

Route 2 Cannon Hill Park to City Centre & University

Distance: 6 miles (45-60 minutes) or 10 miles (75-100 minutes)

Start: Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park B12 9QH OSGR SP066839.

Route Summary: A circular ride which uses the mainly off-road **Rea Valley Cycle Route** and the **Birmingham & Worcester Canal** towpath. There is also a shorter route which passes through **Birmingham University**.

Refreshments: MAC café/bar and Garden Tearoom in Cannon Hill Park. Also pubs and cafés at Brindley Place in the City Centre.

Parking: There is a free car park near the MAC.

Alternative Start Points: Gas St Basin in the City Centre (pay parking nearby), Birmingham University and Bournville.

Access by Train: ➔ Birmingham New St, University* and Bournville stations are on or near the route.

**step access to the canal towpath*

Key to Map

A B	Start and route reference point
1, 2	Mileage from start point
PH/CF	Public House/Café
SH	Shop selling drinks, sweets etc
V	Visitor Centre
+	Notable church
P	Start points with free parking
P	Start points with pay parking
	Off-road path – good surface
	Off-road path – rough/very rough surface
	Canal towpath
	Quiet road
	Busier road

Abbreviations used in the route description:
L left, R right, SO straight on.

Push Bikes, the Birmingham Cycling Campaign, aims to influence local authorities, employers, health service providers, public companies (rail, road, water) in providing improved journey facilities (including bike storage and parking) for cyclists.

We are eager for more members - come and join us! Visit www.pushbikes.org.uk, phone 0121 632 6909, or write to 54 Allison St Birmingham B5 5TH, for a membership form.

Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle

Routes are a great way to see your city in a new way – on two wheels! This is one of 9 self-guided cycle rides using quiet paths and roads to link places of interest, providing the ideal healthy and environmentally-friendly half-day out. Cycle them alone or with family and friends. The emphasis is on exploration so don't expect to cycle fast and please give way to pedestrians on shared paths. Please push your bike on any paths where cycling is prohibited, including pavements alongside roads unless signs indicate that cycling is allowed.

Keeping Safe Urban Explorer cycle routes use a combination of off-road paths and quiet roads. Short sections of the route may need to be on busier roads but very busy roads are avoided. Please ensure your bike is roadworthy and that you are comfortable riding on roads of this type. If in doubt consider having some cycle training which will improve your on-road confidence. Details of CTC approved trainers are available at www.ctc.org.uk.

Want to cycle the route with others? Push Bikes organises occasional rides along the routes in these leaflets. To join in, simply turn up at the ride start point with a roadworthy bike. For details of ride dates go to: www.pushbikes.org.uk.

Published by Push Bikes and funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

Designed and produced by Cycling Horizons for Push Bikes. www.cyclinghorizons.co.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED



Birmingham Urban Explorer Cycle Route

2



Cannon Hill Park, City Centre and
University Circular via the Birmingham
& Worcester Canal and Rea Valley Cycle
Route (6 or 10 miles)

Explore your City with this self-guided cycle ride.

Route 2 Cannon Hill Park, City Centre and University Circular Route via the Birmingham & Worcester Canal and Rea Valley Cycle Route

Distance: 6 miles (45-60 minutes) or 10 miles (75-100 minutes)

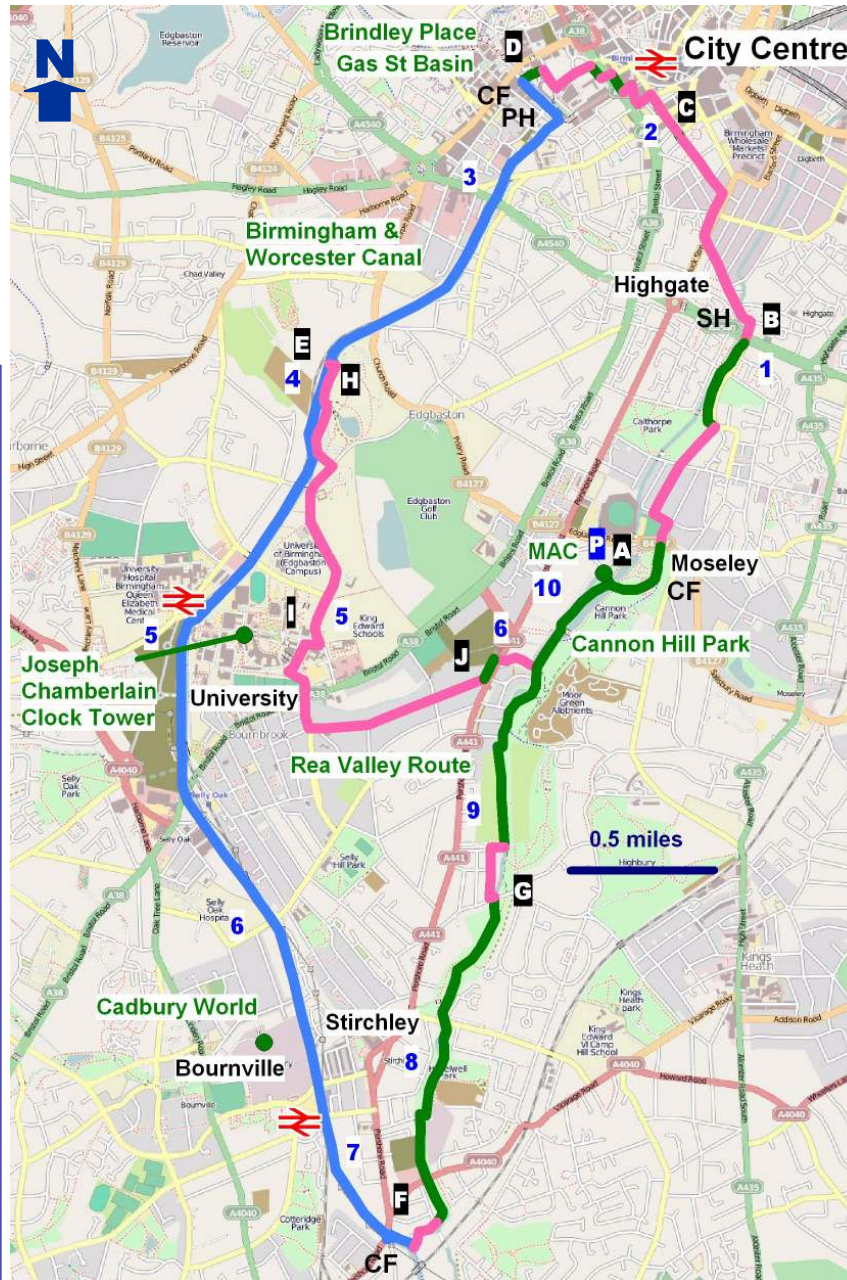
Start: Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park B12 9QH OSGR SP066839.

The Route

A With the **Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)** behind you take the wide path up the hill, between the lakes in **Cannon Hill Park**. Bear left by the **Garden Tea Room** to join the **National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5)** heading out of the park. Follow the signs to the City Centre, crossing the main road into Cannon Hill Rd and then going L, then R, into **Harbury Rd**. Note the individual 'villas' comprising the terrace on the R. Go SO into **Cheddar St**, passing **Calthorpe Park**. At the end join the segregated path to the L of **Clevedon Rd**. Continue across **Balsall Heath Rd**.

B Approaching the **Ring Road**, at the end of the segregated path, re-join the road with care. To cross the **Ring Road** take the centre cycle lane and use the cycle signal phase. Pass through the **Highgate** shopping area, crossing the **River Rea** (note the decorative metalwork commemorating the origins of Birmingham) and following signs to the **City Centre**. At the end of **Gooch St** turn R. At the next traffic signals turn L into **Hurst St**. Continue up **Hurst St** via the contra-flow lane, passing the **Birmingham Back to Backs**, and through the pedestrian area in front of the **Hippodrome** (although the lane stops, contra-flow cycling is permitted by signs, so be aware there may be oncoming traffic).

C At the traffic signals take the centre cycle lane to go SO. Turn first L into **Station St** and follow the road R into **John Bright St**. Go SO into the pedestrianised street. At the pavement circle turn L (signed to NIA/ICC). At the end turn R onto a path running alongside the busy road. At the end of the path cross L under this road and rejoin the path to your R. At the top of the hill turn first L into **Holliday St**. Turn R before the canal bridge into **Bridge St**. Carry SO to visit **Centenary Square**. Otherwise access the **Gas St**



Map base: OpenStreetMap Contributors
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Basin on your L by going down the ramp near the **James Brindley** pub and around the side of the basin, crossing the iron bridge to reach the main towpath of the **Birmingham & Worcester Canal**.

D To visit **Brindley Place** and other **City Centre** attractions turn R. To continue the ride turn L, following the towpath R opposite the **Mailbox**. The canal quickly leaves the City Centre and becomes surprisingly rural, passing after 1 mile through **Edgbaston Tunnel** (105 yards). You will need to walk through this tunnel due to the narrow width. The next bridge gives access to **Birmingham University at The Vale**.

E There is a choice of routes. **Shorter Route via the University:** Continue from point **H**

Longer Route via Bournville: Continue along the canal towpath for another 3.5 miles, passing the **Cadbury** factory (including **Cadbury World**) at **Bournville** on the right.

F At **Pershore Rd** the towpath changes to the other side. To avoid 15 steps bear R and walk over the road bridge. Follow the towpath (canal on R) 200 yards and turn L to follow **National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5)**. Follow NCN5 through the housing, going R and then SO to join the **Rea Valley Cycle Route**. Follow the path, crossing the main road using the toucan.

G At the next road crossing go L then R into **Cecil Rd** and go R then L to rejoin the Rea Valley path. Follow the path and go R across the **River Rea** to re-enter **Cannon Hill Park**. Bear L around the lake to return to the **MAC**.

Shorter Route via the University: **H** Cross the bridge and turn R on to the road through the student village. At the main road (**Edgbaston Park Rd**) turn R and follow the road to the **East Gate** of **Birmingham University**. Look out for the 325 foot tall **Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Clock Tower** built in 1908.

I Turn R into the university, first L and then L again to reach the South Gate. Cross the road at the signals into **Bournbrook Rd**. Follow the road around to the L into **Oakfield Rd**.

J Go SO at the crossroads and at the end of the road turn L to join the shared-use path to the pelican crossing. Cross into the access road to **Cannon Hill Park**. Turn L and bear first L around the lake to return to the **MAC**.