

A SHORT TOUR OF CHESTER'S HISTORY THROUGH THE AGES

Starting as far back as AD 86 when the Roman XX Legion: Valeria Victrix (Brave & Victorious) began building the stone walls around the fortress of Deva. This was to be the largest Fortress in Great Britain.

Your tour continues through the Medieval and Civil War eras up to the modern and industrial history of the canal and surrounding area

This unique journey passes King Charles Tower, under the Bridge of Sighs, through to the Northgate Lock. At this point you will have the opportunity to alight for 10 minutes and enjoy the views of the staircase of 3 locks. Our Captain will explain how the locks work and also give a brief history of the Boatie life style.



Discover how the Bridge of Sighs got its name

See the historic tower where King Charles viewed the battle of Rowton moor

Learn how staircase locks work

See the wear and tear the horse drawn barges left around the canal

Discover where and how the children of the canals were educated.

Find out how lead shots were manufactured in the Shot Tower.

Watch our narrative DVD and learn about Chester's fascinating History.

ROMAN HIGH TEA CRUISES

Reaching Roman parts of Chester that other transport does not have the privilege to reach. Relax and enjoy the historic views as we guide you through the history of the Shropshire Union canal.

During your 1 hour cruise we will serve tea/coffee, a selection of sandwiches and cakes.

Cruises will commence 4pm daily, you will be required to be at the hotel for 3.45pm ready for 4.00pm boarding. Pre booking is essential, as a minimum of 20 guests booked is required for the cruiser to sail.

ADULT: £12 CHILD: £10



Although we endeavour to have a Roman Soldier onboard every High Tea Cruise this is not always possible and occasionally the cruise will sail without a soldier onboard.

RESERVATIONS

The Mill Hotel Ltd, Milton Street,
Chester, CH1 3NF
www.millhotel.com

TELEPHONE: 01244 350035

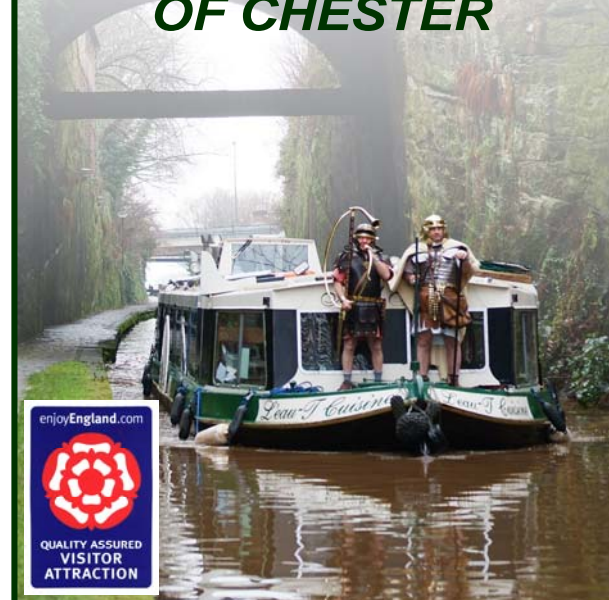
FAX: 01244 345635

Free Parking Facilities for Cars & Coaches
All Major Charge Cards Accepted

HOSTED BY A ROMAN SOLDIER



ROMAN HIGH TEA CRUISES OF CHESTER



L'EAU-T CUISINE
RESTAURANT CRUISER

NORTHGATE LOCKS



THE CANAL

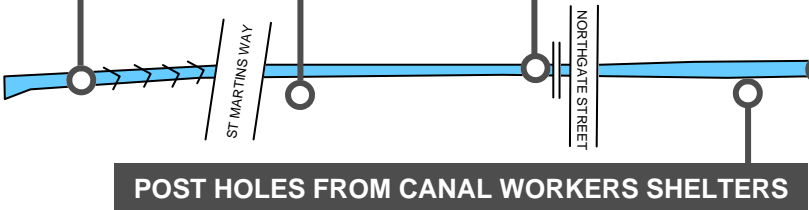
The First cut for this section of canal was made on May 18th 1772. When the contractors were working on this particular section of the canal running parallel to the city walls they discovered the hard work had been done for them as the Romans had already removed the stone to create a fosse. This had later been hidden with centuries of rubbish thrown over the city walls some dating back to Medieval times.



MORGANS MOUNT



BRIDGE OF SIGHS



POST HOLES FROM CANAL WORKERS SHELTERS



THE STEAM MILL

THE BOUGHTON GOLD RUSH

Back in June 1927 a young boy from Steven Street, a humble street of two up two down terraces, was walking along the towpath of a drained section of the canal, when he saw a glint of gold in the mud. He didn't hesitate to jump in to fish it out. The glint of gold he saw was a gold sovereign one of many in the mud. He promptly ran home to tell his mum, and the news spread fast, soon there were crowds of people searching the canal bed, some unearthing as many as 20 or 30 sovereigns each.

There was much speculation about the source of such riches, but soon the truth came to light. It turned out that a few months before an old lady had died in Steven Street and her family whilst clearing her house had thrown her mattress that unbeknown to them contained her life savings into the canal.



KING CHARLES TOWER

This North East tower of the city walls seems to have suffered somewhat of an identity crisis through the years. This medieval 'Newton' tower stands in the north-east corner of the city walls, protruding outwards on or near to the position of the Roman North-East watch tower which would have projected inwards from the wall.

In 1613 the tower was in a ruinous condition. It was taken on by the Guild of Painters, Glaziers, Embroiders & Stationers, from their emblem came the Name the 'Phoenix' tower.

On September 24th 1645 King Charles stood and watched his army defeated on Rowton moor. Hence the name 'The King Charles Tower'. Due to the damage the already ruinous tower sustain during the civil war the tower was almost completely rebuilt in 1658 by the Guild



COW LANE BRIDGE

ST OSWALDS WAY

SELLAR STREET

CITY ROAD

HOOLE LANE

BOATIE SCHOOL

HOOLE LANE LOCKS

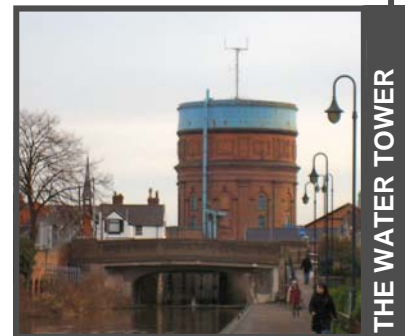
MILL HOTEL & SPA



Your Journey begins and ends at the Mill Hotel & Spa. A converted 1830s corn mill built in the traditional style of oak beams, and pitch pine, it has 32 cannon barrel stanchions holding up its five floors.



LEAD SHOT TOWER



THE WATER TOWER