

## LIVING ABOARD A NARROWBOAT



### HELLO

My name is Sarah and up until fairly recently I worked as a Physiotherapist at St Richard's Hospice. This top photo was taken while we were on holiday on a narrowboat. It was a gloriously evening, the birds were

chirping, the water was gently lapping, the wine was flowing... 'Let's get away from it all and live on a boat', I blithely said. It had always been our dream to travel the inland waterways. Four months later we had sold the house, packed all our worldly goods into storage and were living on a 69 foot narrowboat!

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## Things I love about living on a narrowboat



I am a true nature lover and living on the water affords me a wonderful feeling of being immersed in nature. Every day can have a new view, you get to see all manner of wildlife; water fowl, birds of prey, water voles, foxes, wild orchids, bulrushes etc. and from the boat it feels like you are part of nature. Additionally I get to visit interesting towns and cities as we travel along.

## Challenges faced living on a narrowboat



Storage is always going to be difficult on a 6ft 4 wide space. We have become quite ingenious and have to be reasonably tidy but there is definitely a limit to how much 'stuff' you can have.

Facilities on board are basic. We have flushing toilets, a shower and a washing machine but the toilet tanks need pumping out every 2-3 weeks. The water tank needs filling every 2 weeks. Rubbish needs to be appropriately disposed of and we need to get diesel and gas bottles regularly. This all requires a bit of planning ahead as the canal and river trust only provide facilities for these at certain points on the canal and they can be few and far between.

**That said it's a wonderful life and for the next year or two we are looking forward to completing our goal of seeing as much of the waterways as we can.**

**My advice to anyone would be to not put things off and to spend as much time as possible doing things you love.**