

## How to get here

Bedford is easy to reach by car, bike and public transport.

### By car:

Bedford is located between the A1 and M1 and is well served by the A421 dual carriageway which links the two major roads as well as the A6 and A428. On Saturday, take advantage of two hours' free parking in one of the town centre's council-owned car parks. Parking is free on Sundays.

### By train:

Bedford train station is served by Thameslink, East Midlands Trains and the Marston Vale Line. St John's station is also served by the Marston Vale Line. Timetables are available at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

### By bus:

A Park & Ride service operates from the junction of the A6 and A421 at Elstow, providing regular services to Bedford town centre. Bedford is also centrally located on the X5 Stagecoach route, linking Oxford and Cambridge. Timetables of all buses which serve Bedford Borough are available on the Council website: [bedford.gov.uk/businfo](http://bedford.gov.uk/businfo)

### By bike:

Bedford is situated on Route 51. For full details visit: [sustrans.org.uk](http://sustrans.org.uk)



GET INTO  
**BEDFORD**  
PR - Events  
Social Media

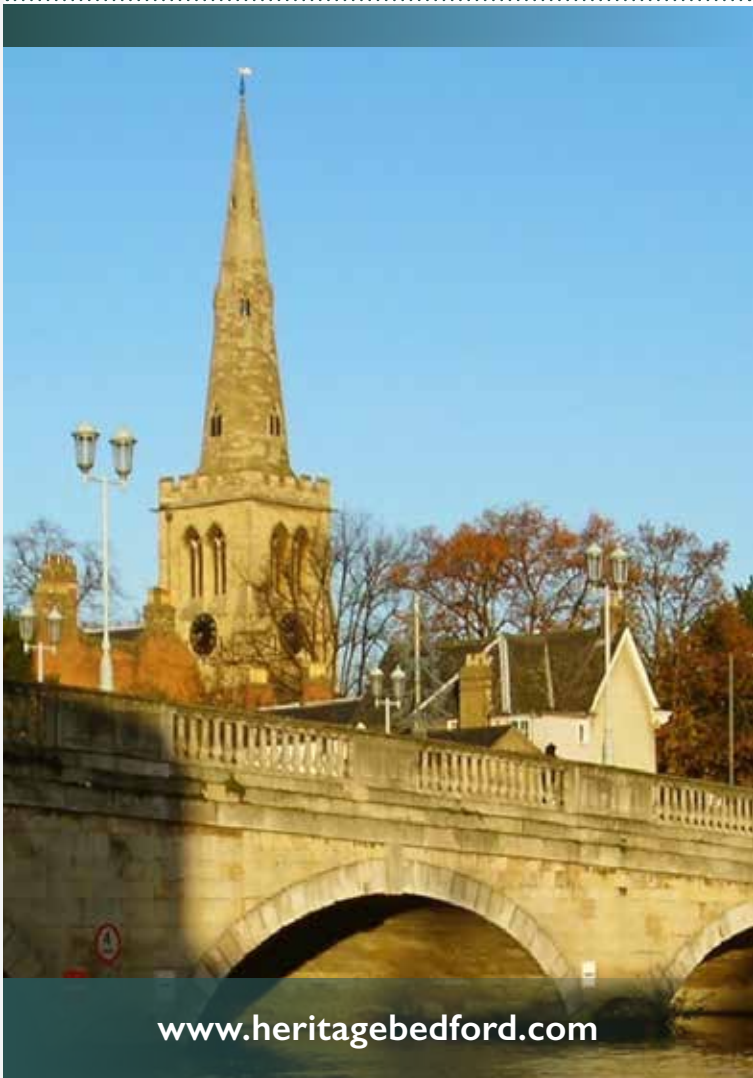


**BEDFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL



# HERITAGE BEDFORD

PLACES • INFORMATION • EVENTS



## Heritage Bedford

Bedford's historic town centre has many attractive old buildings and a wealth of wonderful places to discover.

Take a cruise down the River Great Ouse, explore one of Bedford's museums or historic sites, see a show, join a guided tour or simply relax in the town's beautiful parks and gardens.

All of the town's family-friendly spaces are within a short walk of each other, so why not spend a day or weekend discovering Bedford.

## Events and what's on

Bedford loves to party and there are many **festivals and celebrations** throughout the year: The Bedford International Kite Festival, Bedfringe, Bedford Regatta, the Big High Street Showcase, Booktastic Children's Book Festival, Taste Bedford, Bromham Apple Day, the Multi-Cultural Parade and the bi-annual River Festival are all essential dates for the diary.

Bedford has a dedicated **arts and culture magazine**, The Bedford Clanger, which features up-to-date information on everything from theatre to live music [thebedfordclanger.com](http://thebedfordclanger.com)

The Bedford Chronicles run workshops and events for children and young people focused on the stories from Bedford's heritage, themed around their published children's history book 'The Bedford Chronicles' [bedfordchronicles.co.uk](http://bedfordchronicles.co.uk)

There is fun for all the family when Art and Science combine with the annual Bedpop Science Lab (March) and Fun Palaces (Oct) taking place at venues across Bedford [bedpop.co.uk](http://bedpop.co.uk)

For more information visit: [lovebedford.co.uk](http://lovebedford.co.uk) and [bedford.gov.uk/whats\\_on.aspx](http://bedford.gov.uk/whats_on.aspx)





# HERITAGE BEDFORD

## John Bunyan Museum



John Bunyan Museum tells the story of the Bedford man who wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress*, one of the greatest novels in the English language. During his life Bunyan was a soldier, tinker, preacher, dissenter, and spent 12 years in Bedford prison for illegal preaching.

[bunyanmeeting.co.uk/museum](http://bunyanmeeting.co.uk/museum)

## Bedford Cemetery - Foster Hill Road



The Friends of Bedford Cemetery (Foster Hill Road) host regular events and themed walks, which are open to the public and always very popular. Come and visit the refurbished chapel and explore the Grade II listed Victorian Cemetery.

[fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk](http://fosterhillroadcemetery.co.uk)

## The Higgins Art Gallery & Museum



Explore world-class collections of fine and decorative arts, watercolours and prints. Enjoy the inspiring stories of local people and find out more about Bedford through collections of archaeology, ethnography, social and natural history.

[thehigginsbedford.org.uk](http://thehigginsbedford.org.uk)

## St Paul's Church



St Paul's stands at the very heart of the County Town of Bedford. Its worshipping community welcomes pilgrims and visitors alike, and offers a haven of tranquillity at the centre of this busy town. The church, open daily, also hosts many cultural events including weekly Tuesday lunchtime concerts.

[stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk](http://stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk)

## Bedford Association of Tour Guides



If you want to know more about Bedford why not take a walking tour led by a professional guide. Book either a place on one of our regular walks or organise your own custom group tour.

[bedfordtourguides.org](http://bedfordtourguides.org)

## Bunyan Meeting Church



An active independent church, Bunyan Meeting was built in 1850, and stands on the site of Bunyan's original church where he was minister from 1671 to 1688. Scenes from *The Pilgrim's Progress* can be found on the bronze entrance doors and stunning stained glass windows.

[bunyanmeeting.co.uk](http://bunyanmeeting.co.uk)

## Panacea Museum



The museum tells the story of the Panacea Society – a remarkable religious community formed in the early 20th century. The museum is in 'Castleside', a beautiful Victorian house and gardens that were part of the community's headquarters.

[panaceamuseum.org](http://panaceamuseum.org)

## Quarry Theatre



The Quarry Theatre is a performing arts facility for Bedford School and the town. In 2015, St. Luke's Church was converted to house a theatre and fully licensed bar. The programme includes professional productions, comedy, music and NTLive screenings.

[quarrytheatre.org.uk](http://quarrytheatre.org.uk)

## John Bunyan Boat



Cruise the River Great Ouse in warmth and comfort – watch the scenery drift past and enjoy refreshments on board. The John Bunyan boat is available Tuesdays to Sundays, April to October, for charter by groups of up to 50. It also offers weekly public cruises and special interest cruises.

[johnbunyanboat.org](http://johnbunyanboat.org)

## The Place Theatre



The 130 capacity Place Theatre is volunteer-run and hosts national touring theatre, music and comedy. The venue also encourages new writing and local talent.

[theplacebedford.org.uk](http://theplacebedford.org.uk)

## The Basement @ Bunyan



The Basement at Bunyan is a community-orientated arts centre, the newest addition to the Bunyan Meeting complex - offering spirituality, heritage and creativity to Bedford, with a wide programme of exhibitions, workshops and activities.

[bunyanmeeting.co.uk/basement-at-bunyan](http://bunyanmeeting.co.uk/basement-at-bunyan)

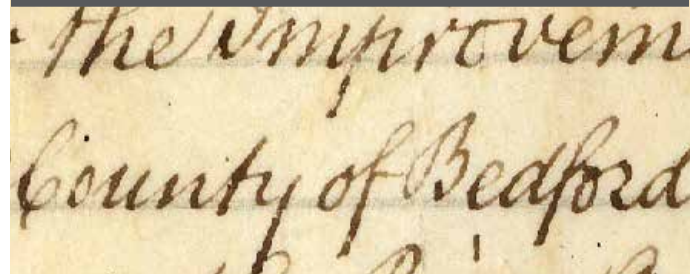
## Bedford Swan Hotel



The Bedford Swan Hotel is a unique 18th century property full of character and history. Rebuilt for The Duke of Bedford this imposing building on the Embankment is a perfect place to stay, dine, enjoy the spa, or as a venue for a special occasion.

[bedfordswanhotel.co.uk](http://bedfordswanhotel.co.uk)

## Bedfordshire Archives



A must for anyone researching Bedfordshire family or local history. Investigate documents from the last 850 years with expert advice on hand to assist you. Pop in to view a free exhibition of highlights from the collections

<http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/>

## Other places to visit nearby

### Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre



Opened in 2013 following extensive restoration work, Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre is a hidden gem on the Marston Vale Community Rail line. The picturesque station building and restored booking office are built in the distinctive Victorian Gothic 'Cottage Orné' style, and include a tea room, gift shop and tourist information point. [bedsrcc.org.uk/ridgmont-station-heritage-centre](http://bedsrcc.org.uk/ridgmont-station-heritage-centre)

### Moot Hall



This 15th century timber-framed building set on the village green, tells the story of 17th century rural life and Elstow's famous son, John Bunyan.

<http://bit.ly/MootHall>