers the crew or gives offence to other waterway users. In these circumstances we will take over the responsibility of returning the boat to our base, but the hirer remains liable for the holiday cost and no refund will be made.

Cancellation Insurance: Once a booking has been made and confirmed after receipt of the deposit, this places a contractual responsibility on the hirer to pay the full cost of the holiday. If you wish to cancel your booking, please let us know as soon as possible by telephone. If contacted well in advance Road House Holiday Hire will make every effort to rehire the boat and if successful the hirer will no longer be liable for the balance of the hire charge, however the deposit will be non-refundable to cover additional administration costs. If we are unsuccessful in rehiring the boat, then the hirer remains liable for the balance of the hire charge.

We strongly advise that you take out your own travel insurance to cover any form of cancellation, personal injury or damage to property.

We advise that you take out Travel Insurance to cover your costs particularly overseas customers.

Pets: Pets are allowed but they are not allowed on seats or bedding and should not be left unattended on boats at any time. Any damage caused by your pet is not covered under the damage waiver cover and a charge will be made.

Bicycles: Bicycles are not normally allowed as boats are not designed to carry them. Folding/small bikes may be possible upon request.

Fishing: Fishing is allowed within the hire period, but live bait is not allowed inside the boats. Licences/permits are required out of the hire period.

Hirers vehicles: Hirers vehicles can be left at our base, but they and their contents are left entirely at your own risk and we admit no liability. Electric vehicles can be recharged at our premises via single phase at owners' risk.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require clarification of any of the above – we wish to ensure that you enjoy your holiday with us.

Disability statement: The general design of narrowboats and nature of the canal and access to the towpaths are not ideally suited for disabled persons or wheelchairs, however, we are willing to advise and accommodate where reasonably possible and in any agreement will request an endorsement of a Hirers Liability Disclaimer.

Single occupancy: Single occupancy is not usual advised unless one is an experienced helmsman, the main reason for this is if one is taken ill or has an accident unnoticed, in addition it is very difficult to operate the locks by ones self. If it is proven that one is experienced, we can agree to hire to a single occupant with our offer of assistance at the locks. In any agreement will request an endorsement of a Hirers Liability Disclaimer.

Trip Advisor Customer reviews...

Pretty boat fabulous area

Sep 2023 • Couples

We hired the Countess for a week and had a fabulous time. The boat was great just the size and configuration we were looking for. A pretty boat that was clean and very well equipped we had everything on board that was needed. Nigel and Sally gave us all an in-depth introduction telling us all about the boat it's workings the canal itself and places to stop and visit so we didn't get any unexpected surprises. Would recommend this as a great relaxing break.

Wonderful experience on the Canal

Aug 2023 • Family

We had a wonderful trip up the canal over 3 days. Nigel gave an excellent briefing on the handling of the boat and ensured we could manage prior to leaving us. Nigel also kindly pick us up and dropped us off to the train station without any additional charges. He waited for us to gather supplies from the supermarket prior to setting off. These points all being key reason we decided to go with Roadhouse Narrowboats. Thanks again Nigel and team for a wonderful weekend
Cheers Steve and Pauline

Relaxing and comfortable.

Aug 2023 • Couples

As a boater myself, I really appreciated the thought and attention to detail that Nigel and Sally have put into equipping and maintaining the boat "Gilwern Lady ". There was everything we needed for a relaxing and comfortable week on the Monmouth and Brecon canal. Would hire from them again.

Our first Narrowboats Experience

Jul 2023 • Couples

We booked a 1 week hire of the Countess from Road House Narrowboats. Such a great adventure we had from beginning to end. The boats are specifically designed for the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal and with fantastic instruction from Nigel we were off to a great start on our first Narrowboat experience. The boat was like new, well designed, maintained and super clean. Nigel went through all the things we needed to know which made the experience very safe and enjoyable. Should you be thinking on hiring a Narrowboat then this is the company to hire from. We hope to return and hire again in the future.

A memorable & relaxing holiday on The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, courtesy of Road House Narrowboats

May 2023 • Couples

Fabulous week pottering along the canal from Gilwern to Brecon and back, at a very leisurely pace through idyllic countryside. We brunchd on the boat & there was no shortage of options for evening dinners ashore, with a little planning ahead. We were fortunate to pick a sunny week but would've been happy to moor up with a good book if necessary - either way it is a relaxing experience. Highly recommend RHN & their well-equipped comfortable boats in a super location - Sally & Nigel couldn't have been more pleasant and helpful. Very happy with the price of our holiday too +++



Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

Road House Narrowboats

www.narrowboats-wales.co.uk



About us...

Road House Narrowboats is recorded to be the oldest commercial boat hire company on the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal as it was then called, founded circa 1895 by operating rowing boats for hire from our current base at Gilwern. Road House has operated all-steel holiday hire narrowboats on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal for over forty-five years - including twenty six years under the previous owners. Our holiday canal boats are designed by the former owner John Smith with special features to give easy handling on the shallow waters of this canal. Our present fleet of five traditional boats are carefully fitted out to make maximum use of space and provide comfortable and well-equipped accommodation for your holiday with us; this includes electric fridge, full gas cooker and radiator central heating, true freshwater flush toilet, stereo radio/CD player, mobile phone/camera/tablet inverter charger facility and all domestic and cruising equipment. Well maintained engine arrangements and comprehensive protection mean that you are not required to lift deck boards to make numerous daily checks. Our boats are decorated with traditional narrowboat 'castles and roses' artwork.

Our base at Gilwern is four miles west of Abergavenny, situated approximately mid-way along the canal; we are 20 miles below Brecon and 15 miles above Pontymoile. You can thus choose between a cruise to Brecon, incorporating the locks, tunnel, lift-bridges and the more spectacular scenery, or the more secretive, peacefully isolated winding waters southward towards Pontymoile. Gilwern itself is just off the A465, within easy reach of the A40 and motorways. If you plan to arrive here by railway, we can collect you from Abergavenny Railway Station, which has good links to the main network via Newport.



We are a small, friendly, family run business and with only five narrow boats we can assure you of a relaxing and enjoyable floating holiday, our closest attention at all times and any support you feel you may need along the way, particularly if canal boating is new to you. We have ourselves been canal enthusiasts for many years and are very happy to talk to you about our boats or the canal if you care to call.

Nigel and Sally Curtis.



Reception, Gift Shop.

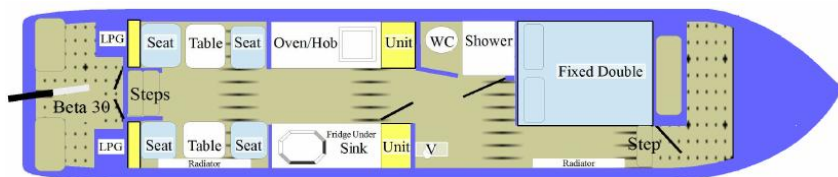




Gilwern Lady 32ft x 7ft - 2+2 berth - Tiller Steering - New diesel engine 2019 - Beta 30 - 1123cc.

Sleeping options: • fixed double front - fixed double front • up to 2 singles rear. Comfortable for two people.

Week Hire: Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am **Short Breaks:** Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Tuesday 9.00am / Start Tuesday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am

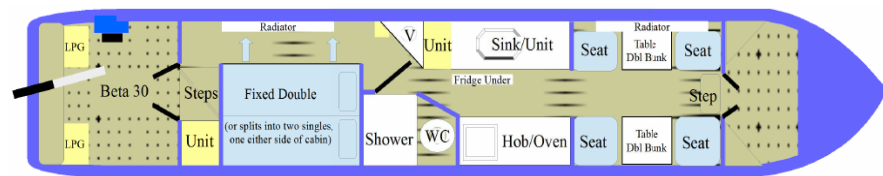


Gilwern Princess 36ft x 7ft - 4/5 berth - Tiller Steering - New diesel engine 2019 - Beta 30 - 1123cc.

Sleeping options: fixed double rear • fixed double rear + two singles front • fixed double rear + dinette double conversion front • dinette double conversion front + up to 3 singles rear (includes 1 bunk) • 5 singles (includes 1 bunk) Comfortable for four people.

Week Hire: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am or Mon 2.00pm - Mon 9.00am

Short Break: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate: Monday 9.00am / Start Monday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am



Rear double can have one bunk above or converts to two singles either side (with optional bunk above starboard single or double)

Things to do....

The journey itself

Those who have had canal holidays before will know that as well as providing fascinating ever changing scenery, the slow pace of cruising is in itself relaxing. The scenery of the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal as it winds around the hills on its journey to Brecon is varied and views are often spectacular. These views are sometimes even more dramatic if from time to time you walk at the pace of the boat along the towpath.

Relax aboard

Relax in the comfort of the boat and read, listen to music from the radio/CD/MP3 player fitted on the boat or simply enjoy the changing views as the countryside glides past your windows.

Walking

There is plenty of opportunity for walking, from the easy level towpath (get on and off as you pass through bridges), footpaths and lanes to the more serious opportunities in the Beacons for energetic or experienced walkers.



Explore

- Explore the six villages you pass through on the canal and the market towns of Brecon, Crickhowell and Abergavenny – include a meal or a drink at the many hostleries.
- Try a walk along the old railway to Talybont reservoir (and over the dam and back along the road if you want a circular route)
- Take a shady walk up the feeder stream which joins the canal just below the second lock at Llangynidr.
- At Llangatock a walk up the escarpment will reward you with some spectacular wide views.
- Walk under the canal through the tunnels at Gilwern, Govilon, Llanfoist or Pontymoile.
- Climb down to the Usk from bridge 162 to look up at the four arches of the massive aqueduct you crossed earlier.
- Walk to the River Promenade on the other side of Brecon and discover the source of the Canal's water. Brecon also has a theatre, cinema and Cathedral.
- Follow the Lime Kiln trail along the canal, all part of the industrial heritage.
- At Llangynidr it is a short walk from bridge 131 to the old pack horse bridge across the Usk, where there is also a walk along the river (a similar bridge can be found below Llangatock)
- On the way back from Brecon, walk over the top of the tunnel and look down the shaft through the safety grid at your boat as it passes below (listen to the conversation!)
- For those who like shopping, visit Brecon, Crickhowell or Abergavenny.

More physical activities - Mountain bikes hire is available at Brecon and Talybont. There is a pony trekking centre and a golf course near Llangatock. Pontypool and Brecon have leisure centres with swimming pools.

Relax and experience what we believe to be the quickest way to slow down!

**The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
Constructed in 1812**



Originally constructed over two hundred years ago, the Monmouthshire and Brecon and Abergavenny canals were built for carrying coal, iron and limestone. Their commercial demise came as a result of competition from the Great Western railway, and the present navigable section (leisure traffic only now!) consists of the Brecon & Abergavenny Canal from Brecon to Pontymoile, where it then joins the northern end of a short length of the Monmouthshire Canal, navigable (though slow going) down to Five Locks Basin. Beyond is the now defunct section which drops through thirty (unusable) locks in some six miles to Newport.

In its thirty-three mile meander through seven villages to Brecon the 'Mon & Brec' canal rises only sixty feet through six locks, remarkable considering the mountainous terrain. On your Road House holiday hire narrow boat you can follow the valley of the River Usk, though the canal is often perched far up the hillside with views of the river far below. Nearly its entire route lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park, an area noted for its often spectacular scenery, excellent for walking or general exploration.



Above Gilwern the canal passes through a village every four miles (useful for supplies or pubs). Its route is high on the hillside above the river, winding through wooded hillsides until five locks in a tranquil sylvan setting lift it fifty feet higher up the valley. Some spectacular views, a tunnel and lifting bridges follow until the Brecon Beacons can be seen to the west rising to three thousand feet, with the Black Mountains to the East. At Brynich the canal crosses the Usk on a substantial four-arched aqueduct before rising through one last lock to the level that leads into the old market-town of Brecon where a large basin provides excellent moorings



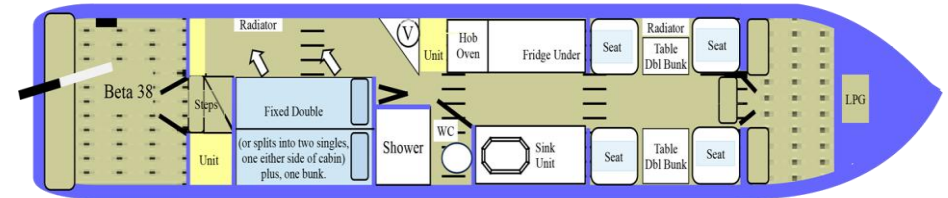
Below Gilwern the canal maintains a level high on the side of the hills, at times making horse-shoe bends and passing on aqueducts over rushing mountain streams. For a time the River Usk is closer to the canal, its course through Abergavenny visible far below. The villages are away from the canal, and the general impression on your holiday hire narrow boat is one of remote peacefulness. Gradually, with still hilly countryside to the west, the valley broadens out through gently undulating pasture land to reach Pontymoile, on the outskirts of Pontypool, with a further two-and-a-half miles (including another tunnel) navigable with care beyond. Below this, the route can be followed on foot.

New Build Launched September 2023. Gilwern Queen 37.5ft x 7ft - 4/5 berth - Tiller Steering - Beta 38 – Diesel engine 1498cc.

Sleeping options: fixed double rear • fixed double rear + 2 singles front • fixed double rear + dinette double conversion front • dinette double conversion front + up to 3 singles • 5 singles (includes 1 top bunk) • Comfortable for four people.

Week Hire: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am or Mon 2.00pm - Mon 9.00am

Short Break: Start Friday 2.00pm - Vacate Monday 9.00am / Start: Monday 2.00pm - Vacate Friday 9.00am

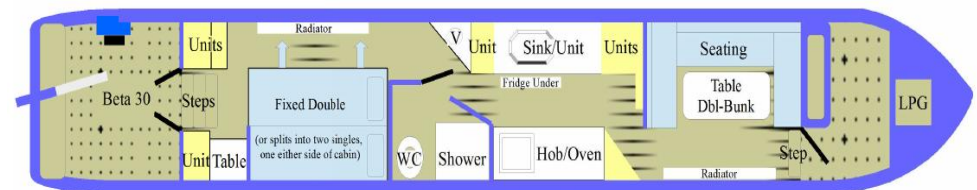


Rear double can have one bunk above or converts to two singles either side (with optional bunk above starboard single or double)

Gilwern Duchess 42ft x 7ft - 4/5 berth - Tiller Steering - New diesel engine 2019 - Beta 30 - 1123cc.

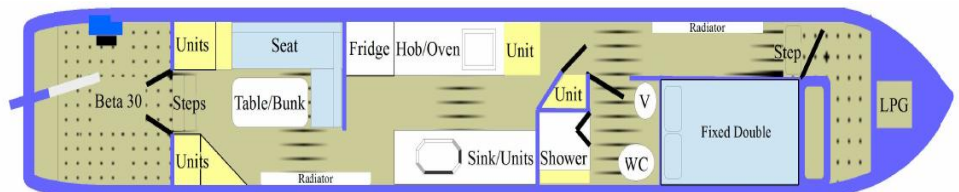
Sleeping options: fixed double rear • fixed double rear + dinette double conversion front • dinette double conversion front + up to 3 singles rear (includes 1 top bunk) (Comfortable for four people)

Week Hire: Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am



New Build Launched March 2021. Gilwern Countess - 42ft x 7ft • 4 berth – Tiller Steering - Beta 30 – New diesel engine 2019 1123cc. **Sleeping options: fixed double bow • fixed double bow + dinette double aft only (Comfortable for four people) (Pet Free Boat)**

Week Hire: Start Saturday 2.00pm - Vacate Saturday 9.00am



All boats: are fully equipped including 12-volt electric fridge, full gas cooker and hob, radiator gas central heating, true freshwater electric flush toilet, stereo radio/CD/MP3 player, 350 or 1000 watt inverters, 3 pin phone/camera/tablet charger facility and all domestic and cruising equipment. Large cruiser decks allow for crew to accompany the helmsman.

Gilwern Countess interior - Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double



Gilwern Queen interior - Sleeping options: fixed double • fixed double + dinette double • dinette double + up to 3 singles • 5 singles (includes 1 bunk over starboard single)



Our boats have spacious cruiser decks that allow for crew members to accompany the helmsman, mind your heads at the low bridges though!



Your Holiday...

What will I need to bring?

Very Little! Bring clothing, initial food and towels etc (if you are going to wash): you should find everything else you need (including bed linen, tea towels, soaps etc) provided aboard – if not, tell us!

What do I do with our car?

Once you have arrived and unloaded your car alongside the boat, you can park your car in our yard behind our property and forget it until you return. Then learn how to drive on the left again!

Is the boat easy to handle?

Our boats are designed for ease of use. We will show you over the boat and explain how everything works, then set off with you. We will make sure you feel happy that you are in full control before we leave you. After that we are happy to come out at any time if you need more help, or if you would like an extra pair of hands at the locks, etc. (it might cost you a cup of tea!)

How far can we get in a week?

That depends entirely on you. It is possible to go from end to end of the canal (70 miles in all) and "see it all" in a week so long as you are prepared to cruise for about 6 hours each day. But for most people, a leisurely trip to Brecon and back, and perhaps a couple of days down to Llanfoist or Goytre later in the week will allow time to explore, have a meal out and some time to relax. If you prefer a really peaceful canal holiday week with no locks, the tranquil section below Gilwern down to Pontymoile will allow you enough time later to cruise up to Llangatlock or Llangynidr. At two miles per hour you will have time to see things you never noticed before!

Where can we stop?

Running all the way alongside the canal is a towpath. Although many people prefer to stop within villages, you are free to tie up wherever you wish on the towpath side, so long as it does not obstruct the waterway (for example under a bridge, or on a tight bend). In places where the water is particularly shallow you may have to "walk the plank" to get ashore.



Are there places to eat out along the route?

Travelling towards Brecon from Gilwern, there is a village every four miles - about every two hours cruising time. The villages are situated actually on the canal, and all have at least one pub (one has five!) where you can buy a drink or order a meal. We would recommend that you ring in advance to make reservations, to check if meals are available due to your timescale or if available in the event of a private function.

What about shopping?

On the canal itself, Brecon and Pontypool have good shops. Here at Gilwern there are two general stores, our own gift/craft shop, butcher, fish & chips, Post Office, chemist, hairdressers and doctor. Llangynidr and Talybont have good village stores where you can buy bread and milk etc. Abergavenny and Crickhowell are each a pleasant walk from the canal that have a wide selection of shops.