

STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN

Stourport-on-Severn is unique as it is the only town in Britain that was built solely as a consequence of the coming of the canals. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal linked the River Severn with the Trent and Mersey and after Birmingham Stourport became the busiest inland port in the Midlands. It is a charming Georgian town full of gracious architecture and for a town miles away from the sea Stourport on Severn has a delightful maritime atmosphere.

Located on the banks of the River Severn in the Picturesque Severn Valley The Stourport Canal Basins are made up of five historic basins and is home to nearly 100 narrow boats and yachts. The basins are still open and it is fascinating to see the restoration work which has returned the area to its former Georgian splendour. The aim of this regeneration project was to bring the Stourport Canal Basins and their surroundings back into full use.

Bewdley is an attractive Georgian town with a good selection of pubs and shops and with the Severn passing straight through it has long been a favourite spot for fishermen. The ancient woodland of the Wyre Forest surrounds the west of the town and provides an excellent opportunity to discover a rich diversity of wildlife. Take advantage of The National Cycle Network, which passes through the town, or one of circular walks which links the surrounding countryside to the town.

The Severn Railway joins Kidderminster to Bridgenorth via Bewdley and for most of the way the journey follows the meandering course of the River Severn. A highlight of the trip is the crossing of the River Severn over the Victoria Bridge a massive 200-foot single span. Experience a three-course luncheon whilst travelling steam train while enjoying the spectacular views of the Severn Valley or enjoy the easy access to one of the local village pubs. Visit the exhibition area at the visitor centre and learn how the Severn Valley Railway works.

The Wyre Forest was once part of a much larger forest that was once a medieval hunting ground. Home to a wealth of plants, animals and fungi the forest offers peace and tranquillity and has something to offer every visitor. The Visitor Centre has a restaurant and shop and the interesting display, will reward each visit with new secrets. Go Ape in the Wyre Forest on a hire wire forest adventure, climb the giant obstacle courses through the trees using ladders and ropes. Make your way through the forest on the walkways, bridges and tunnels finish off with a ride on the zip lines.

Located just on the edge of Stourport Hartlebury Common Nature Reserve is a site of special scientific interest and has a wide range of flora and fauna. A great place to enjoy a walk in the countryside where you will find oak and pine woods, a large pool and lots of open common land to explore. Follow one of the many trails either on foot, by cycle or on horseback.