

OXFORD UNIVERSITY ACADEMIA TOUR: CEREMONY, SCHOLARSHIP & TRADITION

NEW FOR 2027

Step inside a specially selected collection of the University of Oxford's most notable and historic locations on a curated journey through ceremony, scholarship, and tradition.

For the first time, this exclusive multi-site experience brings together three of Oxford's key academic institutions: the Examination Schools, the Bodleian Libraries, and the Sheldonian Theatre.

Together, these landmark buildings define the University's academic and ceremonial traditions.

INFORMATION

- Tour Duration: 2.5 to 3 hours, or 4 hours with optional Lunch or Afternoon Tea
- Max. group size: 14
- Suitable for ages 11+

PRICING

- Tour: £850
- Lunch: £27–£32pp (+ drinks option)
- Afternoon tea: £32.50–£46.50pp

BOOKING

To discuss a group booking or request availability, email traveltrade@bodleian.ox.ac.uk



EXAMINATION SCHOOLS

To begin this experience, take a rare glimpse inside the magnificent Examination Schools, whose prominent façade stands proud on Oxford's High Street. Designed to house the University's examinations, it still honours this tradition to the present day. In contemporary use, the building is Oxford's largest venue hosting a wide range of events both for the University and external hirers. Also known as 'The Marble Palace of Examinations', every corner of the building exudes grandeur and craftsmanship from intricate mosaics to sweeping marble staircases. From here, you will make your way through the historic streets of Oxford's dreaming spires to the world-famous Bodleian Libraries.

Examination Schools



The Bodleian Libraries

THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES

Discover the Bodleian Libraries' medieval origins. Admire the elaborately carved ceiling of the Divinity School featuring over 400 intricate stone crests and see the pulpits where students and tutors once debated. A masterpiece of English Gothic architecture, it is the University's oldest teaching room and first examination school.

The atmospheric Duke Humfrey's library is the oldest library room of the Bodleian and features a ceiling of beautifully painted panels and a special reading booth built for King Charles I. The books in this library were historically chained to the shelves and, to this day, can only be consulted in the Bodleian reading rooms.



Sheldonian Theatre



SHELDONIAN THEATRE

From the anticipation of Matriculation to the triumph of graduating, the Sheldonian Theatre welcomes students at both the very beginning, and at the culmination of their academic journey. Over 350 years old, the University's official ceremonial hall has played host to numerous British Prime Ministers, world leaders, Olympic medallists and Nobel prize winners. Explore the architectural splendour and scholarly legacy of Sir Christopher Wren's first major commission and marvel at Robert Streater's oil-painted ceiling masterpiece. Immerse yourself in the beauty of one of Oxford's most distinguished landmarks and complete your tour with a spectacular 360° panoramic view of the dreaming spires from the Cupola.





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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Tours take place on weekdays only.
- Tours begin at the [Examination Schools, 75–81 High St, Oxford OX1 4BG](#), approximately a ten-minute walk from the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre.
- Due to the historic and listed nature of the buildings, some areas are accessible only by stairs. Please contact us to discuss any access requirements for your party.

TRANSPORT

- By train: Oxford is easily accessible by rail, with direct links to London and Birmingham. Tour locations are approximately a 15–20 minute walk or 10 minutes by taxi from Oxford railway station.
- By bus: Oxford is well served by local buses and five park-and-ride sites. The nearest stop to the tour starting point is on High Street (Queen's Lane).
- Coach parking: City centre coach bays are for drop-off and pick-up only. For coach parking, please contact Oxfordshire County Council: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/contact-council



LUNCH & AFTERNOON TEA AT THE ASHMOLEAN

Enhance your visit with a range of catered options at the Ashmolean Museum.

A celebration of food and wine alongside art and culture, the Ashmolean Rooftop Restaurant provides the perfect setting for any occasion. Dine in the Ashmolean's bright, airy restaurant or on the spectacular rooftop terrace, enjoying panoramic views of Oxford's iconic spires.

The Ashmolean's Rooftop Restaurant features floor-to-ceiling glass windows that open onto a spacious terrace, ideal for alfresco drinks and dining when the weather permits. Afternoon tea is a highlight, often inspired by the museum's exhibitions, making every visit a unique experience.



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