GRAND LADY CRUISES

2027 Wedding Packages

Say "I Do" with a view aboard the Grand Lady!

Afternoon Ceremony Package: (Max 60 Guests)

Midweek (Tues-Fri before 5pm): $2950
Weekend (before 5pm): $3250

Join us for an afternoon ceremony and cruise before heading elsewhere for a reception. Our Afternoon Ceremony Package provides your exclusive use of the Grand Lady for 2 hours, including 30 minutes dockside for boarding and the ceremony, and a 90-minute cruise.
Bring your own officiant or use ours for an additional $150!
Food and beverage packages are in addition to base rate. We recommend adding additional time if you would like to serve a full meal during your cruise- each additional 30 minutes is $500.

Midweek Evening Wedding: (Max 60 Guests)

Mon-Thurs: $3500

It doesn't have to be the weekend to celebrate! Tie the knot aboard the Grand Lady with a two-hour sunset cruise. Package includes 30 minutes of boarding time, followed by a two-hour cruise.
Bring your own officiant or use ours for an additional $150!
Add food or bar packages at additional cost.
Times may be customized based upon sunset time on your selected date.

Weekend Reception Package: (Max 60 Guests)

Friday or Sunday Evening: $4450
Saturday: $4750

Our weekend reception package affords you and your guests exclusive use of the Grand Lady for a total of three and a half hours. This includes 30 minutes of boarding time and ceremony (bring your own officiant or use ours for an additional $150), followed by a three-hour reception cruise.
Dinner and drink packages not included in base rate above.
Recommended Timing:
Late-May through Late-August: 6:30pm Boarding/Ceremony, 7:00-10:00pm Cruise
Late-August through Mid-September: 5:30pm Boarding/Ceremony, 6:00-9:00pm Cruise
Mid-September through October 1st: 4:30pm Boarding/Ceremony, 5:00-8:00pm Cruise

Wedding Policies FAQ's:

What are the payment policies?
An additional 3% convenience fee applies to credit card payments. A non-refundable deposit of 50% of the base rate is due to confirm cruise date and time. The second half of the base rate is due 30 days prior to cruise, along with food and beverage package selection and estimated head count. Final count and payment for applicable food and beverage packages is due 10 days prior to cruise. Payments can be made via credit card over the phone or by mail via a personal check or money order.

What if I need to reschedule/cancel?
Payments are non-refundable. With 30 days' notice of cruise date, payments may be applied to future cruise, less a $250 cancellation fee. Once within 30 days of cruise, payments are non-transferable.

What if the weather is bad the day of my cruise?
The Grand Lady is typically able to sail rain or shine. In case of very severe weather or high winds, the vessel may have to stay dockside for everyone's comfort and safety. In this rare occurrence, the event would still take place on board the boat while the vessel is dockside, a $500/hour dockside rate would be charged in lieu of regular base rate, and the over-payment will be refunded.

Are we allowed to bring decorations?
Yes, couples are welcome to decorate the Grand Lady to suit their tastes while remaining within the guidelines laid out below. We strongly suggest consulting with a member of the Grand Lady office staff before making your final arrangements. Grand Lady Cruises reserves the right to disallow the use of any decorative features deemed hazardous or damaging to the furnishings aboard.
Centerpieces should remain relatively small and low to the table to not overpower the relatively narrow tables on board the vessel.
We **do NOT** allow use of the following aboard the Grand Lady:

- glitter or confetti
- wax candles except for floating candles (we suggest battery operated illumination instead)
- sparklers, lanterns, or any other sort of open flame
- loose rose petals or "water beads" as they stain upholstery and rugs

Who is responsible for decorating the day of?
Our crew is happy to put out your centerpieces and other basic decorations while setting up the boat the day of your cruise at no additional cost. Favors, centerpieces, place cards, cake cutting set, toasting glasses, guest book, etc. may be dropped off at the Grand Lady office at a scheduled time a day beforehand with written instructions or photos detailing set up. For centerpieces requiring assembly or more complicated/labor intensive set-ups, additional fees may apply.
We will help you pack everything up at the end of your cruise, but you are responsible for taking all items home with you the night of the event.
If you feel you would enjoy even more assistance in the planning and execution of your special day, we recommend contacting Gabby at Here and Now Events at www.hereandnowbuffalo.com

How is the vessel furnished? What is included regarding linens?
The Grand Lady is furnished with navy blue banquet chairs and rectangular tables. White tablecloths and navy blue or white linen napkins are provided. You may rent or bring specialty linens, runners, or chair covers at your own expense if desired. If buying or renting chair covers, Grand Lady Cruises will add an additional service fee of $250 to cover the additional set-up time required.

Where does the ceremony take place?
Weather permitting, the ceremony is held outside on the upper back deck prior to departure. Approximately 18 chairs are available for immediate family and older guests, with other guests standing behind the rows of chairs. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony would take place in the main dining area in front of the bar.

Does the ceremony happen underway?
Typically no, we recommend having the ceremony while dockside. It greatly simplifies the logistics regarding the flow of events as it avoids wasting any of your time while the boat gets into a suitable location for the ceremony to begin. There is also less engine noise, movement of vessel, and other distractions while the boat is still dockside. While we do still have some activity along the Buffalo River by our dock, it's nothing like the activity along the Buffalo Waterfront near Canalside or by the Erie Basin Marina. Wind and waves are also more of a concern if underway during the ceremony. Your love should be the only thing making you weak in the knees when saying "I do".

We do also occasionally find that couples may have a guest or two who want to share in your special day but are unable for whatever reason to stay for the boat ride. This gives them the opportunity to come for the ceremony and then step off prior to departure.

Can I bring my own officiant?
Yes, absolutely. If you would like something personalized or more elaborate, we recommend bringing your own officiant with you to perform the ceremony. Otherwise, we can provide a civil ceremony officiant who performs a very short, sweet, justice-of-the-peace type ceremony for an additional $150.

Can I bring my own cake?
Yes! We have a couple of recommendations (below), but you can order your cake (or cupcakes) from any bakery you choose. When planning your cake, please keep in mind there is no refrigeration available on board. Also, cake designs should be restricted in height due to the possible movement and sway of the vessel. Please have your bakery call Grand Lady Cruises directly at 716-873-4630 to schedule delivery. In most cases, we suggest having the ceremonial cutting of the cake prior to dinner to ensure a smooth flow of service during your meal.

Ohlson's Bakery: 716-626-7783
Sweet Beginnings Bakery: 716-875-1431
Wheatberry Bake Shop: 716-839-3500

Is smoking allowed on board the boat?
No, due to Dept of Health and U.S. Coast Guard regulations, the Grand Lady is a non-smoking vessel, even on the outside decks. If guests ignore warnings from crew members and continue smoking on board, a $500 clean up fee will be charged to the card on file and the boat will return to the dock early.

What about entertainment/music?
The Grand Lady has background music and the ability to play music off a phone via Bluetooth if you would like to make a playlist for your event. We recommend making a public playlist on Spotify and we can search for the playlist and play it from our on-board tablet to avoid having to connect your device.

Live entertainment by way of DJ or live musician is also allowed. DJs must be hired from our list of approved DJs. If interested in live music, we recommend a solo musician due to space limitations.

Wedding Approved DJs:

Noah at 716 Sound: 716-777-4360
Maxwell at Whirlin' Disc Sound: 716-741-3139
Rick at Artistic Audio: 716-939-5272
Dan at Moving Music: 716-649-1490

Live Music Recommendations:

Nico Zarcone 716-341-2100
Nick Osman 586-610-0515
Greg Zeis 716-598-0477
XOXO Pop Band (Duo) 716-400-2051

What happens if my head count is not accurate?
We do not cook on board, so it is important that we receive an accurate meal count 10 days prior to your cruise. If offering a plated menu with more than one entrée option, place cards denoting menu choices must be provided for your guests to ensure efficient dinner service.

How are tables arranged?
The meal portion would take place on the lower level of the vessel. On this level there are 7 tables that can accommodate 8 guests, and 1 table that can accommodate 10. The 10 top table is in the rear of the vessel and would be used for the buffet if you chose a buffet meal option. Therefore, for a buffet meal, we can accommodate a maximum of 56 passengers in that lower dining room. Depending on your final headcount, we may have the flexibility to provide you with a sweetheart table. Please discuss these details with Grand Lady staff during the planning process before you settle on your final guest list.

Is the boat handicapped accessible?
It really depends on the individual needs of the guest. It is fully ramped to get onboard the vessel so those with walkers, canes, etc. are typically fine. The gangway is fairly narrow and can be steep depending on water levels so getting wheelchairs on board can prove challenging. We are typically not able to board guests in oversized or motorized wheelchairs unless they are able to take a few steps out over the gangway with assistance. The second consideration is that we board onto the second deck of the vessel. The restrooms and main dining area are located down below and there is no elevator on board. Guests do need to traverse the stairway to access the restroom on board, as well as the main dining area, bar, etc. Please give us a call at 716-873-4630 to discuss individual needs in more detail.

What is the typical flow of events?
Below is a sample itinerary for a 7-10pm cruise with 6:30pm boarding/ceremony time:
6:00pm: Bride/Groom/Wedding Party may arrive to vessel to relax and settle in ahead of ceremony
6:30pm: Guests will board vessel and stay on back deck for ceremony (weather permitting) which will start once everyone is aboard.
6:40-45pm: Ceremony
Bar opens after ceremony
7:00pm: Vessel Departure
7:20pm: Guests find seats. Begin Introductions ahead of dinner. Ceremonial cutting of cake.
7:30-8:15pm: Dinner Served. We recommend giving speeches during meal service.
8:30pm: Dances on back deck, Enjoy yourselves!
9:45pm: Last call at bar
10:00pm: Vessel returns to dock, guests disembark.

Can I schedule a rehearsal with my wedding party prior to the ceremony?
Due to how heavily in use the boat is during the summer months, we are not able to accommodate rehearsals.