

Three Rivers Tour with included carvery lunch plus 90 minute

River Cruise

Monday 12th October 2026



The coach will leave Bedfont Football & Social Club, Hatton Road, TW14 9QT at 8:30 to head for the hamlet of Flatford set within the Dedham Vale countryside, to have refreshments (at own cost) and meet our blue badge guide.

Our tour begins at Flatford Mill on the river Stour, once owned by John Constables father, from where we take a short walk along a country lane to see the mill pond setting for one of his most famous paintings, The Haywain, with a shuttle available to assist anyone with walking difficulties.

Back on the coach we follow the river towards the Manningtree, England's smallest town. Just 22 acres at low tide, its an attractive little port famous for its swans, maltings and sailing barges and the charming, olde world High Street that hides its dark history as the HQ of the notorious Witchfinder General Matthew Hopkins. We follow the river Stour along the Walls of the mysterious Mistley Towers which look like two ends of an invisible church, exactly what they are as part of a Robert Adams model village and Spa which never saw the light of day. We then go off the beaten track, wending our way along a peninsular that runs between two rivers, the Stour and the Orwell. We will go past the stately Royal Hospital School founded at Greenwich 300 years ago for sons of seafarers to see the slow boats to China chugging away from Harwich & Felixstowe before

following the river Orwell to the Orwell Bridge from where there will be great views from high up in the coach that aren't visible to car drivers. The Orwell has known a number of literary figures, Eric Blair took his pen name from the river and Arthur Ransome of Swallows and Amazons fame was inspired by adventures on these waters.

We will stop for an included Toby Carvery lunch (drinks at own cost) before heading to Waldringfield for a 90 minutes cruise, with included tea & cake, on the river Debden. The all-weather boat most times goes down river towards Felixstowe but every now and then will head up river towards Woodbridge – both trips are interesting and attractive, the route will depend on the tide of the day, and there is a bar on board for those who like a glass of something stronger.

The tour will finish back at the quay at 4.45pm and we aim to be back in Bedfont around 18:30.

The cost is £88.00pp for members & £90.00pp non-members, please send booking forms by 3rd September.