

Make The Most Of Your Visit

Markets

Speciality markets such as Gourmet Food, Home and Garden, Continental and monthly Farmers, Artists and Arts and Crafts Markets are held alongside the twice weekly Charter Market in Harpur Square and St Paul's Square.



Events

Bedford Regatta: 14th May

Bedford International Kite Festival: 4th – 5th June

Bedford Italian Festival: 12th June

Music in the Meadows: Sundays at 3pm From Sunday 26th June – Sunday 28th August

Christmas Light's Switch On: 23rd November

Victorian Christmas Fair: 9th – 11th December

Parks and Open Spaces

Bedford Park is a beautiful Victorian design with mature trees and a children's playground. Other facilities include tennis courts, basketball court and cricket pitch.

Russell Park offers a putting green, tennis courts and a children's play area. Tel: 01234 271877

Priory Country Park and Marina a great place for picnics, kite flying and leisurely walks. Watch the sailing, windsurfing and canoeing on the main lake or purpose built slalom course. Tel: 01234 211182

Jubilee Park is a hidden gem with many sporting activities including a skate park, a bowling green and a cricket pitch.

Leisure

Bedford International Athletic Stadium

8 Lane international track with full athletic facilities Barkers Lane. Tel: 01234 351115

Oasis Beach Pool

Free form leisure pool with water slides and wave machine. Cardington Road. Tel: 01234 272100

Robinson Pool

Indoor pool with diving facilities and children's pool Bedford Park. Tel: 01234 357157

Mowsbury Golf Course

Pay and play facility with floodlit driving range. Cleat Hill, Kimbolton Road. Tel: 01234 772700



Bedford park



Mowsbury Golf Course



Oasis Beach Pool

BEDFORD Tourist Information Centre

Take a closer look...



Take a closer look inside Bedford's outstanding Tourist Information Centre and take advantage of all that you discover there.

- Accommodation booking service
- 'Visit Bedford' events guide
- Local travel information
- Local theatre and coach bookings
- Local interest books and maps
- Local crafts and produce
- Guided walks
- YHA membership packs
- Discount rail tickets, London underground passes
- UK national rail tickets and National Express bookings
- Original London bus tour tickets
- Bedford BID shopping vouchers
- The Bedford Room a pictorial audio guide to Bedford's history

Bedford Tourist Information Centre

Town Hall, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SJ

Tel : 01234 221712 Fax : 01234 217932

Email : touristinfo@bedford.gov.uk

Web : www.visitbedford.co.uk or www.bedford.gov.uk/tourism

Opening times:

Monday to Saturday 9:00am – 4:30pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays 10:00am – 2:00pm (May to August only)



Ref: ED005_11

BEDFORD

Mini Guide 2011

Guided Walks
& Map inside



Bedford Town Map: See the 'Did you know trail' and riverside points of interest



Riverside Key

- 1 Star Rowing Club
- 2 Town Bridge
- 3 Bedford Rowing Club
- 4 Rink Island Bridge
- 5 Abbey Bridge
- 6 Duckmill Bridge
- 7 Bedford Lock
- 8 Royal Engineer's Bridge
- 9 The Suspension Bridge
- 10 Boatslide & Weir Bridge
- 11 Schools Boathouse
- 12 The Butterfly Bridge
- 13 Putting Green
- 14 Time Garden
- 15 War Memorial (WWI, WWII & Korean War)
- 16 Cornerstone Of Freedom
- 17 Tennis Courts

General Key

- Pedestrianised shopping area
- Local facilities
- Parking
- Evening parking available
- Coach parking
- Coach bay
- Cycle/foot path (Traffic free)
- One way road

Toilets are located in the Harpur Centre and Mayes Yard (off St. Paul's Square)



Town Bridge

Self-guided 'Did you know?' Trail

Follow the black dots on the map marking the trail through the town. The letters mark the approximate locations, allow 90 minutes to complete the trail.

- A Corn Exchange (1874)**
Used regularly by the BBC during World War II for Symphony Concerts and 1944 Proms. Also in 1944, Glenn Miller gave his first UK broadcast from here. A bust of Glenn Miller can be seen on the front of the building.
- B Harpur Suite (1834)**
Bedford grew and needed social and meeting places and this was built as the Assembly Rooms, and part of it used as a subscription library. It has an elegant interior and still serves Bedford as a function room.
- C Harpur Centre**
The façade (1833) by Edward Blore (architect) formerly housed the Harpur Trust School for Boys and Girls and latterly Bedford Modern School. Reconstructed in 1976 to accommodate the shopping centre.
- D Archbishop Trevor Huddleston**
Bedford born Trevor Huddleston was recognised for his work against apartheid in South Africa. Nelson Mandela, ex-premier of South Africa, visited Bedford to pay tribute to the Archbishop and unveiled this bust of him.
- D Reflections of Bedford**
The faces are the work of artist Rick Kirby who has named the piece 'Reflections of Bedford'. The design work has been influenced by references to Bedford and, in particular, the history of lace making locally as well as recognising Silver Street as the historical site of a 'Mint' in the 10th and 11th centuries.



Bunyan Statue

- E John Bunyan Statue**
For long periods between 1660 and 1676 John Bunyan was imprisoned for his beliefs. Published in 1678, "The Pilgrim's Progress" is reputed to have been translated into over 200 languages. Statue by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, reputedly Queen Victoria's favourite sculptor.
- F Bunyan Meeting Free Church and Museum**
John Bunyan (1628-88) rose from humble origins to become one of the world's most widely read authors. The present church (c1849) stands on the site of a barn purchased by Bunyan and his followers and was later used as a place of worship. Bunyan is buried in the dissenter's grave yard in Bunhill Fields, City Road, London.
- G Medieval Lime Kiln**
Peer through the window on the Castle Lane development opposite the Museum entrance to learn about the use of the Lime Kiln.
- G H Bedford Museum & Cecil Higgins Art Gallery (Currently closed for refurbishment)**
The £6.6m redevelopment project will involve the complete redesign and redisplay of the galleries in Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum. Facilities are rescheduled to open in late 2012/early 2013.
- H Bedford Gallery**
(Open until April 2011)
An exhibition of Toulouse-Lautrec prints entitled High Kicks and Low Lives is on view until 10th April, after which Bedford Gallery will close as part of the overall refurbishment project described above.



St. Paul's Church

- I Castle Mound and Gardens**
Follow the trail of the siege of Bedford Castle around the Castle Mound and discover the foundations of the Great Hall. From the viewing platform enjoy a commanding view of the River Great Ouse and the mosaic roundel.
- J Swan Hotel (1797)**
Coaching inns clustered around the bridge crossing the river. The present building was built for the Duke of Bedford. It contains the staircase from Houghton House (now derelict), reputedly the inspiration for "House Beautiful" in John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress".
- K War Memorial**
This memorial is to honour the men of Bedford who fought in the South African campaign also known as the 2nd Boer War, many of whom perished in the Transvaal.
- L John Howard (1726-90) Statue**
Known for his work on prison reform, John Howard travelled throughout Europe. He died in Ukraine from typhoid and there is a monument in Kherson, Ukraine to honour him. Note the good cherubs coming out of the mouths of the devils on the corners of the base of the statue. (The statue is by Sir Alfred Gilbert, the sculptor of the Eros Statue in London)
- M Magistrates Court formerly Shire Hall (1879/81)**
Built by architect Alfred Waterhouse, best known for his Natural History Museum, London and Manchester Town Hall. This building was the home of the Assizes. Many people were tried here including James Hanratty.
- N Old Town Hall/Tourist Information Centre**
One of the oldest public buildings in Bedford dating back to c1550, it was originally the home of the Grammar School and became the Town Hall in 1891. Sir William Harpur (1497-1574), born in Bedford, rose to be Lord Mayor of London, and as a wealthy man, provided an endowment to support education in Bedford. The present 18th century facade includes a statue of him, dressed as though he was an alderman of this later period.

Walking along the River Great Ouse

You can enjoy walking further along the River Great Ouse by following the footpath along the river, from the town centre you can head east towards Willington and west towards Kempston.

