

Private Hire of the John Bunyan Boat

The John Bunyan offers a unique venue to impress your guests with a private river cruise. It's the perfect venue for any occasion, including wedding drinks receptions, birthdays, anniversaries, school, college, and youth group trips, club outings, corporate functions, meetings with a difference, and more. Visit our website for our Charter and Wedding Event brochures: www.johnbunyanboat.org

School, College and Youth Groups

The John Bunyan Boat offers an ideal opportunity to explore the natural environment, learn about the history, geography, and landmarks in and around Bedford. For more information and pricing, please refer to the Education Experience brochure.



Voluntary and Charity Organisations

We welcome charter bookings from voluntary groups and offer a discount to registered charities and voluntary organisations. Many smaller community organisations and care homes find this an ideal solution to meet their needs.



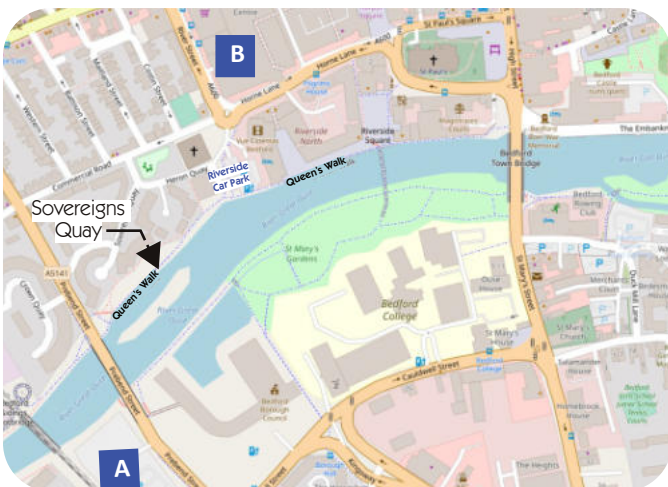
Image courtesy of Gill Prince Photography

Car Parking information

Nearest Car Parks to Sovereigns Quay are

- A** Prebend street surface car park
- B** River Street multi-storey car park

Also additional multi-storey car parks at the Harpur Centre. See website for additional car parking information.



Guests are kindly requested to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure times. Please note that all cruise times are approximate and subject to change based on river conditions. In the event of high river water levels, we reserve the right to reroute, limit passenger numbers, or cancel the cruise. Alternative dates or refunds will be provided as necessary.

Comprehensive details of our terms and conditions are available on our website. Prior to embarkation, please verify weather and river condition updates on our website. Online bookings close 72 hours prior to the commencement of the cruise.

Passengers are prohibited from consuming their own alcoholic beverages or food on board public cruises.

The John Bunyan Community Boat is equipped with a lift for non-electric wheelchairs and individuals with limited mobility. It is imperative that a helper be present to assist those utilising this facility. The lift platform dimensions are 1190mm x 900mm, and its maximum weight capacity is 200Kg (including the wheelchair and passenger).

After your cruise why not leave us a review on TripAdvisor or Facebook and share your experience with others. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates, competitions and all the latest news from the John Bunyan Boat team!

About the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust



The ticket sales from John Bunyan and Electra Community Boats help The Bedford & Milton Keynes Trust promote the creation of a new waterway park link between Bedford & Milton Keynes.

The Waterway Park will offer new recreational and leisure opportunities, both on and near the water. It will feature accessible footpaths and cycle paths, providing safe, accessible, and traffic-free routes that connect villages and communities along the route.

Whether you're a boater, enjoy fishing, cycling, walking, horse riding, or simply relaxing, the Waterway Park will cater to everyone's interests. Beyond its recreational benefits, the Waterway Park will also bring a wider range of advantages, including creating an ecological corridor for wildlife and offering engineering solutions for improved water management and reduced flooding risks in the local area.

Regionally, it will serve as the missing link between the Grand Union and the Great River Ouse, connecting the canals of the Midlands to the waterways of East Anglia.

Donations for the BMK Waterway Park

The John Bunyan community boat is operated by dedicated volunteer crew helping to keep low ticket prices and raise funds for the Waterway Park. There are opportunities to donate on board the John Bunyan by cash or card including when paying for refreshments or at time of purchasing your ticket or the donate menu option on the website.

Electra Community Boat See Milton Keynes from the water!

Glide peacefully along the Grand Union canal on Electra, the Trust's all-electric, accessible narrowboat that accommodates up to 12 guests. Public trips offer a variety of enticing Food Cruises, such as cream tea, coffee, and cake, fish and bubbles. Additionally, there are Chill-out Cruises, Trail & Sail Cruises that combine a walk with a cruise, pub lunch cruises, and half-day lunch cruises. Alternatively, you can have Electra all to yourself with a private charter booking. Catering options are available. Book online at www.bmkwaterway.org/electra

John Bunyan Boat

The John Bunyan Community Boat is run by Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprise Limited on behalf of Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust. Working to create a new waterway park between Bedford & Milton Keynes.

The John Bunyan Community Boat, which is based at Priory Marina Bedford, has taken over 65,000 guests since it started operating in 2013. It is licensed by the MCA to carry up to 50 guests and offers a variety of public cruises and private charters, including: Morning, Afternoon Cruises with Cream Teas, Fish & Chip, Irish Music evenings, and Motown Music Cruises, just to name a few.

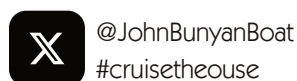


Contact us

contact@johnbunyanboat.org
www.johnbunyanboat.org
Postal Address: John Bunyan Boat
The Old Chandlery, Priory Marina,
Priory Country Park,
Barkers Lane, Bedford, MK41 9DJ



Charter & Public Group Booking line: 07861 620 520



Partners:



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



Would you like to join our team?

You don't require any previous experience, as we provide training. We just ask that you commit to 2-3 sessions a month. If you want to gain experience, or have skills you think we could use, please get in touch!

By emailing volunteering@johnbunyanboat.org

We are always looking for:

Boat Crew:

- Cabin crew to set the cabin ready for a cruise, chat to customers and serve refreshments.
- Deck crew to assist with mooring, locking, keeping lookout and ensuring passenger safety.
- Helms with experience of handling river and/or canal boats.
- Crew to train to become a Boat Masters, or Boat Master with a current MCA licence.

Land Crew:

- Commercial, Social Media and Marketing team members to engage with potential customers securing charter and public speciality cruises or helping at public events.
- Maintenance and cleaning crews to keep the John Bunyan in great shape.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard!




Cruise the Great Ouse with John Bunyan Community Boat 2026 Cruise Guide



Book Online:
www.johnbunyanboat.org

Daytime Cruises

1 Sunday Afternoon Cruises Priory Marina to Kempston and return.

1.30pm departure for a 4 hour cruise from Priory Marina. Relax and cruise through picturesque pastures to discover Bedford from the Great River Ouse. Arrive at Sovereigns Quay before continuing towards Kempston as route 1a below. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets: Adult £30, Child £18

1a Sovereigns Quay to Kempston return

2.30pm departure for a 2 hour cruise from Sovereigns Quay. Cruise upriver passing the Guru Nanak Gurdwara towards Kempston Mill before returning. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets: Adult £20, Child £12

2 Thursday Afternoon Cruise Sovereigns Quay to Cardington and return

2.30pm departure for 2 hour cruise from Sovereign Quay. Cruise along the Embankment and the tranquil lower river towards Cardington Lock, turning at the Kingfisher Riverside Pub. Tickets: Adult £20, Child £12.00

Lunch & Afternoon Tea Cruises Departing Priory Marina

3K The Kingfisher Hotel Afternoon Tea Cruise

2.00pm departure for a short cruise to Kingfisher Pub, disembarking to enjoy a traditional afternoon tea, before taking a relaxing cruise through Bedford. Returning to Priory Marina for approx. 6.00pm. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £44 per person.



4 Fish & Chip Lunch Cruise

12.00pm departure for a 2.5 hour cruise from Priory Marina and enjoy your fish & chip lunch on board (chicken & chips, vegetable pancake & chips are also available). Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £35.50 per person.

5 Anchor Lunch Cruise

10.00am departure for a 3 hour relaxing cruise to The Anchor Inn at Great Barford to enjoy a buffet lunch, perfect for a special occasion, followed by 3pm return by coach to Priory Marina. Tickets include cruise, lunch & coach £56.00 per person. Also available in reverse.



6 Cream Tea Cruise

2.00pm departure for a 2 hour cruise from Priory Marina. Treat yourself to a leisurely cruise with a cream tea served to your table. Experience a different view of Bedford's Tranquil countryside and The Embankment. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets: Adult £30, Child £22.50

Sovereigns Quay: MK40 1NY - Between Riverside car park and County Bridge. Nearest Surface Car Park is Prebend Street (see overleaf) - cross the road and County river bridge, turn right and walk down along the Embankment (Queen's Walk) to Sovereigns Quay Moorings. Wait by the John Bunyan notice board. Alternative car parking in the multi-storey car park on River Street.

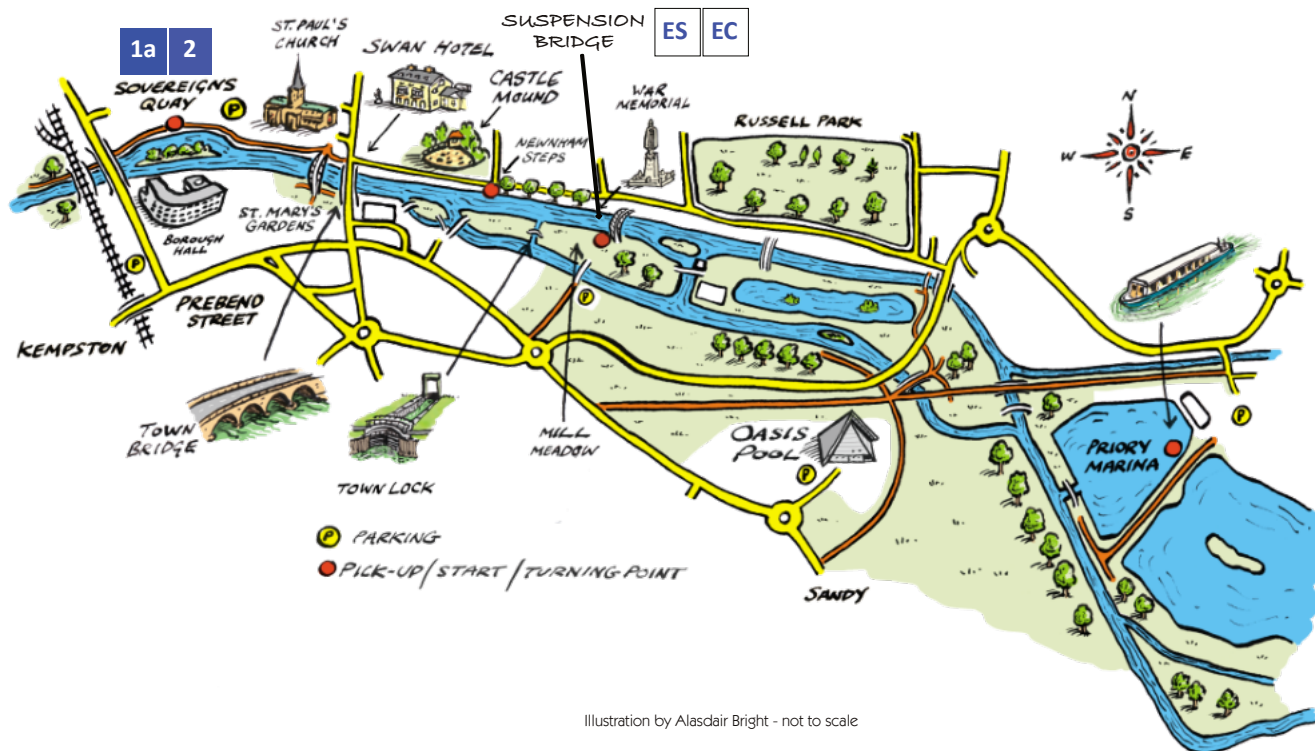


Illustration by Alasdair Bright - not to scale

1 3K 4 5 6 11 BW

Priory Marina: Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9DJ. Signed car parking spaces are at rear of the Premier Inn/Beefeater. Please wait outside Priory Marina main gates off the road, by the blue John Bunyan Boat notice board, ready to be escorted to the mooring by one of the crew.

Kingfisher Pub

7 8 9 10

Evening Music Cruises

Departing Kingfisher Pub Landing Stage

7.30pm departure for a 2 hour cruise along the Embankment. Make the most of your evening with dinner at the Kingfisher Pub before your cruise. See website for details.

7 Jazz Music Cruise

Join our on-board Jazz line-up for a lovely evening on the beautiful Great River Ouse. See website for details of artists. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £36 per person.

8 Irish Music Cruise

Featuring Inis Eire for a lively evening cruising on the beautiful River Great Ouse. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £36 per person.

9 Motown and Soul Music Cruise

Dance the evening away as we cruise along the Embankment, featuring DJ Keith Stewart. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £29.50 per person.

10 Seventies Music Cruise New

Dance the evening away to Seventies music as we cruise along the Embankment, featuring DJ Keith Stewart. Licensed bar on-board. Tickets £29.50 per person.



Evening Supper River Cruise

Departing from Priory Marina

11 Fish & Chip Supper Cruise

6.00pm departure for a 2.5 hour cruise from Priory Marina. Relax on the river as the sun goes down and enjoy your fish & chip supper on board (chicken & chips, vegetable pancake & chips are also available). Licensed bar on-board. Tickets: Adult £35.50, Child £23

John Bunyan Promotional Discounts

See our website for promotional discounts for the early season April & May cruises and promotions at other times of the year.

Short Family Cruises

ES EyeSpy Cruises Suspension Bridge & Mill Meadow

45 min cruise departing: 12.00pm, 1.30pm & 3.00pm. Refreshments available on-board. Tickets available booking in advance and onboard on the day. Tickets: Adult £10, Child £6.50

EC Explore Bedford Cruise New Priory Marina to Suspension Bridge

1:00pm departure for 45 min cruise to Suspension Bridge. Disembark with time to explore Bedford's history (John Bunyan, Panacea, or Higgins Museum), guided walk or just relax in Mill Meadow. Before departing at 5.15pm for Priory Marina. Licensed Bar on-board. Tickets Adult £15.15, Child £10

Special Event Cruises

See our website for information and booking cruises on our special event days.

RF 18th - 19th July - Bedford River Festival (Tickets available at event, see Website for more information)

BW 12th Sept Bedford Autumn Walking Festival, guided walk to Great Barford, return by John Bunyan Boat. (see Website for details)

All Tickets can be transferred to a different cruise or you can request a refund up to 14 days before a cruise. All ticket prices shown are the maximum price, includes FareHarbor online booking fee, excluding any additional food options which may be available at time of booking.

John Bunyan public cruise are generally seated in tables of 4. If your party is an odd number or less than 4 you will be obliged to share a table with other passengers.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
April			1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
	6 th ES	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
	20 th	21 st	22 nd 3K	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
May	4 th 6	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th 7	15 th	16 th	17 th
	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st 4	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
	25 th ES	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st 1 1a
June	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th 4	5 th	6 th	7 th
	8 th	9 th	10 th 3K	11 th 4	12 th	13 th	14 th 6
	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st 1 1a
	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th 9	26 th	27 th 11	28 th
July	29 th	30 th	1 st 5	2 nd	3 rd	4 th 11	5 th 6
	6 th	7 th	8 th 3K	9 th	10 th	11 th 11	12 th
	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th RF	19 th RF
	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd 8	24 th	25 th	26 th
	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th EC 2	31 st	1 st	2 nd
August	3 rd	4 th ES	5 th 5	6 th	7 th	8 th 11	9 th
	10 th	11 th ES	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th 1 1a
	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th 8	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th EC 2	28 th	29 th	30 th
September	31 st ES	1 st	2 nd 5	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th BW	13 th
	14 th	15 th	16 th 3K	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th
	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th 9	25 th	26 th	27 th 6
	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd 11	4 th
October	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th 1 1a	11 th 1 1a
	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th 10	16 th	17 th	18 th
	19 th	20 th	21 st 3K	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th EC 2	30 th		