



Cruise
& Learn

aboard

*John
Bunyan*

Introduction

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.

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 cafe facility
- An inbuilt audio system with microphone to provide cabin wide coverage.
- An access lift for those with limited mobility/wheelchair access.¹
- A toilet wide enough to accommodate a medium-sized wheelchair.¹
- A small souvenir section should the students wish to purchase a small reminder of the trip.

¹ Dimensions are available on request

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.



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.

Contact us

If you wish to discuss your booking 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.

Telephone: 03301 239 511

E-mail: charters@johnbunyanboat.org

Website: www.johnbunyanboat.org

Address: John Bunyan Boat - BMKWEL, The Old Chandlery,
Priory Marina, Barkers Lane, MK41 9DJ



Cruise & Learn

2019 Cruise Extras

Should you wish, we are able to provide a third party 'educator'. Some of those that we have worked with previously are mentioned below. You may also like to consider combining a visit to the John Bunyan Museum with your cruise. Please refer to the separate price list for details or call our office on the telephone number at the back of the main Education brochure.

Environment – Nature with Kate Bygrave of Wild Lives

Kate is an experienced environmental educator, play and youth worker who passionately believes that everybody should be able to learn, explore, create and be inspired by the natural world. Kate's commentary covers a wide variety of the wildlife and the habitats associated with the River Great Ouse that can be seen during the cruise. Kate can liaise with schools before each trip and prepare material for appropriate key stages.

Local History – Chronicles Club Cruise with Karen Fryc

Karen is the co-author of the book "The Bedford Chronicles". Interactive talks can be provided by Karen on the historical stories associated with Bedford and its river. These cruises can be adapted to focus on the era of history which is relevant to the school curriculum; be it the Vikings or the Victorians, the Neolithic or the Normans, the river played a part in all eras.

Dependent on the length of the cruise, other elements including making, creating and participating can be introduced.

Pirate based Art Cruises with Anne-Marie Stijelja

A themed pirate cruise offering face painting, temporary tattoos, flags, eye-patches, telescopes, stickers, maps, mermaids and pirates colouring, word search, daggers and hooks. In addition, you could encourage your children to dress up as pirates!

Mini Map-Makers with Alice Gadney

Who loves maps? Who loves river cruises? Who loves spotting nature? Who loves stickers and colouring in?

Captain Alice is offering your class a wonderful exciting trip along the River Ouse in Bedford – find out about the River and how it changed on maps throughout time – why the river is important in Bedford and have a look at the local map – what other map symbols can we spot while cruising along the river? What animals live along the river?

All children will receive a goodie bag to take home with a map of their cruise, a map booklet, pencil crayons and stickers. A free OS map for each school is included, to help you explore Bedford and surrounding areas with a useful guide to reading maps.

Visit to the John Bunyan Museum

In addition to your John Bunyan Boat Cruise we can offer you a visit to the John Bunyan Museum. The Museum is based just a short walk away along Newnham Road and the landing stage at Newnham Steps. Children love to hear about people who have led exciting and inspiring lives. John Bunyan is one such man – born in 1628 into a very ordinary family, he worked as a Tinker, mending household utensils and tools. Bunyan became an author, writing *The Pilgrims Progress* - a story of adventure and faith but was imprisoned for his beliefs. The children are told the story of this amazing man – through life sized tableaux, costume, pictures and artefacts. Your visit can be shaped to key areas of the curriculum in history, RE and literature.

The tour of the museum takes 1.5 hours.