

Boater's Guide to Whitchurch (Shropshire) 9 Sep 2021

About Whitchurch

Whitchurch is the oldest continually inhabited town in Shropshire, having been established in about 70AD by the Romans, who built a fort there. Its Roman name was Mediolanum, meaning "town in mid-plain", as it was midway between Chester (Deva) and Wroxeter (Viroconium), being a day's march from either. The name Whitchurch is derived from "White Church", which referred to a Norman white stone church on the site where St Alkmunds stands today.

Whitchurch received its first market charter market c1190 and a Friday morning market is still held. The town has plenty of character, many examples of interesting architecture to look at, and lots of independent shops. There's another market on the 1st Sat of the month.



There are 6 supermarkets (Aldi, Iceland, Lidl, McColl's, Sainsburys / Argos, and Tesco), 2 banks / building societies (Halifax and TSB), a baker, 2 butchers, a zero-waste shop, 9 pubs, restaurants, cafes, fast food / takeaway shops, 3 fish and chip shops and more.

Walking into Town (About 0.7 miles / 1.2 km (20-25 mins) from the Whitchurch Arm)



Off road route, green arrows on the above map, flatter, is bikeable

Head straight on, going under an old bridge and then a more modern one with painted murals. Follow the path past some picnic tables, cross Greenfields Way, and go down the steps or slope on the other side. Follow the path through Whitchurch Waterways Country Park until you emerge at a mini-roundabout with Jubilee Park in front of you. Cross the road, go through the car park, and turn left to follow the path through the park past the children's playground and the bandstand. Exit the park down an alleyway on the left, passing the Thai restaurant (an ex-canal warehouse), on your right. At the end of the alleyway turn left into Mill St, and continue straight on across the pedestrian crossing and through a pedestrian precinct (The Bull Ring) to arrive at the bottom end of the High Street.



On road route, red arrows on the above map, slightly shorter, but does go up a hill

Go up the steps at the end of the arm, turn right and immediately right again to cross Chemistry Bridge (the old canal bridge), turn left onto Chemistry, continue across the mini-roundabout and along Smallbrook Road to the next mini-roundabout where you will see Jubilee Park on your right. Continue up Sherrymill Hill, turn left at the mini-roundabout at the top, then right at the next mini-roundabout to arrive at the top of the High Street.

Bus Into Town

The Whitchurch Town Circular bus (205) stops near to the end of the Whitchurch Arm on the other side of Chemistry (adjacent to its junction with Bathfields Crescent) and goes to the town centre – this bus runs Mon-Sat only, daytime only, approx every 30 mins. For more information, contact 0871 200 2233 or www.travelinmidlands.co.uk/

Markets

Every Friday 0730 - 1230 inside and outside the Civic Centre and Market Hall

The first Saturday of every month 1000 - 1600 (except January) in the High Street and the Bullring

Where's the nearest Pub ?

There is no pub nearer than the town centre, but once you get there you will be spoilt for choice. You could also take a canalside walk (around 40 mins) to the Horse and Jockey at Grindley Brook - cross the lift bridge where the Whitchurch Arm joins the main line of the canal, turn right and when you reach the locks, go through a gap in the hedge between locks 5 and 6 (at the Texaco service station) and cross the A41.

Where's the nearest Pint of Milk if you're tied on the Whitchurch Arm ?

McColls in Wrexham Road (around 12 mins slightly hilly walk). Go up the steps at the end of the arm, turn right and immediately right again to cross Chemistry Bridge (the old canal bridge) and turn left onto Chemistry. Turn right onto Thompson Drive and go up the hill. At the T junction turn left onto Wrexham Road and continue until you see McColl's on your left.

Aldi or Esso service station shop on the Whitchurch By-Pass (around 8 mins flat walk, but it's a bit tricky for pedestrians to walk into the service area - take care !). Go up the steps at the end of the arm, across Chemistry Bridge (the old canal bridge) and turn right onto Chemistry. At the T junction turn right and you will see both just before the roundabout.

The Lockside Cafe at Grindley Brook Locks 01948 663385 (around 35 mins flat walk, only open during the boating season). This is a pleasant canalside walk to Bridge 29. Cross the lift bridge where the Whitchurch Arm joins the main line of the canal and turn right.

Launderettes

Bubbles 16 Station Road SY13 1RF 0900-1700 Closed Wed and Sun 01948 663816

Public Amenities

Heritage Centre 12 St Mary's Street, Whitchurch SY13 1QY 01948 664577 (Open Tue, Thu and Fri 1100 - 1600 Free Entry)

Civic Centre High Street, Whitchurch SY13 1AX 01948 665761

Library High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AX 01948 662238

Post Office 9-11 Green End, Whitchurch SY13 1AD

Places of Worship

St Alkmunds (Anglican) Church St SY13 1LB 01948 667253 / 01948 665413

St Georges (Roman Catholic) 17 Claypit Street SY13 1LE 01948 662935

St Johns (Methodist) St. Johns Street SY13 1QT 01948 663936

The Beacon Church (Christian) 5 Post Office Court St John's Street SY13 1QT 01948 662335

Whitchurch Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses 47-51 Claypit Street SY13 1LF 01948 662169

Trains from Whitchurch Station (about 1.2 miles / 2km from the end of the Whitchurch Arm)

Whitchurch station is unmanned – you buy your ticket from a ticket machine or on board the train. There are trains to Wrenbury, Nantwich and Crewe (16 - 25 mins), Shrewsbury (16 - 30 mins), Manchester Picadilly (60 - 80mins) and South Wales. For more information, contact 03457 48 49 50 (24 hour National Rail Enquiries line)

Buses From Whitchurch

From Whitchurch Bus Station (outside Tescos) there are buses to Chester (41 / 41A), Nantwich (73) Wrexham (146) and Shrewsbury (511). For more information, contact 0871 200 2233 or www.travelinmidlands.co.uk. Checking times is advised, as not all are frequent.

Taxis (in order of distance from the Whitchurch Arm)

The free car park off Meadowcroft may be a useful pick up / drop off point. To get to it from the end of the Whitchurch Arm, head straight on, go under 2 bridges, then up a slope on your right. The 5 nearest taxis to the Whitchurch Arm are :

A2B Taxi SY13 1JP 07859 042690

Shropshah Taxis SY13 1JN 07983894170

Jim's Taxis SY13 1SS 01948 663018

Acorn Taxis SY13 1HQ 01948 665540

Richard's Taxis SY13 1LU 01948 665454

Nearest Car Park

There is a free car park off Meadowcroft. From the end of the Arm, head straight on, go under 2 bridges, then up a slope on your right.

Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance, Fire) call 999

Location of Nearest Road Access for the Whitchurch Arm

The old bridge at the end of the Whitchurch Arm (where it stops dead) is Chemistry Bridge, Chemistry, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1BZ and has road access on top. This bridge is at the eastern end of the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal.

Major Hospitals outside Whitchurch for Accident and Emergency

Wrexham Maelor Hospital Croesnewydd Road, Wrexham, LL13 7TD (16 miles / 25 km) 01978 291100

Leighton Hospital Middlewich Road, Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 4QJ (18 miles / 29 km) 01270 255141

Countess of Chester Hospital Liverpool Rd, Chester CH2 1UL (23 miles / 37 km) 01244 365000

Princess Royal Hospital Apley Castle, Grainger Drive, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 6TF (24 miles / 39 km) 01952 641222

The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Mytton Oak Rd, Shrewsbury SY3 8XQ (28 miles / 45 km) 01743 261000

Medical Non-Emergency Services

Local Hospital (Minor injuries, X-Ray Mon - Fri 0900 - 1700) Whitchurch Community Hospital, Off Claypit Street, SY13 1NT 01948 666292
For 24hr Medical Non-Emergency Help call 111

Police Non Emergency Services

Call 101 (Whitchurch Police Station at 2 Station Road has closed)

Dentists

Green End Dental Practice 43 Green End, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1AD 01948 662675 or 01948 662855

SpaDental Whitchurch Corser House 17 Green End SY13 1AD 01948 664149

Whitchurch Dental Studio Ltd The Old Fire Station, Brownlow Street SY13 1QS 01948 661139

Doctors

Churchmere Medical Group Drumcarrig Bridgewater Street SY13 1QH 01948 320044

Vets

Leonard Bros Veterinary Centre Station Road Whitchurch Shropshire SY13 1RE 01948 662424

Barclay-Moore Partnership Waylands Veterinary Centre Waymills SY13 1RT 01948 662754

This guide has been produced by The Whitchurch Waterway Trust (WWT), a charity which maintains the Whitchurch Arm of the Llangollen Canal and provides free 48-hour visitor moorings for boats. It aims at providing information of particular interest to visiting boaters. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information is correct at the time of publication, WWT does not accept responsibility for any loss or inconvenience arising from any errors which may have occurred. Inclusion in this guide does not imply any endorsement by WWT. Please notify any errors, omissions or comments to comments@whitchurchwaterway.uk