



FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF OUT AND THE ADVOCATE
outtraveler.com
THE STANDARD OF GAY TRAVEL

Gay and Narrow

Words and Pictured by

Richard Hill

May/June 2005 page 20

Gay and Narrow

"There is absolutely nothing half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats," beamed Ratty from Kenneth Grahame's 1908 classic *The Wind in the Willows*. Today, Michael and Peter, a couple who run the Exclusively Gay Cruising Company, are "messing about" all over England and Wales, steering clients around Britain's 2,000-mile system of inland canals on a pair of refurbished 72-foot-long-by-7-foot-wide traditional English narrow boats. "We don't style ourselves as a gay hotel," says Michael, "We style ourselves as a gay holiday...a weeklong house party rather than a hotel." The boat is fitted with two double bed cabins and one twin bed cabin, all en suite with a full-sized



shower, wash basin, and flushing toilet. The routes, some of which include visits to gay pubs in Manchester and Birmingham, are designed to begin and end within easy reach of a railway station. Three- or six-night cruises (\$643 and \$1,027 respectively) depart from over a dozen towns throughout the year. For more information call 011-44-161-367-0055 or visit www.outtraveler.com.

—Richard Hill

Gayboats Website: www.gayboats.co.uk