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Britain’s Greatest Palace

Registered charity number 1166164

Birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill
UNESCO World Heritage Site

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All information stated in this guide is correct at time of publishing and every attempt is made to ensure its accuracy. However, prices, opening hours and offers may be subject to change without notice. Please check before you travel.
Home to a city of dreaming spires, historic market towns, villages of honey-coloured stone, rolling hills and waterways, Oxfordshire delivers the great outdoors, heritage, culture, entertainment and countless experiences.

Enjoy its cosy pubs, memorable dining options and delightful accommodation. Soak up the grandeur of stunning stately homes and amazing museums or go on a spree in its contemporary shopping centres and artisan markets.

Make time for cycle rides, walks and punting, and round off your evenings with magical music and theatre.

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OXFORDSHIRE HIGHLIGHTS

1 ➤ University of Oxford
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INTRODUCTION TO OXFORDSHIRE

The UK’s only hub for historic motoring excellence, based at a 444 acre former WW2 RA F Bomber Training Station.

There is so much to do on the river, from punting at Cherwell Boathouse and cruises with Oxford River Cruises and Salter’s Steamers, to walks with incredible riverside views.

Major retail and lifestyle destination in the centre of Oxford, home to prestigious global brands plus eclectic restaurants and sophisticated rooftop dining.

Set in the heart of the historic city centre, New Theatre Oxford is home to some of the biggest names from the world of theatre, music, dance, comedy and more.

Britain’s oldest public museum, home to a world-famous collection of art and artefacts ranging from Egyptian mummies to contemporary art.

Bicester Village is a luxury shopping destination home to more than 150 fashion and lifestyle boutiques in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside.

One of the world’s leading academic institutions dating back to the 11th century, made up of 39 independent colleges including Christ Church and Keble College.

Home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The Museum of Oxford, in Oxford’s Grade II* listed Town Hall, is the only museum dedicated to telling the story of Oxford and its people.

A 17th century farmstead in the Cotswolds with picnic orchard, farm animals, museum and café. Features as Yew Tree Farm in Downton Abbey.
**Oxford AN INTRODUCTION**

On a trip to Oxford be sure to squeeze in a visit to a world-class museum before a picnic in one of the city's tranquil parks. Stroll along Oxford's pastel-hued High Street lined with independent boutique shops and coffee bars, before joining the River Cherwell at Magdalen Bridge for a leisurely punt along the river.

Visit the world-famous Bodleian Libraries, home to the University's oldest teaching and examination room, the Divinity School.

Make sure that you leave time to explore and enjoy the eclectic variety of places to eat and drink the city has to offer, from chic five-star restaurants to buzzing pubs and cafes.

Take a walking tour of Oxford City Centre with Oxford Official Walking Tours or Oxford Tour Guides, where ornate buildings in distinctive golden stone can be found around every corner. The University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world, is made up of 39 colleges - many dating back to medieval times with immaculate lawned quads, grand dining halls and ornate chapels.

- Oxford University & City Tour
- Inspector Morse Tour
- Philip Pullman’s Oxford Tour
- Oxford Ghost Tour
- CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien Tour
WHERE TO SHOP AND EAT IN OXFORD

Oxford is a hub of top-notch shopping and dining choices with high street shops and eateries next to independent retailers and cafes and exclusive designer brands - all waiting to be enjoyed!

WESTGATE OXFORD

Westgate Oxford is home to prestigious global brands - including high-end department store John Lewis & Partners - innovative restaurants and cafes, a five-screen cinema and sophisticated boutique bars. Visit Westgate's rooftop terrace for arresting views of the Oxford city skyline while you enjoy one of the many dining or drinking options! A favourite is Pho, with its delicious and healthy Vietnamese-inspired street food.

GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

Located just off bustling George Street, the Gloucester Green Market is a traditional open-air market that operates from Wednesday through to Saturday. Here you will find a vibrant selection of fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables, cheese, baked goods, sweets and more. Don't leave without trying the delicious street food served here, inspired by global cuisines.

HIGH STREET

Oxford's picturesque and busy High Street, known locally as 'The High', runs from Carfax Tower all the way down and east to Magdalen Bridge. Aside from the multiple colleges lining the way, Oxford's High Street features a plethora of independent and high-end retailers, restaurants and the Visitor Information Point. In addition, Oxford's High Street boasts England’s original coffeehouse - one that's been around since the 1650s!

LITTLE CLARENDON STREET

Buzzing Little Clarendon Street has stylish boutiques, cheese shops, cafes and more. Walk to the end of Little Clarendon Street and you will find yourself in the relaxed and bohemian area of Jericho, which boasts more independent shops, bookstores and unique drinking and eating establishments.

THE COVERED MARKET OXFORD

Home to a collection of independent shops, The Covered Market Oxford dates back to the 8th century and is a hub of wonderfully tucked-away retailers selling everything from books to clothing. Eating here is an experience you won't find anywhere else in the city; watch the skilled bakers of The Cake Shop create masterpieces before popping in to buy a cupcake, kick start your day with a full English breakfast at Brown's Cafe, or quench your thirst at a juicery, coffee shop or the rooftop cocktail bar. Nearby at Knoops on Turl Street, discover the perfect chocolate drink.
OXFORD’S GREEN SPACES

Offering leafy sanctuaries from the bustling city, Oxford’s green spaces are open to the public all year round. Take some tranquil time out from your city break in these historic parks.

PORT MEADOW
One of Oxford’s hidden gems, Port Meadow is a beautiful open area of ancient meadowland, north-west of the city centre and just a 5-minute walk from Jericho, offering a tranquil retreat for visitors and locals alike. Home to grazing horses and a herd of pedigree Old English Longhorn cattle, Port Meadow lies alongside the River Thames and has provided inspiration for Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland and JRR Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings.

CHRIST CHURCH MEADOW
Ideal for short scenic walks and picnics, Christ Church Meadow stretches from Christ Church to the banks of the River Thames and River Cherwell. The meadow itself is an open expanse of rugged greenery, peppered with rare English Longhorn cows. Walk around the meadow to take in a variety of wildlife, watch the rowing boats passing by on the river, or see the college boathouses.

SOUTH PARK
In East Oxford, at the end of St Clement’s, you’ll find South Park. The largest park in the city, with 50 acres of open green space, South Park often plays host to events and festivals throughout the year. It's the perfect park for dog walks, sun-bathing, and meeting with friends before lunch at one of the many excellent restaurants on Cowley Road or St Clement’s. South Park also boasts excellent views over the spires of Oxford, especially in the mesmerising light of dawn or dusk.

UNIVERSITY PARKS
University Parks offers the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of the city but is also conveniently located right at the city’s heart. The beautiful park, originally created by Merton College and now owned by the University of Oxford itself, offers a choice of peaceful walks. Feed ducks at the pond and discover the park’s Genetic Garden and collection of rare trees before wandering back towards the city centre along the bank of the River Cherwell.

OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN
The University of Oxford Botanic Garden is the UK’s oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621 to grow plants for medicinal research. Situated in the heart of Oxford, the historic garden is an oasis of green in the city centre. Take a stroll around the formal walled garden; see exotic, tropical and carnivorous plants in the glasshouses, and enjoy the lush herbaceous borders of the informal lower garden.

STRETCH YOUR LEGS FURTHER WITH A WALK ALONG THE RIDGeway TRAIL
Read More | p.62

SEE MORE NATURE ALONG OXFORD’S WATERWAYS
Read More | p.40

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2&3 CHRIST CHURCH MEADOW
4 SOUTH PARK
5 UNIVERSITY PARKS
6&7 OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN
WHERE THE LocALS LiVE:  
BEYOND THE CITY CENTRE

Travel just beyond Oxford city centre and you will find great attractions and local culture in many of the city’s districts - each with their own unique identity.

JERICHO
Once an industrial area due to its proximity to the Oxford Canal, Jericho is now one of Oxford’s most sought-after areas to live with an excellent choice of pubs, restaurants and shops. It’s a laid-back, bohemian neighbourhood, characterised by hip cocktail bars and quiet residential streets of Victorian terraces. The Old Bookbinders Ale House is a charming neighbourhood pub loved by locals for its delicious (and surprising!) menu of French cuisine. For a fun evening, head to The Harcourt Arms or Jericho Tavern for some live music, or enjoy expertly-mixed cocktails at Raoul’s Bar.

SUMMERTOWN
To the north of the city centre, Summertown is a leafy suburb that is lined with cosy cafes, boutique shops, and many independent restaurants and eateries. North Parade and South Parade are colourful shopping streets, perfect for picking up an artisan gift or pastry to take home. On a Sunday Summertown Farmers Market springs to life, offering a tempting array of incredible fresh produce. Find entertainment at the North Wall Arts Centre, which showcases upcoming artists across comedy, theatre and dance.

COWLEY ROAD
Cowley Road is a vibrant, multicultural area to the east of Oxford with many restaurants, shops, bars and arts venues. The area’s unique character is celebrated every July at the Cowley Road Carnival, which boasts live music, a lively parade and delicious street food. One of the most diverse restaurant scenes in the city, Cowley Road boasts the hottest spots for food shopping and restaurants. The tiny, crammed Maroc Deli is a total gem, and just a few yards away is bustling Arbequina, masquerading under the name of ‘R Neville Chemists’, which serves truly exceptional tapas. Lankan street food restaurant The Coconut Tree or one of several pubs for a drink, quiz or live music! Wander on from St Clement’s and you will come to South Park; a beautiful, vast green space overlooking Oxford’s dreaming spires.

ST CLEMENT’S
Adjacent to Cowley Road, St Clement’s is another street bustling with a variety of eclectic restaurants and bars - the Oxford Brookes University campus is nearby, giving the feel of a buzzing student district. Visit lively Sri-
Walk across the ancient chalk downs of the Ridgeway and climb to the top of White Horse Hill for enchanting views over the whole of Oxfordshire, with its rolling hills dotted with sheep, criss-crossed with hedges and circled by red kites, continuing endlessly into the horizon. Simply relax and take a break as you admire the scenery, but don't stop for too long - for there is so much to see and do on your journey across the county.

Standing in the ancient and unspoilt countryside of the Chiltern Hills stretching across the south of Oxfordshire, it feels like you might be the first traveller to discover this land. Venture north through the county, however, and you'll discover thousands of years of culture.

Meandering across the county, the River Cherwell and River Thames provide beautiful riverside walks. Follow the River Thames north to shop in a farmers' market in one of Oxfordshire's traditional market towns, such as Wallingford or Abingdon.

The two rivers converge in Oxford, an architectural gem and the county (and world's) intellectual heart. Piercing Oxfordshire's skylines with its spires and domes, the lively city provides an energetic contrast to the tranquillity of Oxfordshire's countryside.

Let the River Cherwell guide you further north through the county, towards the uplands known as ‘ironstone country’, with pretty villages built of the richly coloured local Hornton ironstone, the market towns of Banbury and Bicester, plus welcoming pubs and blissfully quiet walking trails.

Head west in the county and you will find that some of the most beautiful Cotswold towns and villages, such as Burford and Minster Lovell, are in Oxfordshire. Relax with an afternoon tea in a charming, honey-coloured Cotswold building.

With a wealth of natural beauty, Oxfordshire is an unmissable county bursting with character. Take some time to explore beyond the city of Oxford, because there is so much more to discover.
Haven’t you ‘herd’?

The oxen are coming to oxon!

OxTrail is Oxfordshire’s very first art sculpture trail. In summer 2024, a herd of life-sized and mini ox sculptures will be taking over Oxfordshire to form a vibrant, colourful and family-friendly trail. Each sculpture has been designed by artists, local schools, and community groups, making the herd truly unique. Join the moo-vement and explore Oxfordshire’s iconic attractions, uncover some hidden gems, and have lots of fun along the way.

Once the trail is over, there will be one last chance to bid goodbye to our moo-gnificent herd at our Farewell Weekend. Gather your friends and family together and help give our oxen the send-off they deserve!

The life-sized oxen will then be sold to their forever homes at a hoof-biting Grand Auction to raise vital funds for Sobell House, your local hospice.

An adventure awaits you...

oxtrail2024.co.uk
North Oxfordshire offers rich rewards for its visitors. Centred in 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.

Banbury is set amidst the gentle rolling hills in the north of the district. At its heart is the canal side quarter where you will find The Light, an exciting entertainment venue with a premium seven screen cinema, 10 lane bowling alley and waterfront restaurants. This popular area is also home to the historic Tooley’s Boatyard; Banbury Museum; and Lock 29 with artisan food and drink outlets and a delightful terrace overlooking the canal. The atmospheric lanes of the Old Town are well worth exploring and you will also want to see the “Fine Lady” from the famous Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross rhyme, a beautiful bronze statue set close to the Banbury Cross at the meeting point of the roads from Oxford, Warwick and Shipston-on-Stour.

Bicester lies just 12 miles northeast of Oxford and marries the charm of a historic market town with the appeal of the world-famous luxury shopping destination, Bicester Village. Trains from London Marylebone take just under an hour and as well as shopping in the Village, you can visit the delightful Garth Park gardens and relax over a meal at one of the town’s welcoming pubs or restaurants.

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 in the 14th century and used as a film setting for both Shakespeare in Love and The Madness of King George.

There is a rich brewing heritage to discover in the village of Hook Norton, near Chipping Norton, where you can enjoy a tour of the Victorian Hook Norton Brewery which is still thriving today and supplying many local pubs.

Built in the late 18th century to carry commercial barges between Coventry and Oxford, the Oxford canal follows the scenic course of the River Cherwell. You can explore the canal by hiring narrow boats at either Lower Heyford or Thrupp, or enjoy one of the towpath or circular walks. The stretch of the canal between Banbury and Oxford is also accessible by train, with stations at Banbury, Lower Heyford, Tackley and Oxford.

The district has a strong tradition of festivals and events, ranging from Banbury’s Canal Festival and the motor-themed events at Bicester Heritage (also home to Sky Wave Gin and Finest Hour Experiences) to Cropredy’s Fairport Convention music festival which is held in August each year. A central location with excellent transport links,
If you don’t come, you’ll never know…

Bicester Village is an open air shopping destination, home to more than 150 fashion and lifestyle boutiques – in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside. Expect the extraordinary from the moment you arrive and dine at an array of world-class restaurants, including Ceconi’s, La Tua Pasta, Shan Shui and Soho House & Co’s farmshop restaurant & café.

Tap the link below to download your VIP Pass for an exclusive 10% off*, on us.

DOWNLOAD YOUR VIP PASS

This offer is made by Value Retail Management (Bicester Village) Ltd (the “Promoter”, “we”, “us”, “our”) in conjunction with participating boutiques and restaurants at Bicester Village and is available for redemption up to and including 31 December 2024. *A 10% saving on the Village (outlet) price is offered in participating boutiques and restaurants. The VIP Pass cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Please see VIP Pass terms. By redeeming the offer, you confirm agreement with these terms and our privacy policy available at TheBicesterCollection.com/bicester-village/en/legal/village-privacy-notice. ©Bicester Village 2023

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE
HILLS & VILLAGES

Enjoy a picnic in Wallingford Castle Meadows and Castle Gardens, discover the river Thames with a boat trip or take a walk along the Thames to Days Lock or Dorchester on Thames and visit Dorchester Abbey.

Waterperry Gardens, just a stone’s throw from Oxford, has been delighting visitors for years with 8 acres of historic and inspirational gardens nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside between Wheatley and Thame.

Nearby Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons is a country house hotel set in elegant gardens in the Oxfordshire countryside. A site of gastronomic excellence, the restaurant, helmed by Chef Raymond Blanc OBE, has held two Michelin stars for almost 40 years.

You can also visit the town of Didcot and stop at Didcot Railway Centre to see a unique collection of Great Western Railway Steam engines.

Visit Henley-on-Thames, home to the famous Henley Royal Regatta and one of the most beautiful towns in Oxfordshire. Its riverside location, surrounded by wooded hills and green fields, lends itself to relaxation. Whilst there, overnight at the luxury boutique hotel, The Relais Henley, visit Stonor Park, and nearby The Henley Distillery.

Like many traditional market towns, Thame grew from Anglo-Saxon roots but has since developed its own individual character whilst preserving its rich history; ancient medieval buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture and the iconic boat-shaped high street stands as a testament to the marketplace for which it was originally designed.
The Vale of White Horse stretches from the edge of Oxford to the threshold of the Cotswolds. Its enchanting landscape is marked by a mysterious pagan past - the very name comes from the oldest chalk figure in Britain, dating back over 3,000 years.

It offers many walking and cycling trails. Mile upon mile of the Thames Path leads you to wonderful waterside pubs, hidden villages and glorious countryside. Wayland's Smithy is one of the most impressive prehistoric tombs in Britain.

Abingdon-on-Thames is the largest town in the Vale, its historic town centre dominated by the grandeur of the 17th century County Hall. It presides over the cobbled Market Place, a favourite café haunt for walkers and cyclists taking a break from the Thames Path and other routes in the surrounding countryside.

Nearby is the contemporary Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon Oxford Hotel and The Crown & Thistle coaching inn plus the ancient Abbey Buildings which host the Abingdon Traditional Craft Fair every November.

Wantage is an ancient market town and birthplace of King Alfred the Great. Visit the award-winning Vale & Downland Museum which tells the story of the White Horse. Grove, on the outskirts of Wantage, has grown from a settlement recorded in the Doomsday Book.

Faringdon has been welcoming visitors for many centuries. Take a break in one of the quirky coffee shops, or climb to the top of the hill above Faringdon to see the gothic Folly Tower and views across four counties. Nearby grab a drink, eat or stay at Mollie's Motel & Diner Oxfordshire.
WEST OXFORDSHIRE
GATEWAY TO THE COTSWOLDS

West Oxfordshire is characterised by the rolling hills of the Cotswolds, offering excitement for any visitor.

Burford is an ancient town nestled in the countryside. Stroll down the picturesque High Street, lined with idyllic stone cottages, boutiques, pubs and restaurants. Explore Burford’s alleyways and lanes where you can immerse yourself in medieval history and charm.

Experience timeless Cotswolds life at Cogges Manor Farm in Witney and stroll around the picnic orchard and walled garden of the historic farmstead. Pick up vegetables from the farm’s reception and have fun feeding the friendly farm animals! In the evening head to Little Sandy’s, a live music venue serving cocktails, wines, spirits and beers until late.

Woodstock is a picturesque Georgian town located on the edge of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, containing many attractive honey stone buildings and home to the Oxfordshire Museum. The Bear Hotel makes a great base from which to explore the county, within reach of Oxford, Charlbury and Chipping Norton and nearby Fairytale Farm. Visit Wake Up to Woodstock website to find out about events, accommodation, shopping, restaurants and more.

The town borders the estate of magnificent Blenheim Palace, home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. A masterpiece of Baroque architecture with 90 acres of award-winning Formal Gardens and Parkland landscaped by Capability Brown, Blenheim Palace provides an awe-inspiring experience for visitors.

Further south in the district explore Bampton, otherwise known as the TV village of Downton, and Kelmscott Manor the country home of William Morris. In nearby Clanfield The Double Red Duke offers the perfect bolthole.

OXFORDSHIRE’S SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

Oxfordshire has been the location for countless films and TV series, and has also been the inspiration for some of the world’s best-loved novels and characters.

HARRY POTTER

Much of the Harry Potter series was filmed in Oxford. Wander through the cobbled streets of Oxford and visit the magical places that were brought to life. At Christ Church you’ll find the Tudor dining hall which provided inspiration for Hogwarts Great Hall. See if you can spot the area where Harry spent time recovering in the Hogwarts Infirmary when you visit the Divinity School, or the location where Draco Malfoy was turned into a ferret by Mad-Eye Moody under the giant oak tree in New College.

DOWNTON ABBEY

The Oxfordshire Cotswolds and its picturesque villages frequently appeared in the popular TV drama. Bampton plays the part of the Yorkshire village of Downton in every series, and Cogges Manor Farm may also be better known as Yew Tree Farm.

GATEWAY TO THE COTSWOLDS

West Oxfordshire

BURFORD

BLenheim Palace

PALACE

WOODSTOCK

NATURE LOVERS

GREAT FOR

FAMILIES

HIDDEN GEMS

SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

CULTURE

HIDDEN GEMS

HISTORY

FAMILIES

HIDDEN GEMS

NATURE LOVERS

GREAT FOR

SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

CULTURE

HIDDEN GEMS

HISTORY
**AGATHA CHRISTIE**  
Dame Agatha Christie is loved worldwide for her compelling crime novels and famous sleuths, including Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. Wallingford is the home of Christie, and the inspiration for much of her work. Visit Wallingford Museum, for a permanent Christie exhibition, and nearby a life size bronze statue showing the Queen of Crime seated on a bench overlooking the Kinne Croft.

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND**  
Charles Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll, wrote his famous tales of Alice in Wonderland in Oxford, the city where Carroll lived and studied for nearly fifty years. The dining hall of Christ Church houses treasures associated with the whimsical tales; see if you can spot the stained-glass window where Alice, the Cheshire Cat, and other characters feature, and the wooden chair with the Cheshire Cat’s wide smile carved into it. When leaving Christ Church onto St Aldates, you will find Alice’s Shop, where the real Alice bought sweets as a young girl. A landmark for Alice enthusiasts, Alice’s Shop featured as The Old Sheep Shop in Alice Through the Looking Glass and was even illustrated by Tenniel in the first edition of the book.

**HIS DARK MATERIALS**  
Author Philip Pullman has been inspired by Oxford, having studied at Exeter College during the 1960s, and still lives in the city today. Exeter College may be better known to readers as Jordan College. Godstow Abbey, the Trout Inn and Oxford Botanic Garden also feature in Pullman’s literary works. Step into the world of the BBC/HBO adaptation by visiting Oxford Botanic Garden, The Bridge of Sighs and New College.

**MIDSOMER MURDERS**  
Follow in the footsteps of Inspector Barnaby of Causton CID and the characters of the hugely popular detective series. Discover the various filming locations - particularly Wallingford, which served as the drama’s fictional town of Causton. Thame, at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, also frequently features.

**INSPECTOR MORSE, LEWIS AND ENDEAVOUR**  
The city of Oxford is the setting for the books and TV series of Inspector Morse and Lewis, and most recently Endeavour. Enjoy a drink at The Morse Bar or the White Horse pub where the detectives spent time deliberating over cases. Amble along the River Thames where many bodies were hidden, sit on the steps of the Ashmolean Museum, the location of many scenes, or visit Exeter College where Morse had his fatal heart attack.

**THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA**  
C.S. Lewis studied at University College and was later appointed English Fellow and Tutor at Magdalen College. It was here that he wrote the beloved children’s series, the Chronicles of Narnia. Visit St Mary’s Passage and see if you can spot the carved fawn in one of the door frames, the inspiration for Mr Tumnus. Keep an eye out around the city for lampposts made by Lucy & Co!

**LORD OF THE RINGS**  
Walk in the footsteps of legendary Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien in Oxford. Relax with a drink in the Eastgate Brasserie, as Tolkien did with friend and fellow member of the Inklings writing group, C.S. Lewis. Wander among the greenery of Oxford Botanic Garden, where Tolkien used to spend time, or visit Exeter College, where Tolkien studied for his undergraduate degree. Immerse yourself in culture at the History of Science Museum - Tolkien worked on words near the beginning of the letter W for the First Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary in the same building - or at the Ashmolean Museum, which houses a collection of gold rings thought to be the inspiration for The One Ring.
There is so much to see and do in Oxfordshire, it’s tricky knowing where to start! We asked local Oxfordshire people to pick out their favourite places to go, from essential first-time-visit spots to hidden gems.

VEGAN SPOTS IN THE CITY

“At first glance, it might seem like Oxford doesn’t have many options for vegetarians and vegans. On closer inspection, though, you’ll find that it’s easy to eat plant-based in the city!”

- MICHAEL FROM BICESTER

I could spend an eternity at Blackwell’s Bookshop on Broad Street. Their collection of books is huge, you could while away an entire afternoon browsing the miles of shelves in the shop.”

- MICHAEL FROM BICESTER

I’d recommend heading to Jericho, where you’ll find The Gardeners Arms Oxford’s only 100% vegetarian and vegan pub.”

- NICOLA FROM OXFORD

BROWSE A BOOKSHOP

EXPLORE BANBURY

“Banbury is a little market town in the north of Oxfordshire. It’s home to the 16th century Ye Olde Reindeer Inn, used by Oliver Cromwell as a base during the Civil War, and the 18th century Tooley’s Boatyard, where you can take a guided tour of the narrow boat workshop beside the canal. Banbury is ideal as a base to travel to Warwickshire and Stratford-Upon-Avon, and nearby Broughton Castle, so I would recommend it to anyone visiting Oxfordshire!”

- JOSHUA FROM BANBURY

ALL ABOUT THE VIEWS

“Oxford shopping centre’s roof terrace, the rooftop restaurant at the Ashmolean, or The Varsity Club bar in the Covered Market.”

- SHIRLEY FROM WITNEY

I never get bored of the view over Oxford’s skyline - the dreaming spires always spark my imagination. The best places to take in the view are from Westgate Oxford shopping centre’s roof terrace, the rooftop restaurant at the Ashmolean, or The Varsity Club bar in the Covered Market.”

- SHIRLEY FROM WITNEY

GET YOUR BEARINGS

When I moved to Oxford a few years ago I went on an Oxford Official Walking Tour which gave me a very good introduction to the history of the city and university.

Each time my friends visit Oxford and we have a stroll through the city they say there is something magical about it that makes you want to come back.”

- JACK FROM KIDLINGTON

HIDDEN GEM BY THE THAMES

“I am a big fan of the Abingdon Museum in the famous County Hall built in 1682. You can look down from the museum galleries and watch the crowds of people in the market square below. There’s always something going on in Abingdon’s Market Square too!”

- MAUREEN FROM THAME

Why not spend an evening experiencing Oxford’s nightlife?

For more inspiration on things to do, see our Oxfordshire highlights

Read More | p.50

Read More | p.6
AFTERNOON TEA IN OXFORDSHIRE

There’s nothing more refined and delectable than enjoying a classic afternoon tea surrounded by the lush Oxfordshire countryside or the beautiful City of Dreaming Spires. Fortunately, there are numerous venues to discover - each with something unique to enjoy! We’ve highlighted a few places guaranteed to tickle your tastebuds.

OXFORD RIVER CRUISES
Enjoy an indulgent afternoon tea, made with home-made scones with jam and clotted cream, a selection of finger sandwiches and cakes, while enjoying the stunning scenery on the River Thames in and around Oxford. This relaxing afternoon cruise sails downstream from Folly Bridge taking in the best-known reach of the River Thames in Oxford. Travelling down the University Regatta Course the boat goes past Christ Church Meadows and the University College Boat Houses. Alternatively take tea at The Folly, Oxford’s unique riverside restaurant.

THE RANDOLPH HOTEL BY GRADUATE HOTELS
Enjoy a quintessentially English afternoon tea in The Drawing Room at The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels, an Oxford landmark in the heart of the city. Expect a range of delicacies with a contemporary twist. Upgrade to Sparkling Afternoon Tea with a glass of English Sparkling Wine.

MINSTER MILL
Located on the banks of the river Windrush in the picture-perfect village of Minster Lovell in West Oxfordshire, Minster Mill offers traditional full afternoon tea with freshly baked warm fruit and plain scones, assorted homemade cakes and pastries, strawberry and raspberry preserves, clotted cream and a selection of freshly cut sandwiches. Enjoy this with your choice of Newby teas or coffee, or treat yourself to the Laurent-Perrier champagne afternoon tea with a glass of champagne.

THE BEAR HOTEL
Whatever the weather, enjoy the full afternoon tea experience at The Bear Hotel, a former 13th century coaching inn sitting serenely at the centre of the charismatic market town of Woodstock. Tuck into a classic selection of dainty finger sandwiches, warm home-made scones and an irresistible selection of cakes, served with Twining’s classic loose leaf tea. Feeling decadent? The Celebration Afternoon Tea is served with a chilled glass of Laurent-Perrier Champagne - the perfect way to make your tea-time sparkle!

PARSONAGE GRILL BY THE OXFORD COLLECTION
Founded in 1989, Parsonage Grill is a Cotswold-esque bolthole located within the 5-star 17th century Old Parsonage Hotel. A renowned Oxford institution, it provides a truly traditional setting in which to take afternoon tea. Treat yourself to home-made scones, fruity jam and clotted cream, freshly prepared sandwiches and indulgent little cakes. Choose very high tea, savoury tea or champagne celebration tea.

FOOD & DRINKS
HIDDEN GEMS
CULTURE
No visit to Oxford is complete without exploring the city’s waterways - the mighty River Thames which flows through to London, the River Cherwell and the historic Oxford Canal, over 200 years old.

The waterways offer an opportunity to explore the hidden side of the city, take part in exciting activities and to see the city from a different perspective.

**EXPLORE THE OXFORD CANAL**

A short walk from the city centre takes you to the start of the Oxford Canal. Dug by hand over 200 years ago, it runs for 77 miles. It was an important trade route, with the unique narrow boats originally pulled by horses carrying goods to London and the rest of the country.

Now it is an oasis of peace and quiet. Take a walk along the towpath you will see wildlife, passing boats and can learn about the canal’s history as you follow the Oxford Canal Heritage Trail.

You can even hire a narrowboat for a day trip or longer and really explore with College Cruisers.

**EXPLORE THE RIVER THAMES**

Just a short walk from the city is the famous Head of the River public house and Folly Bridge over the Thames, which marks the finish line for university rowing races. Walk along the towpath and you will often see the Oxford University rowing crews practicing and may be lucky enough to watch a race.

Visiting Christ Church Meadow is a must-do, with its circular path taking you alongside both the Thames and the River Cherwell.

Nothing can beat a walk around Port Meadow, an ancient area of grazing with incredible open views across the Thames, wildlife and cosy local pubs.

The Thames Path National Trail also comes through Oxford on its 183-mile route from the source of the Thames all the way to London. Oxford is an excellent base to explore it in sections.

**THINGS TO DO - MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER**

Enjoy a different view of Oxford by getting onto the water.

You must try punting - the unique flat-bottomed boats you push along with a pole (take champagne and strawberries for a picnic!) There are several places you can hire one on both the River Thames and River Cherwell including Cherwell Boathouse.

If you have time to explore further, take a boat trip. Salter’s Steamers offer regular passenger ferries along the Thames, stopping at several points and continuing on to Abingdon-on-Thames. You can take the boat back, or jump off along the way and enjoy a walk back to the city along the Thames Path, or you can even take your bicycles. Salter’s also rent out small motor-boats you can sail yourself.

Providing a range of luxury boat trips, including an evening cocktail cruise, Oxford River Cruises explores the Thames. Jump aboard at The Folly restaurant.

**PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK**

There are many fantastic places alongside Oxford’s waterways for a drink, a quick lunch or a full three-course and more dinner.

Visit our website for a full list of waterside cafés, pubs and restaurants.

**OXFORD’S WATERWAYS LOOP WALK**

Following the historic canal from the centre, a short 2-mile walking route takes you along the canal and then across to Port Meadow, with its open skies and views, then back to the city alongside the River Thames.

For a longer and more complete experience, the 7-mile route continues to the village of Wolvercote, with its local shop and cosy pubs. Back along the Thames Path National Trail, with views right across Port Meadow, and into the city again. Go out for a pub lunch and enjoy a walk back.

Love being on the water? Continue your journey north through Oxfordshire on the Oxford Canal

Read More | p.58

Or journey south along the River Thames

Read More | p.60
Oxfordshire is home to an array of quirky traditions that make the county unique.

MERTON COLLEGE TIME CEREMONY
Once a year, on the night the clocks go back, students of Merton College partake in the tradition of the Merton College Time Ceremony. Created by undergraduates in 1971, the ceremony involves students dressing in full academic dress whilst walking backwards around the Fellows’ Quad with a glass of port in their hand, from 02:00BST for an hour until 02:00GMT, to allegedly maintain the space-time continuum.

POOH STICKS
The World Pooh Sticks Championships takes place at Sandford Lock on the Thames in May (date to be confirmed). Taking inspiration from the beloved children’s book, Winnie the Pooh, anybody can take part to become the Pooh Sticks world champion. 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!

MAY MORNING
One of Oxford’s well-loved traditions, held every year on the 1st of May, sees citywide celebrations for the coming of Spring, bringing the community together for what is known as May Morning. Morris Men dance across the city, and the choristers of Magdalen College choir sing the day in from the Great Tower at 6am with Hymnus Eucharisticus, attracting flocks of people to Magdalen Bridge before celebrations continue throughout the morning.

BUN THROWING
Bun Throwing in Abingdon is a famous tradition in Oxfordshire dating back 400 years. Local dignitaries throw currant buns from Abingdon County Hall Museum on days of celebration, attracting huge crowds all hoping to catch a bun!

THE CORPUS CHRISTI TORTOISE FAIR
Corpus Christi’s Tortoise Fair is one of the lovelier eccentricities at Oxford and has at its heart the Tortoise Race, in which tortoises from various colleges race to get to the edge of a ring of lettuce. It’s thought to have been started in the 1920s. Corpus’ own tortoises are named Oldham and Foxe - whose care is presided over by a “Custos Testudinum” or “Tortoise Keeper”, elected at the start of each year.

Want to catch the students in their gowns and finery? Read our tips on when best to visit the University of Oxford
Read More | p.48

experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on
With over 100 venues to choose from, including our ceremony rooms, iconic palaces, stately homes, rural barns, barges and fabulous hotels, Oxfordshire is the place to celebrate.

For further information, visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ceremonies
Whether you’re visiting Oxfordshire from near or far, the county has so much to offer that we’re sure you’ll want to make the most of it. So, we’ve crafted some inspiring itineraries to help you plan your visit - whether you want an action-packed minibreak in Oxford or a peaceful week exploring the beautiful countryside of the county.

Maybe you’d like to time your visit to include one of the UK’s top music festivals, or perhaps seeing University of Oxford students graduating in their academic robes is on your bucket list. We’ve highlighted the key dates you need to know about, so that you don’t miss the best events of the year. Oxfordshire is only an hour away from London via train and has great links to many top attractions in the UK - making the county a fantastic base for your trip to England. Take a day trip to Stonehenge, Bath or Stratford-Upon-Avon, before putting on your dancing shoes to enjoy Oxford’s vibrant nightlife.

These are just ideas - Oxfordshire is yours to make your own.

Whatever you’re up to in Oxfordshire, use #ExperienceOx on social media to share your experiences with us. We’d love to hear from you!

#EXPERIENCEOX

WE ARE VERY SOCIABLE! FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND X

Find our recommended itineraries Read More | p.54 onwards

Venture off the beaten track with our local tips Read More | p.36

Not sure when to visit? Check our What’s On page for some inspiration Read More | p.43

Find our recommended itineraries Read More | p.54 onwards

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Find out more and register online
A UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD YEAR

With ornate buildings, pristine quads and grand dining halls, stepping into a University of Oxford college is like stepping into another world. The students of the University come and go from their colleges every day, but these annual University occasions give you a sneak peek into student life.

In the Autumn, around mid-October, Oxford students make their way to The Sheldonian Theatre in their academic robes, or “Sub Fusc”, for ‘Matriculation’, the official ceremony welcoming new students to the University, which is performed solely in Latin.

As the summer months draw near, you’ll see the students nervously walking toward the Examination Schools, again in their Sub Fusc robes, for their exams in June.

Also in June, glimpse the University of Oxford’s most prestigious annual ceremony, Encaenia, when the University awards honorary degrees to distinguished men and women. Some participants, including the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, take part in a procession through Radcliffe Square and the Divinity School to the Sheldonian Theatre, where the ceremony takes place.

To celebrate the end of the University year, colleges throw extravagant balls for their students. In the summer evening breeze, see students’ ball gowns and tails fluttering as they arrive at their college balls.

In mid-summer and towards early autumn, catch the students throwing their mortarboards in the air as they celebrate their graduation!
STAYING OVER IN OXFORD
NIGHTLIFE IN THE CITY

From traditional pubs to buzzing bars, live performances to late night clubs and everything in between, there are plenty of things to see and do in this vibrant city once the sun goes down.

OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER
Next door to ancient Oxford Castle, Oxford Castle Quarter is home to bars, a coffee shop and, housed in a former prison, Malmaison hotel with its stylish Malmaison Bar & Grill.

WESTGATE OXFORD
Westgate shopping centre’s atmospheric roof terrace is a perfect backdrop for an eclectic mix of fine and contemporary casual restaurants and bars, including Pho.

Oxford has a wide selection of bars. For something more low-key, relax in some of the oldest pubs in Britain. We recommend The Turf Tavern, Lamb & Flag and The Bear in the city centre, or relax on the bank of the River Thames at The Head of the River.

EAST OXFORD
Towards the east of Oxford, Cowley Road and St Clement’s are a vibrant hub for nightlife. With buzzing bars, restaurants offering a variety of contemporary cuisines, and fantastic live music destinations, from larger clubs to basement gig spots, East Oxford is a treasure trove for things to do in the evening.

THEATRE
Immerse yourself in Oxford’s thriving arts and culture scene with a touch of drama or comedy. Oxford’s larger theatre, the New Theatre Oxford is home to some of the biggest names in entertainment. For independent performances, North Wall Arts Centre put on incredible productions and events.

PUBS AND BARS
Mingle with intellectuals in Oxford’s bars and pubs. From cocktail bars renowned for expertly-mixed aperitifs, sophisticated piano bars and wine cafes, to rooftop venues offering sweeping views of Oxford’s skyline, East Oxford is a vibrant hub for nightlife.
If you wander around Oxford in the evening, as you pass the University of Oxford college chapels you’ll hear the faint music of the college choirs. Immerse yourself in the experience of Choral Evensong, which happens every evening during University term-time and starts between 5:15pm and 6:45pm depending on which college you visit.

Oxford’s streets are often lined with signs and posters advertising upcoming classical music concerts - including performances by the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra who celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2023. Oxford’s stunning and historic venues play host to a busy calendar of concerts and recitals. See world-renowned musicians and artists play in intimate venues such as the Holywell Music Room, said to be the oldest purpose-built music room in Europe.

Dance the night away at lively jazz concerts in unique venues such as The Mad Hatter, an eccentric speakeasy cocktail bar in East Oxford. Or spend a sophisticated evening watching a jazz recital at one of Oxford’s trendy bars; we recommend Sandy’s Piano Bar for delicious cocktails in an intimate space, or Oxford Wine Café and The Oxford Wine Cellar for wine lists that will complement the atmosphere perfectly.

The University of Oxford and Oxford Brookes University both host a calendar of public talks, lectures and events throughout the year. Learn something new or brush up on your knowledge and hear from professors that are at the top of their fields.

Over 100 brands, featuring prestigious global brands, eclectic eateries and a breathtaking roof terrace, all in the heart of Oxford. Easily accessible via public transport or park and ride.
48 HOURS IN OXFORD
A WHIRLWIND WEEKEND

DAY 1
9:30AM
Kickstart your weekend by climbing the tower of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin for the highest view over Oxford. As you exit the Church, take a stroll around cobbled Radcliffe Square to drink in 360° views of the Radcliffe Camera.

10:30AM
To maximise your time, pre-book an Oxford Official Walking Tour for a guided walking tour around more of Oxford's iconic sites and locations. Tours are led by knowledgeable guides and usually include entry into one of the University of Oxford’s 39 colleges.

Alternatively, if you don't want to walk, the City Sightseeing open top bus tour is a great way to see Oxford. Listen to your guide as you are driven around, with the option to hop-on and hop-off at 20 different stops across the city.

1PM
Allow a little time for shopping and browse the independent shops in the Covered Market. The whole family can choose a picnic for the afternoon; why not try a freshly made sandwich, pastry, pie or even Greek souvlaki?

DAY 2
10AM
Whilst in the heart of the city, don't miss Modern Art Oxford, one of the UK’s leading contemporary art spaces, as well as Oxford’s incredible museums. Choose from the Ashmolean Museum, Britain’s first public museum and home to world-famous artefacts and collections, the History of Science Museum, the Museum of Natural History and neighbouring Pitt Rivers Museum, the University of Oxford’s quirky museum of anthropology and world archaeology. Alternatively, The Museum of Oxford tells the history of the city. Best of all...they are all free!

Always a city for browsing literature, Oxford’s Blackwell’s bookshop is also worth nipping into.

2PM
Alternatively, The Museum of Oxford tells the history of the city. Best of all...they are all free! Always a city for browsing literature, Oxford’s Blackwell’s bookshop is also worth nipping into.

A wonderfully unique way to spend your time in Oxford, join the Oxford Official Ghost Tour (every other Saturday). This tour will show you all you need to know about every spooky site and eerie nook and cranny of Oxford, including its most famous ghost.

Or, fill your evening with world-class Choral Evensong in an Oxford college chapel. These take place every evening during University of Oxford term-time and start between 5:15pm and 6:45pm depending on which college you visit. We recommend joining the Choirs of the grand Christ Church Cathedral for an unforgettable evening.

Relax in the elegant Randolph Hotel By Graduate Hotels, an icon of Oxford. Enjoy a tipple in The Snug or at the famous Morse Bar in the hotel, before heading to The Alice restaurant for outstanding seasonal British cuisine.

Start your day with an exhilarating morning on the water. Take a punt on the river - a truly timeless Oxford tradition - from Cherwell Boathouse to see the city from a different perspective. Alternatively, from Folly Bridge take a chauffeured cruise down the River Thames from Salter’s Steamers, or Oxford River Cruises and admire the views of Christ Church in the distance.
Take a guided tour of Oxford Castle & Prison and discover the fascinating stories of the building’s 1000-year history. Explore the Saxon St George’s Tower and descend deep underground to the 900-year-old crypt.

Close by is Westgate Oxford, the city’s newest shopping and entertainment centre. Here you will find an eclectic mix of global fashion brands, restaurants, bars and a boutique cinema. Grab lunch with a spectacular view of Oxford’s dreaming spires on Westgate’s rooftop terrace - we recommend lunching at Pho for some healthy and hearty Vietnamese street food.

For a more grown-up afternoon, treat yourself to an afternoon tour of The Oxford Artisan Distillery. One of the world’s very few craft distilleries, they use ancient heritage grain to create the finest spirits. Discover the principles and production processes that make their spirits, from their bespoke copper stills to the grain they grow themselves. Finish with a chance to taste their wonderful spirits. The Oxford Artisan Distillery’s ‘Physic Gin’ is created using botanicals from Oxford Botanic Garden. Wander down from the distillery to the historic Botanic Garden to experience an oasis of green in the city centre. The UK’s oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621 as a physic garden growing plants for medicinal research, Oxford Botanic Garden features a formal walled garden, exotic plants in glasshouses and lush herbaceous borders.

Football enthusiast or casual fan? Alternatively, head to the Kassam Stadium on match days to see Oxford United Football Club in action.

From Oxford Botanic Garden, wander up Oxford’s winding High Street, bordered with imposing college walls and independent shops, restaurants and cafes.

Take an evening walk around central Oxford and see the historic University buildings from a different perspective, Dine at Quod Restaurant & Bar in the Old Bank Hotel and choose from their menu of European classics with an emphasis on British produce. Or stroll to Gees Restaurant & Bar for a Mediterranean-inspired menu in its Grade II listed Victorian conservatory.

Read more on the nightlife in Oxford p.50

MATCH TICKETS AVAILABLE
VISIT OUFCTICKETS.CO.UK
CALL 01865 337533
Built in the late 18th century to carry commercial barges between Coventry and Oxford, the Oxford Canal is one of the country’s most beautiful inland waterways to explore. This route along the towpath takes you through the picturesque scenery of the Cherwell Valley as the canal follows the gentle meandering course of the River Cherwell to Banbury.

Begin your walk along the Oxford Canal from the city centre, following the canal through Jericho to the north of the city to enjoy the open views of Port Meadow. Cross Port Meadow to enjoy a pint at The Perch, a historic thatched pub. At Upper Wolvercote, leave the canal towpath to explore the ruins of Godstow Abbey and visit The Trout Inn, a 17th century pub overlooking the River Thames and a favourite of Colin Dexter’s Inspector Morse.

Continuing north past Kidlington, you might want to stop for refreshments at Thrupp - a pretty canal side village where rose-covered terraced houses line the towpath and there are two popular pubs, The Jolly Boatman and The Boat Inn, as well as a tea room. From here the canal follows the winding course of the Cherwell river, joining with it for occasional stretches.

Tucked away close to the canal, Tackley is a characterful rural village of stone buildings and a church of Saxon origin. Home to a couple of quaint bed and breakfasts and a well-stocked village shop with a café, the village makes a good base for exploring the local countryside.

Further north up the canal, the towpath brings you past the grounds of Rousham House, a Jacobean country house with wonderful gardens which can be visited. The gardens were landscaped by William Kent in the early 18th century and represent the first phase of English landscape design. Many of the features created in the 18th century are still there today.

At Lower Heyford Wharf, Heyford railway station is directly beside the canal, with trains back to Tackley and Oxford or ahead to Banbury. The village of Lower Heyford marks approximately the halfway point between Oxford and Banbury and options for an overnight stay include a canal side bed and breakfast as well as Heyford House and The Bell Inn. The village’s pub, The Bell Inn, dates from the 17th century and there is also a café/bistro at Lower Heyford Wharf with gardens overlooking the canal.

Refreshed from a stop in Heyford, continue along the canal as it follows the winding course of the River Cherwell north to Aynho Wharf. This is one of the waterway’s most appealing stretches as it turns into more open countryside and you will pass the picture-postcard lock-keeper’s cottage at Somerton Deep Lock. Close to Aynho Wharf is the Great Western Arms, a traditional country pub serving the local Hook Norton ales.

From Aynho Wharf continue to Twyford Wharf and then the market town of Banbury where you will find The Light, an exciting entertainment centre with a premium seven screen cinema, 10 lane bowling alley and waterfront restaurants, and Lock 29, an appealing canal side venue with a range of artisan food and drink outlets. Make sure you take a guided tour of the historic Tooley’s Boatyard which dates from 1788 and is the oldest dry dock working boatyard on the inland waterways.

There are inviting cafes and pubs in the Old Town, including the 16th century Ye Olde Reindeer Inn where the wood panelled Globe Room is believed to have been used by Oliver Cromwell as a base during the Civil War. Finally, don’t leave Banbury without sampling Banbury cakes - delicious spiced and currant-filled pastries which have been made to a secret recipe for over four hundred years!

Return to Oxford in 20-30 minutes on Chiltern Railways direct service to the city.

ITINERARY: OXFORD CANAL

OXFORD

ROUSHAM HOUSE

THRUPP

BANBURY

TACKLEY

LOWER HEYFORD
The River Rapids is a bus service (X40) linking Oxford with South Oxfordshire. Here we pick out some of the many things to see and do along the route and onwards on connector 23.

The University of Oxford’s arboretum is in the small village of Nuneham Courtenay. The 130-acre site is open all year round and contains the best collection of trees in Oxfordshire, with seasonal highlights including wildflower meadows, rhododendrons and bluebell woods along with plenty of children’s activities.

Stroll around the cute-as-a-doormouse village of Dorchester-on-Thames, a village of timber-framed houses. The main attraction in the village is the medieval Abbey, built in the 12th century.

A great stop from which to walk along the tranquil banks of the River Thames or sit and admire the views of green fields, pretty meadows, farmland and forest from the comfort of the Waterfront Café.

The small village of Nuffield is the location of Nuffield Place, once home to William Morris, founder of the Morris Motor Company, and his wife. Their home and personal possessions are just as they left them, the décor and furnishings intact.

The University of Oxford’s arboretum is in the small village of Nuneham Courtenay. The 130-acre site is open all year round and contains the best collection of trees in Oxfordshire, with seasonal highlights including wildflower meadows, rhododendrons and bluebell woods along with plenty of children’s activities.

Wander the cobbled streets of Wallingford and discover the town’s links with both crime novelist Agatha Christie and Midsomer Murders, as well as the ruins of Wallingford Castle and the excellent Wallingford Museum.

A picturesque riverside town, home to the famous Henley Royal Regatta (2nd - 7th July 2024) and the River & Rowing Museum. Explore the town on a self-guided walk, browse the independent shops and restaurants or take a stroll along the river Thames.
THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL IN OXFORDSHIRE

WHITE HORSE HILL TO THAME

The Ridgeway Trail stretches 140 kilometres across scenic countryside from Avebury in Wiltshire to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire and through two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Chiltern Hills and the North Wessex Downs. This routeway is steeped in history, having been used by traders and invaders as far back as 5,000 years ago. Today it is enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and horse riders seeking far-reaching views, historic sites and wildlife.

White Horse Hill is only 29 kilometres from Oxford, and 20 kilometres away from Watlington. Follow our trail from White Horse Hill to Thame for a taste of how much there is to see and do in this area.

Begin in Faringdon. The town is full of heritage, immediately noticeable in the quaint town centre where you will find old coaching inns, Georgian fronted buildings and the 17th century town hall. Now occupied by a diverse array of independent shops, cafes and restaurants, the town centre is a hive of activity. A five-minute walk from the town centre, you will find Faringdon’s Folly Tower. Built in 1935 by Lord Berner, the 100ft high tower sits on a hill amongst a circular woodland, providing panoramic views over the town and beyond.

Explore The Ridgeway’s history at White Horse Hill, where you will find the internationally renowned Bronze Age White Horse carved into the chalk hillside. This is the highest point in Oxfordshire with views across 6 different counties, and is hugely popular with dog walkers, picnickers and kite fliers alike. There is plenty of parking in the National Trust car park at White Horse Hill.

From White Horse Hill, walk or ride for 2.3 kilometres along The Ridgeway to the prehistoric long barrow of Wayland’s Smithy. It is also worth venturing off the hills into nearby Uffington village where there are pubs, a small museum and a waymarked trail to learn more about the historic buildings in the village.

Base yourself in Wantage to discover the stories of King Alfred the Great who was born in the town in 849AD. This historic market town offers independent shops, places to eat and a theatre, as well as the Vale & Downland Museum which has won awards for being family friendly. Head west to villages such as Sparsholt for a nice lunch at The Star Inn of Kingston Lisle to see the Blowing Stone which King Alfred used to summon his army to battle against the Vikings.

Walk up to The Ridgeway to see Segsbury Camp hillfort, passing along the chalk stream called the Letcombe Brook and through the historic village of Letcombe Bassett where you may like to stop for lunch at The Greyhound Inn. There is also a great day’s cycle ride from Wantage eastwards along a signed cycle route through the Lockinges and Ginges and Hendreds villages, then up to The Ridgeway to head westwards back to Wantage. There are some great pubs and historic buildings to look out for in the villages, including a village shop from a bygone age in East Hendred!

Goring and Streatley is where The Ridgeway meets the River Thames and another National Trail, the Thames Path. Linked by a bridge in 1837, Streatley and Goring are picturesque riverside villages with numerous places to eat, making this a perfect spot for a break.

From Goring, follow The Ridgeway to walk 8.5 kilometres along the river to the historic market town of Wallingford, with independent shops, places to eat and stay and a small museum. Families will enjoy Wallingford’s riverside playground and campsite.
From Wallingford, there is a scenic day’s walk along The Ridgeway to the attractive historic town of Watlington. This area is known as the Chiltern Hills, famous for its parklands and beechwoods. The first stretch passes along Grim’s Ditch, a ditch and bank boundary thought to date back to Saxon times. Watlington is where a huge hoard of Viking coins was famously found in 2016. Some of these coins displayed the head of King Alfred the Great and a replica display can be seen in Watlington’s library.

Finish your journey in the thriving market town of Thame, perfectly situated at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, just 23 kilometres from Oxford. From historic buildings to beautiful parks, the Thame Museum, The Players Theatre, and a vibrant High Street - Thame has lots of exciting attractions and activities to enjoy.

Travel between London & Oxford you can trust

Alexi keeps up with the Kardashians before getting to the office.

Brody works in central London and has never heard of peak fares.

Sam never worries about missing the last train home.

BAGGAGE TRANSFER

If you want to walk or ride along the Trail without the weight of baggage, there are baggage handling companies and accommodation providers who can take your bags to your next stop. See the National Trails website for details.

For more information on car parking, taxis and train stations, please visit nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway.
EXPLORING THE COTSWOLDS
WOODSTOCK TO BURFORD

It’s easy to see more of Oxfordshire using public transport. Follow the route of the Stagecoach 233/234 service linking Burford to Witney or the Stagecoach S7 service linking Witney to Woodstock to discover many fascinating places along the way. The buses run roughly every 30 mins Monday to Sunday. Alternatively consider Stagecoach’s S2 bus from Oxford to Cheltenham via Witney, Burford and North Leach.

Start your journey in the historic town of Woodstock, home to The Oxfordshire Museum, as well as antique shops, and great pubs and restaurants. No visit to Woodstock would be complete without a visit to Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

A few minutes further is Long Hanborough train station. The station is on the Great Western Railway line linking London Paddington to the Cotswolds, and close by are the Oxford Bus Museum and Morris Motors Museum. Both tell the story of transport in Oxford, including the production of cars by Morris Motors.

Further along is North Leigh Roman Villa, one of the largest villas from Roman Britain set on the banks of the River Evenlode. It’s a 2.5 kilometre walk from the bus stop on the main road, but worth the pretty walk to see a near complete mosaic tile floor dating back to the 3rd century.

Jump back on the bus and the next stop is the old market town of Witney. The town is home to Cogges Manor Farm, where visitors can feed the pygmy goats, play in the adventure park, or learn about the history of the 13th century manor house. In the old milking parlour you’ll find Cogges Kitchen serving breakfast, lunch and cake.

From Witney, your journey will take you through the picturesque village of Minster Lovell. Explore the riverside ruins of 15th century Minster Lovell Hall. Stop at the charming Old Swan or Minster Mill hotels for a delicious meal or relaxing overnight stay.

Another 8 kilometres from Minster Lovell, leave the bus in Shilton. Nearby is Crocodiles of the World, the UK’s only crocodile zoo, with plenty of photo opportunities, feeding displays, crocodile talks and much more.

Finally, the route stops in Burford, frequently referred to as the ‘gateway to the Cotswolds’. Home to rows of idyllic honey stone cottages, tea shops and boutiques, Burford is a place full of character and Cotswold charm.

Learn more about West Oxfordshire Read More | p.32
ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS
OXFORD TO WORCESTER

Spanning four counties, Great Western Railway’s Cotswold Line journeys past the dramatic Malvern Hills and through the orchards of the Vale of Evesham, running alongside the River Evenlode, via pretty towns and quaint villages of honey-coloured stone, charming churches and country pubs.

Depart from Oxford, having seen the colleges, castle and culture of the city. A delightful train journey across rolling countryside is the perfect way to see more of England from your base in Oxford.

Your first stop is Long Hanborough train station. Close by, via bus, is Blenheim Palace in the town of Woodstock with 30% off Palace, Park & Garden tickets for visitors arriving by bus.

From Hanborough the line enters the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Charlbury, once a clearing in the Wychwood Forest and now an idyllic market town, lends itself to gentle strolls past historic buildings and cottage gardens. Cornbury Park near Charlbury is home to Wilderness Festival and TreeDwellers, a high end tree-top sanctuary nestled in ancient woodland.

Kingham is a peaceful village, surrounded by the rolling hills of Cotswold countryside and offering a true taste of rural Cotswold life. Hole up in The Wild Rabbit, a top foodie destination, before grabbing some fresh air - Kingham is an excellent centre for walking and cycling.

From Kingham, your journey will take you beyond the borders of Oxfordshire to the picturesque town of Moreton-in-Marsh, which dates back 1000 years to the Saxon era. Explore Moreton’s elegant High Street which houses antiqueemporiums, galleries and tea rooms. Stop for a break at a pub or restaurant, including one said to be the inspiration for The Prancing Pony in JRR Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings.

Nearby is Batsford Arboretum, the country’s largest private collection of trees and shrubs. Wander through 56 acres of wild gardens and marvel at stunning views across the Evenlode Valley.

Moreton-in-Marsh rail station is the pick up point for Go Cotswolds’ guided tours. Why not book a tour to discover more of the Cotswolds?

Hop off the train at Evesham, a historic riverside market town nestled in the Vale of Evesham - the “fruit and vegetable basket of England”. So much fruit grows around Evesham that the town hosts a famous Blossom Trail every April/May, which winds through 45 miles of pretty countryside. To soak up some culture, visit the Almonry Museum or the art-deco Regal Cinema.

Finally, finish your journey in Worcester. One of the oldest cities in the country, Worcester is famed for its magnificent Cathedral, fascinating Civil War history and world-renowned industrial past... and Worcestershire Sauce. Head to the bank of the River Severn for great views of the Cathedral and city from a different perspective.

TRANSPORT

Great Western Railway’s Cotswold Line runs from London Paddington via Oxford to Worcester or Hereford. Trains leave Oxford roughly every hour.

Detailed timetable information is available at gwr.com.

For journeys within Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, Great Western Railways’ “Cotswolds Discoverer” tickets offer great value.

GWR.com/discover.
EASY DAY TRIPS FROM OXFORD

As one of the most centrally located cities in England, Oxford is the perfect place to base yourself to explore other parts of the country. Excellent transport links makes it easy to travel around Oxfordshire and beyond.

STONEHENGE
Walk in the footsteps of your Neolithic ancestors at Stonehenge - one of the wonders of the world and the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. Travelling by train to Salisbury takes just over two hours, and the journey time to drive by car is just over one hour, giving you plenty of time to explore this wonderful English Heritage site.

BATH
With frequent services on the rail route between Oxford and Bath taking just over one hour, the beautiful city of Bath is the perfect day trip destination. Built for pleasure and relaxation, Bath has been a wellbeing destination since Roman times, boasting the only natural thermal hot springs in Britain you can bathe in.

WADDESDON MANOR
Waddesdon, a unique French Renaissance-style château, was built in the 1870s by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to house his art treasures and entertain fashionable society. Just a forty-minute drive away, this astonishing collection can be enjoyed as it would have been originally displayed within the opulent interiors of the Manor. Outside, formal Victorian gardens and rolling parkland can be enjoyed year-round.

DRIVE TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes
TRANSSPORT: GWR train, approx. 1 hour.

LONDON
Less than an hour’s journey via train from Oxford, London’s lively city atmosphere is not to be missed. Take in a show in the West End, stroll around the UK’s most famous museums, and marvel at some of the grandest monuments in Europe.

DRIVE TIME: 1 hour 30 minutes
TRANSSPORT: GWR and Chiltern Railway trains, approx. 1 hour. Oxford Tube coach, approx. 2 hours

CHELTENHAM
Cheltenham has been welcoming visitors for almost three hundred years, ever since the discovery of the first natural spring in 1716. Just under 2 hours by bus from Oxford or 1 hour from Witney, enjoy fabulous restaurants, bars and pubs, with outside seating areas offering a cosmopolitan atmosphere, and a world-winning shopping. Plus there’s regular horseracing meets at the town’s famous racecourse.

DRIVE TIME: 1 hour 5 minutes
TRANSSPORT: Stagecoach S2 bus to Cheltenham

SILVERSTONE MUSEUM
An immersive visitor attraction, just 20-minutes from Junction 10 of the M40, which celebrates Silverstone and British motor racing. Over 60 hands-on exhibits give visitors the opportunity to try out a variety of activities - from operating a wind tunnel, taking part in a pit stop and climbing into a replica Grand Prix car.

DRIVE TIME: 1 hour
TRANSSPORT:

TAKE A DAY TRIP ON THE TRAIN FROM OXFORD TO WORCESTER ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS

Read More | p.68

DAY TRIPS FROM OXFORD

DRIVE TIME: 40 minutes
TRANSSPORT: Book a tour from GTI Travel

TAKE A DAY TRIP ON THE TRAIN FROM OXFORD TO WORCESTER ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS

Read More | p.68
Oxford to Heathrow & Gatwick

24/7/365 day & night airport coach service

www.theairlineoxford.co.uk

**BY AIR**
Nearest airports: Birmingham Airport (1 hour by train), London Heathrow Airport (15 hours by bus), London Gatwick Airport (2.5-3 hours by bus). Oxford Bus Company Airline coaches operate 24 hour, 7 days a week services to both Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Tickets can be purchased online or on the day of travel.
theairlineoxford.co.uk

**BY COACH**
Linking London and Oxford, Stagecoach operates the Oxford Tube which provides a 24/7 service. Oxfordtube.com Oxford Bus Company also operate an airline coach service which connects High Wycombe and Oxford 24/7. Find out more at theairlineoxford.co.uk

**BY RAIL**
Great Western Railway has a regular service from London Paddington stopping at Didcot, Reading and Oxford and north through the county to the Cotswolds.
GWR.com

Chiltern Railways operates trains from London Marylebone with stops at Princes Risborough, Haddenham & Thame Parkways, Bicester Village, Oxford Parkway and Oxford.
Chilternrailways.co.uk
TRAVELLING AROUND OXFORDSHIRE

BY BUS
The Oxford Bus Company operates a network of services across the city, with regular buses also travelling to surrounding towns and villages. Oxfordbus.co.uk

Stagecoach also offers an excellent countryside bus network, including the S5 service linking Oxford and Bicester Village, and the S3 and S7 services linking Oxford and Blenheim Palace. Stagecoachbus.com/about/Oxfordshire

Park & Ride - the Gateway to Oxford. There are 5 Park & Ride sites located around Oxford’s ring road, with regular bus services to the city centre, making your journey into the city hassle-free. parkandrideoxford.co.uk

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. Plus, City Sightseeing Oxford offer a fantastic range of walking tours of Oxford too! Tickets are valid for 24 to 48 hours. Citysightseeingoxford.com

BY TRAIN
Explore West Oxfordshire via the GWR Cotswolds Line (see itinerary p.66). To discover South Oxfordshire, catch the GWR train to Paddington and alight at Didcot Parkway for local transport options.

BY BOAT
Hire a narrowboat to explore the length of the county from a different perspective. Travel along the River Thames, River Cherwell or Oxford Canal. Or, take a river cruise with Oxford River Cruises or Salter’s Steamers. oxfordrivercruises.com salterssteamers.co.uk

ON FOOT
Oxford city centre is entirely walkable - and we recommend you explore by foot to see the most of the city! If you’re finding your bearings, Oxford Official Walking Tours offer award-winning tours of the city. There are plenty of stunning countryside walks across Oxfordshire, including the Ridgeway Trail (see itinerary p.62) or Thames Path. oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org

CAR HIRE AND TAXIS
Royal Cars offer taxi services in Oxford, and offer transport from local runs to airport transfers and long-distance journeys. Royal-cars.com

Auto Europe offer car, motorhome or luxury vehicle hire from a choice of suppliers to suit your needs. Autoeurope.co.uk

Driving Miss Daisy Didcot provides a door-to-door service for individuals with limited mobility or disability, assisted by experienced Companion-drivers. Drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk

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Salter’s Steamers

oxfordrivercruises.com salterssteamers.co.uk

Driving Miss Daisy Didcot provides a door-to-door service for individuals with limited mobility or disability, assisted by experienced Companion-drivers. Drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk

oxfordrivercruises.com salterssteamers.co.uk

4

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1 ➤ OXFORD BUS COMPANY
2 ➤ STAGECOACH
3 ➤ CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD
4 ➤ DRIVING MISS DAISY DIDCOT
5 ➤ SALTER’S STEAMERS
As well as being a world-class leisure destination, Oxfordshire is a fantastic place to meet and do business. Where else could you hold your meeting in a room that was once home to Oscar Wilde or dine where C.S. Lewis, William Gladstone and Rowan Atkinson regularly ate, then let your delegates spend the evening networking on the banks of the Thames?

From a UNESCO world-heritage palace and high tech venues to Conference Oxford and The Happiness Horsebox, Oxfordshire is home to a diverse range of venues suitable for everything from biotech conventions, to luxury incentive breaks, to corporate retreats – all within close proximity (just an hour) of London.

If you work in the business events sector, we have a dedicated team to help you develop itineraries and conferences for your clients and connect you with event catering and drink providers such as Oxford Fine Dining and Sandy’s on the Move.

The Experience Oxfordshire Venues Service is the official and free conference and event venue-finding bureau for Oxford and Oxfordshire. The team will match your brief to one or more venues in the historic heart of academic Oxford or the surrounding countryside, completely free of charge. We have helped hundreds of event organisers create successful events in Oxford and Oxfordshire and we would love to assist you too.

If you work in the travel trade, please get in touch with the Experience Oxfordshire team, who will be happy to recommend inspiring itineraries, venues and products.

We look forward to welcoming your clients to our world-class destination very soon.

experienceoxfordshire.org/venues
@ExOxVenues

experienceoxfordshire.org/venues
WHERE TO STAY

Food/Bar  WiFi  Child Friendly  Disabled Friendly  Animal Friendly  Parking

BATH PLACE HOTEL  B3 City

The Bath Place Hotel consists of 17th century cottages assembled around a beautiful flagstone courtyard in the centre of Oxford. The family run hotel nestles between New College, the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre. From £180 B&B for a Double Room

bathplace.co.uk  01865 791812  4-5 Bath Place, Holywell Street, Oxford, OX1 3SU

THE BEAR HOTEL  B3 County

This 16th-century coaching inn combines history and culture with luxurious facilities. The Bear Woodstock hotel provides an ideal location for a relaxing, romantic break or a base to explore the surrounding cities and attractions. Enjoy award-winning dining in the restaurant before a rejuvenating night's sleep in one of the comfortable and stylish bedrooms.

All rooms are newly refurbished, however, if you're looking for the ultimate in comfortable accommodation, upgrade to a Feature Room for extra comfort and luxury, or choose a spacious Suite, a renowned romantic getaway once favoured by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

macdonaldhotels.co.uk/bear  0344 8799143  Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SZ

BICESTER HOTEL GOLF AND SPA  B5 County

Nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside is a 4-star country club resort perfect for getaways and sporting retreats.

bicesterhotelgolfandspa.com  01869 241204  OX26 1TH

THE BUTTERY  D3 City

The Buttery Hotel offers six deluxe en-suite bedrooms and is located on historic Broad Street in Oxford.

thebutteryhotel.co.uk  01865 811950  OX1 3AP

CHRIST CHURCH  D4 City

Bed and Breakfast in one of Oxford’s most prestigious colleges, Christ Church, with its stunning Great Hall, Cathedral and Meadow.

chch.ox.ac.uk  01865 276220  OX1 1DP

CLIVE BOOTH POST-GRADUATE CENTRE  E3 City

Single en-suite, self-catered accommodation. Outdoor central courtyard. Price per night: £58.00

brookes.ac.uk/venues/accommodation  01865 488400  OX3 0FN

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD CITY CENTRE  B4 City

This modern 151 bedroom hotel is located in the heart of Oxford, minutes from Oxford station. With 149 contemporary bedrooms, Courtyard by Marriott Oxford City Centre is the perfect launch pad for any Oxford adventure, enabling visitors to explore all the gems of the city.

mariott.co.uk/hotels/travel/acsy-courtyard-oxford-city-centre  01865 306900  15 Paradise Street, Oxford, OX1 1LD

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD SOUTH  D5 County

A modern 4* hotel with award-winning Oman Bar & Grill. 170 bedrooms with all mod cons and rainfall showers. Free parking and WiFi and easy access into Oxford via the A34 in 25 minutes. From £110 for a Double Room. Four Star

mariott.co.uk/hotels/travel/oxfcx-courtyard-oxford-south  01865 671480  6 Milton Gate, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4FP

THE CROWN & THISTLE ABINGDON  D5 County

With a history dating back to 1605, The Crown & Thistle on Bridge Street re-opened its doors in 2013. This Grade II listed coaching inn comprises three individual buildings clustered around a cobbled courtyard, framed by 200-year-old wisteria.

crownandthistleabingdon.co.uk  01235 525556  18 Bridge Street, Abingdon-on-Thames, OX14 3HS

THE DOUBLE RED DUKE  B4 County

An immaculately restored old inn with generous bedrooms and fantastic food. Locals love it as much as those who make it a destination.

the doubleredduke.co.uk  01567 810222  OX18 2RB

countrycreatures.com/double-red-duke  01567 810222  OX18 2RB

GRANGE FARM COUNTRY COTTAGES  E3 County

Gold Award winning, four star self-catering cottages set on a beautiful, peaceful family farm in rural Oxfordshire.

countrycreatures.com/cotto  07997 002132  OX27 9AF

countrycreatures.com/double-red-duke  01567 810222  OX18 2RB

countrycreatures.com/cotto  07997 002132  OX27 9AF

GREYFRIARS HIDEAWAY  C4 City

Indulge at Greyfriars Hideaway, two historic and exclusive self-catering properties located in the very heart of Oxford sleeping from 2 - 12 people. Greyfriars Hideaway offers an exclusive central location where luxury and privacy are complemented by an array of perfectly curated services.

greyfriarshideaway.co.uk  07709 098507  21-23 Paradise Street, Oxford, OX1 1LD

HILTON GARDEN INN ABINGDON OXFORD HOTEL  D5 County

Experience a friendly welcome when you arrive at Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon Oxford, nestled in historic Abingdon Town, just 6 miles south of Oxford. Explore the shops and restaurants of Abingdon-on-Thames, or pop in the all-day restaurant for a coffee and bite to eat.

hilton.com/en/hotels/igloebi-hilton-garden-inn-abingdon-oxford  01235 553456  OX14 1TZ

GRACE CARNIVAL

GRACE CARNIVAL
HOLIDAY INN OXFORD

Holiday Inn Oxford Hotel is conveniently located three miles from the city centre, next to the A34 with ample parking, and it’s easy to travel into Oxford – just hop on the Park&Ride bus adjacent to the hotel.

The hotel has 154 contemporary bedrooms, including excellent Executive and Family rooms for up to 2 adults and 2 children.

The hotel also offers accessible rooms, as well as free Wi-Fi internet access, and a fitness centre is available on site.

Parking is £6 for 24 hours and double rooms start from £85.

holidayinn.com/oxford  •  03719 429086  •  Peartree Roundabout, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 8JD

KEBLE COLLEGE

Founded in memory of John Keble, Keble College opened in 1870. There was a realisation that more University spaces were needed for those who couldn’t afford it, as well as to increase the supply of clergymen.

Offering a mix of Quad or Street view rooms, accommodation is centred around one of the four main Quads, with a full English and continental breakfast served in Keble’s iconic Dining Hall. Keble is a short walk from the City centre and provides the perfect base to explore the historic City.

Keble College welcomes visitors daily from 2.00pm – 5.00pm.

conference.keble.ox.ac.uk  •  01865 272789  •  Marcham Road, Abingdon, OX14 1TZ

LE MANOIR AUX QUAT’SAISONS

Created by celebrated chef Raymond Blanc OBE, Le Manoir aux Quat’Saisons is one of the country’s most cherished manor house hotels. They received two Michelin stars in 1984, the first year of their opening, and, remarkably, have held them ever since.

Beyond the eye-catching flower beds and pristine lawns is The Raymond Blanc Gardening School where guests can learn the secrets of their world-class vegetable and herb gardens, which provide the kitchen - and The Raymond Blanc Cookery School - with ultra-fresh organic produce. They guarantee their restaurant remains at the cutting edge of culinary excellence.

Prices start from £995 based on a Deluxe bedroom and includes breakfast. Five Star

belmond.com/hotels/europe/uk/oxfordshire/belmond-le-manoir-aux-quat-saisons  •  01844 278881  •  Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford, OX44 7PD

LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL OXFORD

Step inside the 240-bedroom Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford just a short drive from the city centre. The four-star hotel is the perfect base for adventures in and around Oxford’s historic city, whether you’re staying for one night or an entire week.

Treat yourself at the well-known Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill Oxford, serving British and French influenced cuisine in a contemporary and stylish setting. Relax and exercise at the Health and Leisure Club, with heated indoor pool, fitness suite and classes, sauna and steam room.

From £85 for a Double Room

Four Star

leonardo-hotels.com/oxford/leonardo-royal-hotel-oxford  •  01865 489988  •  Godstow Road, Oxford, OX2 8AL

LINTON LODGE OXFORD

The Linton Lodge Hotel, BW Signature Collection by Best Western is an elegant blend of modern amenities and Edwardian charm, nestled in a tranquil garden surroundings in Oxford.

bw-lintonlodgehotel.co.uk  •  01865 553461  •  OX2 6UJ

MALMAISON

The Malmaison Hotel is a former prison now converted into a 95-bedroom boutique hotel, offering luxury accommodation in Oxford city centre.

malmaison.com/locations/oxford  •  01865 689944  •  OX1 1AY

MERCURE OXFORD EASTGATE HOTEL

Situated in the heart of the historic university city of Oxford, the hotel offers modern, comfortable rooms suitable for everyone. This 17th-century converted coaching inn was often visited by the famous novelists J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis while being fellows of Oxford University.

all.accor.com/hotel/6668/index.en.shtml  •  01865 248332  •  73 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BE

MERCURE OXFORD HAWKWELL HOUSE HOTEL

Located in the tranquil surrounds of Oxford, only 10 minutes’ drive from the hustle and bustle of Oxford city centre, lies Oxford’s best kept secret, Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House Hotel. Boasting 77 bedrooms, each inspired by its location, this theme is carried throughout the hotel decor, with interiors inspired by the classic Oxford brogue and Oxford shirt.

A story of Oxford life is told in this idyllic location, set among three acres of private gardens. The perfect setting to enjoy a quintessentially British stay in one of the UK’s most historical cities.

mercureoxfordhawkwellhouse.com  •  01865 489988  •  Church Way, Ifley Village, OX4 4DZ

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mercureoxfordhawkwellhouse.com  •  01865 489988  •  Church Way, Ifley Village, OX4 4DZ
MINSTER MILL
A glorious, glamorous Cotswolds hotel uncompromising luxury on the banks of the River Windrush. With impressive, vaulted ceilings and original oak beams, the three AA rosette Mill Restaurant & Bar provides a wonderfully atmospheric backdrop for exceptional seasonal food and drink.

millermill.co.uk • 01367 707777 • Minster Lovell, OX29 0RN

MOLLIE’S OXFORDSHIRE
Make yourself at home at Mollie’s Oxfordshire: 79 high-spec contemporary rooms designed by Soho House, all-day dining, a dash of vintage and a handy distance from the city – the classic American motel-diner brought bang up to date.
mollies.com • 01367 707777 • Shriverham Road, A420, Buckland, Faringdon, SN7 8PY

OLD BANK HOTEL
The independently-owned Old Bank Hotel, centrally located on Oxford’s famous High, is a breathtaking statement in design. The 5-star hotel has 45 luxury bedrooms, many with unrivalled views of the city’s most famous landmarks. ‘The Room With The View’ is a spectacular rooftop bedroom and terrace overlooking the magnificent High and Oxford’s dreaming spires.

oldbankhotel.co.uk • 01865 799599 • 92-94 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BJ

OLD PARSONAGE HOTEL
Oxford’s 17th-century Old Parsonage combines original charm and character with all the luxury, amenities and technology available to an independently owned 5-star hotel. Best known by locals and visitors alike for its eclectic country house charm, chic modern interiors and striking 20th-century portraits, the Old Parsonage is a luxury home-from-home with impeccable hospitality.

A striking balance of old and new, all 35 individually designed bedrooms and suites feature handmade beds, rich natural fabrics, unique Oxford sketches and marble bathrooms. Guests enjoy exclusive access to the secluded summer garden, the modern library, and luxurious personalised amenities.

oldparsonagehotel.co.uk • 01865 310210 • 1-3 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6NN

OLD SWAN
The 15th-century Old Swan is nestled in 65 acres of idyllic grounds in the picturesque village of Minster Lovell. This English inn blends the rural charm of its historic setting with contemporary design, luxurious comfort and delicious menus crafted from the best seasonal produce.

oldswan.co.uk • 01993 862512 • Minster Lovell, OX29 0RN

THE RANDOLPH HOTEL BY GRADUATE HOTELS
An Oxford landmark in the heart of the city, The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels takes inspiration from the University of Oxford’s history, paying homage to its storied innovators and alumni. Just steps from iconic colleges, this historic landmark is a welcome retreat for locals and travellers alike. The Randolph is more than just a place to lay your head. Make yourself at home in the restaurants, book a pampering treatment at the Wellness Centre and tour Oxford on complimentary bikes.

Located inside the hotel, The Alice, all-day British restaurant serves unique interpretations of classic British dishes offering breakfast, lunch, dinner, pre-theatre dining and afternoon tea in the Drawing Room.

graduatehotels.com/oxford-uk • 0344 8799132 • Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2LN

THE RELAIS HENLEY
Nestled along the picturesque River Thames, this boutique hotel offers a tranquil escape in the heart of the city.

therelaisretreats.com/henley • 01491 523288 • RG9 2AR

STAYCOTSWOLD
Over 150 luxury holiday cottages, barns and shepherd’s huts including many dog friendly homes and large places with hot tubs.

staycotswold.com • 01451 514000 • Oxfordshire Cotswolds

ST MARGARET’S HOTEL
This boutique style Hotel is in a stylish Victorian building with many period features, such as high ceilings, bay windows and stained glass features, but with all the modern facilities required by today’s business and leisure travellers. Ideal location for visiting the city of Oxford.

thestmargaretshotel.co.uk • 01865 453864 • 41 St Margaret’s Road, Oxford, OX2 6LD

SNAPTRIP
Snaptrip offers a great range of self-catering properties in Oxfordshire, from cosy cottages to luxury stately homes.

snaptrip.com/holiday-cottages/oxfordshire • 02036 370812 • Oxfordshire

ROYAL OXFORD HOTEL
City centre hotel offers parking nearby, professional and friendly welcome, comfortable rooms with En-Suite facilities, airconditioned, double glazed and affordable.

royaloxfordhotel.co.uk • 01865 248432 • Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 1HR
FOR YOUR EVENT

EXPERIENCE OXFORDSHIRE VENUE GUIDE

Oxfordshire is home to a wonderful selection of meeting, conference and event venues. Experience Oxfordshire Venues partners with the best venues & suppliers in Oxfordshire, and our team can offer help and advice to make your event run smoothly.


Confidence Oxford can help to find your perfect event location from among 70 University of Oxford venues and colleges. The venues cater for all kinds of events - conferences, meetings, dinners, weddings, parties, summer schools, accommodation, the list is endless. Confidence Oxford can help can even help with filming locations!

Conference Oxford can help you to uncover unique Oxfordenabling you to find your dream venue from a range of colleges, museums, libraries, and gardens. Offering over 500 meeting spaces, 7000+ college bedrooms, and an array of glorious dining opportunities, Conference Oxford can help you to uncover unique Oxford locations and offer your guests an unforgettable experience.

Get in touch today to book your next event.

For more information, visit the official website: conference-oxford.com • 01865 276190 • I Littlegate Street, Oxford, OX1 1QG

TREEDWELLERS

TreeDwellers extraordinary treehouse escapes. The 7 extraordinary eccentric treehouses in the forests of Cornbury Estate in The Cotswolds are hybrids between a boutique hotel and a self-catering tree house, a brainwave rebooting sensory experience.

treedwellers.com • aloha@treedwellers.co.uk • Finstock, Witney Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 3DF

developed for people with disabilities. An inclusive service run by a not-for-profit enterprise.

Unique adapted vehicle providing access to countryside and equestrian activities for people with disabilities. An inclusive service run by a not-for-profit enterprise.

https://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/venues/

THE STORE OXFORD

The Store is an inviting boutique hotel in the heart of the city of Oxford with 101 rooms, a destination restaurant, rooftop bar, restorative spa and plenty of spaces to discover and explore.

Located on Broad Street, in the historic Boswells department store, The Store delights guests with a labyrinth of beautifully designed spaces and installations, that awaken a sense of exploration and wonder, whilst encouraging you to settle in and make them your own.

The Roof is an intimate rooftop bar and terrace with iconic views over Oxford and outdoor seating.

thestoreoxford.com • 1-5 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AG

For more information, visit the official website: vocohotels.com

THAMES HOTEL

Luxury Riverside hotel with 30 acres of beautiful grounds and gardens, 2 miles from Oxford city centre.

oxfordthesomes.vocohotels.com • 01865 334444 • OX4 4GX

oxfordfinedining.co.uk

This event catering provider has an extensive portfolio of weddings, corporate events and private dining experiences catering in Oxfordshire.

caswellhouse.co.uk • 01993 701064 • OX18 3NJ

caswellhouse.ox.ac.uk • 01865 324324 • OX1 4PS

CONFERENCE OXFORD

CONFERENCE OXFORD

Confidence Oxford can help to find your perfect event location from among 70 University of Oxford venues and colleges. The venues cater for all kinds of events - conferences, meetings, dinners, weddings, parties, summer schools, accommodation, the list is endless. Confidence Oxford can help can even help with filming locations!

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Get in touch today to book your next event.

For more information, visit the official website: conference-oxford.com • 01865 276190 • I Littlegate Street, Oxford, OX1 1QG

OXFORD FINE DINING

This event catering provider has an extensive portfolio of weddings, corporate events and private dining experiences catering in Oxfordshire.

oxfordfinedining.co.uk • 01865 728240 • OX2 5QW

oxfordfinedining.co.uk

Rhodes House

This recently refurbished grade II* listed gem in Oxford, combines the elegance and style of the 1920s Arts and Crafts movement with modern conferencing and meeting facilities.

rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/venue • 01865 282599 • OX1 3RG

GET IN TOUCH

Conference Oxford can help to find your perfect event location from among 70 University of Oxford venues and colleges. The venues cater for all kinds of events - conferences, meetings, dinners, weddings, parties, summer schools, accommodation, the list is endless. Conference Oxford can help can even help with filming locations!

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Get in touch today to book your next event.

For more information, visit the official website: conference-oxford.com • 01865 276190 • I Littlegate Street, Oxford, OX1 1QG

STARSTREAM

Relaxed and informal Wedding Photography and Film from Mark Rayson of Starstream, timeline photography that captures the story of the day.

starstream.co.uk • 07970 406993 • OX2 9ED

STARSTREAM

SCHWARZMAN CENTRE

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities is currently under construction, completion due in 2025, providing a new home for research and teaching in the humanities at Oxford University, and an exciting range of outstanding venues for all of Oxford.

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s Schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk

s Schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk • Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG

s Schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk
WHAT TO SEE AND DO

ABINGDON LOCAL FOOD & CRAFTS  D5 County
Browse in Abingdon's historic Market Place just 20 mins bus ride from Oxford. The "Local Excellence" Markets, selling locally made products and supporting small businesses in the town centre, are on:
23 Mar | 27 Apr | 29 Jun | 31 Aug | 23 Nov | 7 Dec
abingdoneventspartnership.co.uk/markets  07463 690051  Abingdon Market Place, Abingdon-on-Thames, OX14 3HH

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM  C2 City
The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology. As Britain's first public museum, it's home to half a million years of human history and creativity, from ancient Egyptian Mummies to modern art, and much more.
Open daily, 10am - 5pm. Admission is free.
ashmolean.org  01865 278000  Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PH

ACTIVATE LEARNING  County
Activate Learning is a forward-thinking education group working across further and higher education, schools, apprenticeships and training. They transform lives through learning.
Activate Learning has two colleges in Oxfordshire, including Banbury and Bicester College and City of Oxford College and University Centre, offering a variety of education and training opportunities for the local community ranging from entry level, full-time academic and vocational study programmes, apprenticeships, leisure courses and university-level qualifications.
To find out more, visit one of their Open Events.
activatelearning.ac.uk  0800 6126008

BICESTER VILLAGE  D3 County
Bicester Village is an open air shopping destination, home to more than 150 luxury fashion and lifestyle boutiques – in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside.
Expect the extraordinary from the moment you arrive and dine at an array of world-class restaurants, including Cecconi's, La Tua Pasta, Shan Shui and Soho House & Co's farmshop restaurant & cafe.
If you don’t come, you’ll never know...
Visit BicesterVillage.com to discover more.
thebicestercollection.com/bicester-village  01869 366266  50 Pingle Drive, Bicester, OX26 6WD

BLENHEIM PALACE  C3 County
Blenheim Palace is home to the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting a long and diverse history.
With a rich variety of cultural highlights spanning the calendar year, you can indulge in their programme of special events; from medieval jousting displays and exhibitions in the Palace to their Easter and Halloween offerings.
In addition, this spring 2023 will see the opening of a brand new Adventure Playground, the Lost Garden.
Open daily 10:30am – 5:30pm (last admission 4:45pm)
blenheimpalace.com  01993 810530  Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1UL

BODLEIAN LIBRARY  E3 City
A trip to Oxford is incomplete without a visit to the Bodleian Libraries or joining its official University walking tours. You can explore historic spaces that you might recognize from popular films and TV series and visit free, inspiring exhibitions featuring the libraries’ rich collections.
The Bodleian Library was founded by Sir Thomas Bodley and officially opened in 1602. Since then, the Bodleian Libraries has grown to be the largest academic library system in the UK. In its reading rooms generations of famous scholars have studied through the ages, amongst them monarchs, Nobel Prize winners, British Prime Ministers and writers including Oscar Wilde, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.
tours@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/plan-your-visit  01865 287400  Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG

BICESTER HERITAGE  D3 County
Bicester Heritage is the ‘centre of excellence’ for classic motoring in the UK, home to 50 specialist businesses on a 444 acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Training Station.
Bicester provides a unique setting for the entire family to enjoy and experience the past, present and future of motoring, be it through attending one of the site’s Scramble events or visiting the on-site brewery, The Wriggly Monkey.
Ideally located, close to the City of Oxford, Bicester Heritage is a truly unique location.
bicesterheritage.co.uk  01869 327928  The Station Armoury, Building 123, Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX26 5HA

BODELEY HALL  D3 County
Bodeley Hall is the seat of the Bodeley family for over 700 years. The Hall is home to a fascinating collection of paintings and sculpture, as well as a wonderful library.
Visit Bodeley Hall to explore its historic interior and learn about its rich history.
bodeleyhall.com  01865 781002  Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BP

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tours@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
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bicesterheritage.co.uk  01869 327928  The Station Armoury, Building 123, Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX26 5HA
CHERWELL BOATHOUSE

Punting is a truly timeless, slightly eccentric, quintessentially Oxford, idyllic pleasure.

Take a leisurely punt upstream, about half an hour from Cherwell Boathouse is The Victoria Arms. Downstream takes you through the lovely University Parks, a great spot for picnics and games with the kids.

Suitable for novices and experts alike, students, corporate parties, families, and groups of friends can all enjoy this unique Oxford experience.

Alongside is one of Oxford’s best restaurants with Al fresco dining.

Punting season: mid-March – mid-October, 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. £22 per hour weekdays, £24 weekend. 6 people to a punt.

cherwellboathouse.co.uk • 01865 515978 • Bardwell Road, Oxford, OX2 6ST

CHRIST CHURCH

Walk in the footsteps of academics, kings and queens, Alice in Wonderland and even a few wizards!

Christ Church is located in the heart of the city centre and is one of Oxford University’s largest colleges. Many well known people have been educated at the college including scientists, historians, politicians, sports people, lawyers and authors.

Alice in Wonderland was written there by 19th-century mathematics Tutor Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) and the architecture, people and way of life at Christ Church have also inspired film-makers, making many of its buildings and interiors famous around the world. As well as featuring in the Harry Potter films, it was also used in The Golden Compass, X-Men: First Class and the TV detective series Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour.

The Meadow is open throughout the year (except 25 December), offering a peaceful and beautiful space for everyone to enjoy. Stroll along the pathways and take in the views of the river, the buildings of Christ Church and Oxford’s famous skyline. Follow the Meadow Trail to find out about this historic space and the plants, flowers, and animals that make it so special.

Christ Church is open throughout the year. As a working college and cathedral some areas may close from time to time.

For full details on what to see, opening times, ticket prices, guided tours, services and events visit the Christ Church website. Please note that booking in advance is essential for groups of 12 or more.

chch.ox.ac.uk • 01865 276492 • St Aldate’s, Oxford, OX1 1DP

COGGES MANOR FARM

Cogges Manor Farm is a unique historic farmstead, made famous as Yew Tree Farm in Downton Abbey. A hidden gem in Witney, a Cotswolds market town renowned for its wool trade heritage, not least the world-famous Witney Blanket.

Explore the beautiful Grade 2* listed Manor House (mentioned in the Domesday Book), with its Cotswold stone barns, dairy and stables.

Enjoy the walled garden, orchard, and seventeen acres of open space. Children can have fun on the adventure play fort and ride-on tractors.

In summer, play croquet on the Manor lawn, see baking on the range or get creative with children’s crafts (selected dates). Seasonal events include fêtes, festivals, outdoor theatre, Beer Festival, Halloween and Christmas market and events.

Shop for gifts and farm produce in the visitor centre, and enjoy delicious food, a cream tea or glass of fizz at Cogges Kitchen Café (also open to non-ticket holders).

Farm open daily February half term - October.

See rare-breed animals: Oxford sandy and black pigs, Cotswold and Oxford Downs sheep, plus goats, hens, ducks, guinea pigs & rabbits, farm cats, Easter chicks.

Pick up an explorer pack and follow the meadow trail.

Downton Abbey’s Yew Tree farm tours on selected dates.

Cogges is also a wedding venue and available for private parties and corporate events.

Free parking OX28 3FR

cogg.es.org.uk • 01993 772602 • Church Lane, Witney, OX28 3LA

CROCODILES OF THE WORLD

Crocodiles of the World is the UK’s only Crocodile Zoo near Witney and is home to over 100 crocodiles, including endangered species. Enjoy feeding displays, photo opportunities, crocodile talks and much more.

Use the once in a lifetime opportunity and participate in the Keeper Experience. Help the experienced keepers at Crocodiles of the World with the animal feedings and learn more about the different crocodile species. Select from:

- Adult Croc Keeper
- Junior Croc Keeper
- Meet the Meerkats Experience
- Monitor Lizard
- VIP Experience

crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk • 01993 846353 • Burford Road, Brize Norton, OX18 3NX
DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

Travel back in time to the golden age of the Great Western Railway. Savour the sights, sounds and smells of steam as you explore this 21-acre living museum with trains dating from Victorian times to the 1960s.

Take unlimited rides on steaming days, explore the original 1932 engine shed and see magnificent, preserved locomotives - you can even climb onto the footplates of some! See surviving track from Brunel’s broad gauge, discover painstakingly restored buildings and learn more about the development of railways and how they changed everyday lives.

The large, well-ventilated carriage shed houses vintage that evoke bygone eras. See the VIP Saloon reputed to have been used by General Eisenhower during the preparations for D-Day and later used in the GWR Royal Train!

Visit the small artefacts Museum containing 1000s of exhibits including nameplates, signals, tickets, distinctive posters and beautiful models that tell the story of the Great Western Railway – the display of vintage tinplate models and other traditional toys with GWR connection is especially popular.

You can relax over lunch or enjoy a snack in the refreshment rooms and don’t forget to pick up a souvenir in the gift shop.

The modern trains running past the centre complete the picture and mean you can experience 180 years of railway progress in just one day!

didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk • 01235 817200 • Didcot Parkway Station, Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NJ

FAIRYTALE FARM

Mixing classic fairy tales, animals and adventure play, children simply adore Fairytale Farm. With the exciting adventure play areas, an enchanted walk with a surprise around every corner and a chance to meet amazing animals, there is so much to see and do. It is a sensory and learning wonderland for all the family.

One of several new attractions in 2023 was Fairy Dell, a completely unique themed adventure play area, where you will be shrunk to the size of a fairy, with giant toadstools, raised walkways and bridges, crawl tunnel, climbing wall, slides and sensory activities.

For 2024 there will be new animatronic dinosaurs in Dino Valley and you can go on a family quest for lost gold by trying your luck in the new Panning for Gold attraction.

Climb a combine harvester, step inside a musical house or let off steam in Rapunzel’s Kingdom indoor play. Where else can you meet mermaids, rabbits, sleeping beauty, alpacas, rheas, sea horses, ducks, chickens and magic?

And make some time for the Beanstalk Café, serving Lavazza coffee, locally baked cakes and delicious meals.

fairytalefarm.co.uk • 01608 238014 • Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, Chipping Norton, OX7 5QH

FINEST HOUR

Finest Hour provides unforgettable flying experiences in beautiful vintage and aerobatic aeroplanes over Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and the Cotswolds. The perfect gift for the person who has everything!

finesthourexperiences.co.uk • 07415 735683 • OX27 8AL

THE HENLEY DISTILLERY

An artisan distillery creating hand-crafted, award-winning spirits’s near Henley-on-Thames offering tours, tastings and gin-making experiences.

thehenleydistillery.co.uk • 07531 208490 • RG9 3LG

HENLEY RIVER & ROWING MUSEUM

Explore the River Thames’ rich stories: the art it inspires, international rowing, Henley’s history, and its special wildlife. Dive in!

rm.co.uk • 01491 415600 • RG9 1BF

HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

Discover beautifully intriguing inventions and devices from different cultures, places and times in human history. Don’t miss the story of the museum’s founder, Lewis Evans — or Einstein’s Blackboard.

hsm.ox.ac.uk • 01865 277293 • OX1 3AZ
**MUSEUM OF OXFORD**

The Museum of Oxford is the only museum dedicated to telling the story of Oxford and its people.

The Museum is located in the Town Hall in the centre of the city and provides a fantastic starting point to a visit to the city. Two galleries show the changing story of Oxford through its history and people, from Romans and Anglo-Saxons to the first Cowley factory workers, the infamous Cutteslowe Walls and the city’s rich heritage through times of conflict and industry. Through objects, videos, audio and interactive displays, the exhibitions uncover what makes Oxford such a special place to live, work and study.

A visit could take around 30 minutes to two hours. The Museum is wheelchair accessible and the Town Hall has level access via the north entrance near Carfax Tower.

Visit the Museum of Oxford’s website to find out what’s on. Follow them on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, and join their monthly mailing list to get the most up-to-date information about MOX. They look forward to seeing you soon!

Opening hours - Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm
No fixed entrance fee, pay what you can on arrival.
Facilities – Audio Tours (multi language, BSL and family), gift shop, level access, hearing loop, sensory backpacks, gender neutral toilets, baby change.

**NEW THEATRE OXFORD**

Playing host to some of the biggest shows and names, New Theatre Oxford is situated right in the centre of the historic city. From top West End musicals and world renowned dance companies to the best names in live comedy and music, there is something to appeal to for everyone.

**THE NORTH WALL ARTS CENTRE**

The North Wall connects artists and audiences from Oxford to make, share and access art of the highest quality.

**THE OXFORD ARTISAN DISTILLERY**

The Oxford Artisan Distillery creates incredible tasting spirits, supporting ancient methods of farming and encouraging biodiversity in the Oxfordshire countryside.
OXFORD CASTLE AND PRISON

Explore the 1,000-year history of Oxford Castle & Prison. Step back in time with their costumed guided tours and see fascinating stories come to life. Hear the great tales of Empress Matilda, the fate of Mary Blandy and step inside their padded jail cell.

Find gorgeous views atop of St. George’s Tower and then descend into the atmospheric crypt of St. George’s Chapel. Here you can touch the stones where Oxford University was rumoured to begin and stand in the birthplace of Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Legend of King Arthur*. Wander the austere confines of the prison’s D-Wing and debtors tower and learn about their youngest inmates.

After your guided tour, you can explore the prison cells and the exhibition space at your own leisure – who will you meet in the Padded Cell?

Head outside and climb the mound, the remains of their motte and bailey castle.

Admission is via Guided Tour only and lasts approximately 50 minutes. Please head to the Oxford Castle & Prison website for the latest opening times and prices.

oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk • 01865 260663 • 44-46 Oxford Castle, Oxford, OX1 1AY

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

This private tutorial college and language school in the centre of Oxford offers a range of programmes for residents, international students and visitors. Courses are available for anything from 1 week to a full year, and lesson times can be flexible to suit working arrangements if needed.

oxintstudycentre.com • 01865 201009 • 7 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BS

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

The Oxford Literary Festival – the world’s meeting place for writers and readers – 16th to 24th March 2024.

Tickets available - https://oxfordliteraryfestival.org

The internationally acclaimed programme features more than 300 speakers over 10 days with some of the most eminent figures of our age. Visitors can meet and listen to authors and experts from dozens of countries discussing every imaginable subject from literature, history, biography, science, politics, technology, environment, and travel to religion all staged in some of the most beautiful buildings in Europe. There is also a programme for young people.

Speakers include: Dr Amri Khan, Lord William Hague, Paul Lynch, Ruby Wax, Val McDermid, Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson

oxfordliteraryfestival.org • 0333 6663366 • Oxford

OXFORD PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra boasts some of the finest instrumental musicians, who, under the direction of Music Director Marios Papadopoulos, have shaped the Orchestra’s distinctive sound.

Over the past 25 years the OPO has evolved into a world-class symphony orchestra which enjoys relationships with some of the most distinguished musicians in the world, many of whom will join the Orchestra for its 2023/24 season, including Nigel Kennedy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Mischa Maisky, Evgeny Kissin, James Ehnes, Janine Jansen and Sir Stephen Hough.

In February 2023, the Orchestra celebrated its 25th anniversary with a gala concert at the Barbican, in which Maxim Vengerov played Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto. Other engagements during the Orchestra’s Silver Jubilee year included concerts in Dubai in February 2023 and a tour of Germany and Austria, where the Orchestra made its debut at Musikverein, Vienna and at Isarphilharmonie, Munich with soloist Martha Argerich. An exciting 2023/24 season will see the Orchestra return to Dubai in February for six concerts, and undertake a major tour of Japan in April / May.

At home in Oxford, in addition to its annual concert season, the OPO presents FUNomusica Family Concerts, a chamber music series, and the annual Oxford Piano Festival, where top pianists share their wisdom in a jam-packed week of masterclasses and recitals.

Find out more and browse the Oxford Philharmonic’s 2023/24 season at oxfordphil.com

Photo credit: Nick Rutter.

oxfordphil.com • 01865 980980 • Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ

OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN & ARBORETUM

Oxford Botanic Garden is the UK’s oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621 and is an oasis of green in Oxford city centre. Harcourt Arboretum, just south of the city, is home to 150 acres of British woodland, open wildflower meadows and trees from around the world.

obga.ox.ac.uk • 01865 610300 • Rose Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AZ / Peacock Gate, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX

Oxford International Study Centre

This private tutorial college and language school in the centre of Oxford offers a range of programmes for residents, international students and visitors. Courses are available for anything from 1 week to a full year, and lesson times can be flexible to suit working arrangements if needed.

oxintstudycentre.com • 01865 201009 • 7 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BS

Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum

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oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk • 01865 260663 • 44-46 Oxford Castle, Oxford, OX1 1AY

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oxintstudycentre.com • 01865 201009 • 7 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BS
OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

Oxford United Football Club, with a proud history dating back to 1893, are comprised of the men’s team, women’s team, and Academy. The charitable arm, Oxford United in the Community, undertakes a huge amount of positive work throughout the city and county.

The Men’s team, the only professional sports club in Oxfordshire, plays its home games at the Kassam Stadium. Delivering a vibrant and exciting experience for football enthusiasts and casual fans alike, spectators attending an Oxford United home match can purchase official club merchandise when onsite. The club shop offers a wide range, including replica shirts, scarves, hats, and other great memorabilia for all budgets.

Match tickets are available online at OUFCTickets.co.uk or by calling the Ticket Office at 01865 337533.

OXFORD RIVER CRUISES & THE FOLLY RESTAURANT

Experience tranquility with Oxford River Cruises & The Folly Restaurant.

Glide down the river on one of the elegant sightseeing boat trips, in the heart of the historic city of Oxford. The vessels provide a comfortable and intimate setting for an unforgettable river experience and one of the most memorable things to do during your visit.

Enjoy great food with beautiful views at The Folly, which relishes its status as one of Oxford’s few independent, family owned restaurants. It strives to offer an excellent dining experience in a unique riverside location.

Explore, indulge and relax in the heart of Oxford.

OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS

Oxfordshire Artweeks is a free three-week festival of 100s of open studios and pop-up exhibitions in every corner of Oxfordshire. With nearly five hundred pop-up art exhibitions, artist open studios and events in interesting places throughout May, and in the run-up to Christmas, you can discover Oxfordshire’s creative talent. All free to visit.

OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Explore the stories of Oxfordshire and its people. Located in central Woodstock, the museum includes tranquil gardens, café and shop. Check out their regular programme of events (for all ages) and exhibitions. Free Entry. Woodstock library is also located inside the museum.

PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

An iconic mix of nineteenth-century architecture and contemporary displays. Marvel at the wonders of Earth, science, and nature.

SALTER’S STEAMERS

Salter’s Steamers is a family run passenger boat business operating for over 160 years. They offer self drive hire boats, punts and skiffs. They also operate 40 minute trips to Iffley lock – please see website.
STONOR PARK

Stonor Park is a historic house and deer park, set in the rolling Chiltern hills in the Oxfordshire countryside. Not only does Stonor offer the chance to escape into the great outdoors, with its parklands, nature walks and cycling trails, it is a haven for families.

Home to the Stonor family for 850 years, the house is full of history and its grounds are full of adventure - a place where children have the freedom to run, explore and get active.

Tumblestone Hollow - an immersive and magical adventure playground where mythical characters are said to reside amongst the ancient stone circle and within the quirky houses high up in the trees – is a place for adventurers and explorers. Let imaginations go wild and hear the stories of Tumblestone Hollow in the two children’s books available to buy from the gift shop. High level walkways, climbing nets, look-out decks and bridges across multiple levels are connected by a gnarled central tower. Head to the look-out deck for views across the whole playground open from February to October, or visit during the popular seasonal events of Easter, summer and Halloween.

The stunning gardens, first planted in the 15th century and latterly designed by Fairhurst to Joana Vasconcelos' Wedding Cake. Over 140 years ago, Waddesdon Manor was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his collection of art and to entertain the fashionable world.

The Rothschilds were the greatest collectors of the 19th century and today, Waddesdon boasts a world-renowned art collection with works ranging from Thomas Gainsborough and Joshua Reynolds to David Hockney and Angus Fairhurst to Joana Vasconcelos’ Wedding Cake.

On a visit to this unique French Renaissance-style château, see treasures from the collection displayed within opulent interiors, explore landscaped gardens, find rare birds at the Aviary and taste fine wines in cellars.

WADDESDON MANOR

WESTGATE OXFORD

Westgate Oxford is a modern retail and leisure destination, attracting world-class retailers and leisure facilities to the historic city of Oxford.

With over 100 brands and 20 restaurants, bars and cafes, Westgate Oxford offers a unique retail experience in the heart of Oxford.

To enjoy truly unique views of Oxford’s dreaming spires, the Roof Terrace at Westgate is the ultimate city destination, with a mix of places to eat and drink after taking in the sights.

Westgate Oxford can be easily accessed by public transport including Park & Ride routes.
TOUR OPERATORS

CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD

Let City Sightseeing Oxford take you on an unforgettable adventure on their award-winning open-top hop-on hop-off bus tour to reveal the ancient and modern history and mystery of Oxford.

The bus tour lasts approximately one hour and takes in the city’s famous sites, including the Oxford Castle, Christ Church, Magdalen Bridge, Sheldonian Theatre and Ashmolean Museum. With 20 bus stops, you’re free to hop on and off at your leisure to make the most of your Oxford experience! Plus, audio commentary is available - take a pick from 14 languages as well as a kids’ commentary.

City Sightseeing Oxford operate a fantastic range of walking tours too, as well as combo tickets giving you discounts on many of Oxford’s other top attractions.

citysightseeingoxford.com  •  01865 790522  •  44 - 45 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4AP

GO COTSWOLDS

Explore the Cotswolds in a day with award-winning, family-run tour company Go Cotswolds. Small-group tours depart from Moreton-in-Marsh train station (30 mins by train from Oxford); private tours for up to 16 people also available from Oxford.

gocotswolds.co.uk  •  07786 920166  •  Station Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0AA

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

International Friends is one of the leading scheduled tour companies in Britain, offering day trips, overnight tours and shore excursions and transfers.

Enjoy fully guided day trips and discover the vibrant city of Oxford, pretty Cotswolds villages and historic sites like Blenheim Palace, with a great choice of themes.

Themes include:
• Oxford, Cotswolds & Country Pub Lunch
• Downton Abbey Filming Locations, Cotswolds & Blenheim Palace
  ... and much more.

internationalfriends.co.uk  •  01843 609699  •  Oxfordshire

OXFORD OFFICIAL WALKING TOURS

There’s no better way of exploring over 1,000 years of history in the City of Dreaming Spines than on foot. You will encounter Oxford’s past as a Saxon stronghold through to the modern day life of the thriving University city, and all of the fascinating history and stories that lie in between.

Our tours will open your eyes to the most famous spots in Oxford, from its historic buildings to iconic colleges, many of which are now represented in films and TV ranging from Harry Potter to Inspector Morse.

We pride ourselves that our Guides are independent, experienced, knowledgeable and most of all friendly, helping to ensure the best possible experience for our guests. With never more than 20 persons in a group, you will always feel comfortable on our easy paced tours.

For a more exclusive experience, you can book any of our tours with your own personal guide for you, your family and friends. We can even tailor your tour to cover specific themes. Beyond our award-winning University and City tour, our Oxford Official Walking Tours guiding team offers dedicated tours around some of our most famous figures. You can choose from:

• Oxford University & City Tour
• Oxford Ghost Tour
• Inspector Morse, Lewis & Endeavour Tour
• C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien Tour
• Philip Pullman's Oxford Tour
• Group & Private Tours

Don’t forget to follow us on X @OfficialToursOX

oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org  •  01865 686442  •  Oxford

OXFORD TOUR GUIDES

Join Oxford Tour Guides for a private walking tour tailored to your interests. Their guides are fully qualified with the nationally recognised Blue or Green badge and are knowledgeable and expert in their field.

They offer the popular general tour of the colleges and university as well as specialist themed tours such as Inspectors Morse, Lewis and Endeavour or Harry Potter as well as tours in other languages. Their award winning tours can be for small family or friends groups or larger university or school groups. To enquire and book visit www.oxfordtourguides.co.uk or call Sandra, Director of Oxford Tour Guides - who will be pleased to help you plan your visit.

oxfordtourguides.co.uk  •  07789 657145  •  Oxford
WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

CHERWELL BOATHOUSE

The Cherwell Boathouse is an iconic Oxford punt station and restaurant on the banks of the river Cherwell close to the centre of Oxford. The restaurant serves seasonal modern English food, with an award-winning wine list and friendly service throughout the year.

Both the restaurant and Marquee overlooking the river are wonderful places to celebrate all types of occasion. They can cater for corporate days out, functions and parties with conference facilities and option of punting alongside.

Restaurant: Open All Year | Punting: Open Mid March - Mid October
Restaurant Lunch: 12-2.30pm | Restaurant Dinner: 6pm-9.30pm | Punting: 10am - dusk

cherwellboathouse.co.uk  •  01865 552746  •  Bardwell Road, Oxford, OX2 6ST

THE COCONUT TREE OXFORD

The Coconut Tree is an award-winning Sri Lankan restaurant, bringing an authentic affordable menu with delicious dishes and fantastic flavours, combined with fun 'Cocotails' and a relaxed island vibe. There is a wide range of Vegetarian and Vegan options available including Tender Pumpkin Curry, Kale & Cabbage Sambol and Vegan Hopper.

cococonuttree.com  •  01865 428865  •  76 St Clement’s Street, Oxford, OX4 1AH

GEES RESTAURANT & BAR

Gees is an independently-owned restaurant, bar, and ‘secret garden’ set within North Oxford’s famous Grade II Listed Victorian conservatory, once home to the Gee family’s greengrocers and floristry, a ten-minute walk from Oxford’s city centre.

Enjoyed by locals and visitors alike since 1989, Gees serves a distinctly Mediterranean-inspired menu using the best seasonal ingredients, simply prepared and expertly cooked, featuring regional dishes from Spain and Italy. Gees Gallery, an exclusive private venue, upholds an authentic, organic feel, with bare stone walls, oak panelling and rich green marble, featuring its own private bar and art collection.

geesrestaurant.co.uk  •  01865 553540  •  61-63 Banbury Road, Park Town, Oxford, OX2 6PE

KNOOPS

Knoops is an expertly crafted chocolate drinks company located on Turl Street in Oxford. Discover your perfect chocolate drink (be it hot chocolate, iced chocolate or milkshake) from a carefully curated menu of different percentage chocolates. The Knoops concept has something to suit every taste and mood!

knoops.co.uk  •  03333 600608  •  21 Turl Street, Oxford, OX1 3DH

OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER

The Oxford Castle Quarter blends past and present, making every visit a memorable experience. Discover great places to eat and drink, historic attractions and a unique atmospheric hotel.

Monday - Sunday: 6:00am - 11:30pm | Please check individual business opening hours

oxfordcastlequarter.com  •  01865 292305  •  1-3 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6NN

PARSONAGE GRILL

Parsonage Grill is a Cotswold-esque hidden gem located within the 5-star 17th century Old Parsonage Hotel on Banbury Road, central Oxford.

Famous for its intimate, bohemian, clubby atmosphere, the Parsonage Grill and its private dining space, the ‘Pike Room’, displays a carefully curated collection of eclectic oil paintings, original stone fireplaces, leaded light windows and a Bloomsbury club ambience throughout, encapsulated within a charming walled terrace.

The expert team takes pride in creating classic British dishes with a modern, light touch, including breakfast, lunch, dinner and decadent afternoon teas.

parsonagegrill.co.uk  •  01865 292305  •  1-3 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6NN

PHO

Pho can be found at the top of the Westgate Oxford shopping centre and is a healthy Vietnamese restaurant with loads of vegan and gluten free options. Over a third of the menu is vegan, and nearly all of it is gluten-free, so it’s a great destination for people who follow those particular diets.

Whether you’re looking for a quick bite to eat as you make your way around the shops at the Westgate or a huge feast as part of a night out, Pho’s menu is large and diverse and has something for every taste. The signature dish, pho, is a delicious and nutritious rice noodle soup. Alongside this, the restaurant serves spicy salads, wok-fried noodles, fragrant curries and a huge range of starters.

phocafe.co.uk/locations/oxford  •  01865 980 209  •  305 The Westgate, Queen Street, Oxford, OX1 1PG
QUOD RESTAURANT & BAR

On Oxford’s bustling High Street, peering out onto St Mary’s Church and the iconic Radcliffe Camera, Quod Restaurant & Bar with its unrivalled location forms the lively hub of the Old Bank Hotel.

Regulars and visitors alike flock to Quod for its broad menu of European classics. Head chef Rohan Kashid and his team produce daily blackboard specials, a weekday set lunch menu and sumptuous afternoon teas.

Famous for its buzzing atmosphere, striking onyx bar, original artwork, private dining spaces, and an Italian Garden terrace, Quod is the go-to for all in Oxford.

quod.co.uk
01865 202505
92-94 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BJ

SANDY’S GROUP

The Sandy’s Group has been operating for the past 4 years opening a variety of bars in and around Oxfordshire.

Along with sister company The Oxford Wine Company, the group’s aim is to bring the clientele something other than just a regular bar or pub but rather somewhere with personality, something to connect to and more important somewhere to come back to where you feel welcome. The quality of product, staff and service is unrivalled in the area.

The Oxford Wine Cellar and Oxford Wine Café Jericho are both located in the city and take pride in offering a wide range of wine from all over the world, made by smaller, ultra-passionate, boutique-style producers.

Sandy’s Piano Bar is a unique bar and live music venue new to Oxford, serving cocktails, wines, spirits and beers until late. Little Sandy’s opened in Witney in 2022, and provides cocktails, locally sourced wines by glass and live entertainment from professional musicians.

Are you holding an event in Oxfordshire? Sandy’s on the Move is a personalised portable piano and a unique feature to add to any event for either a gentle ambience or a headline. Select your music from a collective of musicians who all rock the Sandy’s Piano Bar, ranging from original pieces, jazz to 80’s, classics to 21st century modern hits.

thesandysgroup.co.uk
07803 087058
Oxfordshire