

**Double S Travel**

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**Double S Travel Worldchoice - Celebrating Twenty Four Years of service to the residents and businesses in the South Bedfordshire area 1985 - 2009**

**Factsheet for 07 April 2009**

**Stop Press**

From 2009, the UK Government will require Advanced Passenger Information for all passengers travelling internationally into and out of the UK. This is being rolled out over the coming year. It is compulsory to give the following information to the airline/ferry operator prior to travel. Full given names, Surname, Gender, Nationality, Date of birth, Travel document number e.g. passport number, Travel document expiry date, Travel document country of issue.

Double S Travel is through to the finals of the Travel Agent Achievement Awards 2009! Results will be known on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 at a black tie do at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London!

**Today's Exchange Rates**

Euro. Our tourist sell rate today:	£1 = 1.05761	better than last week
US Dollar. Our tourist sell rate today:	£1 = 1.41411	better than last week

**Narrowboating in the UK.**

What is a narrowboat? It is a boat of less than 7' width which is build specifically to ply the UK's canal system. They may be all sorts of lengths but the norm is 30' – 60'. The length governs where the boat can opeate as the lock length is critical. Originally wooden cargo-carrying boats pulled by horse – hence having a tow-path next to the canal.

It is advisable – though not a requirement, to undergo a one day RYA Inland Waterways Helmsman course. The course covers locks, bridges, tunnels, basic boat handling and waterway rules and regulations.

Most narrowboat come equipped with double glazing, galley, fridge, water supply, central heating, flush toilets etc..

**Planning.**

Narrowboats are governed to slow speeds, expect to do about 15 miles a day or 100 miles per week. Don't forget you have to return your boat to the marina you took it from so a 50mile passage is the most you can expect to do in a week.

**Home Counties**

Closest to most of us in the Home Counties is the Grand Union Canal. This runs approximately NW to SE from Birmingham to London. Locally it includes the

Blisworth Tunnel, the National Waterways Museum at Stoke Bruerne, Linslade, Berkhamstead and Watford.

Prices from Linslade vary from £585- £987 for a week on a 4 berth boat, and from £934-£1596 on an 8 berth boat.

#### Lancashire and Yorkshire

The Leeds to Liverpool Canal is the longest single canal in Britain. It takes boats through the area most associated with the Industrial Revolution. Some of the most awesome feats of engineering such as the Bingley Five Rise Locks and the Mile tunnel as well as the wide open spaces of the Dales and the Pennines.

Boats from Reedley Marina for a week vary from £637-£931 for a 4 berth boat to £973-£1490 for an 8 berth boat.

#### Brecon Beacons

The Monmouthshire and Brecon canal goes from Brecon down to near Newport. Local sights include Brecon Cathedral, Brecon Mountain Railway, Llangorse Lake, Abergavenny, Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway. It has to be a canal through stunning scenery if ever there was one.

Boats from Abergavenny for a week range from £520-£1620 on a 2 berth boat to £690-£1390 for a 6 berth boat.

#### Extras.

The prices quoted are exclusive of fuel, breakage deposits, personal insurance, maps and damage waiver insurance.

**All of the above and more are bookable through Double S Travel Worldchoice on 01582 752752 on our website [www.doublestravel.co.uk](http://www.doublestravel.co.uk) using the 'Book online' facility 'Do something Different'.**

#### **In brief:**

Thinking of going to New Zealand next year? Join my group! Call me on 01582 752752 or email me at [steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk) for details.

Interested in a cruise? Visit our cruise club website at [www.upadeck.co.uk](http://www.upadeck.co.uk) it contains details of over 20,000 cruises, port descriptions and ship details!

The Passenger Shipping Association has revealed nearly 1.5 million UK passengers took a cruise in 2008 - an 11% increase on 2007.

Inghams is pulling its summer short-breaks programme due to poor sales.

Eurostar is running a full timetable as of the end of February – the first time since the fire in the tunnel last year.

Do you Twitter? Follow Double\_S\_Travel.

Travelling to the USA? You need a visa (called an ESTA) in order to travel.

If you would like to join my emailing-list to receive offers and news, simply email [steve@doublestravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@doublestravel.co.uk) and put 'Mailing List' in the subject box.

**Always:**

- Check that your passport does not expire within six months of your return date.
- Ensure you have taken out good travel insurance and if going to Europe, take your EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) with you too.
- Put the 24hour UK Consular Assistance number - +44 020 7008 1500 into your mobile telephone – just in case you need emergency help.
- If hiring a car, don't forget to take both parts of your photo driving licence (the card and the paper sheet) and a credit card with you. Some rental companies no longer accept the old style green paper non-photo driving licences.
- Ensure you have all the visas you need to travel.
- If you have booked connecting flights, the baggage allowance may be smaller than your long haul flights. To avoid extra charges, pack to the lowest baggage allowance.
- Tell your credit card and debit card issuer where you are going and for how long otherwise you may find you cannot use your cards. Take a Cash Passport instead of your debit card – much safer.
- Use public transport to get to the airport. Most travel insurance will only cover you for a missed departure if you used public transport.
- Take a photocopy of your passport with you. If you lose your original it is much simpler to replace if you have a copy available to you.
- Protect your money and your holiday by booking an ATOL protected holiday through a reputable travel agent. Even short-breaks using no-frills airlines can be covered if booked through and agent.
- Declare all medical conditions and hospital visits at the time of taking insurance and tell the insurer if you develop a medical condition before you travel otherwise they may not settle if you try to make a claim.

Remember, travel safely, protect your money by booking through and ATOL holder, but most of all - enjoy your travelling.

All the best,

Steve Pattenden.

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