

About The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust

The Trust was established in 1995 to promote the development of a broad waterway linking the River Great Ouse to the Grand Union Canal - to create Britain's first major new waterway in a century. Now part of a much expanded waterway park concept, it will provide amenities and opportunities for communities at the heart of the Oxford/ Milton Keynes/Cambridge Arc - a key location for housing and economic growth.

The Waterway Park will provide the green/blue corridor linking new and existing communities, creating a unique sense of identity and offering a wide range of health and recreational activities. It also has the potential to boost the local economy through new tourism-related jobs and additional spending in the area, as well as environmental benefits such as flood prevention. The project is supported by a consortium of local authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership, navigation authorities and charities, including the Trust, whose role is to act as an advocate and mobilise support at all levels for the project.

Cruise & Learn

aboard the

John Bunyan Community Boat

bmk
Waterway Park



John Bunyan Boat



@johnbunyanboat

@johnbunyanboat

The John Bunyan

The John Bunyan Boat offers schools, colleges and youth groups a variety of cruises in a unique education friendly environment. A cruise provides the opportunity for teachers to integrate a lesson plan based around such topics as nature, the environment, history, geography, commerce, waterways, transportation, etc. into a real-world experience. For the younger children it can be a gentle introduction to boats, rivers and the local wildlife. We are able to provide a third party 'educator'. Some of those that we have worked with previously can be found on the separate Cruise Extras sheet. You may also like to consider combining a visit to the John Bunyan Museum with your cruise.

We are a 'Verified Provider' in The Culture Challenge scheme run by Bedford Creative Arts.

The John Bunyan team believe that the key to a successful cruise is planning and for our customers to discuss their requirements with us well before the event. We will endeavour to meet these requirements subject to the practicalities of the cruising environment.

We look forward to welcoming you and your group aboard during the season.

Cruises

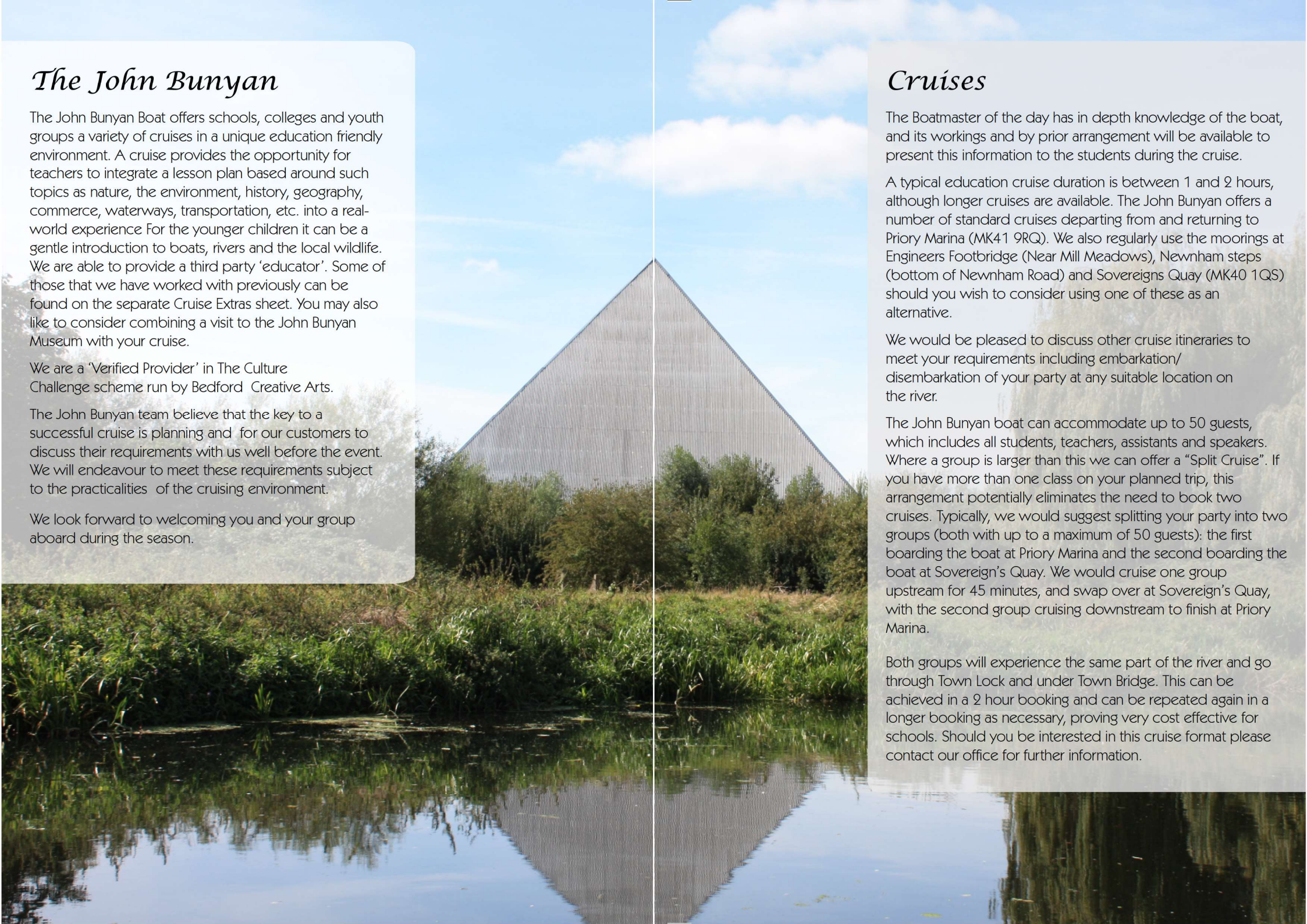
The Boatmaster of the day has in depth knowledge of the boat, and its workings and by prior arrangement will be available to present this information to the students during the cruise.

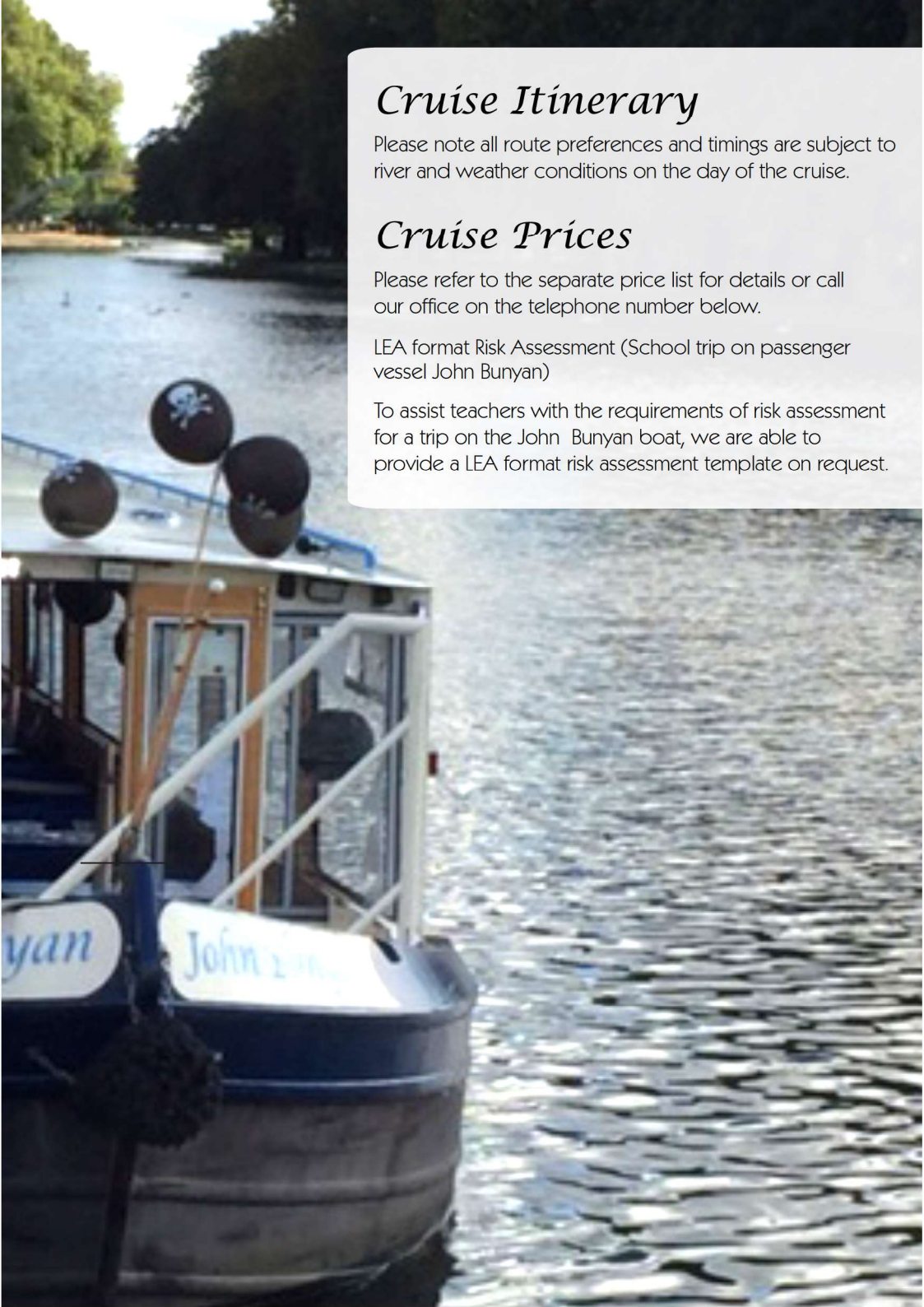
A typical education cruise duration is between 1 and 2 hours, although longer cruises are available. The John Bunyan offers a number of standard cruises departing from and returning to Priory Marina (MK41 9RQ). We also regularly use the moorings at Engineers Footbridge (Near Mill Meadows), Newnham steps (bottom of Newnham Road) and Sovereigns Quay (MK40 1QS) should you wish to consider using one of these as an alternative.

We would be pleased to discuss other cruise itineraries to meet your requirements including embarkation/disembarkation of your party at any suitable location on the river.

The John Bunyan boat can accommodate up to 50 guests, which includes all students, teachers, assistants and speakers. Where a group is larger than this we can offer a "Split Cruise". If you have more than one class on your planned trip, this arrangement potentially eliminates the need to book two cruises. Typically, we would suggest splitting your party into two groups (both with up to a maximum of 50 guests): the first boarding the boat at Priory Marina and the second boarding the boat at Sovereign's Quay. We would cruise one group upstream for 45 minutes, and swap over at Sovereign's Quay, with the second group cruising downstream to finish at Priory Marina.

Both groups will experience the same part of the river and go through Town Lock and under Town Bridge. This can be achieved in a 2 hour booking and can be repeated again in a longer booking as necessary, proving very cost effective for schools. Should you be interested in this cruise format please contact our office for further information.





Cruise Itinerary

Please note all route preferences and timings are subject to river and weather conditions on the day of the cruise.

Cruise Prices

Please refer to the separate price list for details or call our office on the telephone number below.

LEA format Risk Assessment (School trip on passenger vessel John Bunyan)

To assist teachers with the requirements of risk assessment for a trip on the John Bunyan boat, we are able to provide a LEA format risk assessment template on request.

Cabin Facilities

The cabin is light and airy with panoramic windows and there is a small fore-deck that students/teachers are free to access during the cruise. The cabin provides a flexible space and we have a variety of standard layouts that we are able to provide, including a group based layout or a more formal forward-facing seating arrangement. You may also wish for a custom layout of your choosing, which our team would be pleased to assist you with.

We would suggest that students bring a small notebook (ideally A5) and pens should they wish to make notes and/or draw things they may see on the trip.

THE JOHN BUNYAN BOAT HAS:

- a bar & café facility with hot and cold catering available
- an inbuilt audio system with microphone to provide cabin wide coverage
- an access lift for those with limited mobility/wheelchair access¹
- a toilet wide enough to accommodate a medium-sized wheelchair¹.
- A small souvenir section should the students wish to purchase a small reminder of the trip.

¹ Dimensions: 1190mm x 900mm, max weight 200kg. It is important that a helper is present to assist those needing to take advantage of this facility. The John Bunyan Boat can carry a total of four wheelchairs at a time; each wheelchair counts as four passengers.

Catering

The boat has a small galley on board that is able to provide tea, coffee, soft drinks, fresh water and snacks (crisps, peanuts, biscuits etc.) to the staff and students at an agreed time during the cruise.

Should you require something different for your cruise please discuss your requirements with the team.

The John Bunyan Boat has been awarded a food hygiene rating of 5 (Very Good) by the Food Standards Agency.

Please note that we have a strict 'No Glass' policy on board; all drinks are served in suitable alternatives.

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Contact us

If you wish to discuss your event with us, obtain further details, or explore other cruises that the John Bunyan Boat offers, contact a member of the team on one of the options below and they will be pleased to assist you.



03301 239 511



charters@johnbunyanboat.org



www.johnbunyanboat.org



Postal Address: Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd, The Old Chandlery, Priory Marina, Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9DJ

The John Bunyan Boat is operated by Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd on behalf of: Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, Registered Charity no. 1114294.