

# Photography on the canal

Great ways to capture your  
local canal or river



Canal &  
River Trust

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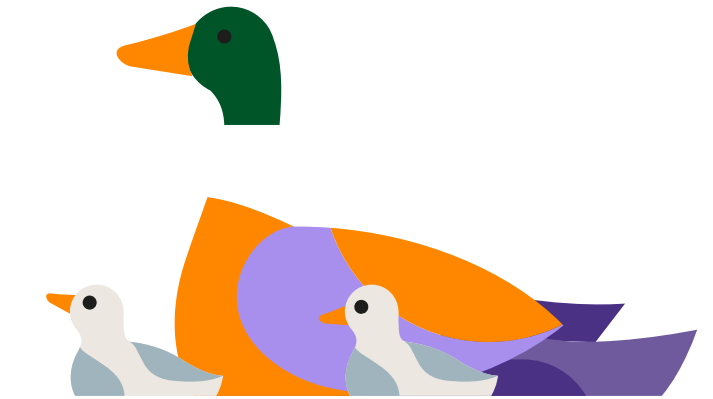
The canal network brings nature and wildlife into our towns and cities. They're home to herons, dragonflies, water voles and bats – to name just a few that call canals their home and have adopted canals as their own.

Canals are interesting places where heritage, wildlife and people come together and the perfect setting for shutterbug and budding photographers. Regardless of the season, you'll have plenty of opportunity to snap photos that perfectly capture the beauty of canals, with stunning natural backdrops to add more context to your photos.

With over 2,000 miles of urban and rural locations, you won't be short on destinations to visit and practise your photography skills.



# Wildlife photography



Our canals and rivers are home to a wide range of trees, plants, mammals, fish and plenty of other forms of life, giving you a variety of subjects and themes to explore through the lens.



**Mallards**



**Kingfisher**



**Water Vole**



**Heron**

# Wildlife photography tips

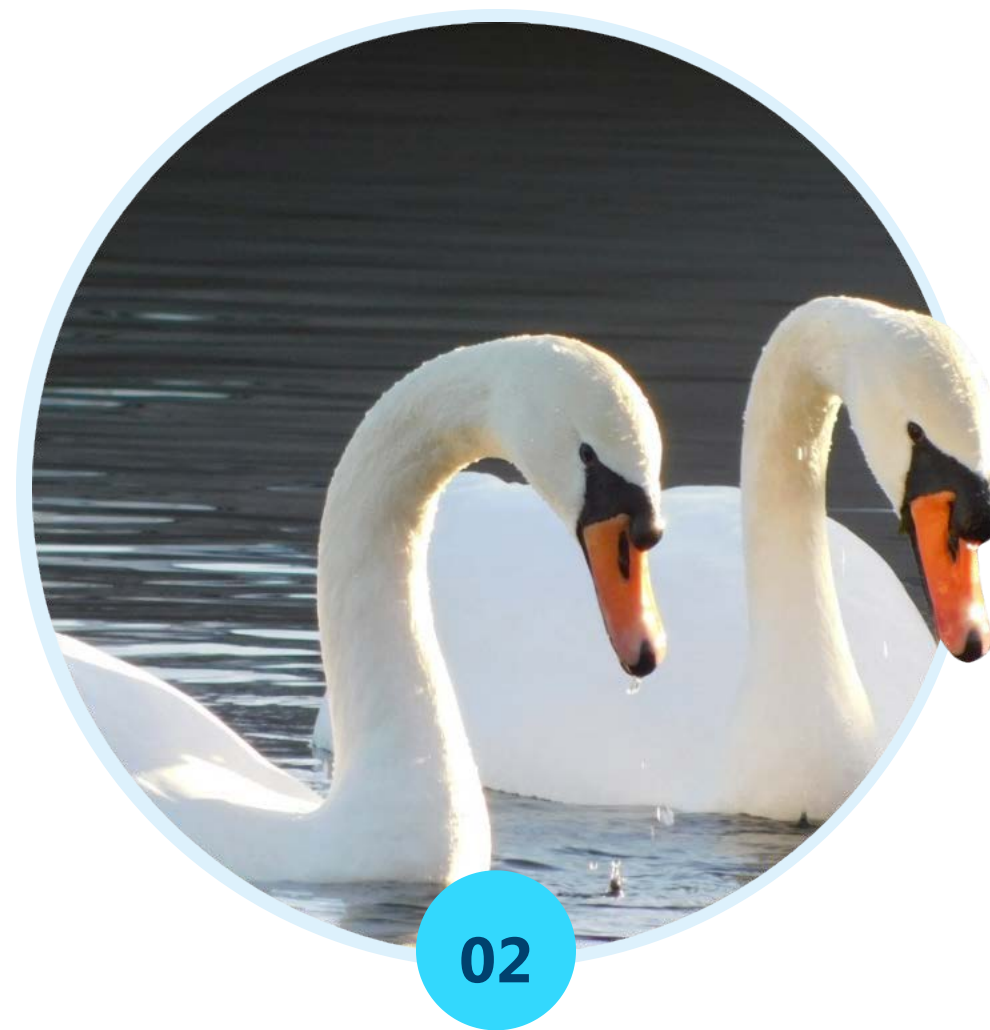
Four tips on how to achieve the best wildlife shots.



01

## Tools

Know your gear and make sure you have all the tools you need.



02

## Animals

Learn about the animals you'll be taking photos of.



03

## Technique

Get the timing and the lighting right.



04

## Training

Learn the guidelines on wildlife photography.

# Reflection photography

Our canals provide the perfect setting for reflection photography and the changing seasons enable you to capture atmospheric and changing imagery.



**Nottingham & Beeston Canal**



**Kennet & Avon Canal**



**Burnley, Leeds & Liverpool Canal**

# Reflection tips

Tips on how to achieve the best reflection shots.

Learn more about how reflections in canals and rivers can lead to some of the most incredible shots.

- 01 Use a small aperture to ensure a large portion of the photo will be in focus.
- 02 Find the right lens that will allow you to shoot at a small aperture/ large f-stop setting.
- 03 Use a fast shutter speed as it will minimise the blurring from any ripples or movement in the water.
- 04 Avoid shooting when the sun is really bright – water reflection photos look best early or late in the day when the sun is lower in the sky.



# There's always more to learn

Seek helpful information on wildlife photography.

Photographers are urged against getting too close to animals - so always keep your distance and do not directly approach them.

## 01 Wildlife knowledge

Choose a subject and stick to it.  
Understand your subjects. How they move, where they live, how they behave.

## 02 Patience and solitude

Having plenty of patience to play the waiting game is essential. You could be waiting hours, even days, until the animal appears and you get your shot.

## 03 Camera skills

Many animals move very quickly with very little notice, while others only come out at night. Experiment with your camera's settings - shutter speed, aperture and ISO - so you find your own style and learn what best suits your subject and setting.



# Sunset photography



Some of the key shots to look out for.

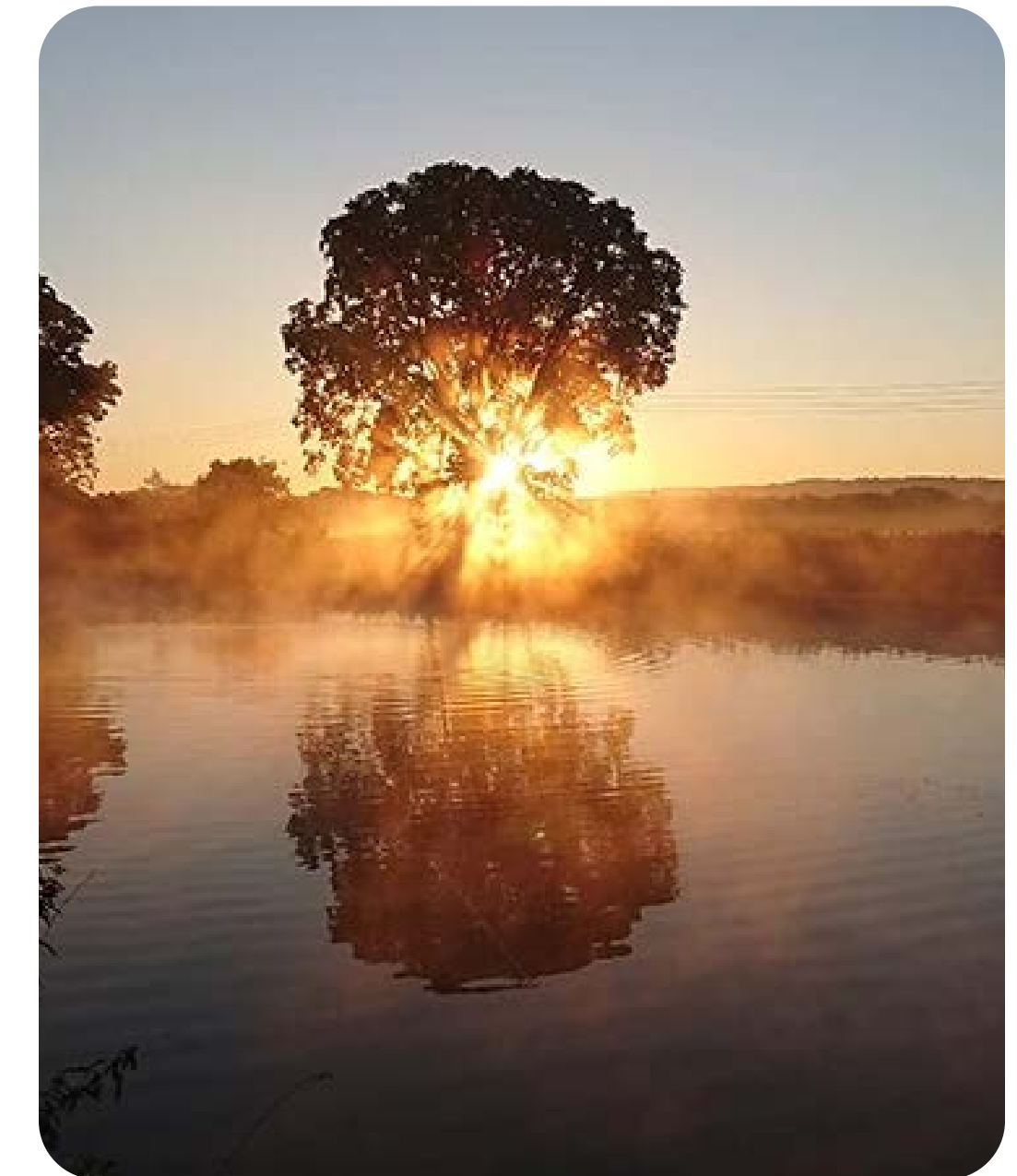
Sunsets and sunrises on our canals are truly breath-taking, so be sure to make the most of these when taking your photos on our waterways.



**Llangollen Canal**



**Kennet & Avon Canal**

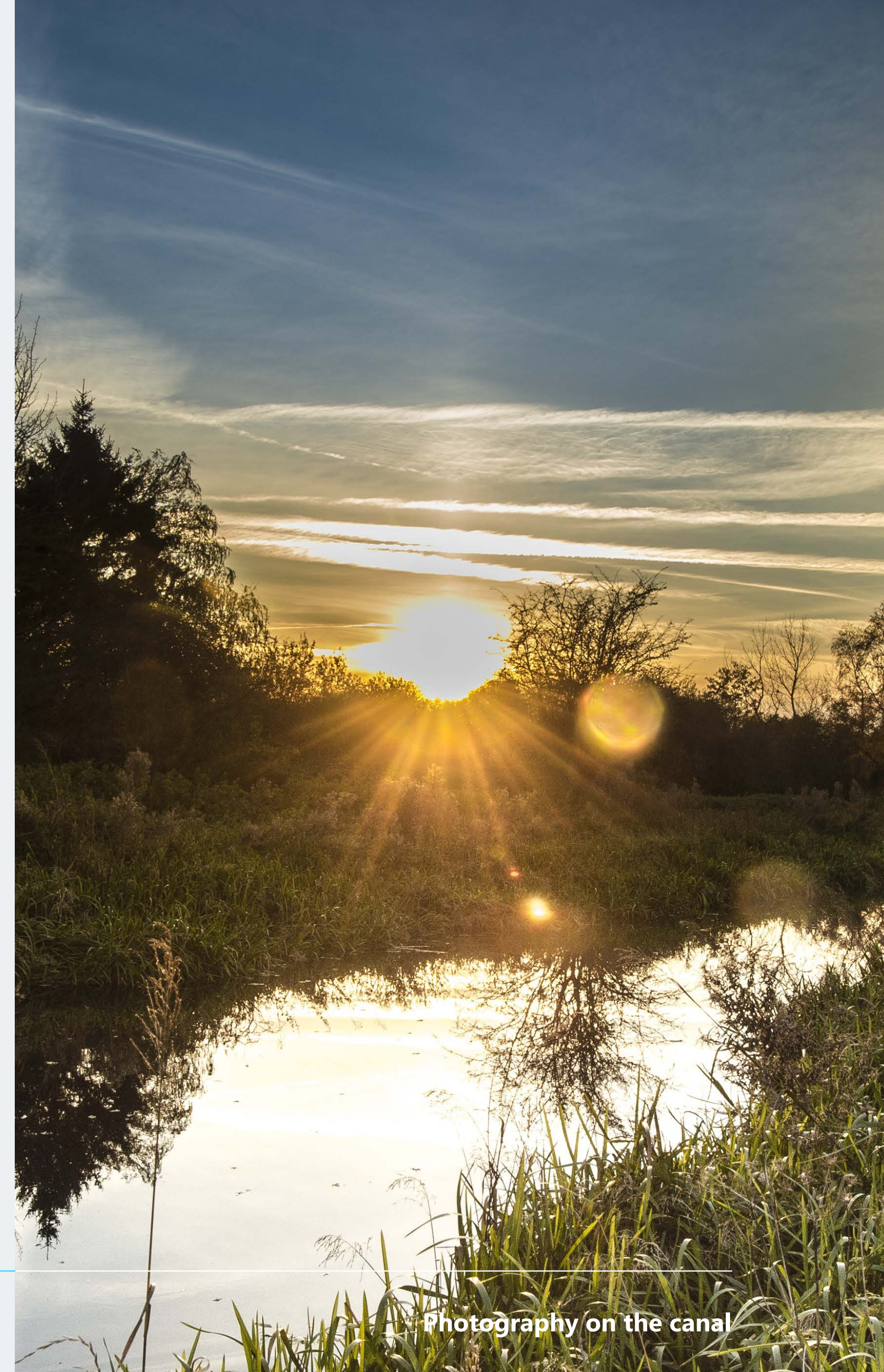


**Gloucester & Sharpness Canal**

# Sunset tips

Tips on how to achieve the best sunset shots on the canal.

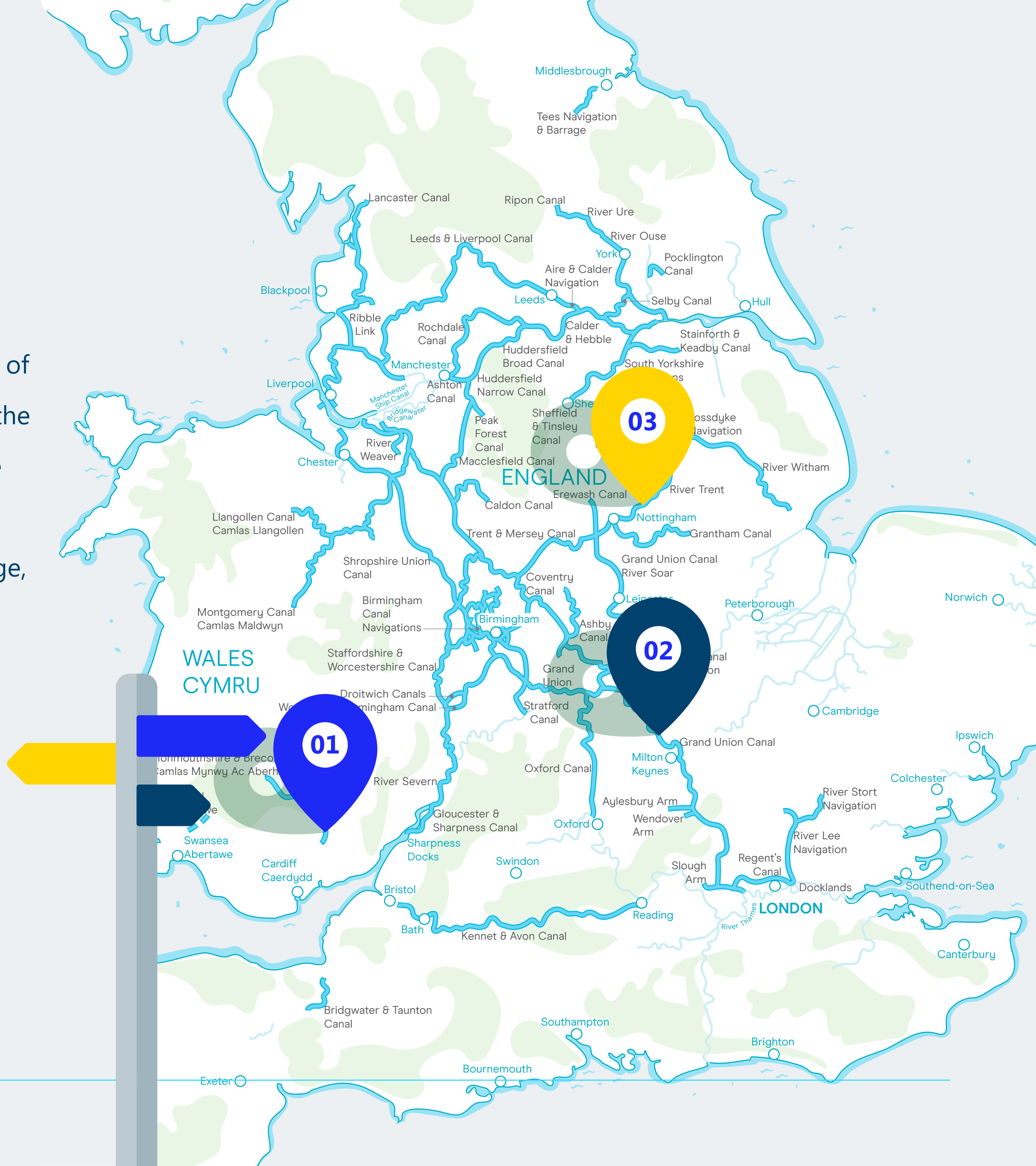
- 01 Choose a low to mid-range ISO setting to help you capture a high-quality image.
- 02 Pick the right shutter speed to give you proper level of exposure.
- 03 Take several pictures exposed above and below what your camera suggests to try and get the best exposure as the natural lighting changes.
- 04 Expand your focus, step back and include more elements like trees in your photos.



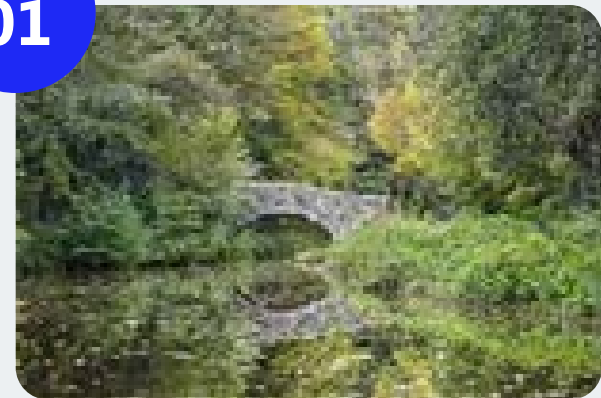
# Places to shoot

## How to get the best out of photographing your local canal or river.

Regardless of our locations and where exactly you set up, you can make the most of our canals and their surroundings to capture the most remarkable photos. Make the most of the seasonal colours and lighting, reflections of the water, various wildlife and much more. Some of our iconic locations to photograph include Royal Albert Dock and Liverpool Canal Link, Aldermaston Wharf, Blisworth Tunnel, Consall Forge, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Bingley Five Rise and many more.



01



**Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**

02



**Grand Union Canal**

03



**Nottingham & Beeston Canal**

# Focus on - Kennet & Avon Canal

The Kennet & Avon Canal is a favourite among many people and is home to the beautiful Devizes Wharf. There's certainly plenty to see and explore, from the Caen Hill Locks to the Devizes Wharf Trail. Take photographs of the ducks and swans gliding along the water and take unforgettable shots of the Devizes Wharf Trail, a route filled with plenty of historic and picturesque spots.



## Devizes Wharf

A site filled with history and medieval charm. Standing on the banks of the Kennet & Avon canal.



## Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum

This canal-side museum is filled with fascinating stories about the delightful waterway.



## Café

Stop off along the way and take a break at the cafe and soak up the picturesque surroundings.





# Focus on - Lune Aqueduct

The Lune Aqueduct is a masterpiece of civil engineering and is over 200 metres long, carrying the Lancaster Canal above the River Lune. Constructed in 1797, this aqueduct consists of five 21 metre semi-circular arches that provide stunning, picture-postcard views across the Lune Valley in Lancashire, perfect for taking some truly spectacular photographs. There's also the newly created River Lune Millennium Park with walks, cycle trails and more to explore and capture. Don't forget to snap all the different wildlife you can find on the River Lune and Lune Aqueduct from tiny stoneflies, newts and bats to the majestic swans.



## River Lune

This magical stretch of river flows through Cumbria and Lancashire and is quite popular among those who enjoy paddling, canoeing and more.



## Lune Millennium Cycleway

This cycle path stretches along the River Lune for 9 miles and is a great way to explore the river whilst taking photos.



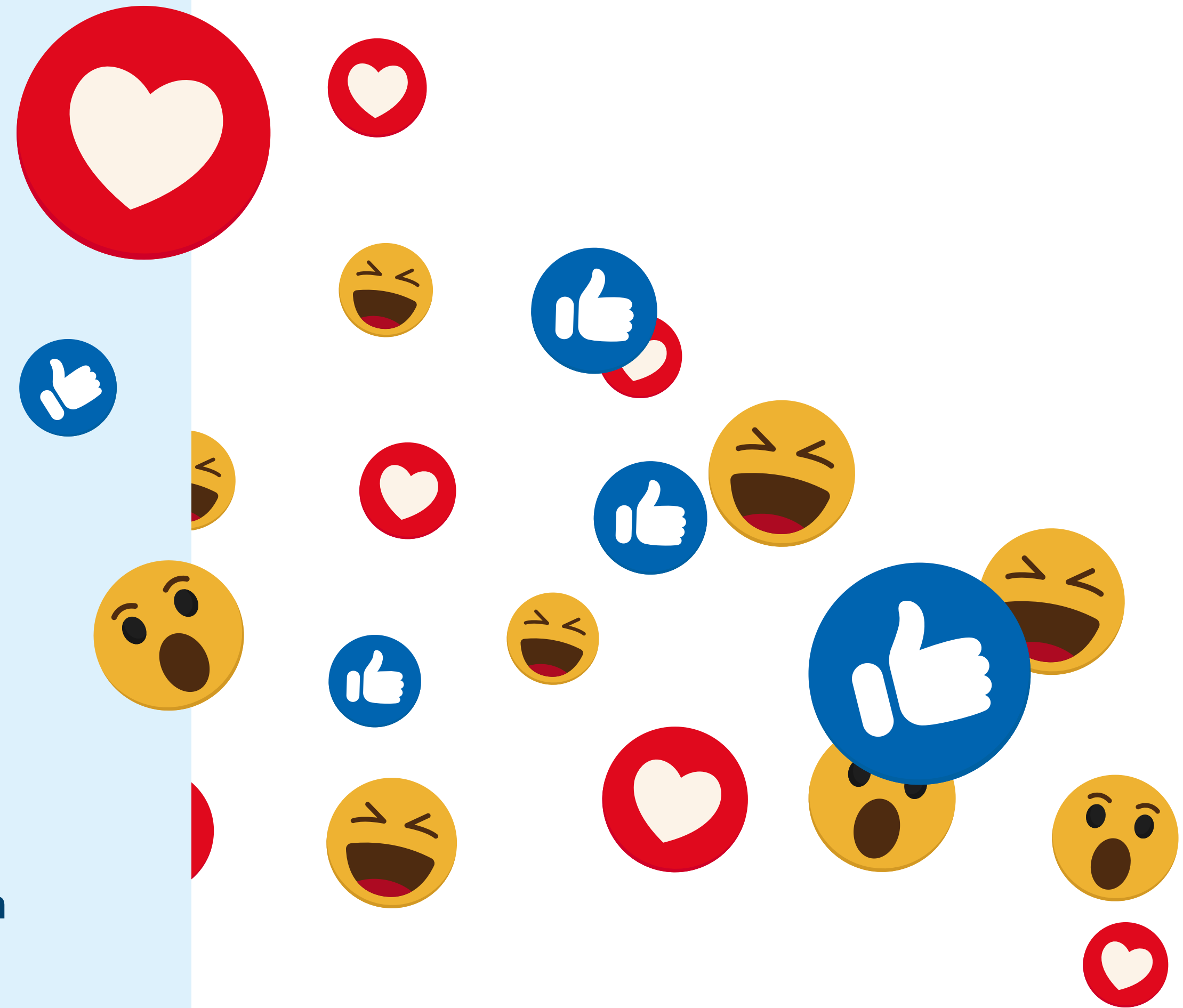
## Café

Take stock at a cafe close by or get the camera out a busier shot

# Getting the best out of social

Tips on how to make the most of social media.

- 01 Format content specifically for each platform.
- 02 Explain the story behind your photos in your captions.
- 03 Learn what your audience likes between different platforms.
- 04 Use relevant hashtags for your photos for better reach.
- 03 Aim for quality content rather than quantity of posts.
- 04 Vary your content types, e.g. photos, videos, and stories when you're shooting.

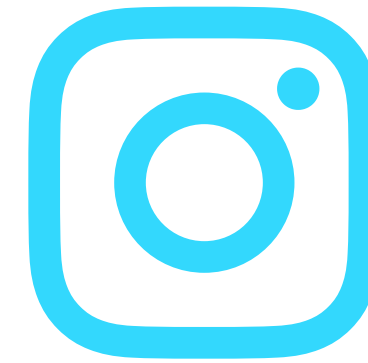


# Social algorithm

**A brief overview of how the algorithm works on different platforms to get the most out of your posts.**

Each social media platform, from Facebook to TikTok, works a little differently and they're always changing. Users all interact differently depending on what they like, but making sure your photos are formatted for the platform and changing the caption or hashtags that go with it can really help.

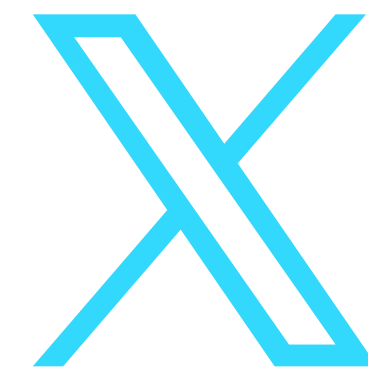
For example, on Instagram, aim for a square or portrait image, the higher quality the better. Hashtags may get you in front of a brand new audience here but it's also about engaging with other accounts and getting your page in front of people – tap into the community!



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## Instagram

Instagram is a popular social mobile app that is focused on sharing images and video.



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## X

X is an online micro-blogging platform that enables you to post short updates with images and videos attached.



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## Facebook

Facebook is a platform for sharing every kind of content, from articles and adverts to live video, memes and more.



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## Pinterest

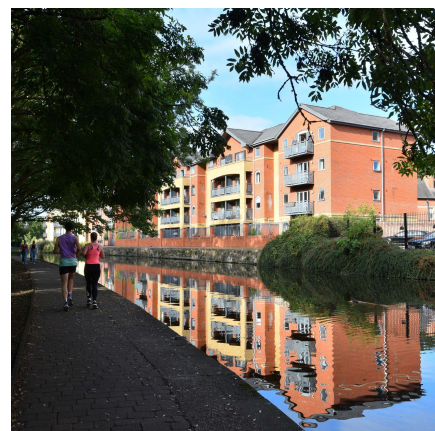
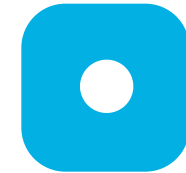
Pinterest is an online site where you can save (pin) and organise images and videos into different groupings called boards.

# Quiz

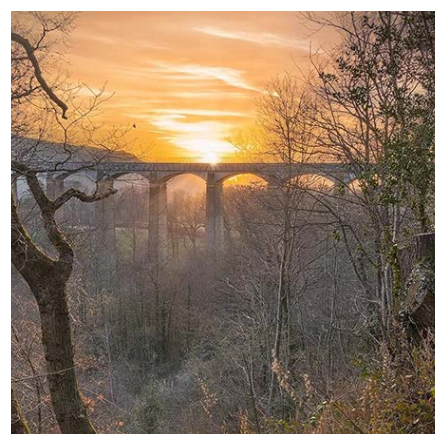
Let's see how much you've learned from our photography advice and tips. Match the tip to the specific area and type of photography it's related to.



**Wildlife photography**



**Reflection photography**



**Sunset photography**



**Get to know the wildlife of your focus**



**Be prepared to wait for the right moment**



**Avoid midday sun**



**Find the right angle**



**Plan ahead for the best shots**



**Experiment with different lengths and exposures**



# Life's better by water

Canal & River Trust has great newsletters that can regularly give you ideas for new places to visit and practice your new photography skills.

Sign up at [canalrivertrust.org.uk/newsletter](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/newsletter)

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