

Spaghetti Union



10.9km (6.8 Miles)

Flat

Mountain Bike/
Hybrid Bike

Paved - canal tow
path & quiet roads



Key

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Start/Finish | | Road - Take Care |
| | Coffee Shop | | Route: On Road |
| | Play Park | | Route: Traffic Free |
| | Cinema / Entertainment | | Railway Line |
| | Museum | | Train Station |
| | | | National Cycle Network |



POINTS OF INTEREST

01 Brown sauce

Birmingham was known as 'the city of 1000 trades' during the industrial revolution, and the Aston area was one of the centres of manufacturing in Birmingham. One of its love-it-or-hate-it exports was HP sauce. The original recipe was developed by a grocer from Nottingham who, it's thought, named the sauce after the Houses of Parliament in 1895. However, Edwin Samson Moore bought the recipe for £150 in 1903 and launched HP sauce to global fame.

02 Bikes

By 1900, Birmingham was home to nearly 350 cycle or tricycle manufacturers; one of three large cities involved in the manufacture of bicycles, alongside Nottingham and Coventry. Near here, one of the largest manufacturers of bicycles and components in the country, Hercules, was founded in 1910. Its production exceeded six million bikes by the end of the 1930's, many of which were exported across the world. The company went on until the 1950's when there was a large slump in bicycle sales due to the increasing popularity of motor vehicles.

03 Spaghetti Junction

The Spaghetti Junction, or to give it's official name, the Gravelly Hill Interchange, began construction in 1968 and

- 06 The towpath brings you to the road. Turn right and then immediately right again onto Andover Street, following this as it curves around to the left under the railway
- 07 Follow Banbury Street and then turn right onto New Canal Street. Head straight ahead into Eastside Park and then turn right and make your way through the park until you reach Cardigan Street.
- 08 Turn left here up the slight incline and take the first right onto Gopsal Street. Bear right onto Belmont Row crossing the canal, then turn onto the towpath.
- 09 With the canal to your left, pass two locks and go through a narrow tunnel. Continue along the canal until you approach the junction. Turn right here, past a lock and head down the canal for a further three locks.
- 10 At the fourth lock, before the red brick bridge, exit the canal, turn right and then re-trace your route through Windsor Street, Bullock Street and Proctor Street back to the leisure centre.

- 04 Turn right out of the leisure centre car park, then at the first junction turn right and then immediately right again onto Proctor Street. Take the first left onto Bullock Street and then right onto Windsor Street
- 05 At the T-junction turn right onto Richard Street until just before the red brick bridge where you will need to take the paved path to your left onto the canal.
- 06 Here, turn right onto the towpath, keeping the canal on your left for approximately 1.5 miles until you reach Spaghetti Junction. Stay on the same level underneath the roads, follow the canal around to the right and around the corner and then enter onto the narrower Birmingham and Warwick Junction canal.
- 07 Follow this canal for approximately 2.5 miles, turning right at the T-junction towards the city centre.
- 08 At the next T-junction, initially turn right but immediately turn right again up the slope and across the bridge, crossing over where you've just come.



Scan to follow the route digitally with OS Maps







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08 Tea & TV

Originally sold as a cure for indigestion, Typhoo tea was launched in 1903 by grocer John Sumner. The original three requirements for the branding were: the name had to be distinctive and trip off the tongue and, of course, it had to be protected by registration. The chosen name Typhoo came from the Mandarin Chinese word for 'doctor' and was a nod to the original purpose. Typhoo has gone on to be a global brand that started in Birmingham with its own canal basin, the site of which is now to be the home of BBC Midlands in a new state-of-the-art building.

09 How to get water uphill

Between this junction and the city there is a hill, the last hurdle for boats to travel into the city centre. A total of 13 locks in the Farmers Bridge Flight allow boats to go uphill into (or downhill out of) the city. The locks work by the boat entering the lock gate and either adding water to go uphill or taking water out to go downhill. This is quite time consuming and in the late 1800s the locks operated 24-hours-a-day to cope with the demand. This didn't mean there wasn't a queue at the bottom or top lock though!

