

Appalachian Life-Long Learners at West Virginia University (ALL at WVU)  
"ALL Members" Trip

# Royal River Thames (England) Cruise

May 10 to 29, 2007

Trip coordinator: Wally Venable - 304-328-5128 – [wallace.venable@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:wallace.venable@mail.wvu.edu)

The "boat renters' Thames" begins just above the small town of Lechlade and runs 138 miles to Richmond, on the western edge of London. The Thames is often called the Royal River because no less than four Crown castles or palaces, Windsor, the Tower, Richmond, and Hampton Court, are within sight of the river. We would rent our boat (or possibly boats) from Bridge Boats Ltd. Bridge Boats is situated in the City of Reading, in the heart of Royal Berkshire, and has been in operation for more than 30 years. They are ideally situated for both bus and rail travel with good Heathrow and London connections.

We will head downstream, visiting Henley, Windsor, Runnymede, Hampton Court, and Richmond as well as lesser known places. Assuming time permits, we will then travel upstream to visit Oxford and finally return to Reading

The boating party will depart from Morgantown on Thursday, 10 May and travel together to Reading where we will spend the first night in an hotel. On Saturday morning we will transfer to a *Thames Royal* class boat for a two week cruise. Participants can alternately meet the group at either London's Heathrow Airport or at the hotel in Reading.



**Thames Royal**      Sleeps 10 to 12 • Sleek and spacious cruiser ideal for two families or larger parties

We might disperse at Reading or add a night or two of group activity in London.

While the trip is being planned for ALL members, ALL will have no liability for, or involvement in, the management of the trip. Participants will share expenses for the time on board the boat. Wallace Venable will act as group treasurer for joint expenses and make the boat reservation. Individual participants will be responsible for booking and paying for airfare, and pay individually for hotel, bus or train fares, and meals not taken on board. Boat rental and on-board meals for two weeks will be \$750 per person based on 7 people.

Contact Wally for further information.

## Some additional background:

In 1999, 2000, and 2001 Wally Venable organized ALL trips on "self-drive" canal boats in England and France. The events of 9/11 caused some concern about travel in spring of 2002 and changes in ALL structure made the previous way of arranging a packaged group trip impossible.

In the early spring of 2006 Wally and Norma Venable rented a small boat from this boatyard and cruised upstream to Lechlade. They have first hand knowledge of the boatyard and related local connections.

Details will be posted at [www.wallace-venable.name/ALL\\_at\\_WVU/Thames](http://www.wallace-venable.name/ALL_at_WVU/Thames) (case sensitive)