

# OXFORDSHIRE VISITOR GUIDE 2026

ATTRACTIONS | ACCOMMODATION | FOOD & DRINK | OUTDOORS



- City of Oxford
- Market towns & villages
- Themed itineraries
- Travel toolkit & maps



**Experience  
OXFORDSHIRE**  
experienceoxfordshire.org®



Businesses displaying The Oxfordshire Welcome want you to feel confident in the reception you'll receive and the quality of experience you'll enjoy in the county

**Find out more here**



[experienceoxfordshire.org/experience-the-oxfordshire-welcome](https://experienceoxfordshire.org/experience-the-oxfordshire-welcome)

# CONTENTS

## THIS IS OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordshire Highlights	6-7	Vale of White Horse	27
Oxford, An Introduction	9	West Oxfordshire	28
Shop & Eat in Oxford	12-13	Screen & Literary Links	31-33
Oxford's Green Spaces	14-15	Quirky Traditions	35
Beyond Oxford City Centre	16-17	Afternoon Tea	36-37
Oxfordshire, An Introduction	19	Oxford's Rivers and Canals	38-39
Cherwell	22-23	Advice from Locals	40
South Oxfordshire	25		

## YOUR OXFORDSHIRE STORY

Your Oxfordshire Story	42	River Rapids Itinerary	58-59
A University of Oxford Year	44	Ridgeway Trail Itinerary	60-62
Nightlife in Oxford	46-48	Woodstock to Burford Itinerary	64-65
48 Hours in Oxford	52-54	Oxford to Worcester Itinerary	66-67
Oxford Canal Itinerary	56-57	Day Trips from Oxford	68-69

## TRAVEL TOOLKIT

Oxford Map	10-11	Where to Stay	76
Oxfordshire Map	20-21	For Your Event	84
Getting to Oxfordshire	71	What to See and Do	86
Travelling around Oxfordshire	72-73	Tour Operators	100
Oxfordshire for your Clients	75	Where to Eat and Drink	103

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.

Front cover image credit: Bodleian Libraries, Will Pryce

# WELCOME TO OXFORDSHIRE

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.

[experienceoxfordshire.org](http://experienceoxfordshire.org)

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-  @ExperienceOx
-  @experienceox.bsky.social

# OXFORDSHIRE HIGHLIGHTS



1 ▶ One of the world's leading academic institutions, made up of 39 independent colleges including Christ Church and Keble College as well as Bodleian Libraries, Rhodes House and the newly-opened Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities.



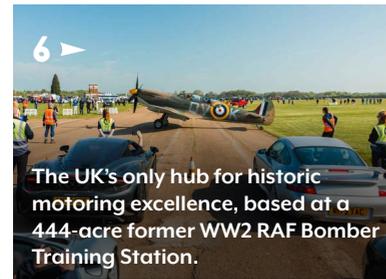
2 ▶ Home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and a UNESCO World Heritage site.



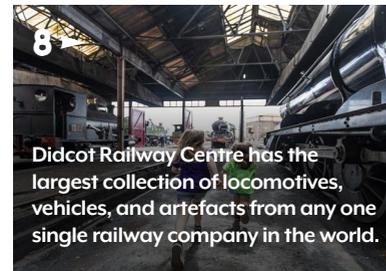
3 ▶ Bicester Village is a luxury shopping destination home to more than 150 fashion and lifestyle boutiques in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside.



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



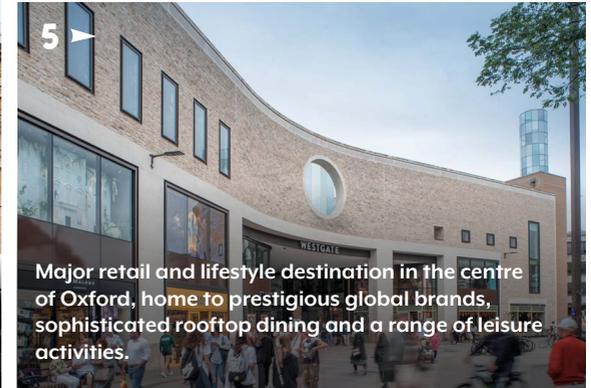
6 ▶ The UK's only hub for historic motoring excellence, based at a 444-acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Training Station.



8 ▶ Didcot Railway Centre has the largest collection of locomotives, vehicles, and artefacts from any one single railway company in the world.



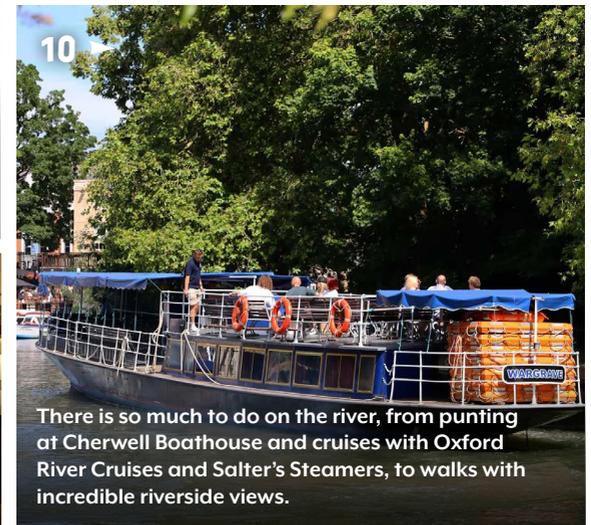
9 ▶ The Museum of Oxford, in Oxford's Grade II\* listed Town Hall, is the only museum dedicated to telling the story of Oxford and its people.



5 ▶ Major retail and lifestyle destination in the centre of Oxford, home to prestigious global brands, sophisticated rooftop dining and a range of leisure activities.



7 ▶ Enjoy tastings and tours across the county at distilleries including Wood Brothers Distilling Co., Abingdon Distillery, The Henley Distillery and The Sky Wave Distillery Co. plus Hook Norton Brewery.



10 ▶ 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.

- 1 ▶ University of Oxford
- 2 ▶ Blenheim Palace
- 3 ▶ Bicester village
- 4 ▶ Ashmolean Museum
- 5 ▶ Westgate Oxford
- 6 ▶ Bicester Motion
- 7 ▶ Oxfordshire distilleries and brewery
- 8 ▶ Didcot Railway Centre
- 9 ▶ Museum of Oxford
- 10 ▶ Salter's Steamers



# OXFORD AN INTRODUCTION

**AWARD-WINNING TOURS**

**BOOK NOW**

**Explore Oxford on foot with an experienced and knowledgeable guide**

- Oxford University & City Tour
- Oxford On Screen Tour
- C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien Tour
- Oxford Ghost Tour
- Private and Group Tours available

Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards



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.

world, is made up of 39 colleges - many dating back to medieval times with immaculate lawned quads, grand dining halls and ornate chapels.

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



- 1 ➤ HIGH STREET
- 2 ➤ CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
- 3 ➤ DIVINITY SCHOOL

**MEETING POINT: outside Cool Britannia, Broad Street OX1 3AX**



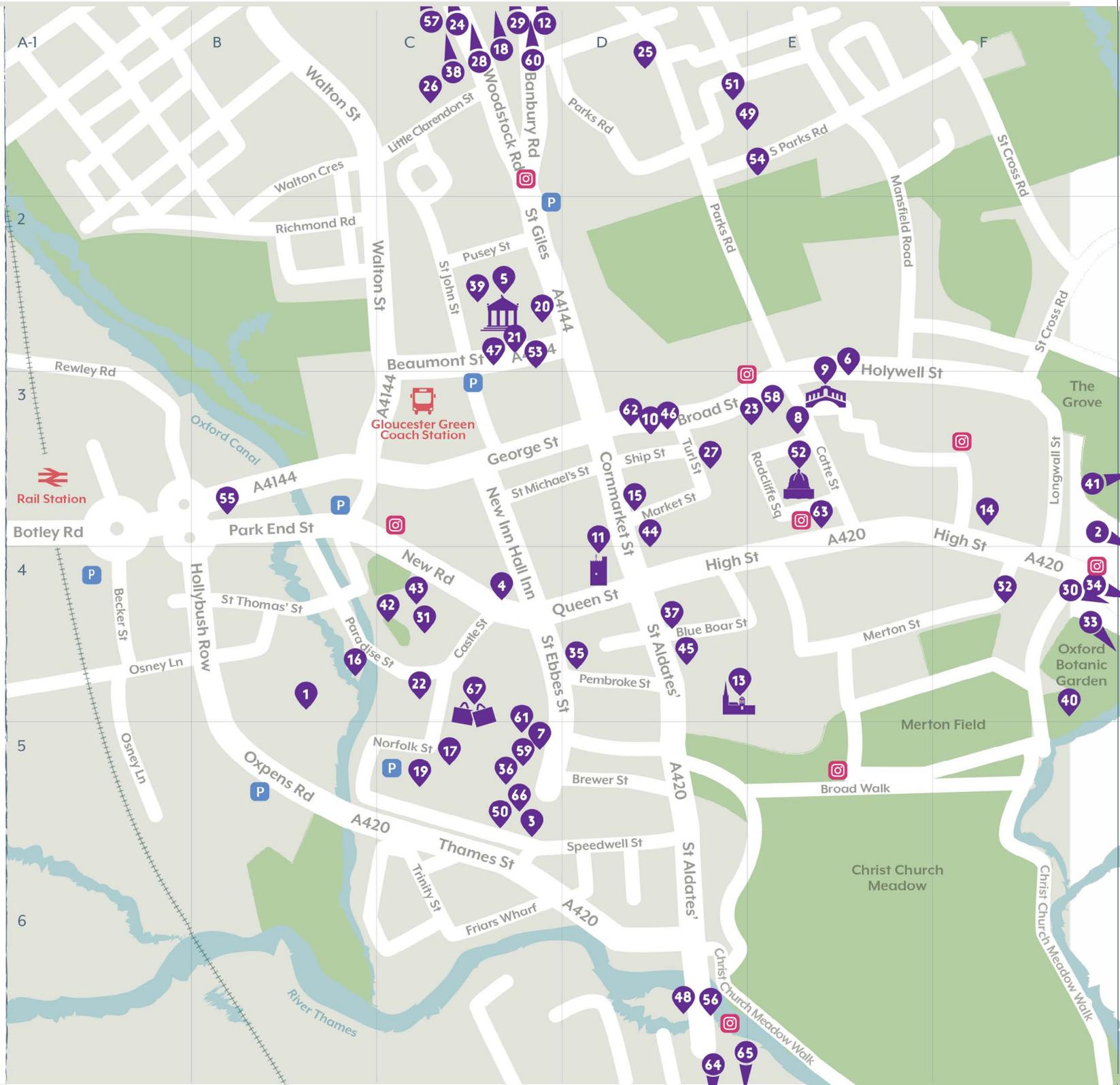
# OXFORD City Map

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Activate Learning's City of Oxford College ..... <b>B4</b>         | <b>33</b> Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House Hotel ..... <b>F4</b>                  |
| <b>2</b> Activate Learning's Leys College ..... <b>F4</b>                   | <b>34</b> MINI Plant Oxford ..... <b>F4</b>                                    |
| <b>3</b> The Alchemist Oxford ..... <b>C5</b>                               | <b>35</b> Modern Art Oxford ..... <b>D4</b>                                    |
| <b>4</b> Art Café ..... <b>C4</b>   | <b>36</b> Mowgli Street Food Oxford ... <b>C5</b>                              |
| <b>5</b> Ashmolean Museum ..... <b>C2</b>                                   | <b>37</b> Museum of Oxford ..... <b>D4</b>                                     |
| <b>6</b> Bath Place Hotel ..... <b>E3</b>                                   | <b>38</b> The North Wall Arts Centre ... <b>C1</b>                             |
| <b>7</b> The Beefy Boys ..... <b>C5</b>                                     | <b>39</b> Oxford Art Tours ..... <b>C2</b>                                     |
| <b>8</b> Bodleian Libraries ..... <b>E3</b>                                 | <b>40</b> Oxford Botanic Garden ..... <b>F4</b>                                |
| <b>9</b> Bridge of Sighs ..... <b>E3</b>                                    | <b>41</b> Oxford Brookes Venues ..... <b>F3</b>                                |
| <b>10</b> The Buttery ..... <b>D3</b>                                       | <b>42</b> Oxford Castle & Prison ..... <b>C4</b>                               |
| <b>11</b> Carfax Tower ..... <b>D4</b>                                      | <b>43</b> Oxford Castle Quarter ..... <b>C4</b>                                |
| <b>12</b> Cherwell Boathouse ..... <b>C1</b>                                | <b>44</b> Oxford Covered Market ..... <b>B3</b>                                |
| <b>13</b> Christ Church ..... <b>D4</b>                                     | <b>45</b> Oxford International Study Centre ..... <b>D4</b>                    |
| <b>14</b> City Sightseeing Oxford Visitor Information Point ..... <b>F3</b> | <b>46</b> Oxford Official Walking Tours . <b>D3</b>                            |
| <b>15</b> Cosy Club Oxford ..... <b>D3</b>                                  | <b>47</b> Oxford Playhouse ..... <b>C2</b>                                     |
| <b>16</b> Courtyard by Marriott Oxford City Centre ..... <b>B4</b>          | <b>48</b> Oxford River Cruises & The Folly Restaurant ..... <b>D6</b>          |
| <b>17</b> Curzon Oxford ..... <b>C5</b>                                     | <b>49</b> Oxford University Museum of Natural History ..... <b>D1</b>          |
| <b>18</b> Dragon School ..... <b>C1</b>                                     | <b>50</b> Pho ..... <b>C5</b>  |
| <b>19</b> Flight Club Oxford ..... <b>C1</b>                                | <b>51</b> Pitt Rivers Museum ..... <b>D1</b>                                   |
| <b>20</b> Go Cotswolds ..... <b>C2</b>                                      | <b>52</b> Radcliffe Camera ..... <b>E3</b>                                     |
| <b>21</b> Golden Tours ..... <b>C2</b>                                      | <b>53</b> The Randolph Hotel Oxford ... <b>C2</b>                              |
| <b>22</b> Greyfriars Hideaway ..... <b>C4</b>                               | <b>54</b> Rhodes House ..... <b>E1</b>   |
| <b>23</b> History of Science Museum .. <b>E3</b>                            | <b>55</b> Royal Oxford Hotel ..... <b>B3</b>                                   |
| <b>24</b> Holiday Inn Oxford ..... <b>C1</b>                                | <b>56</b> Salter's Steamers ..... <b>D6</b>                                    |
| <b>25</b> Keble College ..... <b>D1</b>                                     | <b>57</b> Schwarzman Centre ..... <b>C1</b>                                    |
| <b>26</b> KIBOU Oxford ..... <b>C1</b>                                      | <b>58</b> Sheldonian Theatre / Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra ..... <b>E3</b>   |
| <b>27</b> Knoops ..... <b>D3</b>  | <b>59</b> Six By Nico Oxford ..... <b>C5</b>                                   |
| <b>28</b> Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford . <b>C1</b>                           | <b>60</b> St Margaret's Hotel ..... <b>C1</b>                                  |
| <b>29</b> Linton Lodge Oxford ..... <b>C1</b>                               | <b>61</b> Sticks'n'Sushi Oxford ..... <b>C5</b>                                |
| <b>30</b> Magdalen Bridge ..... <b>F4</b>                                   | <b>62</b> The Store, Oxford / Treadwell Restaurant and Rooftop ..... <b>D3</b> |
| <b>31</b> Malmaison ..... <b>C4</b>   | <b>63</b> University Church of St Mary the Virgin ..... <b>E3</b>              |
| <b>32</b> Mercure Oxford Eastgate Hotel ..... <b>F4</b>                     | <b>64</b> voco Oxford Spire Hotel .... <b>D6</b>                               |
|   | <b>65</b> voco Oxford Thames Hotel ... <b>D6</b>                               |
|   | <b>66</b> Victors Oxford ..... <b>C5</b>                                       |
|   | <b>67</b> Westgate Oxford ..... <b>C4</b>                                      |

- CAR PARK
- GREAT PHOTO SPOT

100m 500ft SCALE

GRID SQUARE = 900ft/275m



# 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

Easily accessible via various public transport routes, **Westgate Oxford** is a top retail, lifestyle, and leisure destination, a stone's throw from the historic **Oxford Castle Quarter**. The centre is home to more than 100 top brands plus over 20 restaurants, bars, and cafes and a **Curzon** five-screen cinema. Its rooftop terrace offers panoramic views of Oxford's city skyline and a range of dining options including **Mowgli, Pho, Six by Nico, Sticks'n'Sushi, The Alchemist, The Beefy Boys** and **Victors**.



## 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.

## THE COVERED MARKET OXFORD

Home to a collection of independent shops, **The Covered Market Oxford** dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> 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; kick start your day with a full English breakfast or quench your thirst at a juicery or a coffee shop.



## 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 a cheese shop, cafes, bars and restaurants including **KIBOU**, offering contemporary Japanese dining. Walk to the end of Little Clarendon Street and you will

find yourself in the relaxed and bohemian area of **Jericho**, which boasts independent shops, bookstores and unique drinking and eating establishments.

## WHERE TO SHOP AND EAT IN OXFORD

Discover local gems  
Read More | p.16 ▶

For more ideas, see our listings pages  
Read More | p.76 ▶

- 1 ▶ WESTGATE OXFORD
- 2 ▶ GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET  
credit: OxfordshireLive
- 3 & 4 ▶ OXFORD COVERED MARKET
- 5 ▶ KIBOU OXFORD

### GREAT FOR



FOOD & DRINK



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS

Build these recommendations into your Oxford itinerary  
Read More | p.52 ▶

# 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**

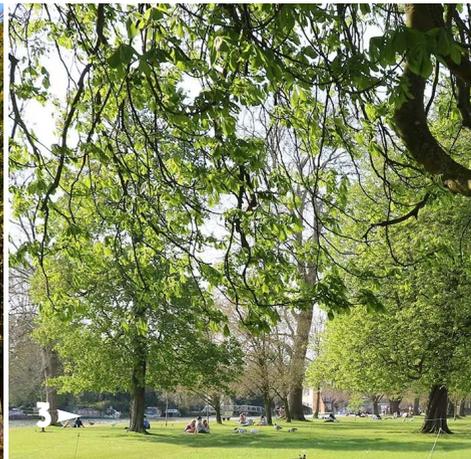
*Carroll's Alice in Wonderland* and *JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings*.



## 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 bathouses.



## 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 dreaming 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.



## OXFORD'S GREEN SPACES

See more nature along Oxford's rivers and canals [Read More | p.38](#)

Stretch your legs further with a walk along the Ridgeway Trail [Read More | p.60](#)

- 1 ► PORT MEADOW
- 2&3 ► CHRIST CHURCH
- 4 ► MEADOW SOUTH PARK  
*credit: The Oxford Magazine*
- 5&6 ► OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN
- 7 ► OXFORD UNIVERSITY PARKS  
*credit - University Parks*

### GREAT FOR



NATURE LOVERS



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS

# 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.

## JERICO

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 memorable evening, head to **The Harcourt Arms** or **Jericho Tavern** for some live music, or enjoy expertly-mixed cocktails at **Raoul's Bar**.



1 ▶

## GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS



2 ▶

## 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.

## 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 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.

## BEYOND THE CITY CENTRE

Discover nearby green spaces in the city  
Read More | p.14 ▶

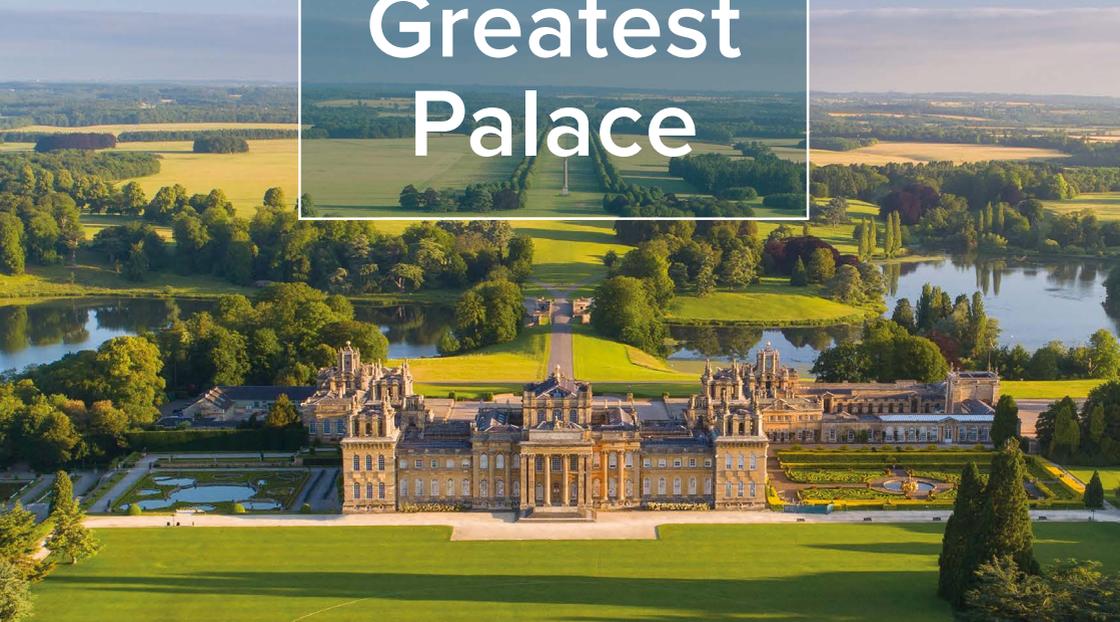
Find the perfect place to stay in our accommodation listings  
Read More | p.76 ▶

- 1 ▶ JERICO  
credit: Kaihsu Tai
- 2 ▶ NORTH WALL  
ARTS CENTRE



BLENHEIM PALACE

# Britain's Greatest Palace



SEE WHAT'S ON



Birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill  
UNESCO World Heritage Site

[blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com)  
[partnerships@blenheimpalace.com](mailto:partnerships@blenheimpalace.com)

Registered charity number 1166164

# OXFORDSHIRE AN INTRODUCTION

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 to shop in a farmers' market in one of Oxfordshire's traditional market towns, such as **Wallingford**, **Abingdon** or **Henley-on-Thames**.

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 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.

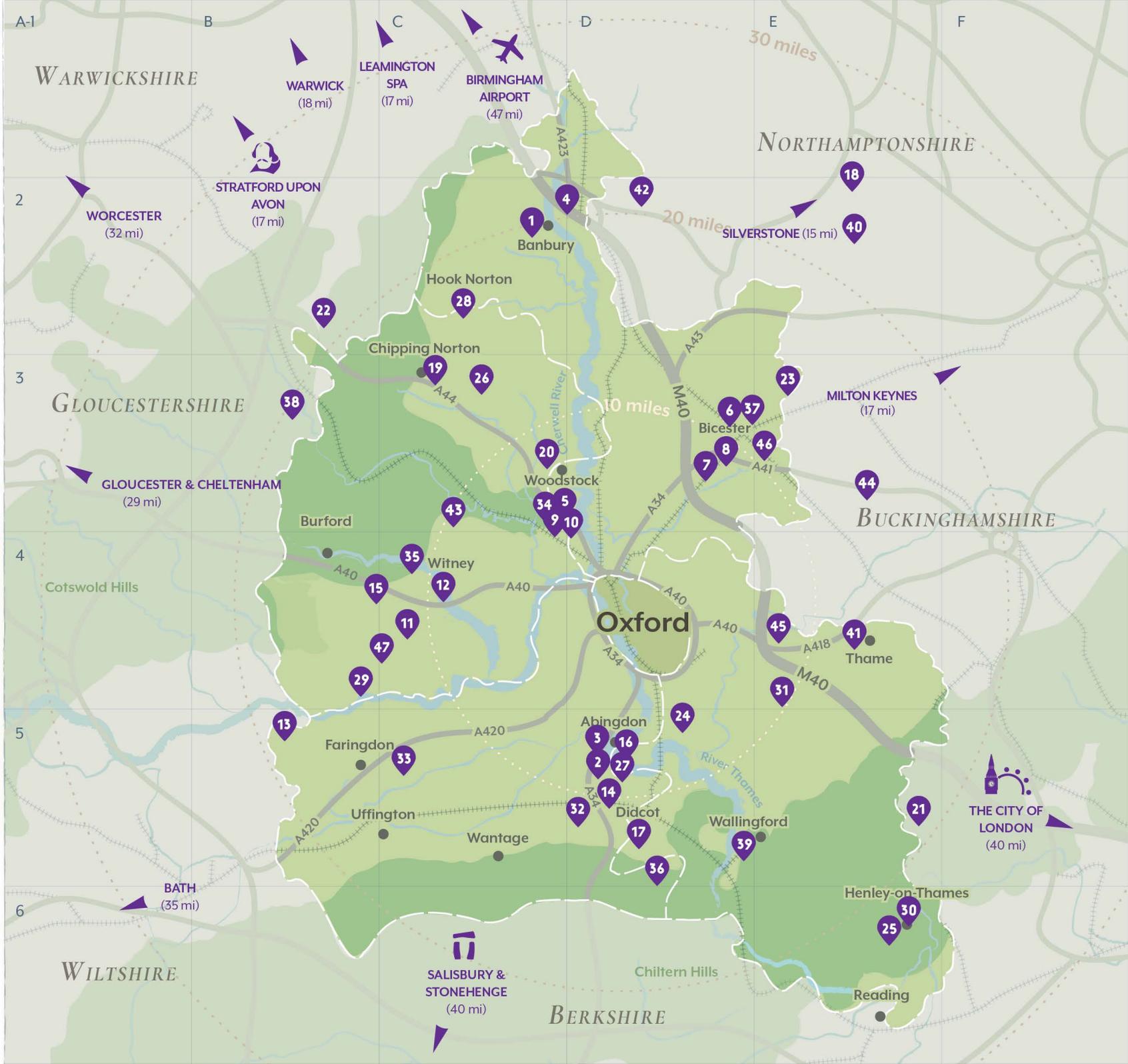
Head west in the county and you will find that some of the most beautiful **Cotswold** towns and villages, such as **Burford**, **Minster Lovell** and **Woodstock**, are in Oxfordshire. Relax with an afternoon tea in a charming, honey-coloured Cotswold building.

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.



- 1 ► WHITE HORSE HILL
- 2 ► WOODSTOCK

# OXFORDSHIRE County Map



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Activate Learning's Banbury and Bicester College ..... C2 | 25 The Henley Distillery ..... E6                             |
| 2 Abingdon Distillery ..... D5                              | 26 Heythrop Park ..... C3                                     |
| 3 Amey Events Centre ..... D5                               | 27 Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon Oxford Hotel ..... D5           |
| 4 Banbury Museum & Gallery C2                               | 28 Hook Norton Brewery ..... C2                               |
| 5 The Bear Hotel ..... C3                                   | 29 Kelmscott Manor ..... B4                                   |
| 6 Bicester Motion ..... D3                                  | 30 Leander Club ..... E6                                      |
| 7 Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa D3                            | 31 Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons E4                              |
| 8 Bicester Village ..... D3                                 | 32 Milton Hill House ..... D5                                 |
| 9 Blenheim Palace ..... C3                                  | 33 Mollie's Oxfordshire ..... C5                              |
| 10 Blenheim Palace Lodge Retreat ..... C4                   | 34 Oxfordshire Museum ..... C3                                |
| 11 Caswell House ..... C4                                   | 35 Old Swan & Minster Mill .. C4                              |
| 12 Cogges Manor Farm ..... C4                               | 36 Ridgeway Adventures .... D5                                |
| 13 Cotswold Boat Hire ..... B5                              | 37 The Sky Wave Distilling Co. D3                             |
| 14 Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South ..... D5              | 38 The Slaughters Manor House & The Slaughters Country Inn B3 |
| 15 Crocodiles of the World ... B4                           | 39 The Springs Resort & Golf Club ..... D5                    |
| 16 The Crown & Thistle Abingdon ..... D5                    | 40 Stowe House ..... E2                                       |
| 17 Didcot Railway Centre .... D5                            | 41 Thame Museum ..... E4                                      |
| 18 Escapade Silverstone ..... E2                            | 42 Thenford Arboretum & Gardens ..... D2                      |
| 19 Fairytale Farm ..... C3                                  | 43 TreeDwellers ..... C3                                      |
| 20 The Feathers Hotel/ The Nest and The Aviary ..... C3     | 44 Waddesdon Manor ..... E3                                   |
| 21 Garsington Opera ..... E5                                | 45 Waterperry Gardens & Tea Shop ..... E4                     |
| 22 Go Cotswolds ..... B2                                    | 46 The Windmill Blackthorn Hill E3                            |
| 23 Grange Farm Country Cottages ..... E3                    | 47 Wood Brothers Distilling Co C4                             |
| 24 Harcourt Arboretum ..... D5                              |   |

MAIN ROADS  
 TRAIN LINES  
 SCALE  
 DISTANCE FROM OXFORD  
 GRID SQUARE = 9.3mi/15km

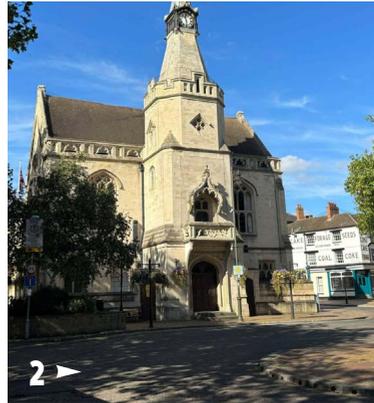
# CHERWELL

## THE IMPRESSIVE NORTH

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 quarter with **Tooley's Boatyard**, the oldest dry dock working boatyard on the inland waterways, and **Banbury Museum** which has two exhibition spaces dedicated to the town's history, whilst a third, the **Pye Gallery**, hosts a variety of touring exhibitions. The Museum's shop stocks a good range of literature and information on the local area. The canal quarter is also home to **Lock 29**, an appealing venue with artisan food and drink outlets and a delightful terrace overlooking the canal, and **The Light**, an exciting entertainment centre with a premium seven screen cinema, 10 lane bowling alley, and waterfront restaurants. 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, marrying the charm of an historic market town with the appeal of the globally renowned shopping destination, **Bicester Village**. Delight in direct trains from **London Marylebone** in just under



an hour and luxurious shopping in the Village, as well as the charming **Garth Park gardens** and delicious dining in 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Motion** (also home to **The Sky Wave Distilling Co.**) to **Cropredy's Fairport Convention music festival** which is held in August each year.

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



### CHERWELL

#### THE IMPRESSIVE NORTH

Walk along Oxford Canal to explore the heart of the Cherwell Valley  
Read More | p.56 ▶

- 4 ▶ HOOK NORTON BREWERY
- 5 ▶ BICESTER MOTION

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#### GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



NATURE LOVERS



HIDDEN GEMS



- 1 ▶ BICESTER VILLAGE
- 2 ▶ BANBURY TOWN HALL
- 3 ▶ BICESTER



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SIGN UP OR SIGN IN



**Bicester Village**  
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# 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. **The Springs Resort & Golf Club** provides hotel and lodge accommodation nearby.

**Waterperry Gardens**, just a stone's throw from Oxford, has been delighting visitors for years with 20 acres of historic and inspirational gardens nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside between Wheatley and Thame.

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, or **Ridgeway Adventures** for axe and knife throwing and more on a family-run farm.

Visit **Henley-on-Thames**, home to the famous Henley Royal Regatta and one of the most beautiful towns in Oxfordshire. Whilst there, overnight at **Leander Club**, the world's most successful single-sport club, with 159 Olympic and Paralympic medals and visit **The Henley Distillery**.

In the market town of **Thame**, ancient medieval buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture and the iconic boat-shaped high street stands as testimony to the market place for which it was originally designed.

Watlington is a unique market town which nestles at the foot of the Chilterns below the **white mark**, carved out over 250 years ago. The town boasts a strong link to history: a front line in the English Civil War and the earlier battle between the Vikings and the Saxons.



SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE HILLS AND VILLAGES

GREAT FOR



NATURE LOVERS



FAMILIES



HISTORY

Use the River Rapids bus service to journey through South Oxfordshire  
Read More | p.58 ▶



- 1 ▶ DORCHESTER ON THAMES
- 2 ▶ DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE
- 3 ▶ THE HENLEY DISTILLERY
- 4 ▶ HENLEY-ON-THAMES

# FIVE GO ON A GREAT WESTERN ADVENTURE



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## VALE OF WHITE HORSE ANCIENT BEAUTY



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. Visit award-winning **Abingdon Distillery** in the town for a Distillery Experience.

Nearby are the contemporary **Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon Oxford** and **Courtyard by Marriot Oxford South** hotels as well as **The Crown & Thistle** coaching inn.

**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**.



### GREAT FOR



HISTORY



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS

Journey through the Vale of White Horse using the Ridgeway Trail itinerary  
Read More | p.60 ▶

- 1 ▶ UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE  
credit: Visit Faringdon
- 2 ▶ MOLLIE'S MOTEL & DINER

# 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.



**Witney** is the largest of the market towns with much of the architecture reflecting the past prosperity of the woollen trade. The town has a bustling atmosphere with a good range of shops and a market.

**Woodstock** is a picturesque Georgian town located on the edge of the **Oxfordshire Cotswolds**. Visit the **Wake Up to Woodstock** website to find out about events, shopping, restaurants and more. The refurbished and luxurious **The Feathers** hotel, and **The Bear Hotel** make great bases from which to explore the county.

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. Stay in the grounds in luxury self-catering holiday lodges at **Blenheim Palace Lodge Retreat**.

Further north lies **Charlbury** and **Chipping Norton** and nearby **Fairytale Farm**, plus accommodation options including **TreeDwellers** luxury treehouses at Cornbury Park Estate and the stylishly refurbished Grade II listed **Heythrop Park Hotel** set in 440 acres of parkland.

Further south in the district explore **Bampton**, otherwise known as the TV village of Downton, and the nearby **Wood Brothers Distilling Co.** plus **Kelmscott Manor** the country home of William Morris.



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### GREAT FOR



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS



NATURE LOVERS

Use our Woodstock to Burford itinerary to journey through West Oxfordshire  
[Read More | p.64](#)

- 1 ► BURFORD
- 2 ► KELMSCOTT MANOR
- 3 ► BLENHEIM PALACE

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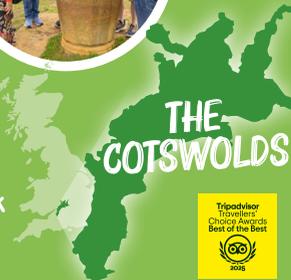
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## OXFORDSHIRE'S SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

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** at the **Bodleian Libraries**, 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 with **Bampton** playing the part of the Yorkshire village of **Downton** in every series.



GREAT FOR



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS



HISTORY

Feel like you're in Downton Abbey with a decadent afternoon tea  
Read More | p.36 ▶

- 1 ▶ DIVINITY SCHOOL
- 2 ▶ BAMPTON  
*credit: Oxfordshire Cotswolds*



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SMALL LUXURY HOTELS OF THE WORLD



### 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**.

### 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 Kine 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.



Some Oxfordshire traditions are as quirky as Alice in Wonderland! Read More | p.35 ▶

3 ▶ BRIDGE OF SIGHS  
4 ▶ CHRIST CHURCH OXFORD

### 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 drinks at **Morse Bar** in **The Randolph Hotel Oxford**, a **Graduate by Hilton** 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**.

Spot many of these sites during a 2-day visit to Oxford Read More | p.52 ▶

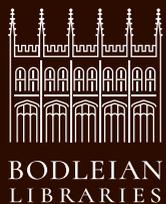
5 ▶ MORSE BAR  
6 ▶ ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM



# Visit the BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

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Top 10 Most Beautiful  
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Tripadvisor Travellers Choice  
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2025

## ONLY IN OXFORDSHIRE QUIRKY TRADITIONS

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

GREAT FOR



HIDDEN GEMS



ADVENTURERS



CULTURE

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.44](#)

- 1 ► MAY MORNING  
*credit: Oxford Clarion*
- 2 ► BUN THROWING  
*credit: Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council*

# 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 just a few of the 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.

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 homemade scones and an irresistible selection of cakes, served with Birchall tea. Feeling decadent? The Celebration Afternoon Tea is served with a chilled glass of Taittinger Champagne - the perfect way to make your tea-time sparkle!



## HEYTHROP PARK HOTEL

Treat yourself to a delicious afternoon tea at **Heythrop Park**. Savour three tiers of sandwiches, speciality cakes and scones heaped with clotted cream and preserves, while you soak up the surroundings. Afternoon tea is also served with speciality loose-leaf teas as British as the occasion or coffees. Add some extra sparkle with a chilled glass of prosecco or champagne.



## THE RANDOLPH HOTEL OXFORD, A GRADUATE BY HILTON

Tumble down the rabbit hole and experience the Alice in Wonderland Afternoon Tea at **The Randolph Hotel Oxford's** onsite restaurant, inspired by Lewis Carroll's famous tale. Savour teatime treats and sip on a glass of Nyetimber Classic Cuvee as you relax in stunning surrounds of The Drawing Room or The Alice. Expect a tea party like no other, where every bite is a doorway to Wonderland.



## THE FEATHERS

A little fancy, and completely irresistible. Join **The Feathers** for an Afternoon Tea that's as charming as it is delicious. Tuck into dainty sandwiches, scones fresh from the oven with all the clotted cream, and a parade of perfectly pretty cakes and desserts because one is never enough. Pair it with Jeeves & Jericho loose-leaf tea or add some sparkle with a glass of fizz. Available 7 days a week in The Nest for just £35 per person.



## AFTERNOON TEA IN OXFORDSHIRE

- 1 ▶ OXFORD RIVER CRUISES
- 2 ▶ THE BEAR HOTEL
- 3 ▶ HEYTHROP PARK
- 4 ▶ THE RANDOLPH HOTEL OXFORD
- 5 ▶ THE FEATHERS

GREAT FOR



FOOD & DRINK



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS

# A CITY BUILT ON THE WATER

## OXFORD'S RIVER AND CANALS

### GREAT FOR



NATURE LOVERS



FAMILIES



ADVENTURERS

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.



1 ▶



2 ▶

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 **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.

Overnight at the **Mercurie Oxford Hawkwell House** near Iffley Lock, a 10-minute drive from Oxford's city centre.



3 ▶

### 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 River 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 [experienceoxfordshire.org](http://experienceoxfordshire.org) 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.



4 ▶

### OXFORD'S RIVERS AND CANALS

Love being on the water? Continue your journey north through Oxfordshire on the Oxford Canal  
Read More | p.56 ▶

Or journey south along the River Thames  
Read More | p.58 ▶

- 1 ▶ OXFORD CANAL  
credit: Przemool23
- 2 ▶ RIVER THAMES  
credit: Tim Hall
- 3 ▶ PORT MEADOW  
credit: Tim Hall
- 4 ▶ SALTER'S STEAMERS

## ADVICE FROM THE LOCALS

### GREAT FOR



### HIDDEN GEMS



### ADVENTURERS



### CULTURE

For more inspiration on things to do, see our Oxfordshire highlights  
Read More | p.6 ▶

Why not spend an evening experiencing Oxford's nightlife?  
Read More | p.46 ▶

- 1 ▶ THENFORD ARBORETUM
- 2 ▶ THE STORE ROOFTOP BAR & TERRACE
- 3 ▶ KELMSCOTT MANOR

There is so much to see and do in Oxfordshire, it's tricky knowing where to start! We asked Oxfordshire locals to pick out their favourite places to go, from essential first-time-visit spots to hidden gems.

### YEAR-ROUND COLOUR

“ On open days throughout the year you can enjoy delightful **Thenford Arboretum**, from winter snowdrop displays through to the autumnal colours of its maples. With over 70-acres to explore I always see something new and always make sure there's time for tea and cake on every visit!”

- DENISE FROM BLOXHAM



### ALL ABOUT THE VIEWS

“ 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 the Rooftop Terrace Bar at **The Store** on Broad Street, **Westgate Oxford** shopping centre's roof terrace or the rooftop restaurant at the **Ashmolean**.”

- LEIGH FROM WITNEY

### HIDDEN GEM BY THE THAMES

“ I'm a big fan of **Kelmscott Manor**, the country retreat of William Morris, near the market town of Lechlade on Thames. The Manor House with its collection of artwork is a joy to explore as are the beautiful gardens and meadows.”

- DAN FROM FARINGDON



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winner for the  
use of technology  
in education



# YOUR OXFORDSHIRE STORY



Find our recommended itineraries  
Read More | p.52 onwards ▶

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.

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!

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 less than 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.

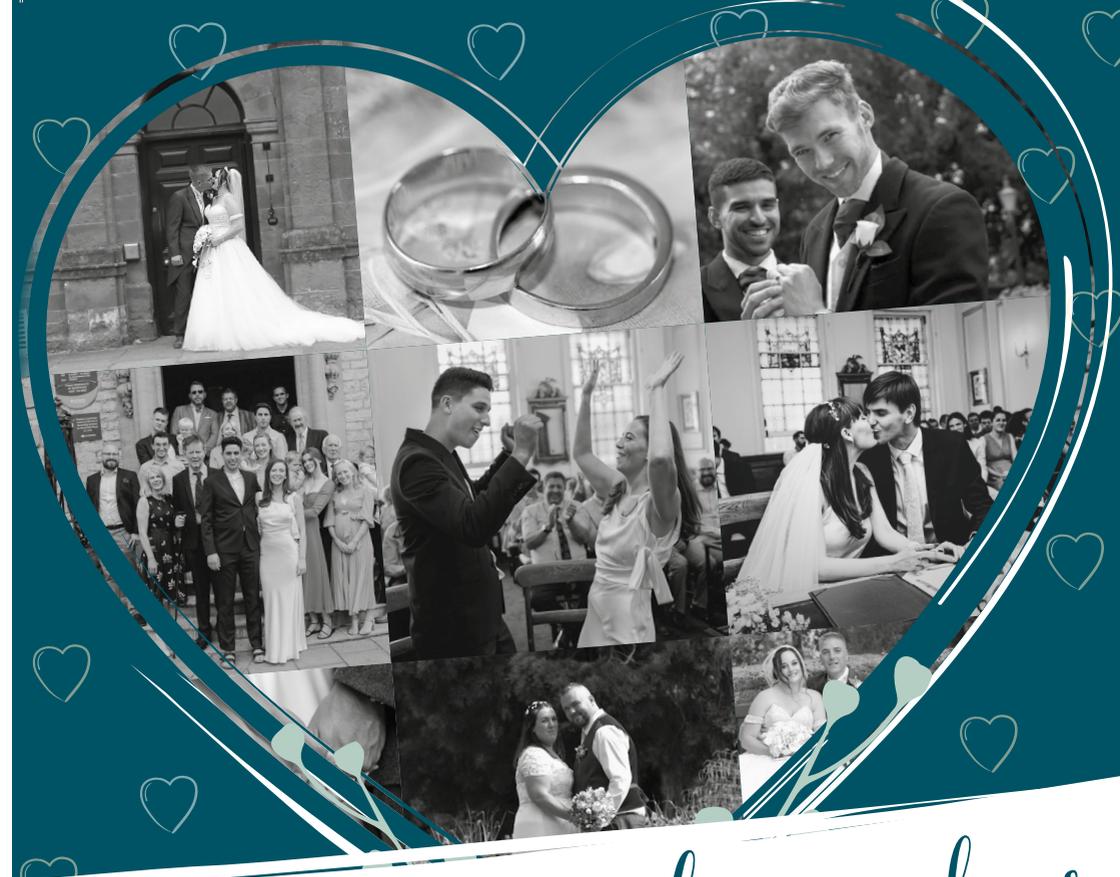
These are just ideas - Oxfordshire is yours to make your own.

## #EXPERIENCEOX

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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.

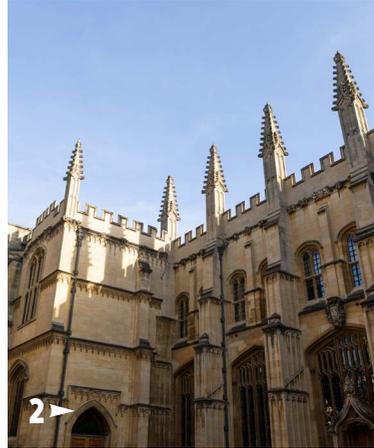
For further information, visit  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ceremonies](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ceremonies)



HOTEL  
**THE STORE**  
OXFORD

# 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.



2 ▶

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

In mid-summer and towards early autumn, catch the students throwing their mortarboards in the air as they celebrate their graduation!



3 ▶

GREAT FOR



CULTURE



HISTORY



HIDDEN GEMS



1 ▶

- 1 ▶ SHELDONIAN THEATRE  
credit: Mediterranean
- 2 ▶ DIVINITY SCHOOL
- 3 ▶ ENCAENIA CEREMONY  
credit: University of Oxford



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# STAYING OVER IN OXFORD

## NIGHTLIFE IN THE CITY

GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



FOOD & DRINK



CULTURE

Find more places to eat & drink in our listings pages. Read More | p.103 ▶

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 & Prison**, **Oxford Castle Quarter** is home to a range of eclectic dining options and, housed in a former prison, **Malmaison hotel** with its stylish Malmaison Bar & Grill.



### WESTGATE OXFORD

**Westgate Oxford's** Roof Terrace is the perfect backdrop for the centre's mix of contemporary casual and fine dining restaurants and bars including **Six by Nico** and more. With panoramic views of Oxford including the dreaming spires,

Westgate Oxford's Roof Terrace is the perfect place to unwind and relax. For a more active evening out, try your luck at **Flight Club**, a one-of-a-kind social darts experience. Its unique concept includes seven fast-paced games appealing to everyone from total beginners to arrows experts.



### 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 independent music hub **Truck Store**, **East Oxford** is a treasure trove for things to do in the evening.

### THEATRE

Immerse yourself in Oxford's thriving arts and culture scene. **Oxford Playhouse** is home to the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows,

comedy, lectures and poetry. In the heart of Summertown, **The North Wall** has a vibrant public programme with an emphasis on new and innovative work, offering an alternative to the mainstream.



### PUBS AND BARS

Mingle with intellectuals in Oxford's bars and pubs. From cocktail bars including the **Cosy Club** and **Morse Bar** at **The Randolph Hotel Oxford**, a **Graduate by Hilton** to rooftop venues offering sweeping views of Oxford's skyline like the Rooftop

Terrace Bar at **The Store**, Oxford has a plethora of options. 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**.



### STAYING OVER IN OXFORD

Stay in Oxford overnight and take a day trip to a top visitor attraction during your stay. Read More | p.68 ▶

Find upcoming events at [experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on](https://experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on) or by searching #experienceox on social media

- 1 ▶ OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER
- 2 ▶ WESTGATE OXFORD ROOF TERRACE
- 3 ▶ SIX BY NICO
- 4 ▶ OXFORD PLAYHOUSE
- 5 ▶ MORSE BAR
- 6 ▶ THE STORE ROOFTOP TERRACE BAR

## STAYING OVER IN OXFORD

### CHORAL EVENSONG

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

singing. 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.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERTS

Oxford's streets are often lined with signs and posters advertising upcoming classical music concerts - including performances by the **Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra**. 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 **Sheldonian Theatre** and the **Holywell Music Room**, said to be the oldest purpose-built music room in Europe.



### JAZZ

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 an evening at **The Taproom** at Tap Social or at one of Oxford's trendy bars.

### CATCH A UNIVERSITY LECTURE

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.



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# 48 HOURS IN OXFORD A HIGHLIGHTS ITINERARY

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 a guided walking tour around more of Oxford's iconic sites and locations with award-winning **Oxford Official Walking Tours**. Tours are led by knowledgeable guides with afternoon tours including entry into one of the **University of Oxford's** 39 colleges.

Alternatively, if you prefer not to walk, the **City Sightseeing Oxford** open-top bus tour is a great way to discover Oxford's most iconic sites. Listen to your guide (or commentary in 14 languages) as you are driven around, with the option to hop-on and hop-off at 20 different stops across the city.

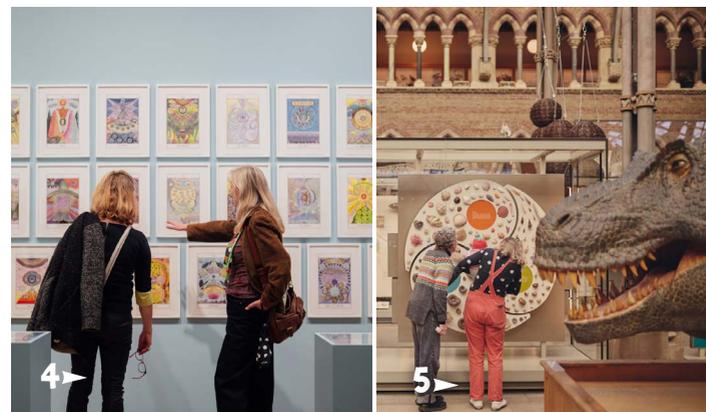
Allow a little time for shopping and browse the independent shops and eateries in **The Covered Market**. The whole family can choose a picnic for the afternoon; why not enjoy a freshly made sandwich, pastry, pie or a dish from an extensive selection of world cuisines?



Do you know the best film and literary sites in Oxford?  
Read More | p.31 ▶

- 1 ▶ UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN
- 2 ▶ OXFORD OFFICIAL WALKING TOURS
- 3 ▶ OXFORD COVERED MARKET

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.

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 Store**, an inviting luxury lifestyle hotel in the heart of Oxford. Enjoy a cocktail in the **Rooftop Terrace Bar**, before heading to **Treadwell** restaurant for untraditionally 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.

ITINERARY:  
48H IN OXFORD

2pm



- 4 ▶ MODERN ART OXFORD
- 5 ▶ MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
- 6 ▶ PITT RIVERS MUSEUM
- 7 ▶ OXFORD GHOST TOUR
- 8 ▶ OXFORD RIVER CRUISES

6pm



8pm

DAY 2  
10am



11am



Take a guided tour of **Oxford Castle & Prison** and discover the fascinating stories of the building's 1,000-year history. Explore the Saxon St George's Tower and descend deep underground to the 900-year-old crypt.

Noon



Close by is **Westgate Oxford**, home to more than 100 top brands, restaurants, bars, and leisure activities. Grab a meal with a panoramic view of Oxford's dreaming spires on Westgate's rooftop terrace with dining options including newly-opened **The Beefy Boys** and **Six By Nico** or shop global brands and more in-store.



1 ▶

1pm

Wander down to the historic **Oxford 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.



2 ▶

Take the 11X bus from the nearby Queens Lane bus stop on High Street

and treat yourself to an afternoon tour at the state-of-the-art BMW Group MINI Plant in Oxford (Monday to Thursday only), the birthplace and heart of MINI production. An Oxford landmark, it opened its doors in 1913 producing several famous car models over the years, including the Morris Minor and the classic Mini, which revolutionised the small car market in 1959.

The prebooked plant tours offer the opportunity to explore the MINI museum before moving into the body shop to see how 1,200 robots and employees produce the basic framework of the MINI. It's then on to the final assembly hall, to watch live as the MINI takes shape.

Back in the city wander up Oxford's winding High Street, bordered with imposing college walls and independent shops, restaurants and cafes.



3 ▶

Take a moonlit walk around central Oxford and see the historic University buildings from a different perspective. Relax in **The Randolph Hotel Oxford**, a **Graduate by Hilton**, an icon of Oxford. Enjoy a tippie at the famous **Morse Bar**, before sitting down for dinner in **The Alice** to savour seasonal British dishes with a contemporary twist.

Read more on the nightlife in Oxford p.46 ▶

6pm

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# THE OXFORD CANAL

## OXFORD TO BANBURY

Built in the late 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Oxford



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 17<sup>th</sup> century pub overlooking the **River Thames** and a favourite of Colin Dexter's **Inspector Morse**.

Learn more about the Cherwell Valley  
Read More | p.22 ▶

### Thrupp

(11km from Oxford)

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.

### Tackley

(7.5km from Thrupp)



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, **The Gardiner Arms** pub and a well-stocked village shop with a café, the village makes a good base for exploring the local countryside.

### Rousham House

(7km from Tackley)



Further north up the canal, the towpath brings you past the grounds of **Rousham House & Gardens**, a Jacobean country house with wonderful gardens which can be visited. The gardens were landscaped by William Kent in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and represent the first phase of English landscape design. Many of the features created in the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Holt Hotel**. Also, at Lower Heyford Wharf you will find a combined village shop and licensed bistro/café with seating both indoors and in 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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

**Lower Heyford**  
(0.8km from Rousham)



**Aynho**  
(16.6km from Lower Heyford)

**Banbury**  
(11km from Aynho)

- 1 ▶ OXFORD CANAL  
credit: Gordon Heeley
- 2 ▶ ROUSHAM HOUSE
- 3 ▶ THE FINE LADY, BANBURY



# THE RIVER RAPIDS OXFORD TO HENLEY-ON-THAMES

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 33.

**Harcourt Arboretum**  
(25 mins from Oxford)

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.



- 1-3 > HARCOURT ARBORETUM
- 4 > WALLINGFORD
- 5 > HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA

**Dorchester-on-Thames**  
(8 mins from Harcourt Arboretum)

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 12<sup>th</sup> century.

**Benson Marina**  
(8 mins from Dorchester-on-Thames)

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**.

## ITINERARY: RIVER RAPIDS

**Wallingford**  
(15 mins from Benson Marina)



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**.

**Nuffield**  
(25 mins from Wallingford)



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.

A picturesque riverside town, home to the world's most successful single-sport club, the **Leander Club**, the famous **Henley Royal Regatta** (30th June to 5th July 2026) and **Henley Festival of Music and Arts** (8th to 12th July 2026). Explore the town on a self-guided walk, browse the independent shops, visit the **Farmers Market** (2nd Saturday or 4th Thursday of the month) or take a stroll along the river Thames.

**Henley-on-Thames**  
(18mins from Nuffield)

Learn more about South Oxfordshire  
Read More | p.25 >

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- Food/Drink**  
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[www.visit-henley.com](http://www.visit-henley.com)



# THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL IN OXFORDSHIRE

## WHITE HORSE HILL TO THAME

The Ridgeway National 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.

### Faringdon



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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### White Horse Hill and Uffington

(10.3km from Faringdon)



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.

Learn more about the Vale of White Horse  
Read More | p.27 ▶

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 **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.

### ITINERARY: RIDGEWAY TRAIL

#### Wantage

(14km from White Horse Hill along Ridgeway  
Bus links to Oxford: Stagecoach S9)



- 1 ▶ WHITE HORSE HILL
- 2 ▶ WANTAGE  
credit: gollykim
- 3 ▶ KING ALFRED THE GREAT STATUE, WANTAGE

#### Streatley Goring

(24km from Wantage along The Ridgeway)



#### Wallingford

(10.6km from Goring)

**Watlington**  
(17.7km from Wallingford)

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.



**Lewknor M40 Coach stop**  
(17km from Watlington Coaches to London, Oxford, Heathrow and Gatwick)  
**Haddenham & Thame Parkway train station**



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.

Great for



NATURE LOVERS



HISTORY



ADVENTURERS

## 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/en\\_GB/trails/the-ridgeway](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/the-ridgeway).

- 1 ► THE RIDGEWAY TRAIL  
credit: S. Wright
- 2 ► THAME

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# EXPLORE THE COTSWOLDS WOODSTOCK TO BURFORD

It's easy to see more of Oxfordshire using public transport. Follow the route of the Stagecoach S7 service linking Woodstock to Witney and the Stagecoach 233 234 service linking Witney to Burford to discover many fascinating places along the way. The buses run roughly every 20-30 mins Monday to Sunday. Alternatively consider Stagecoach's S2 bus from Oxford to Cheltenham via Witney, Burford and Northleach.

## Woodstock Blenheim Palace



Start your journey in the historic town of **Woodstock**, home to the **Oxfordshire Museum**, as well as antique shops, and great pubs and restaurants including **The Nest** and **The Aviary** at **The Feathers Hotel**. 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 **Hanborough** train station. The station is on the **Great Western Railway** line linking **London Paddington** to the **Cotswolds**.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> century.

Jump back on the bus and the next stop is the old market town of **Witney** where an attractive high street runs from the 17th century Butter Cross and much of the architecture reflects the past prosperity of the woollen trade.



## Long Hanborough (10 mins from Woodstock)

## North Leigh (1 hour walk from Long Hanborough)

## Witney (25 mins from Long Hanborough)

Change buses in Witney and travel through the picturesque village of **Minster Lovell**. Explore the riverside ruins of 15<sup>th</sup> century **Minster Lovell Hall**. Stop at the charming **Old Swan & Minster Mill** 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.

## ITINERARY: THE COTSWOLDS

**Minster Lovell**  
(9 mins from Witney)

Learn more about West Oxfordshire  
Read More | p.28

**Shilton**  
(15 mins from Minster Lovell)

**Burford**  
(8 mins from Shilton)

- 1 ► **BLenheim PALACE**
- 2 ► **WOODSTOCK**
- 3 ► **WITNEY**  
*credit: Oxfordshire Cotswolds*
- 4 ► **MINSTER LOVELL**  
*credit: Backyard Productions*
- 5 ► **MINSTER MILL**
- 6 ► **CROCODILES OF THE WORLD**
- 7 ► **BURFORD**

Great for



FAMILIES



HISTORY



NATURE LOVERS



# 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.

## Oxford

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.

## Long Hanborough (10 mins from Oxford)

Your first stop is **Hanborough** train station. Close by, via Stagecoach's S7 bus, is **Blenheim Palace** in the town of **Woodstock** with 30% off Palace, Park & Garden tickets for visitors arriving by bus.



1 ▶

## Charlbury (7 mins from Long Hanborough)

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.

## Kingham (9 mins from Charlbury)



2 ▶

Cornbury Park near Charlbury is home to **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. Kingham is also 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 1,000 years to the Saxon era. Explore Moreton's elegant High Street which houses antique emporiums, 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 a pick up-point for **Go Cotswolds'** guided tours. Why not book a tour to discover more of the Cotswolds?



4 ▶

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.

## ITINERARY: ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS

**Moreton-in-Marsh**  
(7 mins from Kingham)



3 ▶

**Evesham**  
(17 mins from Moreton-in-Marsh)

**Worcester Foregate Street**  
(30 mins from Evesham)

## Transport

Great Western Railway's Cotswold Line runs from London Paddington via Oxford to Worcester.

Trains leave Oxford roughly every hour.

Detailed timetable information is available at [GWR.com](http://GWR.com)

- 1 ▶ BLENHEIM PALACE
- 2 ▶ TREEDWELLERS
- 3 ▶ BATSFORD ARBORETUM
- 4 ▶ GO COTSWOLDS

# 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. Alternatively, combine Stonehenge with Bath on a day trip from Oxford with **Golden Tours**.



credit: danaibel2

## GARSINGTON OPERA

Garsington Opera is a critically acclaimed summer opera festival set in the heart of the beautiful rolling Chiltern Hills. Guests enjoy an unforgettable evening in the award-winning glass Opera Pavilion at Wormsley, home of the Getty family. Just 40 minutes from London and minutes from M40 J5, this beautiful setting offers an unrivalled experience.



## 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.



credit: Alexey Fedoren

## WADDESDON MANOR

Waddesdon, a unique French Renaissance-style chateau, 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.



## COTSWOLDS

Discover the charming villages and countryside of the nearby Cotswolds with operators including **Global Dream Travel**, **Go Cotswolds**, and **Golden Tours**. Discover Cotswold villages including unspoilt Shilton, idyllic Bibury, picturesque Bourton-on-the-Water and historic Burford. Consider overnighting in picturesque Lower Slaughter at **The Slaughters Manor House** or **The Slaughters Country Inn**.



## THENFORD ARBORETUM

The creation of Lord and Lady Heseltine, a visit to Thenford Arboretum is a must for all gardening enthusiasts. Spread out over seventy acres and featuring a collection of more than 3,000 trees and shrubs herbaceous borders, water gardens and more, the arboretum is open to visitors on 19 days a year, from Snowdrop days in February, right through to Autumn open days in October.

## LONDON

Less than an hour's journey via train from Oxford, London's 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 Europe's key historic sites. **Golden Tours** also offer day trips.



credit: Scopio Images

## DAY TRIPS FROM OXFORD

*Drive time:*  
40 minutes

*Drive time:*  
30 minutes

*Drive time:*  
1 hour

*Drive time:*  
1 hour 30 minutes

*Transport:*  
GWR and Chiltern Railway trains, approx. 1 hour.  
Oxford Tube coach, approx. 2 hours

*Drive time:*  
1 hour 20 minutes

Take a day trip on the train from Oxford to Worcester across the Cotswolds. Read More | p.66 ▶

*Drive time:*  
30 minute

*Drive time:*  
1 hour 30 minutes

*Transport:*  
Great Western Railway (GWR) train, 1 hour 20 minutes

the **airline**



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[theairlineoxford.co.uk](http://theairlineoxford.co.uk)



## GETTING TO OXFORDSHIRE

### BY AIR

Nearest airports: **Birmingham Airport** (1 hour by train), **London Heathrow Airport** (1.5 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.

[theairline.co.uk](http://theairline.co.uk)



### BY COACH

Linking London and Oxford, **Stagecoach** operates the **Oxford Tube** which provides a 24/7 service [Oxfordtube.com](http://Oxfordtube.com)

**Oxford Bus Company** also operate an airline coach service which connects High Wycombe and Oxford 24/7. Find out more at [theairline.co.uk](http://theairline.co.uk)

With a range of fare types, comfortable seats, free Wi-Fi and charging points, **National Express** provides affordable coach travel to Oxford. Book tickets at [nationalexpress.com](http://nationalexpress.com)

### BY RAIL

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

[GWR.com](http://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](http://chilternrailways.co.uk)

### BY ROAD

**M6toll** is the most reliable route through the Midlands. Reach your destination relaxed, recharged and ready for all that Oxfordshire has to offer.

[m6toll.co.uk](http://m6toll.co.uk)

- 1 ► OXFORD TUBE
- 2 ► CHILTERN RAILWAYS

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://citysightseeingoxford.com)



## BY TRAIN

Explore West Oxfordshire via the **Great Western Railway (GWR) Cotswold Line** (see itinerary p.64 ►). To discover South Oxfordshire, catch the **GWR** train to Paddington and alight at Didcot Parkway for local transport options.

## VEHICLE HIRE AND TAXIS

**001 Taxis** has over 50 years of experience and takes care of all your transport needs in Oxford and the Oxfordshire area.  
[001taxis.com](http://001taxis.com)

**Royal Cars** provide taxi services in Oxford, and offer transport from local runs to airport transfers and long-distance journeys.  
[royal-cars.com](http://royal-cars.com)

**Auto Europe** offer car, motorhome or luxury vehicle hire from a choice of suppliers to suit your needs.  
[autoeurope.co.uk](http://autoeurope.co.uk)

**INTX provides** seamless transport solutions for tourists, events and conferences across Oxfordshire, with reliable coach hire, chauffeur services, and more.  
[intx.co.uk](http://intx.co.uk)

**TVR Self Drive** offers quality cars and MPVs at great prices and a friendly local service for every journey.  
[tvr-selfdrive.co.uk](http://tvr-selfdrive.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](http://drivingmissdaisydidcot.co.uk)



## BY BOAT

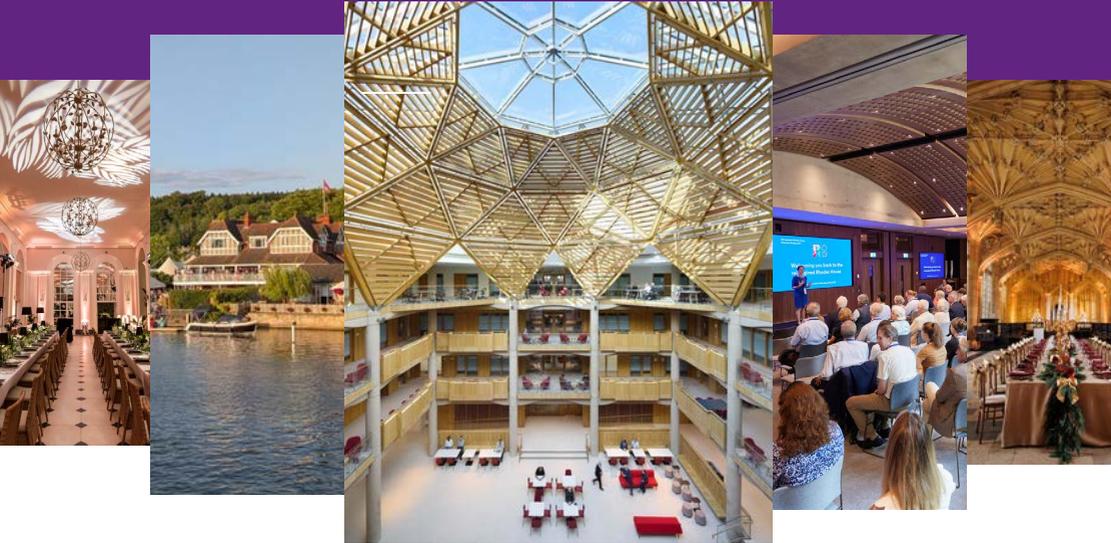
Hire a narrowboat to explore the length of the county from a different perspective. Travel along the River Thames, River Cherwell or Oxford Canal or take a river cruise with **Oxford River Cruises** or **Salter's Steamers**.  
[oxfordrivercruises.com](http://oxfordrivercruises.com) | [salterssteamers.co.uk](http://salterssteamers.co.uk)

## 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.60 ►) or **Thames Path**.  
[oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org](http://oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org)

- 1 ► OXFORD BUS COMPANY
- 2 ► GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY (GWR)
- 3 ► CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD
- 4 ► ROYAL CARS
- 5 ► TVR SELF DRIVE

# Experience Oxfordshire Venues partners with the very best venues and suppliers in Oxfordshire



[experienceoxfordshire.org/venues](https://experienceoxfordshire.org/venues)

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## OXFORDSHIRE FOR YOUR CLIENTS

OXFORDSHIRE FOR YOUR CLIENTS

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 guests spend the evening networking on the banks of the Thames?

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**.

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.



From a UNESCO world-heritage palace to **Conference Oxford**, to hotels with event spaces such as **Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford**, Oxfordshire is home to a diverse range of venues suitable for everything from biotech

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

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

[experienceoxfordshire.org/venues](https://experienceoxfordshire.org/venues)  
[@ExOxVenues](https://twitter.com/ExOxVenues)



- 1 ▶ ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM
- 2 ▶ LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL OXFORD
- 3 ▶ CASWELL HOUSE

# WHERE TO STAY

See City map (p.10-11) and County map (p.20-21)

- Food/Bar
- WiFi
- Child Friendly
- Disabled Friendly
- Animal Friendly
- Parking



**BATH PLACE HOTEL** | D3 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

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

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



**THE BEAR HOTEL** | C3 County

This 13th century coaching inn perfectly combines history, culture and luxury.

The Bear Hotel sits serenely in the charismatic market town of Woodstock, a short walk to nearby Blenheim Palace. Full of period features, oak beams and rich interiors, this hidden gem is perfect for a relaxing break to explore the surrounding attractions.

Enjoy award-winning dining in the restaurant, with a quintessential English Afternoon Tea.

The 54 elegant bedrooms are traditionally furnished with modern features. For a touch of decadence, you're in great company, choose a spacious Deluxe Suite, favoured as a romantic getaway by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

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



**BICESTER HOTEL GOLF AND SPA** | D3 County

Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa is a 4-star country club resort set among beautiful acres of the Oxfordshire countryside. With 52 spacious rooms and suites, this family owned estate is surrounded by quaint gardens and a glorious golf course, perfect for getaways and sporting retreats.

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

bicesterhotelgolfandspa.com • 01869 241204 • Green Lane, Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1TE



**BLenheim PALACE LODGE RETREAT** | C3 County

A luxurious lodge retreat on the grounds of the stunning Blenheim Estate. Visit the magnificent Blenheim Palace, and the charming market town of Woodstock to discover the country life. All lodges come fully equipped with everything you need for a self-catering break away.

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

verderesorts.co.uk/blenheim-palace-lodge-retreat • 01993 835020 • Bladon Road, Bladon, Woodstock, OX20 1PT



**THE BUTTERY** | D3 City

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

WiFi, Animal Friendly

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.

WiFi

chch.ox.ac.uk • 01865 276120 • OX1 1DP



**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD CITY CENTRE** | B4 City

This modern 151-bedroom hotel is located minutes from Oxford station and the city centre, perfect to explore all the gems of the city.

Food/Bar, WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/oxfcy-courtyard-oxford-city-centre • 01865 306900 • OX1 1LD



**THE CROWN & THISTLE ABINGDON** | D5 County

This Grade II listed coaching inn comprises three individual buildings clustered around a cobbled courtyard, framed by 200-year-old wisteria.

Food/Bar, WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

crownandthisleabingdon.co.uk • 01235 522556 • OX14 3HS



**COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD SOUTH** | D5 County

A modern 4\* hotel with award-winning Oxen 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

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

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



**ESCAPEDE SILVERSTONE** | E2 County

Escapade Silverstone offers immersive stays at the home of British motorsport with 184 bedrooms across 60 private residences. Guests enjoy world-class wellness facilities including a gym, pool, and sauna. Its restaurant, The Gallery, open to non-residents, serves modern British dining, complete with a roof deck and private rooms.

Food/Bar, WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

escapade.silverstone.co.uk • 01327 225500 • Silverstone, Silverstone Circuits, Northamptonshire, NN12 8TN



**THE FEATHERS HOTEL** | C3 County

Perched within idyllic Woodstock, The Feathers is a Michelin Key luxury boutique hotel and a proud partner of Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

Boasting stylish interiors with contemporary design features that complement and accentuate the historic character that the building offers. Relax and unwind in 18 individually designed rooms and 5 suites, harmonising rustic elegance with modern fixtures.

Experience the quality, locally sourced menu at The Nest restaurant, or enjoy a freshly made sourdough pizza and a tippie at The Aviary, their brand-new restaurant and bar with courtyard seating.

Image credits: Jake Eastham (1), Hook Digital (2)

WiFi, Child Friendly, Animal Friendly, Parking

feathers.co.uk • 01993 812291 • 16-20 Market Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SX



### GRANGE FARM COUNTRY COTTAGES

E3 County

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



grangefarmcottages.co.uk • 07919 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 to 12 people, with an array of perfectly curated services.



greyfriarshideawayoxford.com • 07709 098507 • OX1 1LD



### HEYTHROP PARK

C3 County

Set in 440 acres of glorious parkland, Heythrop Park provides the perfect country escape. You can choose to unwind at the spa or challenge yourself on the 18-hole championship golf course.

Step inside this stylishly refurbished Grade II listed hotel and you'll find a choice of three restaurants, inviting lounges, two entertainment venues ready for those lively evenings and so much more.

With so much space and endless choices, explore all that Heythrop Park has to offer - your perfect getaway, filled with fun, relaxation, and memorable moments.



warnerleisurehotels.co.uk/hotels/heythrop-park-hotel • 01784 220800 • Heythrop Park Hotel, Enstone, Chipping Norton, OX7 5UE



### 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/gloabgi-hilton-garden-inn-abingdon-oxford • 01235 553456 • Marcham Road, Abingdon, OX14 1TZ



### HOLIDAY INN OXFORD

C1 City

Holiday Inn Oxford has completed a £12 million renovation which includes 66 bedrooms, creating a total of 220 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.

The 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. 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

D1 City

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 • Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PG



### LEANDER CLUB

E6 County

Wake up to river views and rowing heritage at Leander Club - home to Olympic champions and Henley's most iconic place to stay.

The club's individually styled en-suite bedrooms, decorated by world-renowned rowing clubs, offer comfort, character and a front-row seat to the Regatta course. Guests enjoy free parking and access to the Club's bar, dining room and riverside garden.

Whether you're visiting for an event, a weekend escape, or a slice of Henley history, Leander offers a warm welcome and unforgettable setting. Book your stay and experience the charm, tradition and tranquillity of life by the Thames.



leander.co.uk • 01491 575782 • Leander Club, near Henley Bridge, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2LP



### LINTON LODGE OXFORD

C1 City

Discover the hidden gem of Linton Lodge, a Best Western Signature Collection Hotel, just minutes from Oxford's heart and a short walk from Oxford University.

The hotel is a transformed Edwardian House, with some of its original features still remaining, but fully converted to a contemporary hotel. It is set in one and a half acres of gardens, in a quiet suburb of Oxford, yet just a mile from the city centre.

Whether you're craving a satisfying lunch or a delectable dinner, they've got you covered with a mouth-watering selection of dishes that will leave you feeling truly satisfied. Sit back, relax, and let them bring culinary delights right to your doorstep.



bw-lintonlodgehotel.co.uk • 01865 553461 • 11-13 Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UJ



### LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL OXFORD

C1 City

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



### LE MANOIR AUX QUAT' SAISONS

E4 County

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons is one of Britain's most treasured manor house hotels, offering exquisite dining, elegant rooms and stunning gardens.



belmond.com/hotels/europe/uk/oxfordshire/belmond-le-manoir-aux-quat-saisons • 01844 278881 • OX44 7PD



### MALMAISON

C4 City

Welcome to Malmaison Oxford, your "get out of jail free" card to luxury in the heart of historic Oxford.



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



### MERCURE OXFORD EASTGATE HOTEL

F4 City

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.



mercureoxfordhawkwellhouse.com • 01865 248332 • 73 High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BE



### MERCURE OXFORD HAWKWELL HOUSE HOTEL

F4 City

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, Iffley Village, OX4 4DZ



### MOLLIE'S OXFORDSHIRE

C5 County

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 • Shrivensham Road, A420, Buckland, Faringdon, SN7 8PY



### OLD SWAN & MINSTER MILL

C4 County

Old Swan & Minster Mill blends centuries-old charm with riverside calm in the heart of the Cotswolds. Stay in elegant hotel rooms or cosy pub bedrooms, dine at Wildling Restaurant or the traditional pub, and unwind in The Garden Spa with plunge pool and sauna.



minstermill.co.uk • 01993 774441 • Old Swan & Minster Mill, Minster Lovell, Oxfordshire Cotswolds, OX29 0RN



### THE RANDOLPH HOTEL OXFORD, A GRADUATE BY HILTON

C2 City

An Oxford landmark in the heart of the city, The Randolph Hotel takes inspiration from the University of Oxford's history, paying homage to its storied innovators and alumni.

The Randolph is more than just a place to lay your head. Make yourself at home in the cosy Morse Bar, an ode to "Inspector Morse" by Colin Dexter, sip on a bespoke cocktail in the bohemian-style Snug, indulge in a quintessentially British afternoon tea in the Drawing Room, or enjoy all-day dining at The Alice, the onsite restaurant with a playful, contemporary twist serving unique interpretations of classic British dishes.

Located inside the hotel, Wellness at The Randolph is a welcome retreat for locals and travellers alike. Offering manicures and pedicures, massages, facials, and wellness treatments in partnership with Germaine de Cappucini, the Wellness Centre is the perfect place to relax and recharge during your time in Oxford. The Wellness Centre features a Thermal Suite, too, with a bio sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, and more.



hilton.com/en/hotels/lonrdgu-graduate-oxford-uk • therandolph.frontdesk@hilton.com • Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2LN



### RHODES HOUSE

E1 City

Nestled in the heart of Oxford, Rhodes House offers a unique and elegant place to stay for visitors seeking comfort and character.

This historic venue combines timeless architecture with modern amenities, creating a tranquil retreat just moments from the city's iconic colleges, museums, and shops. Guests can relax in beautifully designed rooms overlooking peaceful gardens, while enjoying exceptional service and a true sense of Oxford heritage.

Whether you're visiting for leisure, study, or a special occasion, Rhodes House provides a memorable experience that captures the charm and sophistication of this world-renowned university city. Perfect for an inspiring and restful stay.



rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/venue-hire/accommodation • 01865 535806 • South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RG



**ROYAL OXFORD HOTEL** | B3 City

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 • OXI IHR



**SNAPTRIP** | County

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



**THE SPRINGS RESORT & GOLF CLUB** | D5 County

Located near Wallingford, The Springs Resort & Golf Club facilities include a spa, restaurant, luxury rooms, gym and golf course. Recommended for a spa break or golf holiday. Having undergone a fabulous development and renovation of the country house and clubhouse, this beautiful resort is waiting for you to discover.



verderesorts.co.uk/the-springs-resort-and-golf-club • 01491 827300 • Wallingford Road, North Stoke, Wallingford, OX10 6BE



**STAYCOTSWOLD** | County

Over 270 holiday cottages, barns and shepherd's huts with dog friendly options. Wide variety of homes with hot tubs, outside baths and swimming pools.



staycotswold.com • 01451 514000 • Oxfordshire Cotswolds



**ST MARGARET'S HOTEL** | C1 City

This boutique hotel is in a stylish Victorian building and has all the modern facilities required by today's business and leisure travellers.



themargaretsotel.co.uk • 01865 433864 • Oxford, OX2 6LD



**THE SLAUGHTERS MANOR HOUSE AND THE SLAUGHTERS COUNTRY INN** | B3 County

Nestled in one of the Cotswolds' prettiest villages, The Slaughters Manor House combines elegant 17th-century architecture with contemporary luxury. Guests enjoy stylish lounges, handcrafted cocktails, a billiards room, and a 3 AA Rosette restaurant celebrating seasonal British produce. Nineteen individually designed bedrooms, including indulgent suites with roll-top baths and garden views, offer refined countryside relaxation.

Just a short stroll away, The Slaughters Country Inn provides relaxed Cotswold charm with roaring fires, local ales, and its own 2 AA Rosette restaurant serving generous seasonal menus. With 31 welcoming bedrooms and characterful cottages, it's ideal for family breaks, dog-friendly stays, and countryside escapes, with country inn platters and scenic village walks.



slaughtersmanor.co.uk 01451 820456 • slaughtersinn.co.uk 01451 822143 • Lower Slaughter, GL54 2HP / GL54 2HS



**THE STORE, OXFORD** | D3 City

The Store is a contemporary luxury hotel in the heart of Oxford, set within the city's former Boswells department store. Behind its historic façade, 101 beautifully designed rooms, a rooftop bar, destination restaurant and restorative spa invite guests to pause, explore and feel at home.

Blending Oxford's heritage with a modern sensibility, The Store offers a warm welcome and a fresh perspective on the city. Not to be missed are Treadwell, where untraditional British flavours take centre stage, the rooftop bar with sweeping views of the dreaming spires, and The Spa at The Store, a calm, designed retreat for complete relaxation



thestoreoxford.com • 01865 950666 • 1-5 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AG



**TREEDWELLERS** | C3 County

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



**VOCO OXFORD SPIRES HOTEL** | D6 City

Perfectly positioned in an amazing location just a short walk from Oxford's historic centre, voco Oxford Spires offers modern comfort amid tranquil greenery. With versatile event spaces, elegant rooms, and strong sustainability values, it delivers relaxed luxury and responsible hospitality in a naturally inspiring riverside setting.



oxfordspires.vocohotels.com • 01865 324324 • Abingdon Road, Oxford, OX1 4PS



**VOCO OXFORD THAMES HOTEL** | D6 City

Escape to **voco Oxford Thames**, where timeless charm meets modern comfort. Nestled on the River Thames, this elegant retreat offers stylish rooms, tranquil spa facilities, and exquisite dining. **The perfect venue to host weddings or corporate events**, celebrating Oxford's heritage with warmth and sophistication.



ihg.com/voco/hotels/gb/en/oxford/oxfdt/hoteldetail • 01865 334444 • Henley Road, Sandford-on-Thames, Oxford, OX4 4GX



**THE WINDMILL BLACKTHORN HILL** | E3 County

Experience a luxurious stay in a historic Grade II Windmill and create unforgettable memories. Perfect for 4 guests or as a romantic escape for 2 (adults only). Located near Bicester Village it's just a short 15-minute train ride from Oxford.



thewindmillblackthornhill.co.uk • 07973 202313 • The Windmill, Blackthorn Hill, Nr Bicester, OX25 1TJ

# FOR YOUR EVENT



## EXPERIENCE OXFORDSHIRE VENUES GUIDE



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

View Experience Oxfordshire latest Venues Guide [here](#) and use the Venue Finding Service on [experienceoxfordshire.org/venues](http://experienceoxfordshire.org/venues) to search for your perfect venue.

[experienceoxfordshire.org/oxfordshire-venue-guide](http://experienceoxfordshire.org/oxfordshire-venue-guide)



## AMEY EVENTS CENTRE

📍 D5 County

Looking for the perfect venue for your next celebration, dinner party, or special event? Welcome to Amey Events Centre. Experience Abingdon's 750-year heritage blended with contemporary amenities – perfect for events, conferences, and corporate away days in a unique setting.

[abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/conferencing](http://abingdon.org.uk/sports-and-leisure/conferencing) • 01235 849063 • Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DE



## CONFERENCE OXFORD

📍 City

Conference Oxford can help you book your event in over 70 University of Oxford's venues and colleges.

University of Oxford's venues and colleges offer something that you can't find anywhere else in the world. The combination of heritage, architectural beauty, academic excellence, prestige, and amazing surroundings will make your event truly special. The venues cater for all kinds of events – conferences, meetings, dinners, weddings, parties, summer schools, accommodation, the list is endless.

To book your event, get in touch with the Conference Oxford team. They will provide you with the information, advice and support necessary to ensure a successful event that will create a lasting impression.

[conference-oxford.com](http://conference-oxford.com) • 01865 276190 • 1 Littlegate Street, Oxford, OX1 1QG



## CASWELL HOUSE

📍 C4 County

A unique and beautiful wedding venue in the Cotswolds, Caswell House is exclusively yours for your special day.

[caswellhouse.co.uk](http://caswellhouse.co.uk) • 01993 701064 • OX18 3NJ



## DRAGON SCHOOL

📍 D1 City

Hire the impressive facilities at Dragon School and make your event unforgettable. Get in touch now and book a visit.

[dragonschool.org](http://dragonschool.org) • 07802 435521 • OX2 6SS



## MILTON HILL HOUSE

📍 D5 County

Milton Hill House, situated in Abingdon, is a hotel that provides affordable accommodation for a comfortable and relaxing stay. It is nestled in 22 acres of tranquil parkland, merely 13 miles away from Oxford. The hotel has spacious rooms and is an ideal outdoor venue for a whole host of events.

[miltonoxfordshire.co.uk](http://miltonoxfordshire.co.uk) • 01235 831474 • Milton Hill, Abingdon, OX13 6AF



## OXFORD FINE DINING

📍 County

This event catering provider has an extensive portfolio of weddings, corporate events and private dining experiences catering in Oxfordshire. From deliciously cultivated menus, using the finest ingredients to vast experience in bespoke event design, they offer a truly unique catering experience, guiding you through your ideas and elevating your vision. *Image credit: Binky Nixon Photography*

[oxfordfinedining.co.uk](http://oxfordfinedining.co.uk) • 01865 728240 • Unit 12, Oddington Grange, Weston on the Green, Oxfordshire, OX25 3QW



## SCHWARZMAN CENTRE

📍 C1 City

Discover the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities – Oxford's new home for teaching, research and public engagement in the humanities. This inspiring space welcomes visitors year-round to connect, learn and explore ideas.

Centred around a vast, light-filled atrium, it combines world-class acoustics and cutting-edge technology with beautifully designed venues for lectures, performances, conferences and celebrations.

Facilities include a 500-seat concert hall, 250-seat theatre, Recital Hall and Black Box lab. Enjoy a lively programme of academic and cultural events, and relax with excellent food and drink in the café and foyer bar.

[schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk](http://schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk) • [schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk](mailto:schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk) • Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG



## OXFORD BROOKES VENUES

📍 C1 City

Looking for a venue with a difference?

Discover a wide variety of contemporary meeting rooms, lecture theatres and unique creative spaces set within an award-winning modern campus. Situated just over a mile from Oxford City centre, they could have the perfect location for you.

Whether you are organising a conference, event, exhibition, training, dinner or other function, Oxford Brookes' dedicated Venues team can assist you.

What they offer

- A range of event options for up to 500 guests
- AV included
- Modern and sustainable buildings and facilities

[brookes.ac.uk/venues](http://brookes.ac.uk/venues) • 07500 866876 • Headington Campus, Oxford, OX3 0BP

# WHAT TO SEE AND DO



## ABINGDON DISTILLERY

📍 D5 County

Discover one of Oxfordshire's top weekend experiences at **Abingdon Distillery!** Join them for award-winning **Gin & Rum Tours and Tastings**, dive deeper with an expert-led **Whisky Masterclass**, or get hands-on and **create your very own bottle of rum** in the bespoke rum-making experience.

Each session is packed with flavour, stories, and plenty of fun – perfect for friends, couples, or anyone who loves great spirits and great company.

Find out more and book your next adventure at [abingdondistillery.com](http://abingdondistillery.com)



[abingdondistillery.com](http://abingdondistillery.com) • [hello@abingdondistillery.com](mailto:hello@abingdondistillery.com) • Coxeter House, 21-27 Ock Street, Abingdon, OX14 5AJ



## ACTIVATE LEARNING

📍 B4 & F4 City  
C2 County

Activate Learning is a forward-thinking education group working across further and higher education, apprenticeships and training. They transform lives through learning.

Activate Learning has three colleges in Oxfordshire, including Banbury and Bicester College, The Leys 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 Activate Learning at one of their Open Events.



[activatelearning.ac.uk](http://activatelearning.ac.uk) • 0800 6126008 • Oxford, OX1 1SA & OX4 6HN / Banbury, OX16 9QA



## ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

📍 C2 City

Oxford's art and archaeology museum, home to 500,000 years of history from ancient Egypt to modern art. Free entry. Open daily.

[ashmolean.org](http://ashmolean.org) • 01865 278000 • OX1 2HP

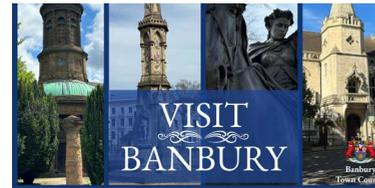


## BANBURY MUSEUM & GALLERY

📍 C2 County

A family friendly museum at the heart of Banbury's vibrant canal side.

[banburymuseum.org](http://banburymuseum.org) • 01295 236165 • OX16 2PQ



## VISIT BANBURY

📍 C2 County

Visit the county's largest town and experience for yourself its rich history, culture, and entertainment, all easy to reach by car, bus or train. From the world-famous Banbury Cross to the beautiful surrounding countryside, Banbury is a must-see destination nestled in the very heart of North Oxfordshire.

[banbury.gov.uk](http://banbury.gov.uk) • 01295 250340 • Banbury Town Council, The Town Hall, Bridge Street, Banbury, OX16 5QB



## BICESTER VILLAGE

📍 D3 County

Discover a destination where sensational shopping is guaranteed. Nestled in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, Bicester Village is a place to find it all, with more than 150 fashion and lifestyle boutiques to explore.

Enjoy year-round savings, where the perfect piece comes at the perfect price, and allow tailored services to make your day that much more seamless; whether it's Hands-free Shopping – the Village hosts will carry your purchases, so you don't have to - reserved parking right by the boutiques or bespoke one-to-one styling from expert Personal Shoppers, the team is always on hand to ensure an unforgettable experience.

Come for the shopping but stay for the food. A range of international cuisine and delectable all-day dining are waiting for your taste test. What will it be? Authentic Northern Italian fare from Cecconi's, The Double Red Duke's traditional British dishes, or mouth-watering delights from La Tua Pasta, Ottolenghi, Shan Shui and plenty more.

At Bicester Village, it's shopping but better.

Visit [BicesterVillage.com](http://BicesterVillage.com) to discover more.



[thebicestercollection.com/bicester-village](http://thebicestercollection.com/bicester-village) • 01869 366266 • 50 Pingle Drive, Bicester, OX26 6WD



## BICESTER MOTION

📍 D3 County

There's nowhere quite like Bicester Motion, an atmospheric, 444-acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Station, now a vibrant hub for over 50 pioneering mobility businesses and nationally acclaimed events.

Looking for a chance to visit? Don't miss the acclaimed 'Scramble' events, where you'll find avenues lined with classic, vintage and modern collector cars, from Austin Seven to the latest hypercars, and curated displays celebrating the extraordinary.

There's entertainment for all ages, food for all tastes and history at every turn. The Scramble takes place three times per year, in January, April and October, but act fast – tickets sell out rapidly.



[bicestermotion.com](http://bicestermotion.com) • 01869 327928 • The Station Armoury, Building 123, Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX27 8AL



## BLenheim PALACE

📍 C3 County

Home to the Dukes of Marlborough since 1705, Blenheim Palace was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. Set in over 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland and designed by Vanbrugh in the Baroque style, Blenheim Palace is also the birthplace of one of Britain's most famous leaders, Sir Winston Churchill.

With over 300 years of history to share and one of the most important and extensive collections in Europe, the magnificent stately home has a rich variety of cultural highlights and an extensive programme of special events and exhibitions. The total Estate expands into a further 10,000 acres outside of the designated UNESCO World Heritage Site and focuses on care for the land through sustainable means, pursuing net zero, the growth of the local economy, the provision of affordable homes, apprenticeship training and supported community groups as part of its ambition to make this part of Oxfordshire a fairer and better place.

Blenheim Palace has a sensational year ahead with a jam-packed calendar of unmissable events and exhibitions. Dates to save to your diary include the fabulous Flower Show and spectacular Jousting Tournament. Sporty types can sign up for the Blenheim Palace Triathlon and food lovers can discover a feast of flavours at the Food Festival.

In June-July, get ready for a live music experience like no other with the debut of Blenheim Palace Festival, where some of the world's biggest artists will take to the stage on the Great Court.



[blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com) • 01993 810530 • Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1UL



## BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

📍 E3 City

Through the ages, many famous scholars have studied in the Bodleian Libraries, amongst them monarchs, Nobel Prize winners and writers, including Oscar Wilde, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

See the historic library spaces and city on one of the Bodleian's award-winning tours, view rare manuscripts and items from the archives in free exhibitions and events, and pop by the unique shop and café.



[visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 287400 • Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG



## CHERWELL BOATHOUSE

📍 C1 City

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 AI 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](http://cherwellboathouse.co.uk) • 01865 515978 • Bardwell Road, Oxford, OX2 6ST



## CHRIST CHURCH

📍 D4 City

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](http://chch.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 276492 • St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DP



## COGGES MANOR FARM

📍 B3 County

Cogges Manor Farm is a unique historic farmstead, made famous as Yew Tree Cogges Manor Farm, in Witney is a beautiful heritage attraction with 1,000 years of history and appears in the Domesday Book of 1086.

Located in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, you'll discover a fascinating Manor House with farm animals, a tranquil Walled Garden bursting with colour, a Heritage Orchard with picnic tables, Meadows and Woodland to wander, an Adventure Playground, Sandpit Area with mini ride-on tractors for kids to enjoy and a Café selling light bites and tasty treats.

There's also a Gift Shop selling unique items, many of which are made by the talented in-house craft team.

- Fun, family friendly events and activities throughout the season.
- Creative Workshops.
- Guided Tours.
- Dog friendly (including the Café).
- A unique venue for weddings, corporate and private hire.
- A filming location, Cogges Manor Farm was used as Downton Abbey's Yew Tree Farm.

Open daily from February half term - November and on selected dates for Christmas events.

See [www.cogges.org.uk](http://www.cogges.org.uk) for details.

Free parking OX28 3FR



[cogges.org.uk](http://cogges.org.uk) • 01993 772602 • Church Lane, Witney, OX28 3LA



## COTSWOLD BOAT HIRE

📍 B5 County

Based Upper Reaches of The Thames, West Oxfordshire. Offering countryside boat hire by the hour or day plus overnight breaks.

[cotswoldboat.co.uk](http://cotswoldboat.co.uk) • 07947 993784 • SN7 8DA



## CROCODILES OF THE WORLD

📍 B4 County

Crocodiles of the World is the UK's only Crocodile Zoo near Witney and is home to over 100 crocodiles, including endangered species.

[crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk](http://crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk) • 01993 846353 • OX18 3NX



## CURZON OXFORD

📍 C5 City

Curzon Oxford, which lies at the heart of the city of dreaming spires, houses five spacious and comfortable screens as well as two beautifully appointed chill-out areas. With its mix of Hollywood blockbusters and independent cinema, Curzon Oxford has an eclectic film programme with something for everyone.

[curzon.com/venues/oxford](http://curzon.com/venues/oxford) • 01233 555644 • Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford, OX1 1NZ



## DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

📍 D5 County

Didcot Railway Centre – A Journey into Steam Heritage

Step back in time at the Didcot Railway Centre, one of Oxfordshire's key heritage attractions. Located beside Didcot Parkway Station, this 21-acre museum preserves the history of the Great Western Railway through a realistic and engaging experience. Visitors can explore the original 1930s engine shed, view historic steam locomotives, and see restored carriages that once travelled across the country.

On special Steam Days, the centre becomes fully operational, with engines running along the demonstration lines and short steam train rides available for visitors. The site also features model railways, exhibitions, and displays explaining the development of rail travel in Britain. Families and enthusiasts alike can enjoy the relaxed, hands-on setting and gain a genuine insight into how the railways shaped modern transport.

Didcot Railway Centre offers a well-organised and informative visit suitable for all ages. It combines historical preservation with enjoyable activities, making it ideal for a day out or part of a wider trip around Oxfordshire.

Easily accessible by train or car, the centre provides an authentic look at Britain's railway past while remaining welcoming and approachable to both enthusiasts and casual visitors.



[didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk](http://didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk) • 01235 817200 • Didcot Parkway Station, Station Road, Didcot, OX11 7NJ

# Check out What's On in Oxfordshire

Arts & Culture  
Entertainment  
Family  
Food & Drink

Free Events  
Health & Fitness  
Heritage  
Music

Outdoors  
Shopping  
Wellbeing  
Workshops

[experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on](http://experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on) Q



## FAIRYTALE FARM

📍 C3 County

Fairytale Farm is a family-friendly attraction dedicated to creating magical experiences for visitors of all ages.

With a combination of enchanting tales, interactive exhibits, adventure play and friendly animals, Fairytale Farm provides a unique and engaging environment for families to explore and enjoy.

New for 2026:

- Go down the rabbit hole on Fairytale Farm's all-new ride, Journey to Alice's Wonderland! Oxfordshire's most magical family attraction opens Easter 2026
- New fairy tale scenes on the Enchanted Walk

Climb inside giant toadstools, travel back to the time of the dinosaurs or let off steam in Rapunzel's Kingdom indoor play.

Where else can you meet mermaids, rabbits, sleeping beauty, alpacas, fairies, 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](http://fairytalefarm.co.uk) • 01608 238014 • Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, Chipping Norton, OX7 5QH



## FLIGHT CLUB OXFORD

📍 C5 City

Enjoy Social Darts, glorious cocktails, terrace lunches or a weekend Brunch Social at Flight Club's vibrant bar, ideal for every occasion! With 11 Social Darts playing areas, a gorgeous bar, and a beautiful outdoor terrace, Flight Club Oxford's décor combines the heritage of darts with a nod to the city's heritage.

[flightclubdarts.com/location-oxford](http://flightclubdarts.com/location-oxford) • [bookings@flightclubdarts.com](mailto:bookings@flightclubdarts.com) • Rooftop Terrace, Westgate Shopping Centre, Oxford, OX1 1TR



## GARSINGTON OPERA

📍 E5 County

Each summer, Garsington Opera welcomes world-class performers to its award-winning Chiltern Hills theatre, paired with exceptional onsite dining. Nearby Garsington Studios offers a versatile hireable space for private events, with newly renovated accommodation providing a homely, convenient base for unforgettable cultural experiences throughout the year. *Image credit: Verity Milligan*

[garsingtonopera.org](http://garsingtonopera.org) • 01494 376037 • Wallace Hill Farm, Stokenchurch, HP14 3YF



## THE HENLEY DISTILLERY

📍 E6 County

Housed in an 18th century barn, The Henley Distillery produces award-winning small-batch spirits using traditional, hand-crafted, artisan methods in the heart of The Thames Valley. Enjoy distillery tours, tastings, and unforgettable hands-on ginmaking experience!

[thehenleydistillery.co.uk](http://thehenleydistillery.co.uk) • 07511 208490 • Hampstead Farm, Binfield Heath, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 4LG



## HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

📍 E3 City

Located on Broad Street in Oxford, the History of Science Museum is housed in the world's oldest surviving purpose-built public museum building. Discover 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. *Image credit: History of Science Museum, University of Oxford - by Ian Wallman.*

[hsm.ox.ac.uk](http://hsm.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 277293 • Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ



## HOOK NORTON BREWERY

📍 C2 County

Come and experience the sights and sounds of brewing unchanged in over 6 generations. Hook Norton Brewery run tours of the 5-storey Victorian Tower Brewery 7 days a week and have an on-site cafe and shop along with a free brewery and village museum.

The shire horse team, which they still use to deliver beer, can be found in the stables and they run the original steam engine on the first Sunday of each month.

The Brewery also have rooms available for private hire, parties, meetings and weddings. Alongside that they also brew a wide range of award-winning cask ales, keg beers and lager.



[hooky.co.uk](http://hooky.co.uk) • 01608 730384 • Brewery Lane, Hook Norton, Banbury, OX15 5NY



## KELMSCOTT MANOR

📍 B4 County

Visit Kelmscott Manor, the inspirational Cotswold retreat of William Morris he described as 'Heaven on Earth'. This Grade I listed house was loved by Morris as a survival of traditional craftsmanship in harmony with the nearby village and surrounding landscape. Open April - October. Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 10.30am - 4.30pm

[kelmscottmanor.org.uk](http://kelmscottmanor.org.uk) • 01367 252486 • Kelmscott, Lechlade, GL7 3HJ



## LOCAL WALKS OXFORDSHIRE

📍 County

Fancy a new adventure? Discover 200+ walks in the county – download the 'Oxfordshire Walks' app on your app store. The app guides you around the route, showing your position on the map as you walk. It also allows you to suggest new walks and send feedback on each walk.

[localwalks.co.uk/oxfordshire-walks](http://localwalks.co.uk/oxfordshire-walks) • Oxfordshire



## MINI PLANT OXFORD

📍 F4 City

Experience MINI car production, visiting the state-of-the-art plant and seeing the MINI take shape and the magic happen!

[visit-bmwgroup.com/en/experience/plant-oxford-tour/](http://visit-bmwgroup.com/en/experience/plant-oxford-tour/) • 01865 824000 OX4 6NL



## MODERN ART OXFORD

📍 D4 City

One of the UK's leading contemporary art spaces with a changing exhibitions programme, a Studio offering creative activities for all, and a Shop and Café.

[modernartoxford.org.uk](http://modernartoxford.org.uk) • 01865 722733 • OX1 1BP



## THE NORTH WALL ARTS CENTRE

📍 C1 City

The North Wall Arts Centre is a hidden gem in Summertown, showcasing contemporary theatre and work by local artists in its airy gallery space. The arts centre offers a 200-seat theatre space, drama and dance studios and a public art gallery. Exhibitions change every three weeks, with free admission.

[thenorthwall.com](http://thenorthwall.com) • 01865 319450 • South Parade, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7JN



## MUSEUM OF OXFORD

📍 D4 City

Discover Oxford's vibrant past at the Museum of Oxford! From Romans to car factory workers, explore interactive exhibits, films, and stories. Open Mon - Sat, 10am - 5pm in the Town Hall. Accessible, with audio tours and shop. Visit their website for tickets and exciting year-round events!

[museumofoxford.org](http://museumofoxford.org) • 01865 252334 • Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX



## OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN & ARBORETUM

📍 F4 City / D5 County

Visit the UK's oldest Botanic Garden in the heart of Oxford, and discover over 5000 different plant species. Ready for further discovery? Explore 130 acres of woodland, wildflower meadow and endangered trees at Harcourt Arboretum (just 6 miles outside the city centre).

[obga.ox.ac.uk](http://obga.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 610300 • Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AZ / Harcourt Arboretum, Peacock Gate, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX



## OXFORD CASTLE AND PRISON

📍 C4 City

Uncover 1,000 years of history at the Oxford Castle & Prison. Step back in time with expert tour guides and witness fascinating stories come to life.

Hear the great tales of Empress Matilda and the fate of Mary Blandy and step inside a padded jail cell.

Ascend St George's Tower, the oldest non-religious building in Oxford and venture into the atmospheric crypt of St George's Chapel, rumoured to host ghostly inhabitants.

Touch the stones where Oxford University is rumoured to have begun and stand in the birthplace of Geoffrey of Monmouth's Legend of King Arthur. Explore the confines of the prison's D-Wing and debtors tower and learn about their youngest inmates.

After your guided tour, you can take your time wandering through the prison cells and the exhibition space at your leisure – who will you meet in the padded cell?

Don't miss the chance to head outside and climb Oxford's iconic mound, remnants of the historic motte and bailey castle. Experience all this through a guided tour lasting approximately 50 minutes.

Visit the Oxford Castle & Prison website today for the latest opening times, exciting upcoming events, and ticket prices.

Your historical adventure awaits!



[oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk](http://oxfordcastleandprison.co.uk) • 01865 260663 • 44-46 Oxford Castle, Oxford, OX1 1AY



## OXFORD COVERED MARKET

📍 D3 City

In the heart of Oxford, the 250-year-old Covered Market has become famous for being one of the oldest continually operating markets in the country and offers unique shopping, independent retailers, and cosy eateries. Discover food, gifts, fashion, and more while enjoying its lively atmosphere and evening events.

[oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk](http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk) • 01865 250133 • Market Street, Oxford, OX1 3DY



## OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

📍 D4 City

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 other arrangements, if needed.

[oxintstudycentre.com](http://oxintstudycentre.com) • 01865 201009 • 7 St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BS



## OXFORD PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

📍 E3 City

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.

Since 1998, the Orchestra 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 this season, including Maxim Vengerov, Nicola Benedetti, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Sir John Rutter, Paul Lewis and Sir Andrés Schiff.

Alongside performing regularly in Oxford and London, the Orchestra has recently been on tour to Germany, Austria, Dubai, Cyprus, Japan and the United States. This season sees the Orchestra begin a new 'In conversation with...' series at the historic Oxford Union alongside multiple concerts held in London.

At home in Oxford, in addition to its busy concert season, the Orchestra presents FUNomusica Family Concerts, a chamber music series, and the annual Oxford Piano Festival held in late July, where top pianists share their wisdom in a jampacked week of masterclasses and recitals.

Find out more and browse all Oxford Philharmonic's events at [oxfordphil.com](http://oxfordphil.com).



[oxfordphil.com](http://oxfordphil.com) • 01865 987222 • Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AZ



## OXFORD PLAYHOUSE

📍 C2 City

Oxford Playhouse is at the heart of cultural life in the city and region and produces a wide range of live performances. Their programme includes the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows, comedy, lectures and poetry.

[oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com) • 01865 305305 • Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2LW



## OXFORD RIVER CRUISES

📍 D6 City

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

[oxfordrivercruises.com](http://oxfordrivercruises.com) • 01865 987147 • No.1 Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4JU



## OXFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

📍 C3 County

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.

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-museum](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-museum) • 01865 897519 • Fletcher's House, Park Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SN



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

📍 D1 City

An iconic mix of nineteenth-century architecture and contemporary displays.

Marvel at the wonders of Earth, science, and nature.

[oumnh.ox.ac.uk](http://oumnh.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 272950 • OX1 3PW



## PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

📍 D1 City

The much-loved Pitt Rivers Museum is unique with its densely packed Victorian display cases containing anthropological and archaeological artefacts from all around the world and across time!

[prm.ox.ac.uk](http://prm.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 613000 • OX1 3PW



## RIDGEWAY ADVENTURES

📍 D5 County

Ridgeway Adventures offers thrilling activities, team-building experiences, and mobile events for groups, families, and corporate clients across Oxfordshire.

[ridgewayadventures.co.uk](http://ridgewayadventures.co.uk) • 07353 114029 • OX11 9DP



## SHELDONIAN THEATRE

📍 E3 City

Admire the Sheldonian Theatre's marvellous painted ceiling and panoramic cupola views whilst discovering the University of Oxford's ceremonial history.

[sheldonian.ox.ac.uk](http://sheldonian.ox.ac.uk) • 01865 277299 • OX1 3AZ



## SALTER'S STEAMERS

📍 D6 City

Discover Oxford from the water with Salter's Steamers, a family-run passenger boat company with over 160 years of history.

Visitors can enjoy a relaxing short trip along the Thames, or hire a self-drive boat, punt, or rowing boat for their own adventure. For something special, private cruises are available, offering a chance to experience Oxford's stunning scenery from a unique perspective.

Whether exploring for the day or spending time with family and friends, Salter's Steamers provides the perfect way to unwind and enjoy the city's timeless charm.

Start a river journey with them today.



[salterssteamers.co.uk](http://salterssteamers.co.uk) • 01865 243421 • Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4LA



### THE SKY WAVE DISTILLING COMPANY

📍 D3 County

Enjoy a 75 minute Distillery Tour with Curated Gin Tasting – voted TWICE winner of the TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Award. Step back in time at the unique WW2 location and try it for yourself. Just 5 mins from Bicester Village.

skywavegin.com • 01869 713813 • The North Tanker Sheds 105, Bicester Motion, Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX27 8AL



### STOWE HOUSE

📍 E2 County

Immerse yourself in 300 years of history in this Georgian country house, restored to its former glory. Discover its evolving use and impressive interiors by leading architects. Open year-round for guided tours and events, with explore-at-your-own-pace visits in school holidays, plus a museum and shop.

stowehouse.org • 01280 818006 • Stowe, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire MK18 5EH



### THAME MUSEUM

📍 E4 County

A lively and active museum telling the 6000 years story of Thame.

Experience the Elizabethan Wall Paintings room, with its interactive display detailing the life of an Elizabethan merchant. Visit the BeeGees' Robin Gibb Gallery devoted to Thame's famous former resident. Discover Thame's important role in the Civil War. Learn about Neolithic finds from a recent dig. Open the door of a secret cupboard exposing a time capsule of hundreds of Victorian objects. Follow fun Children's Trails and dress up in historic costumes.

Browse the wonderful shop and enjoy a fun family day out.

Entrance free.

thamemuseum.org • 01844 212801 • 79 High Street, Thame, OX9 3AE • Registered charity: 1174795



### THENFORD ARBORETUM & GARDENS

📍 D2 County

Thenford Arboretum has something for every gardening enthusiast. The arboretum, now spread out over 70 acres, features a collection of more than 3,000 different trees and shrubs, together with herbaceous borders, water gardens, an alpine trough garden, a sculpture garden, a rose garden and a rill.

Thenford Arboretum is open to visitors on 19 a days a year, starting from Snowdrop days, right through to October.

#### The Gardens

- The Walled Garden
- The Rill
- The Water Gardens
- The Sculpture Garden
- The Trough Garden

thenfordarboretum.com • enquiries@thenford.com • Near Banbury, Thenford, Northamptonshire, OX17 2BX



### UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

📍 E3 City

Visit the University Church, the spiritual heart of the oldest university in Britain and climb the tower for the finest views of Oxford.

universitychurch.ox.ac.uk • 01865 279110 • OX1 4BJ



### VISIT WOODSTOCK

📍 C3 County

Woodstock, a charming Georgian market town near Oxford, blends royal heritage, Blenheim Palace, museums, independent shops, fine dining, and beautiful walks.

Image credit: Cyrus Mower Photography.

wutw.co.uk • info@wutw.co.uk



### WADDESDON MANOR

📍 E3 County

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 chateau, 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.org.uk • 01296 820414 • Waddesdon, Ayslebury, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0JH



### WATERPERRY GARDENS

📍 E4 County

Just a stone's throw from Oxford nestles Waterperry Gardens, home to 20 acres of ornamental gardens, a quality plant centre, a gallery and gift barn, the Rural Life Museum and a teasshop serving hot and cold lunches, afternoon teas and delicious cakes. Girl with luminous lamp of wisdom. Sculpture by Nathan David FRBS.

waterperrygardens.co.uk • 01844 339254 • Waterperry, Wheatley, OX33 1LA



### WESTGATE OXFORD

📍 C4 City

Westgate Oxford is a top retail, lifestyle and leisure destination, home to over 100 brands and more than 20 restaurants, bars and cafes, plus a five-screen cinema.

With panoramic views of Oxford including the dreaming spires, the centre's Roof Terrace is the ultimate place to unwind and provides the perfect backdrop for its mix of contemporary casual and fine dining restaurants and bars, including **The Beefy Boys**, **The Alchemist**, **Mowgli**, and more. For a more active evening, try your luck at **Flight Club**, a one-of-a-kind social darts experience.

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

westgateoxford.co.uk • 01865 263601 • Westgate Oxford, Queen Street, Oxford, OX1 1PE



### WOOD BROTHERS DISTILLING CO

C4 County

Created by brothers Ed and Charlie Wood, the distillery was born when they combined their love for the land, as 6th generation family farmers, with the desire to diversify and make best use of their home-grown products and stone granary barns to craft single estate spirits.



Winter wheat grown on the farm is milled, mashed and fermented to produce a pure, well-rounded base spirit that retains the subtle notes of the grain when distilled to create Single Estate Wood Bros Vodka and Gin.

Wood Brothers offers Distillery tours and Gin School classes.

woodbrodistilling.com • 01993 837737 • Elm Wood Farm, Black Bourton, Bampton, OX18 2PL



### GO COTSWOLDS

C2 City & B2 County

Discover the Cotswolds with multi-award-winning, family-run company Go Cotswolds for a fun, friendly small group tour of one of England's most beautiful regions.

New for 2026, the Cotswolds Day Tour from Oxford and Cotswolds & Stratford-upon-Avon Tour from Oxford make it easy to explore charming villages, rolling countryside and historic market towns. They also run a range of popular tours from Moreton-in-Marsh rail station, just 33 minutes by train from Oxford.



Sit back, relax and let Go Cotswolds' local guides show you the very best of the Cotswolds – without the stress of planning or driving!

gocotswolds.co.uk • 01789 224492 • Meeting point: Bus stop C, St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3NA

## TOUR OPERATORS



### CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD

City

Embark on an unforgettable adventure with City Sightseeing Oxford's award-winning, fully electric open-top bus tour. Dive into the depths of Oxford's captivating history, where ancient and modern worlds coexist. Discover the rich tapestry of Oxford's ancient and modern history and mystery.

This one-hour bus tour takes you past the city's most iconic sites, including Oxford Castle, Christ Church, Magdalen Bridge, Sheldonian Theatre, and the Ashmolean Museum. With 18 convenient stops, you can hop on and off at your leisure, ensuring you make the most of your Oxford experience. Enjoy commentary in 14 languages, and let your little explorers join Mia Cloo on an exciting Oxford Quest through an interactive kids' commentary.

City Sightseeing Oxford also offers a fantastic range of walking tours and combo tickets, providing discounts on many of Oxford's top attractions. Don't miss the chance to climb to the top of Carfax Tower, the tallest point in central Oxford, for a breathtaking view of the city!



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



### GOLDEN TOURS

C2 City

Founded in 1984, Golden Tours is proud to serve residents and visitors to Oxford. Offering tours to The Cotswolds, Stonehenge, and Bath from Oxford on comfortable and modern coaches.

goldentours.com • 01865 634670 • Meeting point: outside The Randolph Hotel Oxford, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2LN



### INTX

County

With over 25 years' experience, INTX expertly manages and delivers reliable coach hire and executive chauffeur services for your convenience.

intx.co.uk • 0333 3448424 • OX4 1AW



### OXFORD ART TOURS

C2 City

Join Natasha Broad from Oxford Art Tours on visits to Oxford's major historic art collections, the Ashmolean Museum and Christ Church Picture Gallery.

oxfordarttours.com • 07931 702856 • OX1 2PH

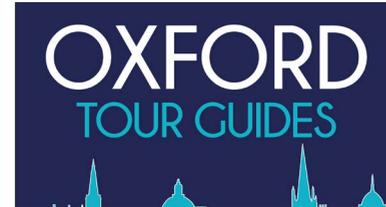


### GLOBAL DREAM TRAVEL

County

Global Dream Travel is a tour operator specialising in private and mid-size guided group tours all across the UK and Ireland. With an emphasis on quality, they offer multi-day and day tours specialising around Oxfordshire, the Cotswolds and surrounding counties.

globaldreamtravel.co.uk • 07799 904189 • 48 Kilnwood, Walter's Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP14 4UW



### OXFORD TOUR GUIDES

City

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](http://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 • 07769 657145 • Oxford



## OXFORD OFFICIAL WALKING TOURS

📍 D3 City

There's no better way of exploring over 1,000 years of history in the City of Dreaming Spires than on foot with award-winning Oxford Official Walking Tours. 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. The walking 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.

Oxford Official Walking Tours guides are independent, experienced, knowledgeable and most of all friendly, helping to ensure the best possible experience for guests. With never more than 20 persons in a group, you will always feel comfortable on these easy paced tours.

For a more exclusive experience, you can book any of Oxford Official Walking Tours with your own personal guide for you, your family and friends. Your tour can even be tailored to cover specific themes. Beyond the daily Oxford University and City Walking Tour, you can choose from a range of specialist tours:

- C.S. Lewis & J.R.R. Tolkien
- Harry Potter Highlights
- Alice in Wonderland
- Inspector Morse, Lewis & Endeavour
- Oxford On Screen
- Oxford Ghosts
- Philip Pullman's Oxford
- Religion at Oxford



Follow Oxford Official Walking Tours on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).



[oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org](http://oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org) • 01865 686442 • Oxford

## WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



### ART CAFÉ

📍 C4 City

Art Café in Oxford is a cozy, welcoming spot located on Bonn Square, just steps from the Westgate Centre. Known for its relaxed atmosphere, it combines great coffee, fresh food, and local art.

The café serves excellent breakfasts, sandwiches, and homemade cakes, with many vegetarian and vegan options.



Its interior is bright and creative, decorated with artworks by local artists, which are also available for purchase.

Whether you're meeting friends, working on a laptop, or just relaxing with a latte, Art Café offers a perfect blend of culture, comfort, and community in the heart of Oxford's lively city centre.

[artcafeoxford.co.uk](http://artcafeoxford.co.uk) • 01865 242464 • 14 Bonn Square, Oxford, OX1 1LQ



### THE ALCHEMIST OXFORD

📍 C5 City

Discover a cocktail bar and restaurant unlike any other!

The Alchemist believe that every experience should be totally life-enhancing. Whether it's your first sip of a compelling cocktail or a morsel from the restaurant's mouthwatering menu.

That's why The Alchemist chose to set up in Oxford, one of the world's most celebrated seats of learning. Here, amongst the historic dreaming spires, you'll find the restaurant and bar are ensconced in the rather more contemporary Westgate centre. Where better to dispense a dash of The Alchemist's trademark theatrical presentation?



Whether you're joining The Alchemist Oxford for a shopping break lunch, late-night drinks, or a weekend bottomless brunch, they're ready to serve up bold flavours, creative energy and a touch of alchemy.

[thealchemistbars.com/venues/oxford-westgate-centre](http://thealchemistbars.com/venues/oxford-westgate-centre) • 01865 792072 • The Alchemist Oxford, Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1TR



### THE BEEFY BOYS

📍 C5 City

The Beefy Boys serve award winning dirty burgers, loaded fries and thick shakes. The Beefy Boys are the very definition of a drunken BBQ's that seriously got out of hand. What began as four mates grilling burgers in their back gardens, quickly escalated when they won Grillstock in 2014.

[thebeefyboys.com/book-a-table](http://thebeefyboys.com/book-a-table) • 01865 965683 • The Westgate, 310 Rooftop, Queen Street, Oxford, OX1 1PG



## CHERWELL BOATHOUSE

📍 C1 City

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



## COSY CLUB OXFORD

📍 D3 City

Set in the heart of picturesque Oxford, Cosy Club Oxford is the perfect venue to celebrate and socialise, with an exceptional all-day restaurant and bar menu featuring mouth-watering dishes and top-notch tipples, guaranteed to satisfy everyone's fancy.

cosyclub.co.uk/location/oxford • 01865 479876 • 20 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3EY



## KIBOU OXFORD

📍 C1 City

Discover KIBOU Oxford, a vibrant Japanese restaurant and bar in the heart of Jericho. Enjoy beautifully presented sushi, ramen, bao buns and more, plus Teishoku set lunches and afternoon tea. Sip premium whisky, sake and cocktails in the dining room, conservatory or Japanese garden. Private dining available.

kibou.co.uk • 01865 597659 • KIBOU Oxford, 11-12 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX1 2HP



## KNOOPS

📍 D3 City

Discover your perfect chocolate drink (be it hot chocolate, iced chocolate or milkshake) from a carefully curated menu of different percentage chocolates.

knoops.co.uk • 03333 600608 • OX1 3DH



## MOWGLI STREET FOOD OXFORD

📍 C5 City

Indulge in Indian street food comforts at Mowgli Oxford, located on the Roof Terrace of Westgate Shopping Centre. Perfect for families or special occasions.

mowglstreetfood.com/restaurants/oxford • 01865 240 662 • OX1 1PG



## THE NEST AND THE AVIARY

📍 C3 County

Experience luxury modern dining at The Nest, a Michelin Guide restaurant within The Feathers, perfect for an intimate culinary escape. Enjoy freshly made sourdough pizzas and signature cocktails at The Aviary or indulge in an exquisite Afternoon Tea at The Nest for the ultimate elegant treat. *Image credit: JP Baudey, Faydit Photography*

feathers.co.uk/dine • 01993 812291 • 16-20 Market Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SX



## OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER

📍 C4 City

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 • Castle Street, Oxford, OX1 1AY



## PHO

📍 C5 City

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



## STICKS'N'SUSHI OXFORD

📍 C5 City

Located in Westgate Oxford Shopping Centre, Sticks'n'Sushi Oxford serves a mix of classic and creative sushi and sticks from the grill. The stunning rooftop terrace offers views of the 1546 Tom Tower clock tower, with the dreaming spires of Oxford as a romantic backdrop.

sticksnsushi.com/gb/en/restaurants/oxford • 01865 237777 • Rooftop Terrace, 311 The Westgate, Castle Street, Oxford, OX1 1NZ



### SIX BY NICO OXFORD

C5 City

Found on the rooftop of the Westgate, Six by Nico is a unique dining concept built around ever-changing storytelling menus.

Every six weeks, a new six-course tasting experience is introduced; each themed around an idea, place, or memory. Some previous menus include **Space**, **Tokyo**, **Murder on the Midnight Express** & **The Nutcracker**.

With a fixed, curated structure and optional pairings, Six by Nico transforms dining into an immersive, time-limited experience that blends creativity, flavour, and narrative to feed the imagination...

[Book here](#)

[sixbynico.co.uk/oxford](http://sixbynico.co.uk/oxford) • 01865 639006 • Westgate Roof Terrace, Oxford, OX1 1TR



### TREADWELL, OXFORD

D3 City

Untraditionally British, Treadwell invites you to expect the unexpected. Rooted in Oxford and inspired by the surrounding countryside, the restaurant celebrates bold, modern British cooking made with locally sourced produce and shaped by the city's diverse influences. It's unmistakably British, just not as you've experienced it before.

Available Monday to Saturday from 12 - 3pm and 5.30 - 6.30pm, the Set Menu offers a seasonal taste of Treadwell - perfect for a leisurely lunch or early dinner. Sundays centre on the restaurant's much-loved Sunday Roast (12.30 - 3pm), served with all the trimmings.

For pre- or post-meal drinks, the Rooftop Bar at the adjacent Store Hotel offers sweeping views of Oxford and cocktails crafted with their award-winning range of spirits.



[treadwellrestaurant.co.uk](http://treadwellrestaurant.co.uk) • 01865 950666 • 31 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3AG



### VICTORS OXFORD

C5 City

Victors Oxford is your go-to rooftop destination for a little everyday luxury. Discover a modern Asian-inspired a la carte menu, brimming with hand-crafted cocktails, shareable small plates, fresh sushi, steaks, vegetarian and vegan options, as well as afternoon tea available 7 days a week.

[victors.co.uk/venues/oxford](http://victors.co.uk/venues/oxford) • 01865 689064 • Ru5, 307 The Westgate, Queen Street, Oxford, OX1 1PG



### WATERPERRY TEA SHOP

E4 County

Whether you're dropping by or spending the day, looking for a quick cup of coffee and a scone or planning to relax over a leisurely lunch, no visit to Waterperry Gardens is complete without including the Tea Shop. Indoor and outdoor seating, 5 star rating.

[waterperrygardens.co.uk/tea-shop](http://waterperrygardens.co.uk/tea-shop) • 01844 338087 • Waterperry, Wheatley, OX33 1LA



Follow us on social media for the latest tips on what to see and do in Oxfordshire to help you plan your future visit!

@ExperienceOxfordshire

@ExperienceOx

@experienceox.bsky.social

@experienceoxfordshire

