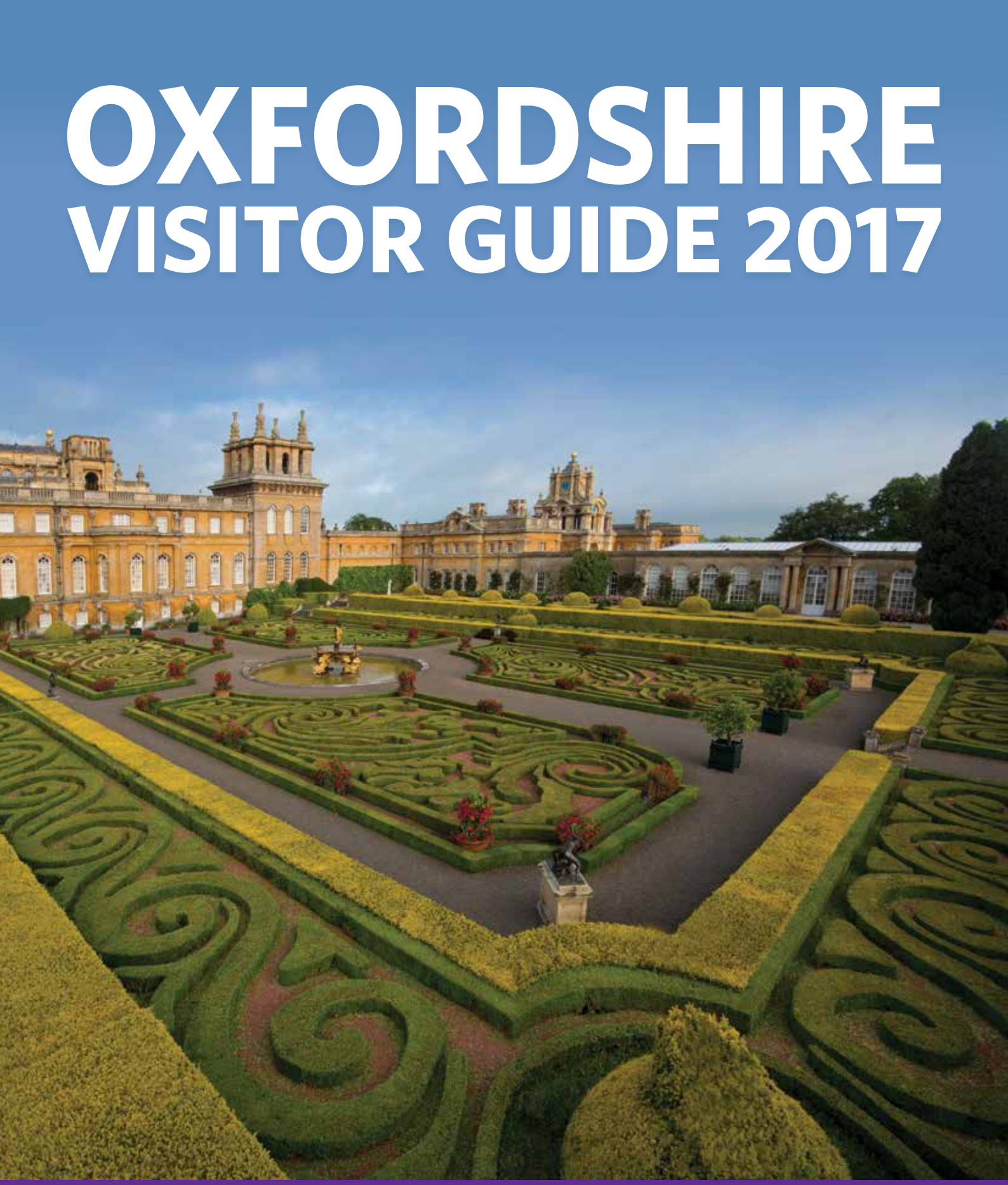
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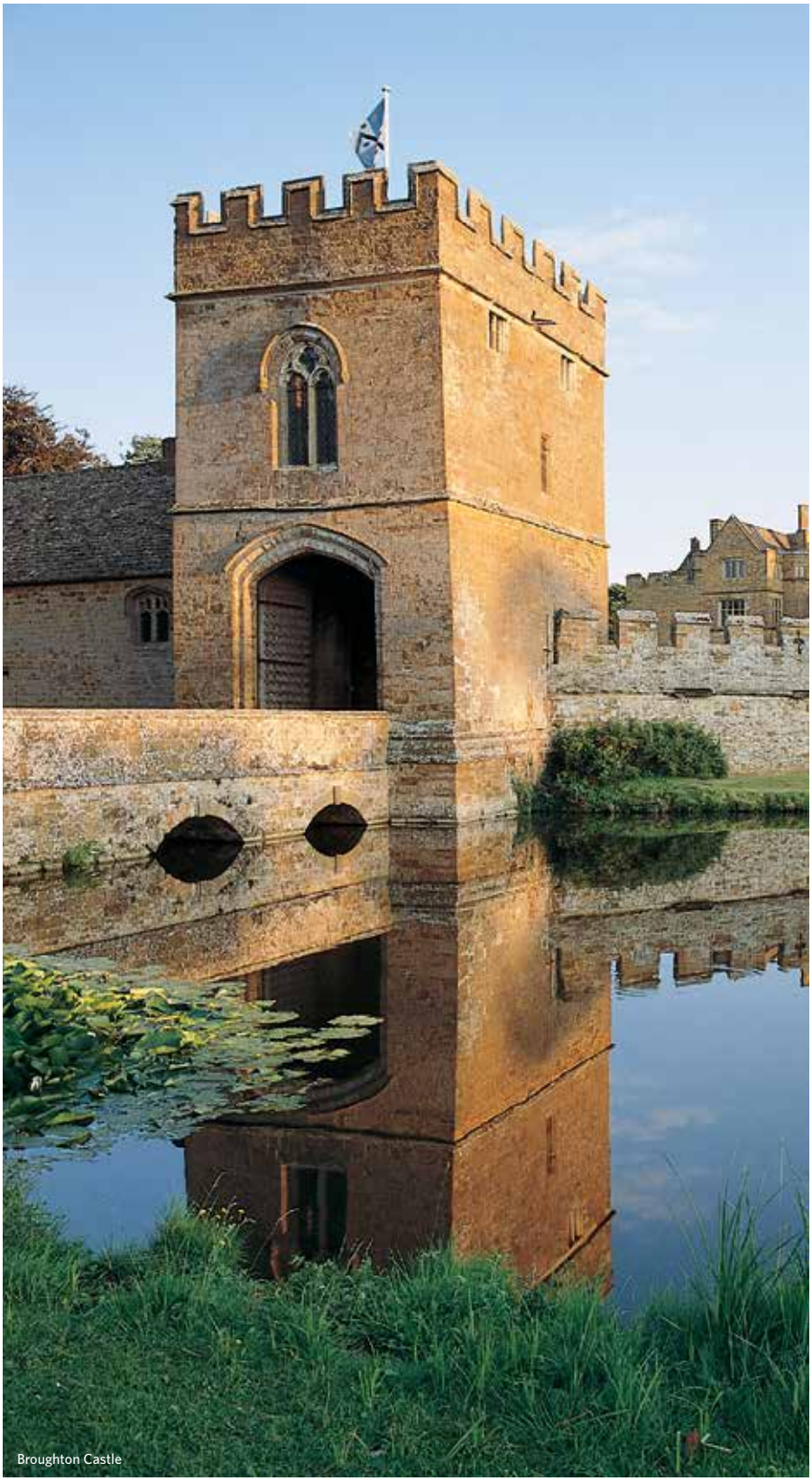
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From the ancient University of Oxford to the rolling hills of the Cotswolds, there is so much rich history and culture for you to explore. Whether you want to discover an ancient civilisation at a world famous museum, enjoy a long weekend with the family, wander around some of the most famous landmarks in the UK or relax with an afternoon tea, you will find something to do for all occasions and all members of the family.

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Oxford by the locals

The bustling city of Oxford is renowned all over the world for its rich history, dreaming spires and universities. With so much to see and do, we spoke to some of the city's locals about their favourite places



William Thomas, Head Concierge at the Macdonald Randolph Hotel

The University of Oxford became the first University of the English speaking world in 1167. Today we have a busy city and thriving University made up of 38 Colleges. Some of these are medieval and we have many old and beautiful buildings including a Saxon Tower and a Norman Castle. Many of these buildings can be visited. The University runs the Museums including the Ashmolean Museum which was Europe's first public Museum, today housing a fabulous collection.

However my favourite place is the University's Bodleian Library. A library since 1602 and today a copyright Library, it contains nearly 12 million books. You can visit the beautiful Divinity School used in the Harry Potter films and the old Library of Duke Humfrey, used as the Hogwarts library. Nearby is the University Ceremonial Hall, The Sheldonian Theatre which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and is also worth visiting. You can climb up to the top and get a view of Oxford's Dreaming Spires.



Tracy Slator,
Oxford Castle Unlocked tour guide

Perhaps I may be slightly biased, but my favourite view in Oxford is the view that greets me every day on my way into work. As I walk into the castle yard, I never tire of seeing St George's Tower here at Oxford Castle that has stood here for over 1000 years.

If I stand and close my eyes in the Oxford Court Yard, I can imagine all the history that's happened here; the Viking attack in 1009, Empress Matilda's daring escape in 1142 and the 17th century Civil War which destroyed the castle to the old gaol and the executions. All through these 1000 years people have lived and loved, worked and died here. Not to mention the years spent as a gaol and prison.

St George's Tower still stands proud today and welcomes thousands of visitors all year round. At the top of the tower there is a panoramic view of Oxford where, if you close your eyes, you can imagine 1000 years of history unfolding.



St. George's Tower, the oldest building in Oxford



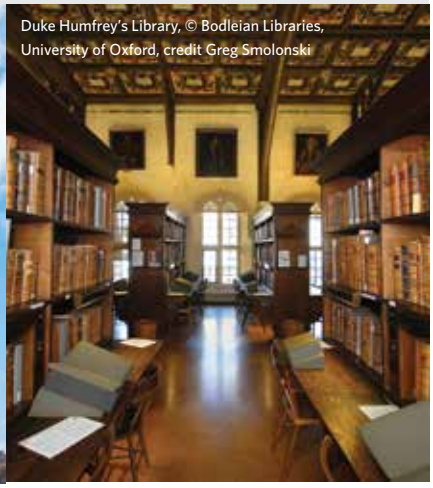
Emanuel Lorenz,
Research Intern at the
University of Oxford

As Oxford is a busy city, it is nice to have a place to rest for a little while. For me, St. Edmunds Hall, right in the heart of Oxford is one of those places. It is considered to be the oldest academic society and also was once one of the ancient Aularian houses. Today it is the only existing medieval hall, respectively a college since 1357.

To have a seat in the sunny and peaceful quad in front of the college library, formerly a Saxon church, lets you energise for your next stops. Then after a long day, try to find the well-hidden Turf Tavern. To get to this very old pub, you have to find your way through a small, winding alley. To have some drinks and something to eat outside surrounded by remaining sections of the old city wall is always a nice way to end your day.



Radcliffe Camera



Duke Humfrey's Library, © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, credit Greg Smolonski







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Mai Sugimoto

Mai Sugimoto,
Shop Assistant at Alice's Shop

My favourite place in Oxford is the streets surrounding the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian Library. Walking through these streets I have a feeling of timelessness. Away from the hustle and bustle of Oxford's shopping streets, you can walk around these lanes and feel as if you are in an Oxford of another era. You can be transported back 250 years in time, because since then very little has changed in these streets and lanes. Some of Oxford's gems jump out and surprise you like the Bridge of Sighs nearby. There is the Vaults and Garden cafe in the University Church of St Mary the Virgin where you can have morning coffee outside in relative tranquillity sitting in the sun reading your morning paper surrounded by grand 18th century architecture gazing down at you, as if it is the most normal thing in the world.


Sandra Bingham

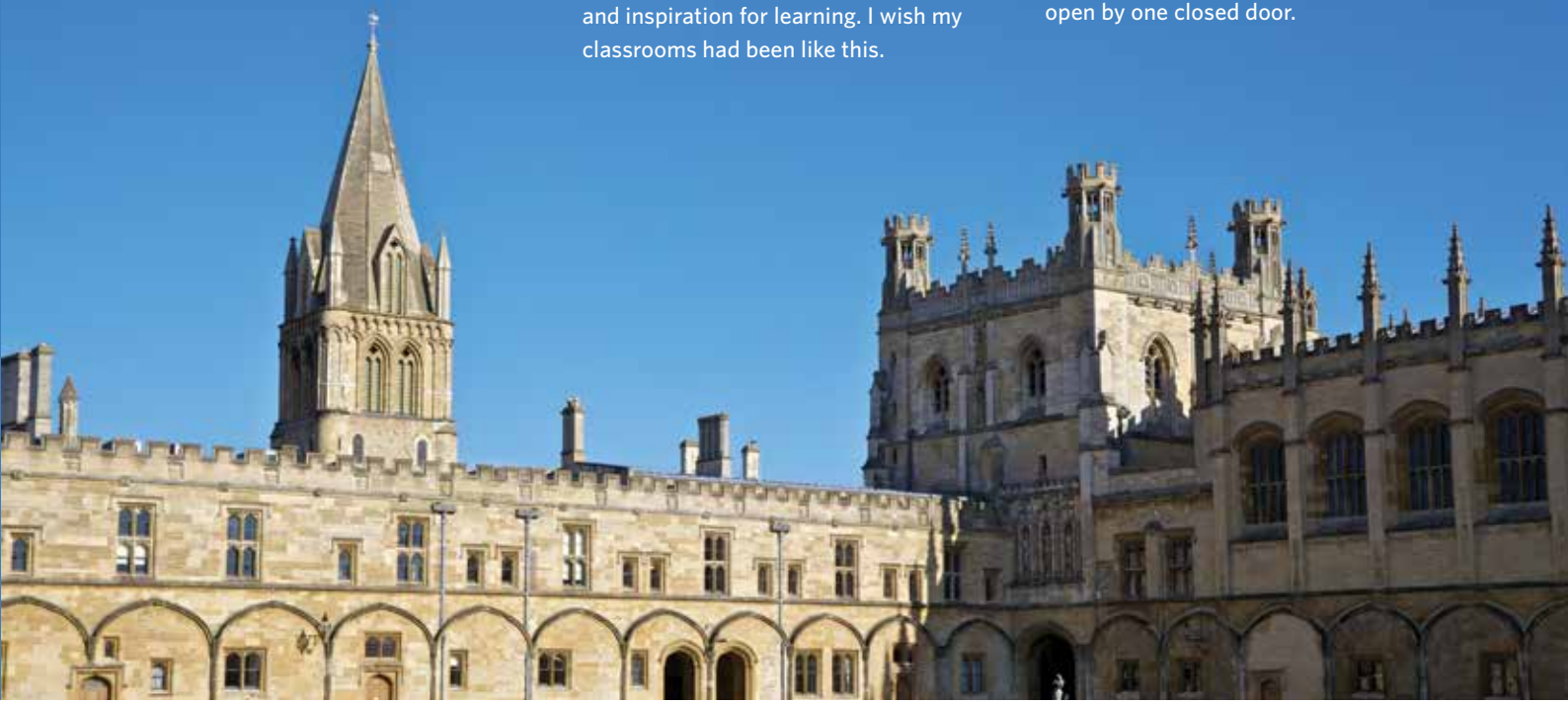
Sandra Bingham,
Oxford Tour Guide

I really enjoy showing people glorious Oxford on a walking tour and my favourite building is the 15th century Divinity School. This is the oldest purpose built classroom for the University for the teaching and examination of the most important subject of Divinity. I never fail to be impressed by the stunning gothic architecture and the stone carvings called "bosses" on the ceiling made possible by donations and a number of master masons most notably William Orchard. To think that centuries ago the exams were verbal and all in Latin and your disputation could go on for days with the public watching it. The history and the numbers of important people who have walked across the flagstones on their way to receiving their degrees leaves you with a sense of awe and inspiration for learning. I wish my classrooms had been like this.


Patti Stansfield

Patti Stansfield,
Custodian at Christ Church College

I adore one door at Christ Church. Unlike the Peel door, this has no graffiti. Nor is it associated with Alice in Wonderland. Or Charles I. 'My' old door has its own character and everyone can see it: before heading into the glorious Great Hall, glance left to read 'Buttery.' Below is a splendid solid door which sinks so snugly into its doorway. Keyholes are such a feature of the Alice story – and what big keyholes you have, Buttery! Extreme security for where butter was traditionally made? No. Think 'barrel', as in water butt. The split-level door serves as the hatch to the Buttery bar, serving beer (and other beverages!) to students before their formal dinner. Wonderland's writer, Charles Dodgson would have approved of the wordplay for Hogwart's tipple. I raise my Butterbeer in a toast – to the window of my imagination prised open by one closed door.



72 hours in the **Oxfordshire Cotswolds**


Cotswold Wildlife Park

The Oxfordshire Cotswolds are a rural paradise in the west of the county. A designated area of outstanding natural beauty, the Cotswolds are known for their attractive honey-coloured stone buildings and quintessential English charm. The perfect destination for a long weekend away. If you've only got 72 hours in the area, we've got an action packed schedule for you to enjoy.

DAY 1

9:30

Start your day early in the handsome Georgian town of Woodstock by visiting UNESCO World Heritage Site **Blenheim Palace**. Get there at 9:30am and enjoy wandering around the park for an hour or so before the Palace opens at 10:30. You can easily wile away the day at the Palace, but our must-sees include the Butterfly House, the Marlborough Hedge Maze and the Temple of Diana, where Winston Churchill proposed to his wife. If you are feeling peckish at any point, visit the Palace's Orangery Restaurant for lunch or the Water Terrace Café, before you set-off to explore more of the Palace and Gardens.


Blenheim Palace


Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum

15:00

Take some time to explore the town of Woodstock where you will find the **Oxfordshire Museum** and **Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum**, before heading over to **The Feathers** for some delicious gin cocktails (they have over 400 gins from around the world).

18:30

End your day at **The Bear Hotel** and restaurant. Set in what was once a 13th century coaching inn, the award winning restaurant offers a splendid array of British cuisine; we recommend trying their beer battered fish and chips for a traditionally English option.



The Bear Hotel


Old Swan & Minster Mill

DAY 2

10:00

Bright and early it's time to head to the **Cotswold Wildlife Park**. With 260 different species of animal, it's one of the best zoos in Europe. It is very easy to spend a day here as you explore the expansive grounds, take a ride on the miniature train and enjoy the award-winning gardens.

14:30

Say goodbye to the penguins and take the short journey to Minster Lovell. Enjoy an hour ambling through the picture perfect town, and visiting the ruins of **Minster Lovell Hall**, a 15th century manor house. After the walk, you could even treat yourself to one of the best afternoon teas in the county at the nearby **Old Swan and Minster Mill**.




Eynsham Hall

DAY 3

10:00

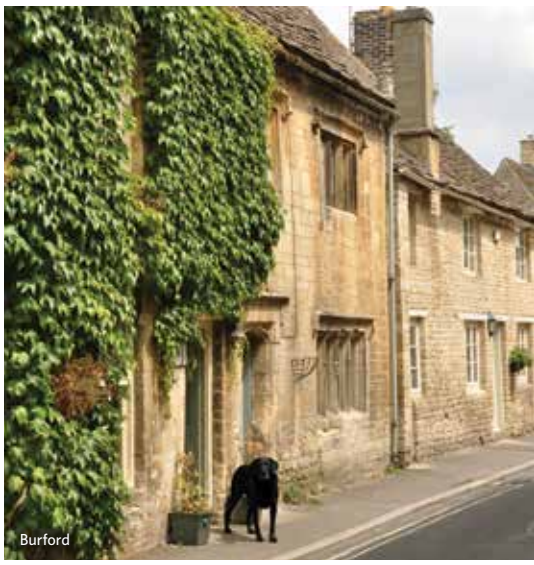
Enjoy the excellent breakfast at Eynsham Hall, and then take the short trip to **Cogges Manor Farm**. Here you can spend the morning visiting the farmhouse, meeting the farm animals and wandering the gardens. For fans of Downton Abbey, Cogges Manor Farm was used as Yew Tree Farm, the home of the Drewe family.


Cogges Manor Farm

12:00 - 18:00

A short walk from Cogges Manor Farm is the Cotswold town of Witney. Dating back to Saxon times, the town is famous for the production of woollen blankets, and is a now a thriving market town and home to some excellent independent shop and restaurants. Our recommendation for food would be the **Three Horseshoes**, a traditional pub serving locally sourced food.

Another option for the afternoon is the nearby town of Burford. This picturesque medieval market town is lined with independent furniture, antique and clothing shops along with a good choice of cafes and restaurants including Huffkins and the award winning **Bay Tree restaurant**.


Burford

18:00

For a different take on Burford, go on a one hour ghost trail with **Bill Spectre*** around Burford and experience a unique way of learning more about the town's history.

* Booking in advance required, which can be done on Bill's website: www.ghosttrail.org


Bill Spectre's Ghost Tour

19:30

End the day at **The Angel at Burford**, a 16th century inn, with a delicious dinner. We recommend their black pepper and sea salt bream fillet!


Wychwood Brewery

16:00

Visit the **Wychwood Brewery** in Witney. Here you can take part in one of their guided tours* which will take you through the brewing process of Wychwood and Brakspear Beers, from raw ingredients all the way to the finished product. And the best bit? At the end you can sample their flagship beer, Legendary Hobgoblin, as well as a range of Wychwood and Brakspear bottled beers.**

* Check tour times ahead. **NB booking may be required, which can be done on their website: www.wychwood.co.uk/shop/tours

18:30

As the day draws to a close head to **Eynsham Hall**, a beautiful country house hotel. Wander their extensive grounds prior to indulging in a meal in their recently refurbished brasserie, before cosying up for the night in one of the beautiful boutique rooms.

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Why not take a trip to Blenheim Palace, the beautiful home of the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Combine your trip with a visit to Woodstock a typical old English town full of character, charm and plenty of places to enjoy a nice cup of tea.

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S5 Gold from Oxford City Centre



At the foot of the Cotswolds, Witney is a historic market town home to Wychwood Brewery, providing daily tours and tastings (booking recommended).

S1 and S2 Gold from Oxford City Centre

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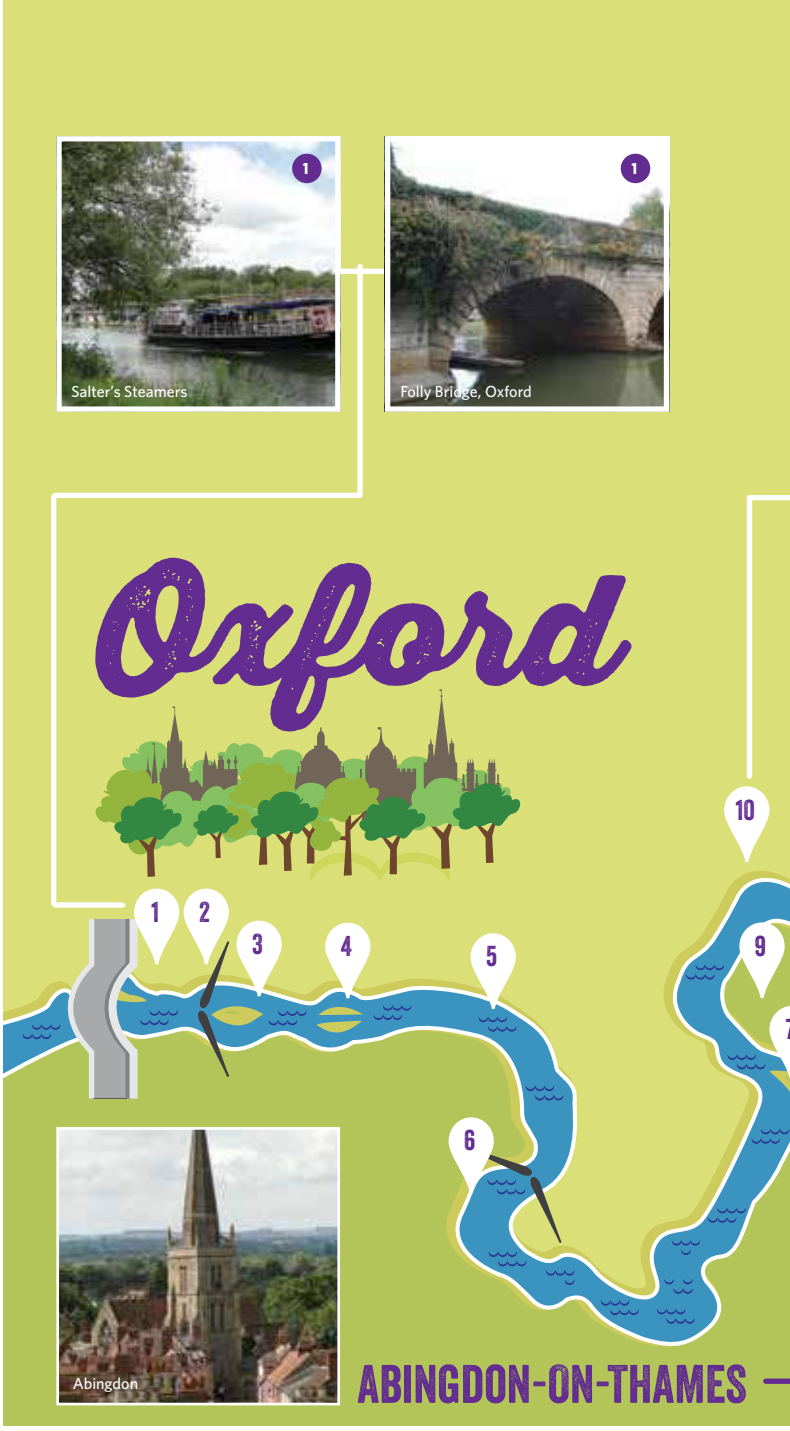
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The Oxfordshire Thames Path

The Oxfordshire Thames Path runs for 184 miles, from the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, winding through Oxfordshire, to eventually end in London.

The 51 miles of the path from Oxford to Henley-on-Thames contains some of the most striking riverside scenery in the country so why not experience it by taking a walk along that stretch.



Start your trip at 1 **Folly Bridge** in Oxford, where you could hire a punt from 1 **Salter's Steamers** to explore the Thames. The quintessentially English tradition of punting has been taking place in the city of 'Dreaming Spires' since 1880 and is a popular pastime for students, local Oxonians and tourists alike.

Enjoy strolling along the 9.7 miles of the river from Oxford to Abingdon. This stretch will take you past 2 **Christ Church**'s expansive meadows, through the picturesque villages of 3 Iffley and 4 Sandford-on-Thames. Keep walking, and from afar you'll be able to see the handsome 5 **Nuneham House**, and a few miles further on you will arrive at 6 **Abingdon Lock**.

Dating back to before the Iron Age, Abingdon is England's oldest, continuously occupied town and a great place to stop for a rest or explore. If you're in need of food, then the 7 **Nag's Head**, situated on the Nag's Island, halfway across Abingdon Bridge, is recommended for both its food and views of the River Thames.

To discover more about the town's history, the 8 **Abingdon County Hall Museum** is a worth a visit. The beautifully restored building houses exhibitions detailing the town's history from the Iron Age to its recent industrial past as the home of the MG car. A short walk back to the River Thames will take you past 9 **Abingdon Marina** and back onto the Thames Path.

It is 13.4 miles from Abingdon to Wallingford, a journey you could continue to make on foot. Alternatively you could enjoy the river by taking a Salter's Steamers river cruise* which would take you past 10 **Dorchester Abbey** and 11 **Wittenham Clumps** (a pair of chalk hills with fantastic views of the Oxfordshire countryside), before you arrive in Wallingford.

The market town of Wallingford will be recognised by any fan of Midsomer Murders, as it is often used as the fictional town of Causton. See the ruins of 12 **Wallingford Castle** and make sure you cross the 900 foot medieval stone bridge that connects Wallingford to 13 Crowmarsh Gifford.





HENLEY -ON-THAMES

READING



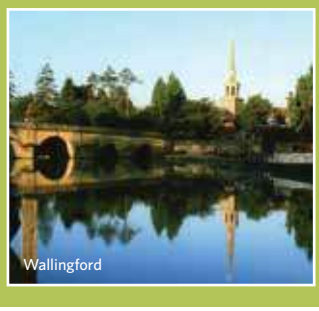


BENSON

WALLINGFORD

GORING





From Wallingford, one adventurous option would be to travel the rest of the route to Henley by kayak or canoe. You can contact Henley Canoe Hire in advance and they will drop off your canoes or kayaks in Wallingford. You could then spend two days travelling the 27.1 miles down the river to arrive at Henley. Stop overnight at Mapledurham – where you can camp in the grounds of the stately home, 14 **Mapledurham House**.**

Alternatively you could continue walking the route, again stopping overnight at Mapledurham, with Salter's Steamers offering river cruises from Wallingford to Reading, and Reading to Henley-on-Thames should you appreciate a rest*.

Henley-on-Thames is best known for the annual 15 Henley Royal Regatta, the most famous rowing regatta in the world. If you happen to be walking the Thames Path between the 28th June and the 2nd July, you will be able to enjoy this great sporting and social event. Visitors at other times of the year won't be disappointed as the town has plenty more to offer including the River and Rowing Museum, and great shops and restaurants.

Information

1. Folly Bridge Salter's Steamers
2. Christ Church Meadow
3. Iffley Lock
4. Sandford-on-Thames
5. Nuneham House
6. Abingdon Lock
7. Nag's Head
8. Abingdon County Hall Museum
9. Abingdon Marina
10. Dorchester Abbey
11. Wittenham Clumps
12. Wallingford Castle
13. Crowmarsh Gifford
14. Mapledurham House
15. Henley Royal Regatta

The Carter Company runs several organised walking tours along the River Thames Path. One of our favourites is their Thames Path from the Source to Henley trip, which starts at the source of the Thames and will take you along the Thames Path, passing through Cricklade, Kelmscott and on through to Oxfordshire, and ending in Henley-on-Thames.
W www.the-carter-company.com

Salter's Steamers
*River cruises only run on certain days through the summer months so ensure that you check the availability and timings in advance.
W www.saltersteamers.co.uk

Mapledurham House
** Phone in advance to ensure that you will be able to camp as it is subject to availability.
W www.mapledurham.co.uk

Henley Canoe Hire
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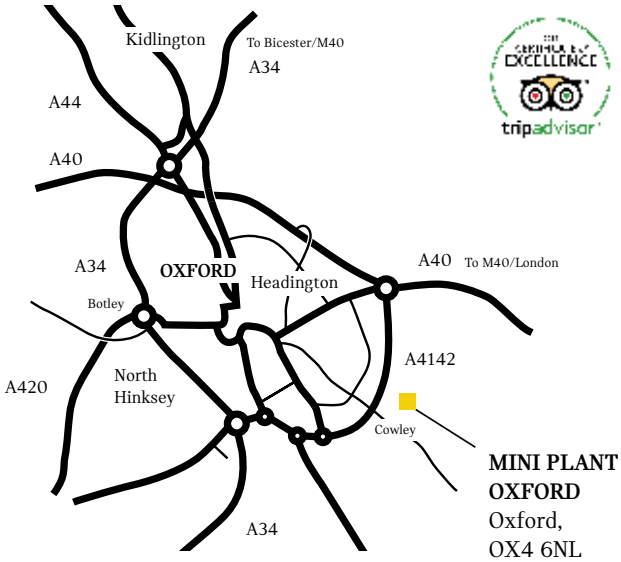
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Christ Church © Christ Church and Ralph Williamson.

Film & TV links in Oxfordshire

Take a look at the rolling Chiltern hills or the skyline of the dreaming spires and it's no surprise that Oxfordshire appears time and time again in television and film. Whether you're a film buff who wants to know more about what's been filmed in the county, or you're just intrigued to see which celebrities have walked the same paths as you will, here are some of the most famous films and television shows that were filmed around the county.

Downton Abbey

For fans of Downton Abbey, you'll recognise the Cotswold village of Bampton which was used in some of the outside filming for the series. The Old Rectory is used for exterior shots of Isobel Crawley's house, and you'll also recognise St Mary's Church, and the library which was the entrance to the cottage hospital. Additionally, over in Witney there's Cogges Manor Farm which also featured as Yew Tree Farm.

Spectre & The BFG

Beautiful Blenheim Palace has been used in countless films including Cinderella, Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation and Gulliver's Travels (2010). In 2015 it topped the box office again when it was featured in the latest instalment of James Bond, Spectre. In 2016 the Palace was used once again in the critically acclaimed adaptation of the beloved Roald Dahl book, The BFG.

Harry Potter

Retrace the steps of Harry and the gang across the city of Oxford. See the Tudor dining hall at Christ Church that inspired the Hogwarts Great Hall, as well as the staircase that was used several times during the films, including where the first years are met by Professor McGonagall at the beginning of the first film, and the Divinity School which features as the Hogwarts infirmary. Additionally the cloisters at New College were also used as a location in Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, including the infamous scene where Mad-Eye Moody turned Malfoy into a ferret!


The BFG © Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures

Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour

Oxford is a key location for the filming of Inspector Morse and Lewis, and most recently, Endeavour. Enjoy a drink in the Morse Bar at the Macdonald Randolph Hotel; visit one of Morse's favourite pubs such as The White Horse or The King's Arms or visit Exeter College and see where John Thaw acted Morse's fatal heart attack scene.

Midsomer Murders

Many villages in South Oxfordshire were used as filming locations for Midsomer Murders, including Wallingford which was used as the town of Causton, home to Causton Playhouse and the Midsomer Worthy Choir. Across the county a huge number of local sites have been used, including: Rumseys Chocolaterie in Thame (included in episode Picture of Innocence), The Argyll Pub (Last Year's Model) and The Six Bells in Warborough which has featured in the show five times.

Shakespeare in Love

Broughton Castle has played the backdrop to numerous films and television series, including Shakespeare in Love, the 2011 adaptation of Jane Eyre starring Judi Dench and Michael Fassbender, and in 2014 in the BBC series Wolf Hall.

Oxford Murders

The film stars Elijah Wood, John Hurt and Julie Cox and it was filmed around Oxford including the White Horse and Turf Tavern pubs.

Les Misérables

The village of Ewelme near Wallingford in South Oxfordshire featured in the 2012 blockbuster Les Misérables. The church was used several times: as the bishop's lodging, for the mayor's office and the belfry was transformed into a tavern; with Hugh Jackman filming several scenes in the area as Jean Valjean.



Broughton Castle



Visit Midsomer - Dorchester

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows and Anna Karenina

Didcot Railway Centre has featured in numerous films over the years. These include 2012's Anna Karenina featuring Keira Knightley, where the engine shed posed as Moscow station, and Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows in 2011 where the engine shed again featured, this time as a German armaments factory.

Also filmed in Oxfordshire

The Mummy (2017)
Transformers 5 (2017)
X-Men: First Class (2011)
The Golden Compass (2007)
Brideshead Revisited (1981)
Testament of Youth (2014)

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Oxfordshire's Literary Links

Oxfordshire's literary heritage is impressive, with some of the most famous authors, both past and present, having been born, studied or resided in the city and county. Here we pick out places in the county that have featured or inspired some of literature's most famous novels.



Eagle and Child

The Eagle and Child pub in Oxford was a meeting place for the Inklings: a group of Oxford writers including C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien who met to discuss literature and to read their work aloud. Enjoy a pint as you sit in the same room as these literary greats did.

River Thames

Many great novels were inspired by the River Thames, but one particularly relevant to Oxfordshire is Alice in Wonderland. One sunny afternoon in 1862 an Oxford don, Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll, took the 10-year-old Alice Liddell on a boat trip up the River Thames. To entertain Alice and her sisters, he made up a story about a girl who fell down a rabbit hole in a world called 'Wonderland'. This story later became Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, one of the most beloved children's books of all time.

St Mary's Passage

Wander down St Mary's Passage just off the Radcliffe Square and you will see a small wooden carving of a fawn on a door frame. This architectural detail is said to have inspired the development of Mr Tumnus - a character in C. S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series.



Oxford Botanic Gardens

At the end of the Philip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials trilogy', protagonists Lyra and Will agree to sit on a bench in the Oxford Botanic Gardens once a year on Midsummer's day for an hour, as it's an object that stands parallel between the two worlds they live in. Explore the gardens and you will find this very bench.

C. S. Lewis Nature Reserve

The beautiful nature reserve used to belong to C. S. Lewis, author of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series. It is rumoured that the nature reserve could have been the inspiration for Lewis' writing, as well as being an influence on J. R. R. Tolkien when he created the land of Middle Earth in Lord of The Rings.

Juniper Hill

The hamlet of Juniper Hill in Cottisford, Oxfordshire, was where author Flora Thompson was born in 1876. She then fictionalised the hamlet as Lark Rise in her prolific Lark Rise to Candleford trilogy. The stories also refer to Candleford, the nearest town to Lark Rise, which is a fictionalised version of Bicester.



The River & Rowing Museum

In Henley-on-Thames is the River & Rowing Museum, home to a wonderful Wind in the Willows exhibition. The interactive exhibition is a celebration of the magic of Ratty, Mole and Mr Toad - a must see for fans of the books.

The Painted Room

In central Oxford above the busy Cornmarket Street is one of Oxford's hidden treasures - The Painted Room. This is the remains of the 14th Century Crown Tavern, a pub where Shakespeare is believed to have been friendly with the vintners, and stayed with them when he was on his way from Stratford-upon-Avon to London.



To further explore the rich literary history of Oxford you can book onto Oxford Official Walking Tours Oxford Literary tour.

W www.experienceoxfordshire.org/official-tours
T 01865 686442

Cherwell **the impressive north**

North Oxfordshire offers rich rewards for its visitors. Centred on the valley of the River Cherwell, with the Oxford Canal alongside, there are landscapes of beautiful countryside with picturesque villages and the market towns of Banbury and Bicester to explore.



Fine Lady Banbury - © CDC



Bicester Village Shopping

Banbury is set amidst the gentle rolling hills in the north of the district. An impressive bronze statue of the "Fine Lady" from the famous "Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross" rhyme is set close to the Banbury Cross at the meeting point of the roads from Oxford, Warwick and Shipston-on-Stour. Other points of interest include the Market Place, the atmospheric lanes and streets of the Old Town and the Castle Quay shopping mall with the the town's Museum set directly beside the Oxford Canal. The Museum connects to the 18th century Tooley's Boatyard, where you can take a guided tour of the narrow boat workshop and dry-dock.

Bicester lies just 12 miles northeast of Oxford. At the heart of Bicester is a historic market town with buildings of old stone and the delightful gardens of Garth Park which host a summer programme of music events. On the town's edge is Bicester Village – the enormously popular luxury brand retail outlet with more than 130 boutiques, and served directly by a railway station with trains from London Marylebone taking only 46 minutes.

The district has a wealth of beautiful villages to enjoy. The uplands northwest of Banbury are known as 'ironstone country', with pretty villages built of the richly coloured local Hornton ironstone, welcoming pubs, and interesting walking and cycling routes. Well worth a visit is the moated manor house of Broughton Castle, built of Hornton stone in the 14th century, and used as a film setting for both "Shakespeare in Love" and "The Madness of King George". There is more history to discover at nearby Edgehill, the scene of the first Civil War battle of 1642, and at 17th century Upton House, a National Trust property famous for its art collection and 1930s style gardens.

Further south, a few miles off the Banbury to Chipping Norton road, there is brewing heritage to discover in the village of Hook Norton, where you can enjoy a tour of the Hook Norton brewery, a wonderful example of a Victorian tower brewery which is still thriving today and supplying many local pubs. There are dray horses, a museum, and a visitors' centre.



Hook Norton Brewery


Broughton Castle


Canal at Cropredy - credit CDC

Exploring the Oxford Canal also comes highly recommended. Built in the late 18th century to carry commercial barges between Coventry and Oxford, its route in the main follows the scenic course of the River Cherwell. You can hire narrow boats at either Lower Heyford or Thrupp, or enjoy one of the towpath walks. The stretch of the canal between Banbury and Oxford is also accessible by train, with stations at Banbury, Heyford, Tackley and Oxford. Rousham House, a Jacobean country house with gardens landscaped by William Kent in the early 18th century, is set in woodlands close to Lower Heyford.

The district has a rich tradition of festivals and events, ranging from Bicester's summer music events to Banbury's Canal Day, Folk Festival and Old Town Parties. North of Banbury, the canalside village of Cropredy hosts the Fairport Cropredy Convention in August each year. This village is famous too for its place in Civil War history, with the 1644 Battle of Cropredy Bridge, and there is a battlefield walk around the village. Another interesting waterside village with Civil War history is Islip, set on the River Ray just before it joins the River Cherwell, and the birthplace of King Edward the Confessor.

Six miles south of Banbury, the village of Deddington has a well-established Antiques Centre and a range of independent shops clustered around an impressive market place. The village is known for its excellent Farmers' Market which is normally held on the last Thursday of each month, with over 40 stalls. In July each year Deddington also hosts a four day festival with a variety of cultural and community events.

Just five miles north of Oxford, Kidlington claims to be the largest village in the country. Historic buildings of grey stone characterise its core and there is a lively shopping centre with weekly markets as well as pubs, restaurants and cafes.

A central location with excellent transport links, North Oxfordshire is not only a rewarding destination in its own right, but also an ideal touring centre. A wide range of overnight accommodation provides ease of access to many world famous destinations, including Silverstone Circuit, Blenheim Palace, Oxford, Warwick Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon, and the Cotswolds.

Cherwell
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Banbury Tourist Information Centre

(entrance within Castle Quay)

Banbury Museum
Spiceball Park Road
Banbury OX16 2PA

01295 753 752

enquiries@banburymuseum.org

Bicester Visitor Centre

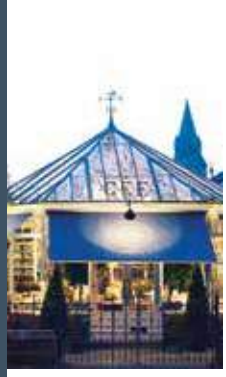
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Hospitality & Catering News, March 2016

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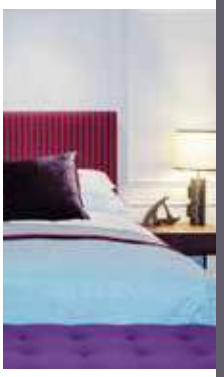

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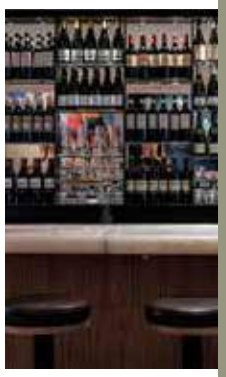
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Oxfordshire **Traditions**


Pooh Stick Championships

Oxfordshire is a historical county with many unusual traditions. Plan your visit at the right time of year and you might just experience one of the county's weird and wonderful customs.


Merton College


Bun throwing


Bun throwing

May Morning

May Morning in Oxford is a huge celebration. Held on the 1st of May each year, celebrations begin at 6am with the Magdalen College Choir singing from the top of Magdalen Tower - a tradition that has been taking place for over 500 years. Huge crowds gather under the tower to watch the performance which is followed by festivities throughout the morning including Morris dancing.

Bun Throwing

Bun Throwing is a 400 year-old tradition unique to the town of Abingdon-on-Thames in South Oxfordshire. The unusual tradition involves local dignitaries throwing buns from the roof of the Abingdon County Hall Museum for huge crowds to catch on days of celebration! Recent events that have been commemorated by throwing buns include the Royal Wedding, the Millennium and Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday.

Merton College Time Ceremony

Once a year, on the night the clocks go back, students at Merton College in Oxford partake in their annual Time Ceremony. Created by undergraduate students in 1971, it involves students dressing in their full academic dress walking backwards around the Fellows' Quad drinking port at 02:00BST for an hour, before finishing at 02:00GMT, to allegedly maintain the space-time continuum!

Pooh Sticks

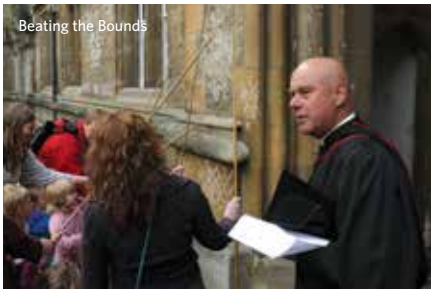
Once a year Oxfordshire hosts the World Pooh Sticks Championships. Taking inspiration from the beloved children's book, Winnie the Pooh, anybody can take part to become the Pooh Sticks world championship. You just need to pick your stick, and drop it upstream on one side of a bridge and whoever's stick appears on the other side of the bridge is the winner!

Aunt Sally

Aunt Sally is a traditional English pub game dating back to the 17th Century. It is still played today, and can be seen in many Oxfordshire pub gardens, and involves players throwing sticks or battens at a target. The very best players now compete in the Aunt Sally Singles World Championship with the first competition taking place in Charlbury, West Oxfordshire, in 2011.

Beating The Bounds

Involves a group of parishioners marking their parish boundaries by hitting boundary marker stones with willow sticks, shouting "Mark, Mark, Mark". The tradition dates back at least to Anglo-Saxon times and originates from a time when it was important to make parish boundaries physically evident in the absence of maps and written deeds.


Beating the Bounds





Getting to and around **Oxfordshire**

By air

The nearest airports to Oxford are London Heathrow Airport (60 miles or 95 km), London Gatwick Airport (85 miles or 135 km) or Birmingham Airport (65 miles or 105 km).

Oxford Bus Company's Airline coach service operates a 24 hour, 7 day a week service to Heathrow, Gatwick and Birmingham Airport. Tickets can be purchased online or on the day of travel.

airline.oxfordbus.co.uk

By rail

Great Western Railways has a regular service from London Paddington stopping at Didcot, Oxford and north through the county to the Cotswolds stopping at Long Hanborough, Finstock, Charlbury, Ascott-under-Wychwood and on to Worcester.

www.gwr.co.uk

Chiltern Railways' trains run from London Marylebone with stops at Princess Risborough, Haddenham & Thame, Bicester Village, Oxford Parkway and Oxford.

www.chilternrailways.co.uk

By coach

The Oxford Bus Company X90 route is a 24 hour coach, 7 day a week service linking Oxford and London.

x90.oxfordbus.co.uk

Stagecoach operates the Oxford Tube – a 24 hour coach service linking Oxford to London.

www.oxfordtube.com

By bus

Park & Ride – The Gateway to Oxford

There are five park and ride sites located around Oxford's ring road, with regular bus services to the city centre.

http://parkandride.oxfordbus.co.uk

The Oxford Bus Company has a comprehensive network across the county with regular services to Abingdon-on-Thames.

www.oxfordbus.co.uk

Stagecoach also has an excellent county wide bus network including the S5 service linking Oxford and Bicester Village, and the S3 service linking Oxford and Blenheim Palace. It is then possible to take the 233 service from Woodstock and explore West Oxfordshire, with stops in Witney and Burford.

www.stagecoachbus.com/about/oxfordshire

The City Sightseeing Bus is an excellent way to explore the city, its history and highlights, and offers the option to hop on and off whenever you like. Tickets are valid for 24 or 48 hours.

www.citysightseeingoxford.com

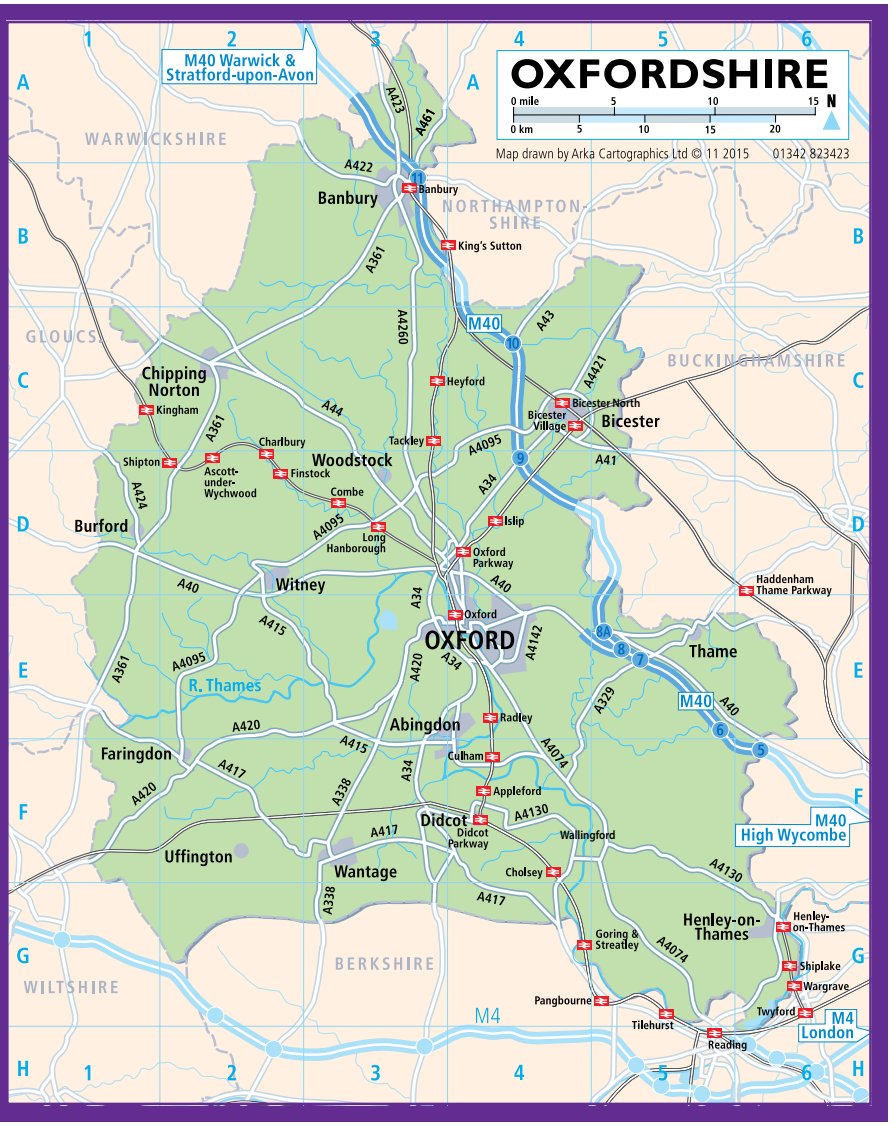


Tours of Oxfordshire

For those who want to explore with an Oxfordshire expert, there is a wide choice of city and university tours, ghost tours, chauffeured tours, cycle tours, pub tours and river cruises and much more. You can find information on all the full range of tours on our website:

W www.experienceoxfordshire.org/see-and-do/tours

Map of **Oxfordshire**



Win a one night stay at the **Oxford Malmaison**





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Terms & Conditions are available on our website www. experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on/competitions.
For more details about Oxford Malmaison visit: www.malmaison.com/locations/oxford

THE MOGFORD GROUP

The Mogford Group is an independently owned collection of luxury five star hotels and award winning restaurants in Oxford. The hotels and restaurants are housed within beautifully renovated period buildings amongst the historic landmarks of the city.

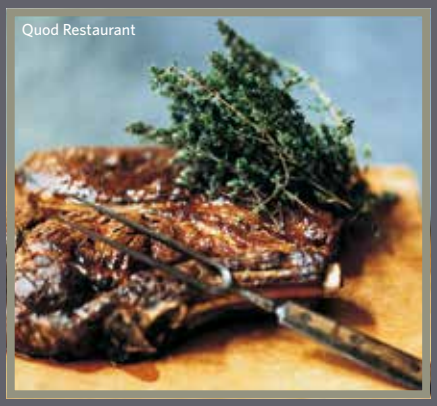

Old Parsonage Hotel, Oxford


Old Parsonage Hotel, Oxford


Old Parsonage Hotel, Oxford

Luxury hotel **The Old Parsonage** is set in a 17th century building that retains the original heritage. An extensive refurbishment in 2014 saw the addition of a new second floor with seven extra bedrooms and a specially curated library. All rooms are individually designed by Sally Conran. Guests can enjoy afternoon tea in the walled courtyard, explore the city by vintage style bicycles available from the hotel, or make the most of Oxford's famous water ways, with a punting picnic carefully prepared by the hotel's kitchen. Recently nominated for the Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons Award for Excellence, the newly renamed **Parsonage Grill restaurant** uses the finest seasonal ingredients, simply prepared and expertly cooked, including dishes such as Whole Cornish sole and half roast Yorkshire grouse.


Old Bank Hotel Terrace


Quod Restaurant


Gee's Restaurant

With its unrivalled and central location on Oxford's famous High Street, the **Old Bank Hotel** was a former banking hall before owner Jeremy Mogford bought the building in the late 1990s. Jeremy set about transforming the space into a luxury hotel, its bedrooms and guest spaces most recently updated with designs by Sally Conran. On the ground floor of the hotel is Quod Restaurant, bar and terrace. Nominated for Best Brasserie in the 2016 Oxfordshire Restaurant Awards, **Quod Restaurant** offers a menu of European classics with an emphasis on British produce, some of which is sourced from Jeremy's own Rofford Farm. A central white onyx bar takes centre stage, whilst the Italian garden terrace provides a Mediterranean feel for al-fresco dining.

Gee's Restaurant offers locals and visitors a rustic, Mediterranean dining experience set in an iconic **Victorian Glasshouse**. Guests can dine in the light-filled conservatory dining room dotted with trees and plants, head to the glossy marble-topped, mirrored cocktail bar or dine amidst herbs and plants in **Gee's garden terrace**.

Each of the three restaurants focus on fresh, seasonal and high quality ingredients to produce simple, yet refined dishes, and the restaurants' longevity are testament to their quality.


Afternoon tea at Blenheim Palace

Food & drink in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire has a great choice of places to eat and drink, from Michelin-starred restaurants, cosy rural pubs, farmers' markets, and social enterprise cafés. With so many options to mention, we have picked out some of the best to suit all budgets and tastes.

Treat yourself to Michelin starred dining

Set in stunning grounds near the village of Little Milton, Raymond Blanc's Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons is a very special food experience. From the kitchen garden which produces 90 types of vegetable and 100 varieties of herbs, and the wine cellar with over 1,000 varieties - this is an experience that will stay with you forever.

Oxford city centre cocktails and oysters

The Macdonald Randolph hotel's Cartoon Bar, in the centre of Oxford, is a very stylish place for drinks and nibbles. Try the Oxford Blue Martini cocktail, or one of their many gins and champagnes. And if you're feeling peckish, there's an excellent choice of light bites including oysters, scallops, and the trusty beef chop, to keep your hunger at bay.

Cosy rural pub

Nestled in 65 acres of idyllic grounds in the quaint little Cotswold village of Minster Lovell, the Old Swan & Minster Mill is a country inn and hotel. Depending on the season, enjoy their excellent Sunday Lunch, either on the terrace or cosied up next to the open fires while choosing which one of their ales or wine to enjoy. Soft drinks are available!

Cultured café

The Bodleian Café is located in a beautiful atrium, Blackwell Hall, in the Weston Library. Here you can sip coffee, and choose from a great selection of sandwiches and cakes, while watching the coming and goings of an Oxford University Library.

For scenic dining

For great views of the River Cherwell, try the Cherwell Boat House. It's an Oxford institution, renowned for both its food and wine, and they offer a great value two course meal on weekdays. Plus you can hire a punt from the neighbouring boat house and take to the water for the true Oxford experience.

Afternoon Tea

We're spoilt for choice when it comes to Afternoon Teas in Oxfordshire, but for this quintessential English tradition, our recommendation must go to Blenheim Palace. Served in the new Orangery Restaurant, with stunning views out over the Duke's private Italian Garden, why not try the new Orangery Celebration Tea with Bubbles - delightful. Alternatively, if you're in Oxford, try the Old Parsonage, just to the north of the city centre. The stylish restaurant and bar has cartoons and portraits adorning the walls and is a great setting to sample their delightful selection of sandwiches, scones and tea.

And there's even a choice for the indecisive

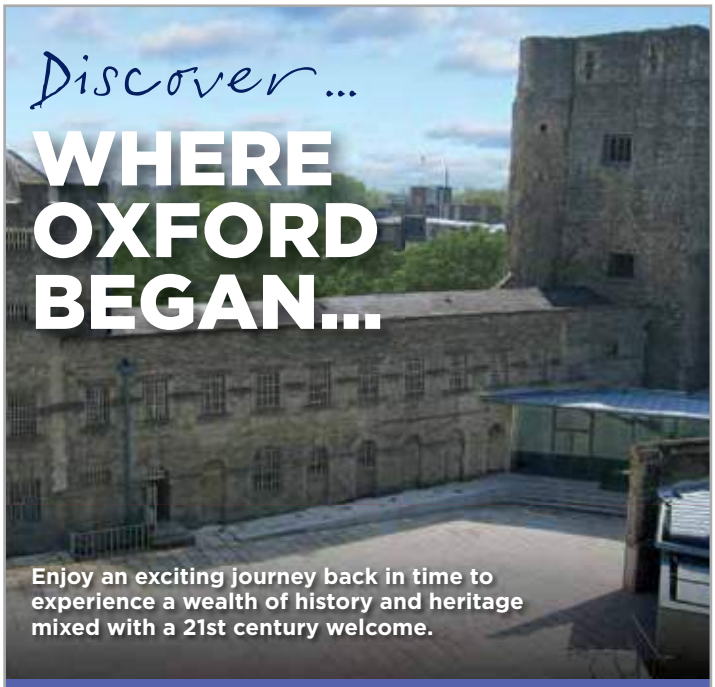
If you simply can't decide, then try COSMO in Oxford. They offer over 150 dishes from around the world, all freshly prepared and ready for you to sample. Our particular favourite is the freshly made Pad Thai - delicious!


Bar at The Bear hotel


Old Swan & Minster Mill


Garden at Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons


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RELAIS & CHATEAUX.

Shopping hotspots in Oxfordshire

From luxury brands at Bicester Village to the independent retailers in Oxford's Covered Market, the shopping options in Oxfordshire cater for most tastes and budgets. Here we pick out some of the shopping hotspots from around the county.



Blackwell's Bookshop

Looking for books?

Try: Blackwell's Bookshop

Blackwell's on Broad Street has been serving the needs of academics, students and book lovers since 1879. The flagship store sprawls over four floors, and sells both new releases as well as used, rare and antiquarian books. For any bibliophile you must visit the vast Norrington Room, with 160,000 books stretching over 3 miles of shelving, it is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest single room selling books.

bookshop.blackwell.co.uk


Covered Market

Looking for independent shops?

Try: The Oxford Covered Market

Opened in 1774, Oxford's Covered Market has been home to traders ever since. It has a great range of independent shops and cafes including the ever popular Ben's Cookies; The Hat Box, Oxford's only custom hat shop; and the Alpha Bar, a very popular place for locals in search of a wholesome and healthy lunch.

oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk


Alice's Shop

Looking for Wonderland?

Try: Alice's Shop

Alice's Shop in Oxford is a must visit for any fans of the Alice in Wonderland books. Situated across the road from Alice's childhood home, Oxford University college of Christ Church, it was a sweet shop 150 years ago, and Lewis Carroll wrote the shop into Alice's Adventures Through the Looking-Glass. The shop is now a treasure trove of Alice in Wonderland gifts and memorabilia.

aliceinwonderlandshop.com


Burford

Looking for antiques?

Try: Burford

If you're looking for unusual antiquities or unique gifts, the quaint Cotswold village of Burford has a brilliant range of antique retailers. Try Gateway Antiques for English and Continental Furniture and Manfred Schotten for sporting antiques.


Bicester Village

Looking for designer brands?

Try: Bicester Village

Discover a world of luxury at Bicester Village, the region's ultimate shopping destination. Home to more than 130 fashion and lifestyle boutiques, each offers savings of up to 60%, all year round. Visit The Farmshop and enjoy some delicious rustic British Food; open for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner.

bicestervillage.com/en/home



Oxford Visitor Information Centre

Looking for souvenirs and gifts?

Try: The Oxford Visitor Information Centre

Located on Broad Street, the Oxford Visitor Information Centre has a great range of gifts and souvenirs ranging from an Alice in Wonderland tea set and Harry Potter mug to award-winning Oxfordshire mustard!

experienceoxfordshire.org/eshop

LOOKING FORWARD TO:

Opening in October 2017, Westgate Oxford will be the new shopping and leisure experience located in the heart of the historic city of Oxford. With over 100 world-class retailers and restaurants, and new roof top views to take in the dreaming spires of Oxford, Westgate Oxford will be open ready for your Christmas shop.

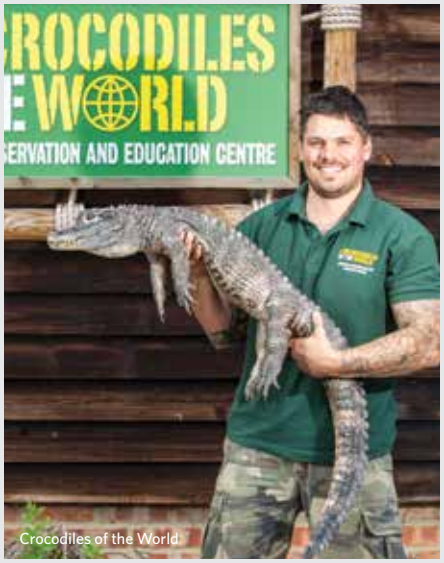
W westgateoxford.co.uk



Family Fun

Oxfordshire is the perfect place for families to enjoy a big day out. With fantastic farms, zoos, magical museums and amazing mazes, the county's got activities for children of all ages.

Farm Parks and Wildlife



Crocodiles of the World


Fairytale Farm


Cogges Manor Farm


Cotswold Wildlife Park

The Maize Maze at Millets Farm

First held in 1997, the annual Millets Farm Maize Maze attracts visitors from far and wide to navigate its miles of pathway. The 6ft tall hedges of maize are cut into a new design each year, and have included Alice in Wonderland, a Pirate Ship and the Battle of Trafalgar. Spend your day getting lost with the family.

Be a junior keeper croc keeper for the day

Crocodiles of the World is the UK's only crocodile zoo. For brave children over the age of 6 there's the opportunity to be a junior crocodile keeper for the day. It's a great way to get up close and personal with these magnificent creatures and learn more about their conversation.

Take an Enchanted Walk at Fairytale Farm

Enjoy a unique sensory experience with the whole family with an Enchanted Walk at Fairytale Farm. This magical journey invites you to look, touch, smell and listen along the way.

Farm animals at Cogges Manor Farm

There is no shortage of things to do at Cogges Manor Farm; from Den Making to dressing up in the parlour of the Manor House, and exploring the 15 acres of beautiful grounds. However one of our favourite things to do at Cogges is meet the Farm animals. With the opportunity to feed some of the animals, Cogges' collection of furry (and not so furry) friends includes Pygmy Goats, pigs, chickens and ducks.

The Madagascan Walkthrough at Cotswold Wildlife Park

Get up close with the Cotswold Wildlife Park's collection of lemurs in The Madagascan Walkthrough. The animals roam free in the enclosure, so you will spot them lounging in the sun and swinging through the trees. Check before you visit to make sure you don't miss the Lemur Feeding Talk, where one of the keepers will introduce you to the Lemurs and other species that share the exhibit, and you can find out more about the fascinating creatures.


Blenheim Palace

Pleasure Gardens at Blenheim Palace

The Pleasure Gardens include a miniature train, the Marlborough Hedge – one of the world's largest hedge mazes, a Butterfly House and an excellent adventure playground. Adults won't be disappointed as the Pleasure Gardens Deli has a great selection of coffee, cake, pizza and plenty of healthy options too!

Family Tours


Thomas ©Great Western Society LTD

Day out with Thomas at Didcot Railway Centre

Enjoy a day out at Didcot Railway Centre and meet Thomas and his friends, including Duck & Diesel, and The Fat Controller, Sir Topham Hatt, who will be keeping an eye on everything!


Oxford Castle Unlocked

Oxford Castle Unlocked

Meet the inhabitants of Oxford Castle and discover their true and fascinating stories as you explore over 1,000 years of history of the Castle with a costumed guide.


Bill Spectre

Bill Spectre's Ghost Trail

Join Bill Spectre with your family on this spine-tingling, award-winning Ghost Trail around the narrow streets of Oxford - one for the whole family to enjoy!

Museums


Museum of Natural History

Dinosaurs at Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The Oxford University Museum of Natural History has many treasures to explore, but one you cannot miss is their impressive collection of dinosaurs. From the footsteps outside that pave your way to the museum, to the gigantic cast of a skeleton of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, it will captivate your little ones.


Story Museum

Animal at the Story Museum

Explore your wild side at the Story Museum's Animal exhibitions. With contributions from leading authors like Michael Morpurgo and Philip Pullman, and a host of the most beloved children's literary animals, it is a real treat for the whole family.


Ashmolean Museum

Family Fun Days at Ashmolean Museum

The Ashmolean Museum hosts a variety of family friendly events every month with trails and activity kits to give the little ones one exciting museum adventure!

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Chiltern Railways

People behind Oxfordshire's **Country Houses and Gardens**



Dr Oliver Cox Knowledge Exchange Fellow, Thames Valley Country House Partnership Project.

Oxfordshire is a county full to bursting with brilliant country houses and beautiful gardens. From the baroque bombast of Blenheim Palace, the French chateau style of Waddesdon Manor through to the intimate setting of Kelmscott Manor and Sulgrave Manor, and the inspirational Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire delights the senses and contains stories that capture the history of Britain from the medieval to the modern.

There are architectural marvels. Waddesdon Manor and Blenheim Palace are two architecturally adventurous buildings that pushed boundaries in terms of their scale and their lavish interior decoration. Yet, just like in Downton Abbey, the real stars of the show are the people and personalities who lived upstairs and downstairs in Oxfordshire's country houses.

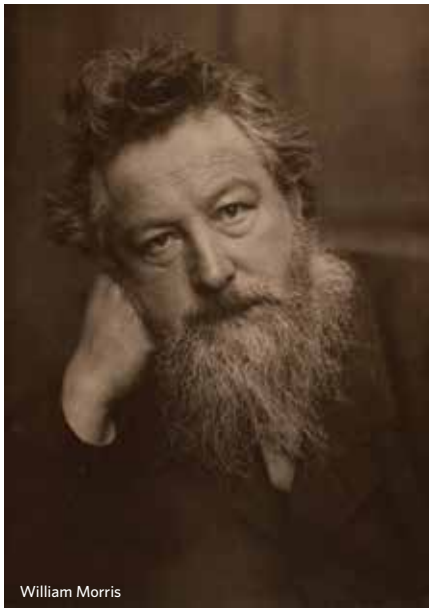


Stonor Park



Stonor Family, 2016

Stonor Park, set deep in the Chilterns in a deer park with mature beeches has been home to the Stonor family for over 850 years. The mansion, which has evolved over time and responded to different fashions from the 12th to 19th century is just part of the story. Within the walls of the Stonor dramatic changes occurred that shaped modern Europe. The Reformation swept across Europe in the sixteenth century, creating a new type of Christianity called Protestantism. From the reign of Henry VIII onwards, Protestantism became the authorised Established Church in England. The Stonor Family, at great personal risk, remained Catholic. In June 1581 the family gave refuge to a leading Oxford academic and Jesuit, Edmund Campion, who printed in Stonor Park a wildly controversial pamphlet, Rationes Decem, which gave ten reasons why the Catholic faith should be preferred to the Established Church. Today you can still visit the room where Campion, evading arrest as a traitor, printed this incendiary pamphlet. Campion was captured one month later. He was brutally tortured for three months before being hanged, drawn and quartered.



William Morris

Another Oxfordshire radical was the pioneering Arts and Crafts designer and political activist, William Morris. His country house, **Kelmscott Manor**, on the banks of the River Thames, was the inspiration for producing his most memorable patterns that still decorate homes around the world in the twenty-first century. From 'Strawberry Thief' to the Kelmscott Press editions of William Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, William Morris created a design aesthetic, inspired by the beautiful landscape around the village of Kelmscott, which endures to this day. Morris, described as 'a man whom history will never overtake' combined his artistic talents with a passion for socialism.



Kelmscott Manor


Waddesdon Manor

A remarkable patron, and collector of the arts, designed and built the enchanting **Waddesdon Manor** in the late nineteenth century. Ferdinand de Rothschild modelled his house on the Valois chateaux of the Loire Valley in France, and proceeded to fill it with some of the best collections of eighteenth-century French furniture and porcelain, along with English portraiture of the same period. Ferdinand was a pioneer in politics. He was one of the first Jewish Members of Parliament and friend of King Edward VII. We will never know just how influential Ferdinand was, for he requested his papers to be destroyed at his death.


Blenheim Palace


Broughton Castle

In addition to these leading figures from artistic, literary and political change, Oxfordshire's country houses have been forged through historic conflicts. At **Broughton Castle**, the story of the English Civil War is told through the clash of personalities between the Royalist cavalry commander, Prince Rupert, and the Parliamentarian defender of the besieged Broughton Castle. The monumental **Blenheim Palace**, built on lands given to John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough, was constructed as a gift from a grateful nation to thank Churchill for his defeat of Louis XIV's armies at the start of the eighteenth century. John Churchill even put a bust of his enemy, Louis XIV of France, on the top of his palace.

Oxfordshire's country houses and gardens are remarkable storehouses of stories. Within their walls, fascinating characters printed controversial books, thought great thoughts, designed beautiful things, and collectively managed to change the world in which we live in today.


William Fiennes


Ferdinand de Rothschild


Sir Winston Churchill



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WHAT'S ON IN OXFORDSHIRE

JANUARY

28 JANUARY

Vampires Rock: The Ghost Train

The New Theatre Oxford brings you Vampires Rock, a thrilling production by Steve Steinman with mischief and mayhem, this hilariously funny show lives up to its rocking reputation.

atgtickets.com

28 JANUARY

Collaborative Making

The Old Fire Station in Oxford helps you to bring out your creative side with their ethos of working together to share ideas through their workshop Collaborative Making.

oldfirestation.org.uk/event/collaborative-making/

FEBRUARY

11 FEBRUARY

A Passion For Fashion

'A Passion For Fashion – 300 Years of Style at Blenheim Palace' will include unique and historic items from the Oxfordshire stately home's own priceless collection.

Blenheimpalace.com

20 - 25 FEBRUARY

Wonderland

The New Theatre Oxford presents Wonderland, its an enchanting musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, with a medley of magic and a whole lot of wonder.

Atgtickets.com



24 - 26 FEBRUARY

The Oxford International Art Fair

Oxford Town Hall presents Oxford International Art Fair, running over three halls at the Oxford Town Hall, showing a great variety of artworks by a selection of international exhibitors from 26 countries.

Oxfordtownhall.co.uk

MARCH



3 - 12 MARCH

Dancin' Oxford

Join Dancin' Oxford with their exciting programme of participatory activity and performance programmes! More information on their website about venues!

Dancinoxford.co.uk

APRIL



8 - 23 APRIL

Snappy Easter at the Croc Zoo

Have a 'Snappy Easter' this year with a visit to the UK's only Crocodile Zoo - Crocodiles of the World. Learn about Crocodile eggs and the transformation of a crocodile from a cute hatchling to becoming one of the world's most feared predators.

www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk

9 APRIL

Great British Bike Off

The Great British Bike Off is an alternative, customised bike festival in Oxford City Centre. It is a celebration of creativity, culture and of course... cycling!

greatbritishbikeoff.org



14 - 17 APRIL

The Easter Bunny is Coming

Fairytale Farm's Giant Rabbit Burrow is open all through the Easter Weekend so come along and meet the Easter Bunny. Visitors can explore this indoor Burrow, meet the Easter Bunny, listen to the Bunny telling an Easter story, join in on the Easter egg hunt and every child will receive a full size Easter egg.

www.fairytalefarm.co.uk



22 - 23 APRIL

Shakespeare's Birthday

Come and join Oxford Preservation Trust at the Painted Room where Shakespeare stayed on his travels between London and Stratford Upon Avon, as we celebrate Shakespeare's Birthday.

Oxfordpreservation.org.uk

MAY



1 MAY

May Morning

At 6am Oxford will be woken with the choristers of Magdalen College choir singing Hymnus Eucharisticus from the Great Tower. Shortly followed by the bells ringing out over the city for approximately 20 minutes.

Oxford.gov.uk

20 MAY

Riverside Stomp

Join Helen and Douglas House on a 9 or 22 mile walk from Wallingford or Abingdon to Oxford, get your hiking boots on and help raise some money for a great cause!

helenanddouglas.org.uk



27 - 29 MAY

The Blenheim Palace Food Festival

Join Blenheim Palace for this year's Food Festival, quality food and drink for passionate foodies and families alike.

Blenheimpalace.com



6 - 29 MAY

Oxfordshire Artweeks Festival

In hundreds of pop-up exhibitions and artists' open studios, you'll be able to meet artists, craftspeople and designer-makers in a wide range of amazing venues, talk about their work, watch demonstrations and maybe have a go yourself. Expect the unexpected, be inspired, diverted and delighted – and take home a unique artwork of your own.

Artweeks.org



27 - 28 MAY

Common People

Its back! Common People returns to Oxford for another year of great music!

Oxford.commonpeople.net



27 MAY - 4 JUNE

Gnometastic

Half term fun for the kids in the gardens at Waterperry. Help the gnomes in the gardens who have forgotten their names. Find all eight gnomes and their names to claim a prize. There is plenty for the grown-ups to do too with a Georgian walled plant centre and shop, a Gallery and Gift Barn offering unique gifts and artworks by British artists and a Rural Life Museum packed with quirky ephemera.

www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

JUNE

3 JUNE

The Oxford Pride Parade

Oxford Pride continues to provide a positive focus for Oxfordshire individuals and community groups and encourages people from outside of Oxford to visit the city.

sites.google.com/a/oxford-pride.org.uk

23 - 25 JUNE

The Blenheim Palace Flower Show

The show previews different styles of front gardens - with rich, varied and colourful planting the designers create their show garden from scratch.

Blenheimpalace.com

24 JUNE

The Florence Park Festival

FloFest is a free annual community festival that is now in it's 4th year. It is run entirely by local volunteers and is not for profit. The festival is filled with local groups, craft people, musicians and food vendors.

Flofest.uk



28 JUNE - 2 JULY

The Henley Regatta

Henley Royal Regatta is undoubtedly the best known regatta in the world and is both one of the highlights of the summer sporting calendar and the social season.

Hrr.co.uk

JUNE

Low Carbon Week

A celebration of all things good and green in our city and aims to show local people how they can save money, get fit and be happy whilst being kind to the environment.

Icoweek.org

JULY



1 JULY

Alice's Day

Every year Oxford celebrates all things Alice, with the annual Alice's Day celebrations to commemorate an important moment for children's literature and for Oxford.

www.storymuseum.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/alices-day/



2 JULY

Cowley Road Carnival

Another year of the vibrant Cowley Road Carnival with fun for all the family this July!

Cowleyroadcarnival.co.uk

7 - 9 JULY

Cornbury Festival

The Cornbury Music Festival is one-of-a-kind: a lovingly crafted, top notch, very English open air party, tailor-made for the whole family.

Cornburyfestival.com



21 - 23 JULY

Truck Festival

Hill Farm plays host to another year of Truck Festival, being even bigger than last year with fun for all the family!

Truckfestival.com

AUGUST

3 - 6 AUGUST

Wilderness Festival

Wilderness Festival is the multi-award winning 4-day festival of live music, wild swimming, spectacle, late night revelry and dining experiences.

Wildernessfestival.com

3 - 6 AUGUST

Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace

See the nationwide famous BBC Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace this August.

Countryfilelive.com



25 - 27 AUGUST

The Big Feastival

Another year on Alex James' Farm brings us The Big Feastival 2017, for food, music and family fun join Jamie Oliver and Alex James this August!

Thebigfeastival.com

SEPTEMBER



4 - 5 SEPTEMBER

St Giles' Fair

The locally famous St Giles' fair returns for another year with different rides and food stalls for the whole family to enjoy!

Oxford.gov.uk

14 - 17 SEPTEMBER

Blenheim Horse Trials

The Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials welcome all visitors to the event, from the first time guest to the many who come back year after year to enjoy the four days of exciting action!

Blenheimhorse.co.uk

SEE WEBSITE FOR DATES & VENUES

Oxford Open Doors

Oxford Open Doors is a celebration of Oxford across all walks of life, its places and its people. In partnership with Oxford University, they warmly welcome you. Enjoy a weekend to learn, feel and discover.

Oxfordpreservation.org.uk

OCTOBER

SEE WEBSITE FOR DATES

The Oxford Chamber Music Festival

The Oxford Chamber Music Festival has gained a reputation for being one of the most exciting music festivals in Europe.

Ocmf.net

SEE WEBSITE FOR DATES

The Oxford Lieder Festival

The Lieder Festival is the focal point of Oxford Lieder's year, presenting more than 35 concerts and dozens of other events celebrating the unique art form of song.

www.oxfordlieder.co.uk

NOVEMBER

4 NOVEMBER

50th Oxford Round Table Fireworks

South Park, Headington, plays host to the 50th Oxford Round Table fireworks display, helping to raise money for charities.

Oxfordfireworks.co.uk



LATE NOVEMBER

Christmas Lights Festival

With the build up to Christmas celebrate everything Christmas with the rest of Oxfordshire with this year's Christmas lights Festival!

oxford.gov.uk

DECEMBER



7 - 17 DECEMBER

Oxford Christmas Market

The city of dreaming spires will again be filled with festive joy as the Oxford Christmas Market returns to the heart of the city on beautiful and historic Broad Street.

Oxfordchristmasmarket.co.uk

10 DECEMBER

Santa's On The Run

Join 2500 other "Santas" to run through the centre of Oxford all to raise money to help local families with children or young adults with life shortening conditions.

helenanddouglas.org.uk



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All dates are correct at the time of print.
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WWW.KELMSCOTTMANOR.ORG.UK

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Woodstock
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E: customerservice@blenheimpalace.com
www.blenheimpalace.com
Open: Open Daily
Admission Charge: Yes



Christ Church

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T: 01865 276492
E: tourism@chch.ox.ac.uk
www.chch.ox.ac.uk
Open Times: 10am-4.15pm Monday - Saturday, 2-4.15pm Sunday
Admission charge: yes



Saxon Tower, St Michael at the Northgate

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E: joshuajouhal@smng.org.uk
www.smng.org.uk
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Admission charge: Yes



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www.batsarb.co.uk
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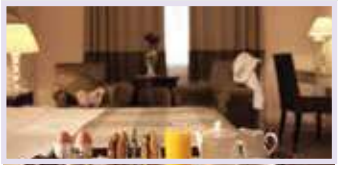
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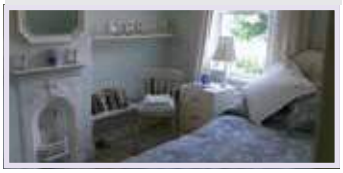
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www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/macdonald-randolph-hotel/



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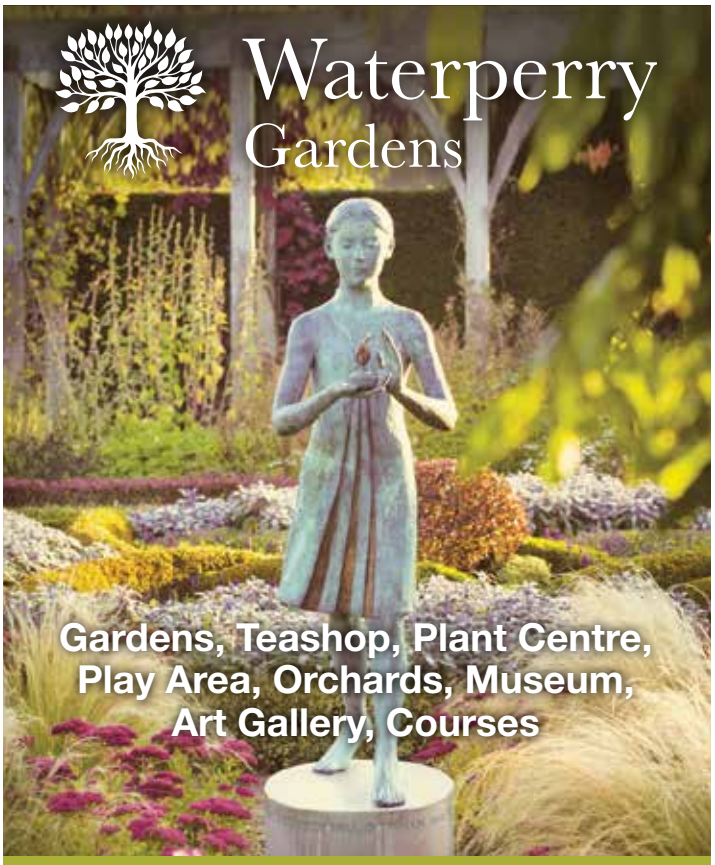
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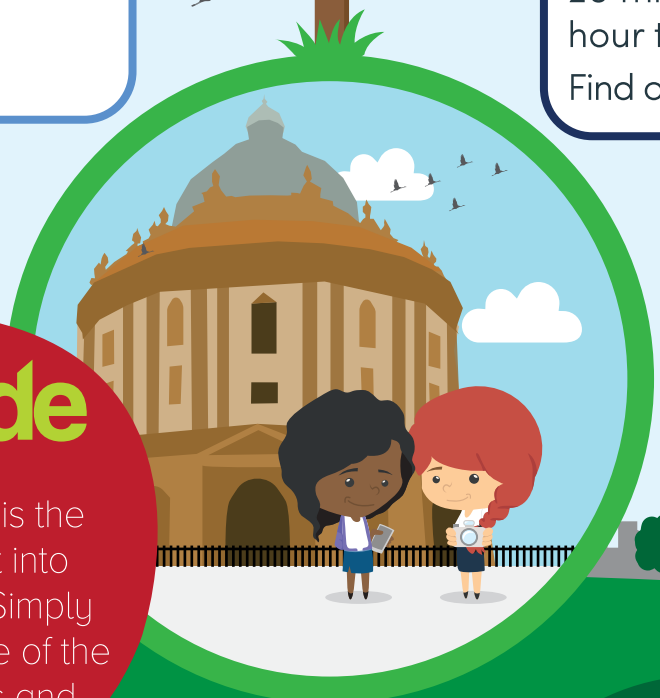




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