

Barge Hire Glossary

Barge

Long thin boat designed for canals. Also known as a narrowboat or a canal boat.

Boat Pole

Long pole that lives on top of the barge. Will get you out of trouble if you get stuck in some reeds or if your boat needs an extra push away from the bank.

Bridge Number

Each bridge that crosses the canal is numbered or named to help you to find your position on a map.

Cruising

The correct word for 'driving' a barge. Also used to describe distances- eg '3 hours cruising time'.

Fenders

The rubber bumpers that hang on the side of your barge.

Gunwhales

The ledges that surround the side of your boat and can be carefully walked along.

Locks

The first thing to master on your barge hire holiday! The engineering device that uses gates and water levels to help your barge go up or down a hill.

Lock Key

The metal arm that is needed to operate a lock.

Marina

A canal boat village. The picturesque locations where your barge hire adventure begins!

Mooring

The correct word for 'parking' your barge.

Mooring Pin

A metal stake designed to anchor the ropes of your barge to the bank.

Paddles

Part of a lock. Can be opened and closed with your lock key to control the water levels.

Staircase

A series of locks, one after another.

Tiller

The steering control on a barge. A pole at the back of the boat which is connected to the propeller and can be moved from side to side.

Towpath

The footpath that runs alongside the canal.

Weedhatch

A panel on the deck of the boat that gives access to the propeller and occasionally has to be cleared.