

OXFORDSHIRE

VISITOR GUIDE 2024

Experience
OXFORDSHIRE
experienceoxfordshire.org*





Britain's Greatest Palace

SEE WHAT'S ON



Birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill
UNESCO World Heritage Site

blenheimpalace.com

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All information stated in this guide is correct at time of publishing and every attempt is made to ensure its accuracy. However, prices, opening hours and offers may be subject to change without notice. Please check before you travel.

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

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-  @experienceoxfordshire
-  @ExperienceOx

OXFORDSHIRE HIGHLIGHTS



1 ▶

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



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.



5 ▶

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



6 ▶

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



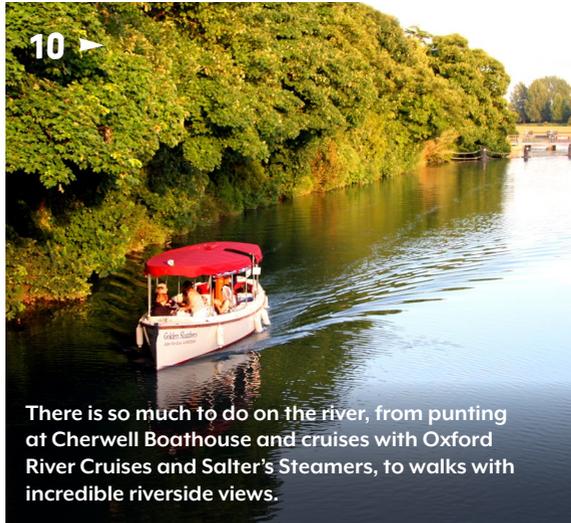
7 ▶

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



8 ▶

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



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 ▶ New Theatre Oxford
- 7 ▶ Bicester Heritage
- 8 ▶ Cogges Manor Farm
- 9 ▶ Museum of Oxford
- 10 ▶ The Thames



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.



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old parsonage



OLDPARSONAGEHOTEL.CO.UK

THE OXFORD COLLECTION®



- Oxford University & City Tour
- Inspector Morse Tour
- Philip Pullman's Oxford Tour
- Oxford Ghost Tour
- CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien Tour

SCAN
HERE
TO BOOK >>



**EXPLORE
OXFORD
ON FOOT**

OXFORD AN INTRODUCTION

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



Take a walking tour of Oxford City Centre with **Oxford Official Walking Tours** or Oxford Tour Guides, where ornate buildings in distinctive golden stone can be found around every corner. The **University of Oxford**, the oldest university in the English-speaking

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

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

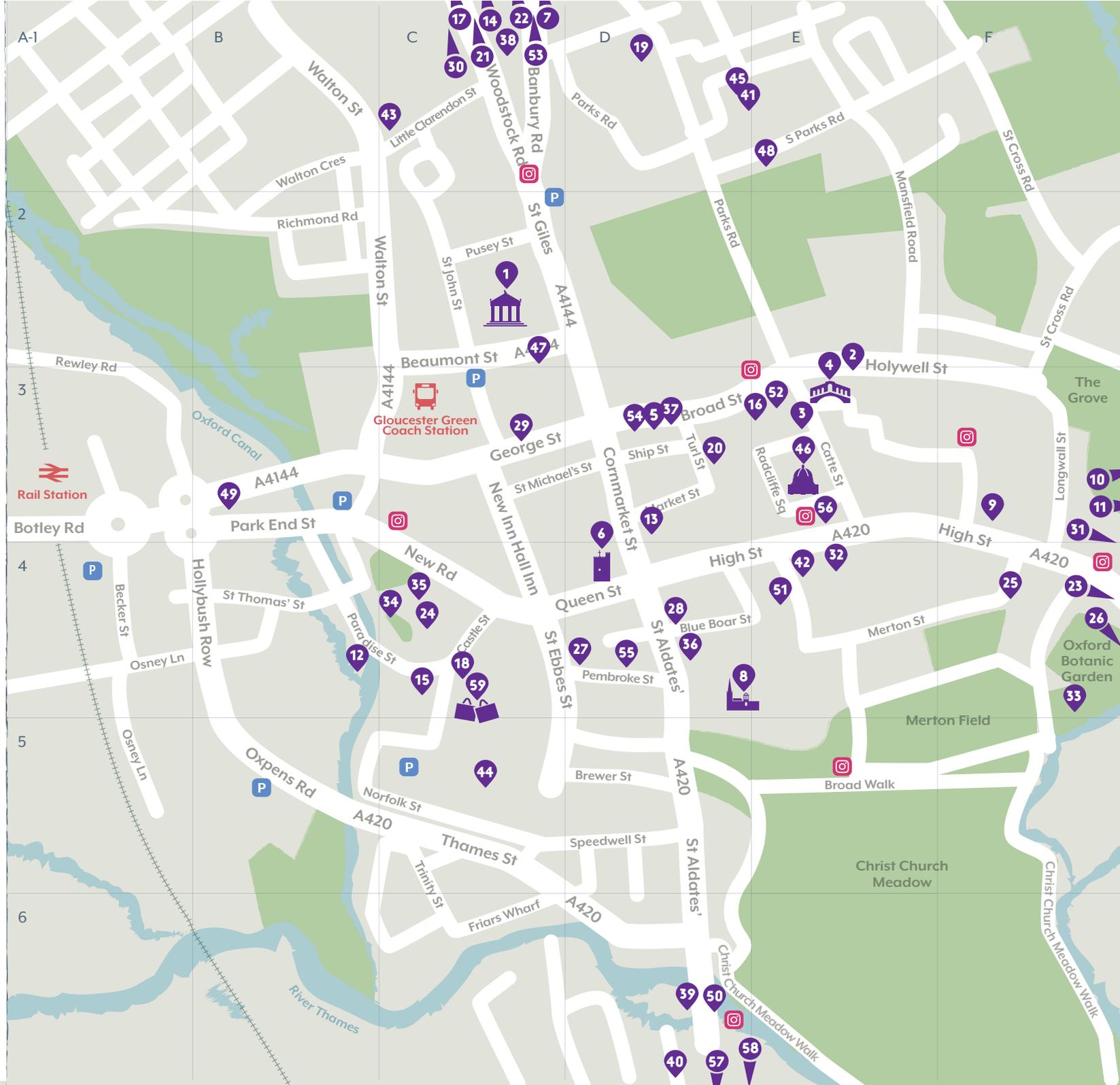
Make sure that you leave time to explore and enjoy the eclectic variety of places to eat and drink the city has to offer, from chic five-star restaurants to buzzing pubs and cafes.



- 1 ► HIGH STREET
OXFORD
- 2 ► PUNTS ON
RIVER
CHERWELL
- 3 ► DIVINITY
SCHOOL



OXFORD CITY MAP



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Ashmolean Museum C2 | 30 The North Wall Arts Centre ... C1 |
| 2 Bath Place Hotel E3 | 31 The Oxford Artisan Distillery .. F3 |
| 3 Bodleian Library E3 | 32 Old Bank Hotel, Quod
Restaurant & Bar E4 |
| 4 Bridge of Sighs E3 | 33 Oxford Botanic Garden F4 |
| 5 The Buttery D3 | 34 Oxford Castle & Prison F4 |
| 6 Carfax Tower D4 | 35 Oxford Castle Quarter C4 |
| 7 Cherwell Boathouse C1 | 36 Oxford International Study
Centre D4 |
| 8 Christ Church D4 | 37 Oxford Official Walking Tours .. D3 |
| 9 City Sightseeing Oxford Visitor
Information Point F3 | 38 Old Parsonage Hotel,
Parsonage Grill C1 |
| 10 Clive Booth Postgraduate
Centre F3 | 39 Oxford River Cruises & The
Folly Restaurant D6 |
| 11 The Coconut Tree Oxford F3 | 40 Oxford United Football Club . D6 |
| 12 Courtyard by Marriott Oxford
City Centre B4 | 41 Oxford University Museum of
Natural History D1 |
| 13 The Covered Market D3 | 42 The Oxford Wine Cellar E4 |
| 14 Gees Restaurant & Bar C1 | 43 Oxford Wine Café Jericho C1 |
| 15 Greyfriars Hideaway C4 | 44 Pho C5 |
| 16 History of Science Museum .. E3 | 45 Pitt Rivers Museum D1 |
| 17 Holiday Inn Oxford C1 | 46 Raddcliffe Camera E3 |
| 18 Junkyard Golf Club C4 | 47 The Randolph Hotel C2 |
| 19 Keble College D1 | 48 Rhodes House E1 |
| 20 Knoop's D3 | 49 Royal Oxford Hotel B3 |
| 21 Leonardo Royal Hotel Oxford . C1 | 50 Salter's Steamers D6 |
| 22 Linton Lodge Oxford C1 | 51 Sandy's Piano Bar E4 |
| 23 Magdalen Bridge F4 | 52 Sheldonian Theatre E3 |
| 24 Malmaison C4 | 53 St Margaret's Hotel C1 |
| 25 Mercure Oxford Eastgate
Hotel F4 | 54 The Store D3 |
| 26 Mercure Oxford Hawkwell
House Hotel F4 | 55 The Story Museum D4 |
| 27 Modern Art Oxford D4 | 56 University Church of St Mary
the Virgin E3 |
| 28 Museum of Oxford D4 | 57 voco Oxford Spire Hotel D6 |
| 29 New Theatre Oxford C3 | 58 voco Oxford Thames Hotel .. D6 |
| P CAR PARK | 59 Westgate Oxford C4 |



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

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



GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

Located just off bustling **George Street**, the **Gloucester Green Market** is a traditional open-air market that operates from Wednesday through to Saturday.

Here you will find a vibrant selection of fresh and seasonal fruits and vegetables, cheese, baked goods, sweets and more. Don't leave without trying the delicious street food served here, inspired by global cuisines.



THE COVERED MARKET OXFORD

Home to a collection of independent shops, **The Covered Market Oxford** dates back to the 18th century and is a hub of wonderfully tucked-away retailers selling everything from books to clothing. Eating here is an experience you won't find



anywhere else in the city; watch the skilled bakers of **The Cake Shop** create masterpieces before popping in to buy a cupcake, kick start your day with a full English breakfast at **Brown's Cafe**, or quench your thirst at a juicery, coffee shop or the rooftop cocktail bar. Nearby at **Knoops** on Turl Street, discover the perfect chocolate drink.

HIGH STREET

Oxford's picturesque and busy **High Street**, known locally as '**The High**', runs from **Carfax Tower** all the way down and east to **Magdalen Bridge**. Aside from the multiple colleges lining the way, Oxford's High Street features a

plethora of independent and high-end retailers, restaurants and the **Visitor Information Point**. In addition, Oxford's High Street boasts England's original coffeehouse - one that's been around since the 1650s!



LITTLE CLARENDON STREET

Buzzing **Little Clarendon Street** has stylish boutiques, cheese shops, cafes and more. Walk to the end of Little Clarendon Street and you will find yourself in the

relaxed and bohemian area of **Jericho**, which boasts more independent shops, bookstores and unique drinking and eating establishments.

WHERE TO SHOP AND EAT IN OXFORD

Discover local gems
Read More | p.18 ▶

For more ideas, see our listing pages
Read More | p.98 ▶

- 1 ▶ WESTGATE OXFORD
- 2 ▶ GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET
- 3 ▶ OXFORD COVERED MARKET
- 4 ▶ KNOOPS
- 5 ▶ CARFAX TOWER

GREAT FOR



FOOD & DRINKS



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS

Build these recommendations into your Oxford itinerary
Read More | p.54 ▶

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**

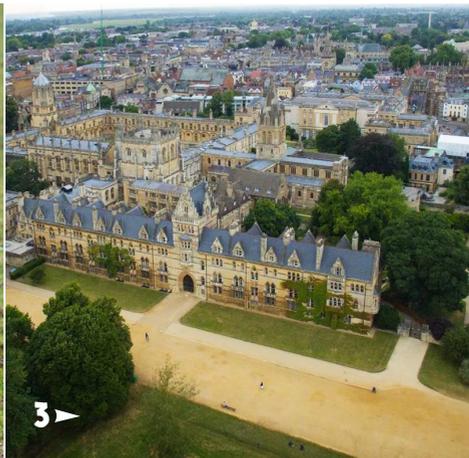
Carroll's Alice in Wonderland and *JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings*.



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 spires of Oxford, especially in the mesmerising light of dawn or dusk.

UNIVERSITY PARKS

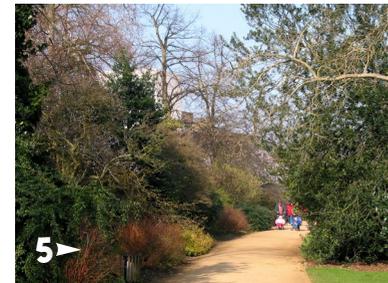
University Parks offers the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of the city but is also conveniently located right at the city's heart. The beautiful park, originally created by **Merton College** and now owned by the **University of**

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 waterways [Read More | p.40](#)

Stretch your legs further with a walk along the Ridgeway Trail [Read More | p.62](#)

- 1 ► PORT MEADOW
- 2&3 ► CHRIST CHURCH MEADOW
- 4 ► SOUTH PARK
- 5 ► OXFORD UNIVERSITY PARKS
- 6&7 ► OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN,

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.

JERICHO

Once an industrial area due to its proximity to the **Oxford Canal**, **Jericho** is now one of **Oxford's** most sought-after areas to live with an excellent choice of pubs, restaurants and shops. It's a laid-back, bohemian neighbourhood, characterised by hip cocktail bars and quiet residential streets

of Victorian terraces. **The Old Bookbinders Ale House** is a charming neighbourhood pub loved by locals for its delicious (and surprising!) menu of French cuisine. For a fun evening, head to **The Harcourt Arms** or **Jericho Tavern** for some live music, or enjoy expertly-mixed cocktails at **Raoul's Bar**.



GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS

BEYOND THE CITY CENTRE

Discover nearby green spaces in the city
Read More | p.16 ▶

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 lively Sri-

Lankan street food restaurant **The Coconut Tree** or one of several pubs for a drink, quiz or live music! Wander on from St Clement's and you will come to **South Park**; a beautiful, vast green space overlooking Oxford's dreaming spires.

Find the perfect place to stay in our accommodation listings
Read More | p.78 ▶

- 1 ▶ OXFORD CANAL
- 2 ▶ COWLEY ROAD CARNIVAL

Discover Oxford from the top deck!

- Frequent departures
- Tickets valid for 24/48 hrs
- Live guides on many departures
- Commentary in several languages
- Kids' commentary



Hop On
Hop Off

24 hrs.
Valid Ticket

48 hrs.
Valid Ticket

Explore further on foot!

- A range of tours covering local history, famous sights and more!
- Explore at your own pace 



Find out more about our range of bus and walking tours:

citysightseeingoxford.com

SCAN
HERE



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

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

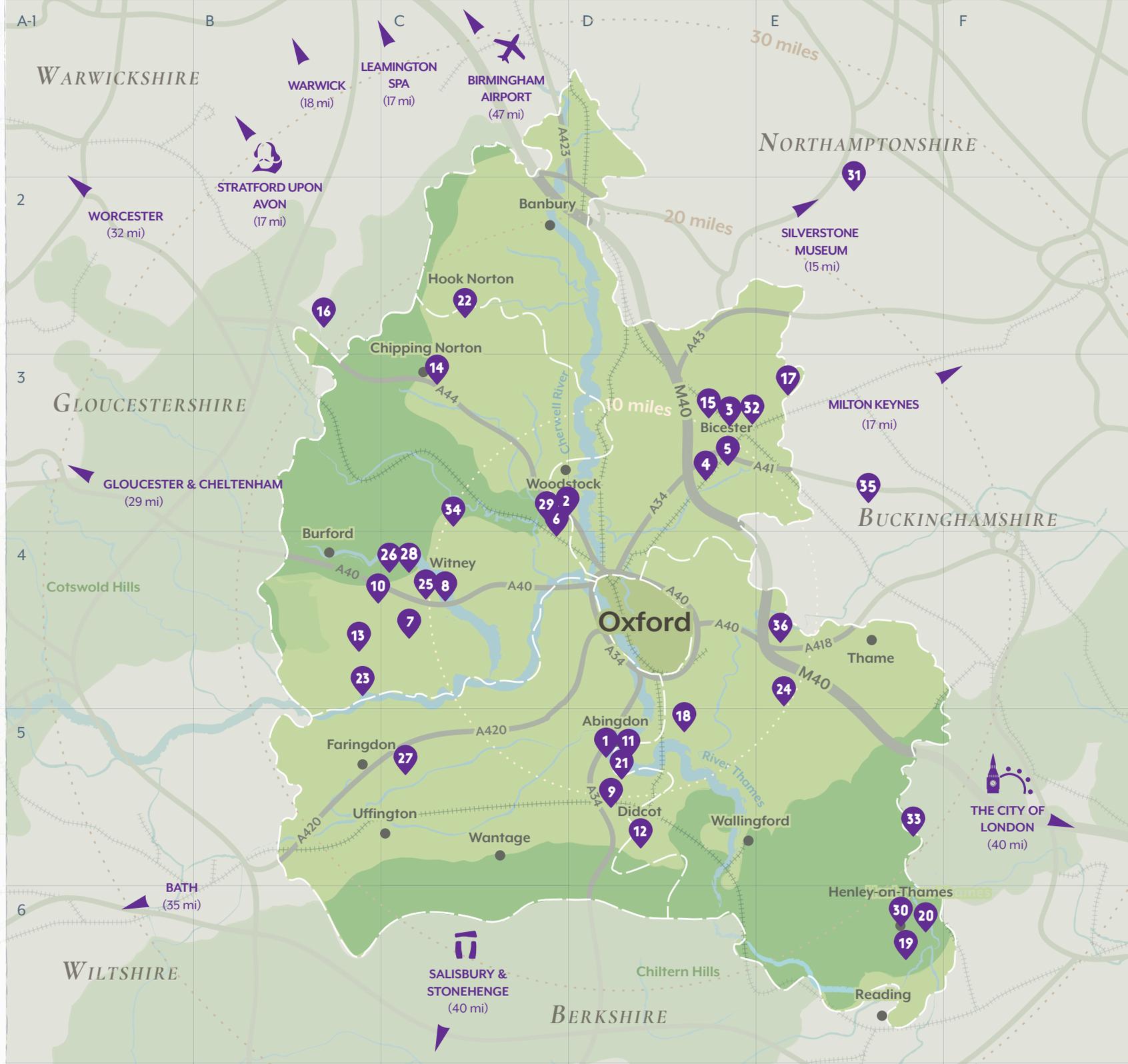
Let the River Cherwell guide you further north through the county, towards the uplands known as 'ironstone country', with pretty villages built of the richly coloured local Hornton ironstone, the market towns of **Banbury** and **Bicester**, plus welcoming pubs and blissfully quiet walking trails.

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

With a wealth of natural beauty, Oxfordshire is an unmissable county bursting with character. Take some time to explore beyond the city of Oxford, because there is so much more to discover.



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY MAP



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 1 Abingdon Local Food & Crafts | D5 | 20 Henley River & Rowing Museum | E6 |
| 2 The Bear Hotel | C3 | 21 Hilton Garden Inn Abingdon | |
| 3 Bicester Heritage | D3 | Oxford Hotel | D5 |
| 4 Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa | D3 | 22 Hook Norton Brewery | C2 |
| 5 Bicester Village | D3 | 23 Kelmscott Manor | B4 |
| 6 Blenheim Palace | C3 | 24 Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons | E4 |
| 7 Caswell House | C4 | 25 Little Sandy's | C4 |
| 8 Cogges Manor Farm | C4 | 26 Minster Mill | C4 |
| 9 Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South | D5 | 27 Mollie's Oxfordshire | C5 |
| 10 Crocodiles of the World | B4 | 28 Old Swan | C4 |
| 11 The Crown & Thistle | | 29 Oxfordshire Museum | C3 |
| Abingdon | D5 | 30 The Relais Henley | E6 |
| 12 Didcot Railway Centre | D5 | 31 Silverstone Museum | E2 |
| 13 The Double Red Duke | B4 | 32 Sky Wave Gin | D3 |
| 14 Fairytale Farm | C3 | 33 Stonor Park | E5 |
| 15 Finest Hour Experiences | D3 | 34 TreeDwellers | C3 |
| 16 Go Cotswolds | B2 | 35 Waddesdon Manor | E3 |
| 17 Grange Farm Country Cottages | E3 | 36 Waterperry Gardens | E4 |
| 18 Harcourt Arboretum | D5 | | |
| 19 The Henley Distillery | E6 | | |

MAIN ROADS
TRAIN LINES

2mi 5km **SCALE**

..... **DISTANCE FROM OXFORD**

□ **GRID SQUARE = 9.3mi/15km**

Haven't you 'herd'?

The **oxen** are coming to oxon!

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

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

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



An adventure awaits you...



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VISIT OXTRAIL

6 July - 29 August 2024

Oxfordshire

FAREWELL WEEKEND

7-8 September 2024

Westgate

GRAND AUCTION

13 September 2024

Saïd Business School

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

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



The uplands northwest of Banbury are known as 'ironstone country', with pretty villages built of the richly coloured local **Horton** ironstone, welcoming pubs, and interesting walking and cycling routes. Well worth a visit is the moated manor house of **Broughton Castle**, built in the 14th century and used as a film setting for both **Shakespeare in Love** and **The Madness of King George**.

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



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

The district has a strong tradition of festivals and events, ranging from **Banbury's Canal Festival** and the motor-themed events at **Bicester Heritage** (also home to **Sky Wave Gin** and **Finest Hour Experiences**) to **Cropredy's Fairport Convention music festival** which is held in August each year. A central location with excellent transport links,

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**, **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.58 ▶

BANBURY TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

(entrance within Castle Quay)
Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury, OX16 2PA
☎ 01295 236 165 ✉ enquiries@banburymuseum.org

BICESTER VILLAGE GUEST CONCIERGE

Bicester Village, Pingle Drive, Bicester OX26 6WD
☎ 01869 366 266 ✉ GuestConcierge@BicesterVillage.com

- 1 ▶ OXFORD CANAL
- 2 ▶ BICESTER HERITAGE

GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



NATURE LOVERS



HIDDEN GEMS



1 ▶

- 1 ▶ BICESTER VILLAGE
- 2 ▶ THE FINE LADY
- 3 ▶ HOOK NORTON BREWERY



2 ▶



BICESTER VILLAGE

If you don't come, you'll never know...

Bicester Village is an open air shopping destination, home to more than 150 fashion and lifestyle boutiques – in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside.

Expect the extraordinary from the moment you arrive and dine at an array of world-class restaurants, including Cecconi's, La Tua Pasta, Shan Shui and Soho House & Co's farmshop restaurant & cafe.

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

[DOWNLOAD YOUR VIP PASS](#)



SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE HILLS & VILLAGES

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

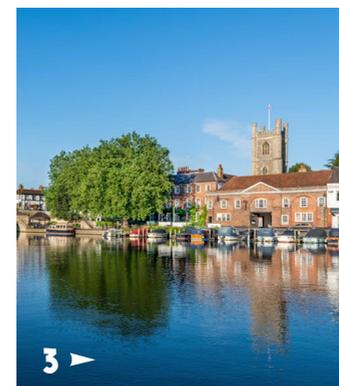
Waterperry Gardens, just a stone's throw from Oxford, has been delighting visitors for years with 8 acres of historic and inspirational gardens nestled in the Oxfordshire countryside between Wheatley and Thame.

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

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

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

Like many traditional market towns, **Thame** grew from Anglo-Saxon roots but has since developed its own individual character whilst preserving its rich history; ancient medieval buildings stand alongside Georgian and Victorian architecture and the iconic boat-shaped high street stands as testimony to the market place for which it was originally designed.



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.60 ▶



- 1 ▶ LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS
- 2 ▶ DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE
- 3 ▶ THE RELAIS HENLEY
- 4 ▶ THAME

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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 and other routes in the surrounding countryside.



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

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

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

GREAT FOR



HISTORY



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS

Journey through the Vale of White Horse using the Ridgeway Trail itinerary
Read More | p.62 ▶

- 1 ▶ FARINGDON FOLLY TOWER
- 2 ▶ ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

FIVE GO ON A GREAT WESTERN ADVENTURE



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From Blenheim Palace to hiring a punt on the river, Oxfordshire has so much to discover!

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ADVENTURES START HERE

WEST OXFORDSHIRE GATEWAY TO THE COTSWOLDS

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

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



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

Woodstock is a picturesque Georgian town located on the edge of the **Oxfordshire Cotswolds**, containing many attractive honey stone buildings and home to the **Oxfordshire Museum**. **The Bear Hotel** makes a great base from which to explore the county, within reach of **Oxford**, **Charlbury** and **Chipping Norton**



and nearby **Fairytale Farm**. Visit **Wake Up to Woodstock** website to find out about events, accommodation, shopping, restaurants and more.

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

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



GREAT FOR



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS



NATURE LOVERS

Use our Woodstock to Burford itinerary to journey through West Oxfordshire
Read More | p.66 ▶

- 1 ▶ BURFORD
- 2 ▶ BLENHEIM PALACE
- 3 ▶ WOODSTOCK

OXFORDSHIRE'S SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

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

HARRY POTTER

Much of the **Harry Potter** series was filmed in Oxford. Wander through the cobbled streets of **Oxford** and visit the magical places that were brought to life. At **Christ Church** you'll find the Tudor dining hall which provided inspiration for Hogwarts

Great Hall. See if you can spot the area where Harry spent time recovering in the **Hogwarts Infirmary** when you visit the **Divinity School**, or the location where **Draco Malfoy** was turned into a ferret by **Mad-Eye Moody** under the giant oak tree in **New College**.



DOWNTON ABBEY

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



SCREEN AND LITERARY LINKS

GREAT FOR



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS



HISTORY

Feel like you're in Downton Abbey with a decadent afternoon tea
Read More | p.38 ▶

- 1 ▶ CHRIST CHURCH HALL
- 2 ▶ COGGES MANOR FARM



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.42 ▶

MIDSOMER MURDERS

Follow in the footsteps of **Inspector Barnaby of Causton CID** and the characters of the hugely popular detective series. Discover the various filming locations -

particularly **Wallingford**, which served as the drama's fictional town of **Causton Thame**, at the foot of the **Chiltern Hills**, also frequently features.

INSPECTOR MORSE, LEWIS AND ENDEAVOUR

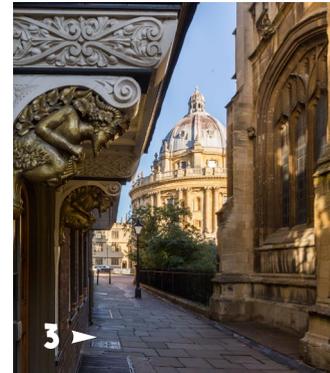
The city of Oxford is the setting for the books and TV series of **Inspector Morse** and **Lewis**, and most recently **Endeavour**. Enjoy a drink at **The Morse Bar** or the **White Horse** pub where the detectives spent time deliberating

over cases. Amble along the **River Thames** where many bodies were hidden, sit on the steps of the **Ashmolean Museum**, the location of many scenes, or visit **Exeter College** where Morse had his fatal heart attack.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

C.S. Lewis studied at **University College** and was later appointed English Fellow and Tutor at **Magdalen College**. It was here that he wrote the beloved

children's series, the **Chronicles of Narnia**. Visit **St Mary's Passage** and see if you can spot the carved fawn in one of the door frames, the inspiration for **Mr Tumnus**. Keep an eye out around the city for lampposts made by **Lucy & Co!**



LORD OF THE RINGS

Walk in the footsteps of legendary **Lord of the Rings** author **J.R.R. Tolkien** in Oxford. Relax with a drink in the **Eastgate Brasserie**, as Tolkien did with friend and fellow member of the **Inklings** writing group **C.S. Lewis**. Wander among the greenery of **Oxford Botanic Garden**, where Tolkien used to spend time, or visit **Exeter College**,

where Tolkien studied for his undergraduate degree. Immerse yourself in culture at the **History of Science Museum** - Tolkien worked on words near the beginning of the letter W for the First Edition of the **Oxford English Dictionary** in the same building - or at the **Ashmolean Museum**, which houses a collection of gold rings thought to be the inspiration for **The One Ring**.

Spot many of these sites during a 2-day visit to Oxford
Read More | p.54 ▶

- 1 ▶ EXETER COLLEGE
- 2 ▶ ALICE'S SHOP
- 3 ▶ ST MARY'S PASSAGE
- 4 ▶ MAGDALEN COLLEGE

ADVICE FROM THE LOCALS

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

VEGAN SPOTS IN THE CITY

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

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

- NICOLA FROM OXFORD



BROWSE A BOOKSHOP

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

- MICHAEL FROM BICESTER

GET YOUR BEARINGS

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

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

- JACK FROM KIDLINGTON



EXPLORE BANBURY

“**Banbury** is a little market town in the north of Oxfordshire. It's home to the 16th century **Ye Olde Reindeer Inn**, used by **Oliver Cromwell** as a base during the **Civil War**, and the 18th century **Tooley's Boatyard**, where you can take a guided tour of the narrow

boat workshop beside the canal. Banbury is ideal as a base to travel to **Warwickshire** and **Stratford-Upon-Avon**, and nearby **Broughton Castle**, so I would recommend it to anyone visiting Oxfordshire!”

- JOSHUA FROM BANBURY



ALL ABOUT THE VIEWS

“I never get bored of the view over Oxford's skyline - the dreaming spires always spark my imagination. The best places to take in the view are from **Westgate**

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

- SHIRLEY FROM WITNEY



HIDDEN GEM BY THE THAMES

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

- MAUREEN FROM THAME



ADVICE FROM THE LOCALS

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.50](#)

- 1 ▶ BLACKWELLS
- 2 ▶ WALKING TOUR
- 3 ▶ BANBURY
- 4 ▶ BANBURY TOWN HALL
- 5 ▶ WESTGATE OXFORD
- 6 ▶ ABINGDON MUSEUM

GREAT FOR



HIDDEN GEMS



ADVENTURERS



CULTURE

AFTERNOON TEA IN OXFORDSHIRE

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



OXFORD RIVER CRUISES

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

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



PARSONAGE GRILL BY THE OXFORD COLLECTION

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



THE RANDOLPH HOTEL BY GRADUATE HOTELS

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

MINSTER MILL

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



AFTERNOON TEA IN OXFORDSHIRE

Combine an afternoon tea with a fun event for an unforgettable day in Oxfordshire
[Read More | p.43](#)

- 1 ▶ OXFORD RIVER CRUISES
- 2 ▶ THE BEAR HOTEL
- 3 ▶ PARSONAGE GRILL
- 4 ▶ THE RANDOLPH HOTEL
- 5 ▶ MINSTER MILL

GREAT FOR



FOOD & DRINKS



CULTURE



HIDDEN GEMS

A CITY BUILT ON THE WATER

OXFORD'S RIVERS 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 the famous **Head of the River** public house and **Folly Bridge** over the **Thames**, which marks the finish line for university rowing races. Walk along the towpath and you will often see the Oxford University rowing crews practicing and may be lucky enough to watch a race.

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

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

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



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** restaurant.

PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK

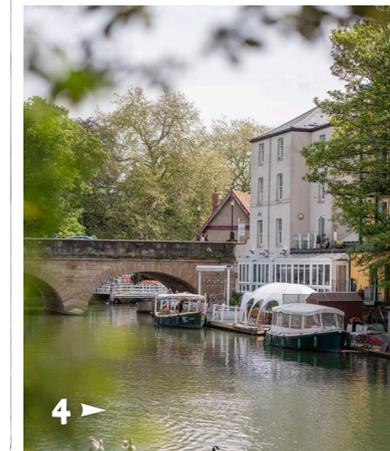
There are many fantastic places alongside Oxford's waterways for a drink, a quick lunch or a full three-course and more dinner.

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

OXFORD'S WATERWAYS LOOP WALK

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

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



4 ▶

OXFORD'S RIVERS AND CANALS

Love being on the water? Continue your journey north through Oxfordshire on the Oxford Canal
Read More | p.58 ▶

Or journey south along the River Thames
Read More | p.60 ▶

1 ▶ MAGDALEN COLLEGE ROWING BOAT
credit: Sarah Rhodes

2 ▶ RIVER THAMES
3 ▶ PORT MEADOW
credit: Tim Hall

4 ▶ THE FOLLY RESTAURANT
credit: John Cairns

ONLY IN OXFORDSHIRE QUIRKY TRADITIONS

GREAT FOR



HIDDEN GEMS



ADVENTURERS



CULTURE

Oxfordshire is home to an array of quirky traditions that make the county unique.

MERTON COLLEGE TIME CEREMONY

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

POOH STICKS

The **World Pooh Sticks Championships** takes place at Sandford Lock on the Thames in May (date to be confirmed). Taking inspiration from the beloved children's book, **Winnie the Pooh**, anybody can take part to become the Pooh Sticks world champion. You just need to pick your stick and drop it upstream on one side of a bridge and whoever's stick appears on the other side of the bridge is the winner!

MAY MORNING

One of **Oxford's** well-loved traditions, held every year on the 1st of May, sees citywide celebrations for the coming of Spring, bringing the community together for what is known as **May Morning**. **Morris Men** dance across the city, and the choristers of **Magdalen College**

choir sing the day in from the **Great Tower** at 6am with **Hymnus Eucharisticus**, attracting flocks of people to **Magdalen Bridge** before celebrations continue throughout the morning.



BUN THROWING

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



THE CORPUS CHRISTI TORTOISE FAIR

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



What's on in Oxfordshire



festivals

free events

guided tours

theatre



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

- 1 ▶ MAY DAY
- 2 ▶ CORPUS CHRISTI'S TORTOISE FAIR

YOUR OXFORDSHIRE STORY



Find our recommended itineraries
Read More | p.54 onwards ▶

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

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

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

Maybe you'd like to time your visit to include one of the UK's top music festivals, or perhaps seeing **University of Oxford** students graduating in their academic

robes is on your bucket list. We've highlighted the key dates you need to know about, so that you don't miss the best events of the year. Oxfordshire is only an hour away from **London** via train and has great links to many top attractions in the UK - making the county a fantastic base for your trip to **England**. Take a day trip to **Stonehenge, Bath** or **Stratford-Upon-Avon**, before putting on your dancing shoes to enjoy Oxford's vibrant nightlife.

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

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

#EXPERIENCEOX

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A UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD YEAR

GREAT FOR



CULTURE



HISTORY



HIDDEN GEMS

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

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

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

Also in June, glimpse the **University of Oxford’s** most prestigious annual ceremony, *Encaenia*, when the University awards honorary degrees to distinguished men and women. Some participants, including the



Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, take part in a procession through Radcliffe Square and the **Divinity School** to the **Sheldonian Theatre**, where the ceremony takes place.

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

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



THE
RANDOLPH HOTEL
by GRADUATE HOTELS

A HISTORIC LANDMARK IN THE HEART OF OXFORD

Located in the city’s cultural epicentre, The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels is inspired by the University of Oxford’s rich history, storied innovators and alumni. Just steps from iconic colleges St. Johns and Trinity, this historic landmark is a welcome retreat for locals and travellers alike.

Find Out More



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www.graduatehotels.com/oxford-uk
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STAYING OVER IN OXFORD

NIGHTLIFE IN THE CITY

GREAT FOR



ADVENTURERS



FOOD & DRINK



CULTURE

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

OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER

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



WESTGATE OXFORD

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

With unique views of Oxford's dreaming spires, Westgate's roof terrace is the ultimate destination in the city. Or try your luck at **Junkyard Golf Club**, Oxford's indoor golf course and bar. Their unique and bizarre golf courses will always leave you laughing!



EAST OXFORD

Towards the east of Oxford, **Cowley Road** and **St Clement's** are a vibrant hub for nightlife. With buzzing bars, restaurants offering a variety of contemporary

cuisines, and fantastic live music destinations, from larger clubs to basement gig spots, **East Oxford** is a treasure trove for things to do in the evening.

THEATRE

Immerse yourself in Oxford's thriving arts and culture scene with a touch of drama or comedy. Oxford's larger theatre, the **New Theatre Oxford** is home to

some of the biggest names in entertainment. For independent performances, **North Wall Arts Centre** put on incredible productions and events.



PUBS AND BARS

Mingle with intellectuals in Oxford's bars and pubs. From cocktail bars renowned for expertly-mixed aperitifs, sophisticated piano bars and wine cafes, to rooftop venues offering sweeping views of Oxford's skyline,

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



STAYING OVER IN OXFORD

Stay in Oxford overnight and take a day trip to a top visitor attraction during your stay. Read More | p.70

Find upcoming events at experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on or by searching **#experienceox** on social media

- 1 ► MALMAISON
- 2 ► JUNKYARD GOLF CLUB
- 3 ► PHO OXFORD
- 4 ► NORTH WALL ARTS CENTRE
- 5 ► TURF TAVERN
- 6 ► THE HEAD OF THE RIVER

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** who celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2023. Oxford's

stunning and historic venues play host to a busy calendar of concerts and recitals. See world-renowned musicians and artists play in intimate venues such as the **Holywell Music Room**, said to be the oldest purpose-built music room in Europe.



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 a sophisticated evening watching a jazz recital at

one of Oxford's trendy bars; we recommend **Sandy's Piano Bar** for delicious cocktails in an intimate space, or **Oxford Wine Café** and **The Oxford Wine Cellar** for wine lists that will complement the atmosphere perfectly.

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.

1 ► OXFORD
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

A vibrant collage of lifestyle items. At the top, there's a yellow handbag, a pair of sunglasses, a blue perfume bottle, and a clear perfume bottle. Below these, a woman in a green coat is riding a bicycle, holding a shopping bag. To her left, a man in a dark suit is holding a martini glass. In the foreground, there's a coffee cup with a latte art design, a stack of pancakes with fruit, and a yellow drink with a lime wedge. The background features a cityscape with a prominent white building, palm leaves, and blue petals. A teal banner across the middle contains the text 'WESTGATE OXFORD'. Below the banner, the text 'FUN, FOOD AND FASHION' is written in large, bold letters. At the bottom, there's a paragraph of text and a website URL 'WESTGATEOXFORD.CO.UK' with social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, followed by '@westgateoxford'.

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48 HOURS IN OXFORD A WHIRLWIND WEEKEND

DAY 1
9:30AM



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



10:30AM



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

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



1PM



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



Do you know the best film and literary sites in Oxford?
Read More | p.33 ▶

- 1 ▶ RADCLIFFE CAMERA
- 2 ▶ CITY SIGHTSEEING
- 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.



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

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

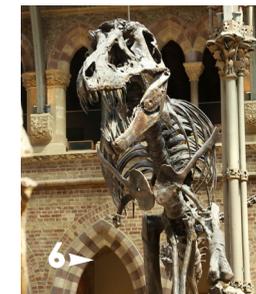
Or, fill your evening with world-class **Choral Evensong** in an Oxford college chapel. These take place every evening during University of Oxford term-time and start between 5:15pm and 6:45pm depending on which college you visit. We recommend joining the Choirs of the grand **Christ Church Cathedral**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

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

Start your day with an exhilarating morning on the water. Take a punt on the river - a truly timeless Oxford tradition - from **Cherwell Boathouse** to see the city from a different perspective. Alternatively, from Folly Bridge take a chauffeured cruise down the River Thames from **Salter's Steamers**, or **Oxford River Cruises** and admire the views of **Christ Church** in the distance.

ITINERARY:
48H IN OXFORD

2PM



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

7PM



9PM

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



1 ▶

1PM

For a more grown-up afternoon, treat yourself to an afternoon tour of **The Oxford Artisan Distillery**. One of the world's very few craft distilleries, they use ancient heritage grain to create the finest spirits. Discover the principles and production processes that make their spirits, from their bespoke copper stills to the grain they grow themselves. Finish with a chance to taste their wonderful spirits. The Oxford Artisan Distillery's 'Physic Gin' is created using botanicals from **Oxford Botanic Garden**. Wander down from the distillery to the



2 ▶

historic Botanic Garden to experience an oasis of green in the city centre. The UK's oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621 as a physic garden growing plants for medicinal research, Oxford Botanic Garden features a formal walled garden, exotic plants in glasshouses and lush herbaceous borders.

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

3PM



6PM

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



3 ▶

7PM

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

Read more on the nightlife in Oxford p.50 ▶



MATCH TICKETS AVAILABLE

VISIT OUFCTICKETS.CO.UK CALL 01865 337533



THE OXFORD CANAL

OXFORD TO BANBURY

Built in the late 18th century to carry commercial barges between Coventry and Oxford, the Oxford Canal is one of the country's most beautiful inland waterways to explore. This route along the towpath takes you through the picturesque scenery of the Cherwell Valley as the canal follows the gentle meandering course of the River Cherwell to Banbury.

OXFORD



1 ▶

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

Learn more about the Cherwell Valley
Read More | p.26 ▶

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 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**, a Jacobean country house with wonderful gardens which can be visited. The gardens were landscaped by William Kent in the early 18th century and represent the first phase of English landscape design. Many of the features created in the 18th century are still there today.



2 ▶

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**. The village's pub, **The Bell Inn**, dates from the 17th century and there is also a café/bistro at Lower Heyford Wharf with gardens overlooking the canal.

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



3 ▶

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

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

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

ITINERARY:
OXFORD
CANAL

LOWER HEYFORD
(0.8km from Rousham)



AYNHO
(16.6km from Lower Heyford)

BANBURY
(11km from Aynho)

- 1 ▶ THE PERCH
- 2 ▶ ROUSHAM HOUSE
- 3 ▶ LOCK 29



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 23.

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 to 3 ► HARCOURT ARBORETUM
- 4 ► WALLINGFORD-ON-THAMES
- 5 ► RIVER & ROWING MUSEUM



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 12th 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**.



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**.

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 famous **Henley Royal Regatta** (2nd - 7th July 2024) and the **River & Rowing Museum**. Explore the town on a self-guided walk, browse the independent shops and restaurants or take a stroll along the river Thames.

ITINERARY: RIVER RAPIDS

WALLINGFORD
(15 mins from Benson Marina)

NUFFIELD
(12 mins from Wallingford)

HENLEY-ON-THAMES
(13mins from Nuffield)

Learn more about South Oxfordshire
Read More | p.29 ►

EXPLORING THE RIVER THAMES BY BUS AND BOAT

BY BUS: THAMES TRAVEL

The X40 links Oxford and Wallingford with buses every 30-minutes Monday to Saturday, hourly Sunday and most public holidays. The connector 23 links Oxford and Wallingford with Nuffield and Henley-on-Thames with buses every hour, daily.

oxfordbus.co.uk/plan-your-journey or oxfordbus.co.uk/river-rapids

BY BOAT: SALTER'S STEAMERS

Explore more of the River Thames with Salter's Steamers, with regular public cruises in the summer months between Oxford and Abingdon, and group tours between Abingdon and Wallingford.

experienceoxfordshire.org/venue/salters-steamers-boat-trips

GREAT FOR



FAMILIES



HIDDEN GEMS



NATURE LOVERS



THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL IN OXFORDSHIRE

WHITE HORSE HILL TO THAME

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

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

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 17th century town hall. Now occupied by a diverse array of independent shops, cafes and restaurants, the town centre is a hive of activity. A five-minute walk from the town centre, you will find Faringdon's **Folly Tower**. Built in 1935 by Lord Berner, the 100ft high tower sits on a hill amongst a circular woodland, providing panoramic views over the town and beyond.

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

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

WHITE HORSE HILL AND UFFINGTON

(10.3km from Faringdon)



Learn more about the Vale of White Horse
Read More | p.30 ▶

Base yourself in **Wantage** to discover the stories of **King Alfred the Great** who was born in the town in 849AD. This historic market town offers independent shops, places to eat and a theatre, as well as the **Vale & Downland Museum** which has won awards for being family friendly. Head west to villages such as Sparsholt for a nice lunch at **The Star Inn** or **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 ▶ THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL
- 2 ▶ WANTAGE MARKET
- 3 ▶ VALE & DOWNLAND MUSEUM

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 **Watlinton**. 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. Watlinton 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 Watlinton's library.



LEWKNOR M40 COACH STOP
(17km from Watlinton 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/ridgeway.

- 1 ► THE RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRAIL
- 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 233/234 service linking Burford to Witney or the Stagecoach S7 service linking Witney to Woodstock to discover many fascinating places along the way. The buses run roughly every 30 mins Monday to Sunday. Alternatively consider Stagecoach's S2 bus from Oxford to Cheltenham via Witney, Burford and North Leach.

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. No visit to Woodstock would be complete without a visit to **Blenheim Palace**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and birthplace of **Sir Winston Churchill**.



LONG HANBOROUGH

(8 mins from Woodstock)

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

NORTH LEIGH

(1 hour walk from Long Hanborough)

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

WITNEY

(19 mins from Long Hanborough)

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



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



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



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

ITINERARY: THE COTSWOLDS

MINSTER LOVELL (7 mins from Witney)

Learn more about West Oxfordshire
Read More | p.32 ▶

SHILTON (15 mins from Minster Lovell)

BURFORD (8 mins from Shilton)

- 1 ▶ BLENHEIM PALACE
- 2 ▶ WITNEY
- 3 ▶ COGGES MANOR FARM
- 4 ▶ OLD SWAN
- 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 **Long Hanborough** train station. Close by, via bus, is **Blenheim Palace** in the town of **Woodstock** with 30% off Palace, Park & Garden tickets for visitors arriving by bus.



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. Cornbury Park near Charlbury is home to **Wilderness Festival** and **TreeDwellers**, a high end tree-top sanctuary nestled in ancient woodland.

KINGHAM (9 mins from Charlbury)



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

From Kingham, your journey will take you beyond the borders of Oxfordshire to the picturesque town of **Moreton-in-Marsh**, which dates back 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 the pick up point for **Go Cotswolds'** guided tours. Why not book a tour to discover more of the Cotswolds?



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

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

ITINERARY: ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS

MORETON-IN-MARSH

(7 mins from Kingham)



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 or Hereford. Trains leave Oxford roughly every hour.

Detailed timetable information is available at gwr.com.

For journeys within Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds, Great Western Railways' 'Cotswolds Discoverer' tickets offer great value. GWR.com/discover.

- 1 ▶ WOODSTOCK
- 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.

DRIVE TIME:
1 hour 20 minutes

TRANSPORT:
Book a tour from GTi Travel

Take a day trip on the train from Oxford to Worcester across the Cotswolds
Read More | p.68 ▶

DRIVE TIME:
1 hour



SILVERSTONE MUSEUM

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

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.

DRIVE TIME:
1 hour 30 minutes

TRANSPORT:
GWR train,
1 hour 20 minutes



STONEHENGE

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



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.



CHELTENHAM

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



DAY TRIPS FROM OXFORD

DRIVE TIME:
40 minutes

DRIVE TIME:
1 hour 5 minutes

TRANSPORT:
Stagecoach S2 bus to Cheltenham

DRIVE TIME:
1 hour 30 minutes

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



LONDON

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



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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. theairlineoxford.co.uk



BY COACH

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

BY RAIL

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

GWR.com

Chiltern Railways operates trains from **London Marylebone** with stops at Princes Risborough, Haddenham & Thame Parkways, Bicester Village, Oxford Parkway and Oxford.

Chilternrailways.co.uk



TRAVEL INTO OXFORDSHIRE

1 ► THE AIRLINE
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

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

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

The **City Sightseeing Bus** is an excellent way to explore the city, its history and highlights, and offers the option to hop on and off whenever you like. Plus, City Sightseeing Oxford offer a fantastic range of walking tours of Oxford too! Tickets are valid for 24 to 48 hours.
Citysightseeingoxford.com

BY TRAIN

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



CAR HIRE AND TAXIS

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

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

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

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
saltersteamers.co.uk



ON FOOT

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

- 1 ▶ OXFORD BUS COMPANY
- 2 ▶ STAGECOACH
- 3 ▶ CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD
- 4 ▶ DRIVING MISS DAISY DIDCOT
- 5 ▶ SALTER'S STEAMERS



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



experienceoxfordshire.org/venues

@ExOxVenues

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

incentive breaks, to corporate retreats – all within close proximity (just an hour) of **London**.

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



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

From a UNESCO world-heritage palace and high tech venues to **Conference Oxford** and **The Happiness Horsebox**, Oxfordshire is home to a diverse range of venues suitable for everything from biotech conventions, to luxury

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.

[@ExOxVenues](http://experienceoxfordshire.org/venues)



- 1 ► DIVINITY SCHOOL, CONFERENCE OXFORD
- 2 ► SANDY'S ON THE MOVE
- 3 ► OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

WHERE TO STAY

SEE CITY MAP (P.12-13)
AND COUNTY MAP (P.22-23)

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



BATH PLACE HOTEL | E3 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 Disabled 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 combines history and culture with luxurious facilities. The Bear Woodstock hotel provides an ideal location for a relaxing, romantic break or a base to explore the surrounding cities and attractions. Enjoy award-winning dining in the restaurant before a rejuvenating night's sleep in one of the comfortable and stylish bedrooms.

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



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



BICESTER HOTEL GOLF AND SPA | D3 County

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

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

bicesterhotelgolfandspa.com • 01869 241204 • OX26 1TH



THE BUTTERY | D3 City

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

WiFi Child 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



CLIVE BOOTH POST-GRADUATE CENTRE | F3 City

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

WiFi

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



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD CITY CENTRE | B4 City

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

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

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



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT OXFORD SOUTH | D5 County

A modern 4* hotel with award-winning 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 Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

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



THE CROWN & THISTLE ABINGDON | D5 County

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

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

crownandthistleabingdon.co.uk • 01235 522556 • 18 Bridge Street, Abingdon-on-Thames, OX14 3HS



THE DOUBLE RED DUKE | B4 County

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

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

countrycreatures.com/double-red-duke • 01367 810222 • OX18 2RB



GRANGE FARM COUNTRY COTTAGES | E3 County

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

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

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 - 12 people. Greyfriars Hideaway offers an exclusive central location where luxury and privacy are complemented by an array of perfectly curated services.

WiFi Child Friendly Disabled Friendly Animal Friendly Parking

greyfriarshideawayoxford.com • 07709 098507 • 21-23 Paradise Street, Oxford, OX1 1LD



HILTON GARDEN INN ABINGDON OXFORD HOTEL | D5 County

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

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



HOLIDAY INN OXFORD

📍 C1 City

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

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

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

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



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



KEBLE COLLEGE

📍 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 • Marcham Road, Abingdon, OX14 1TZ



LE MANOIR AUX QUAT'SAISONS

📍 E4 County

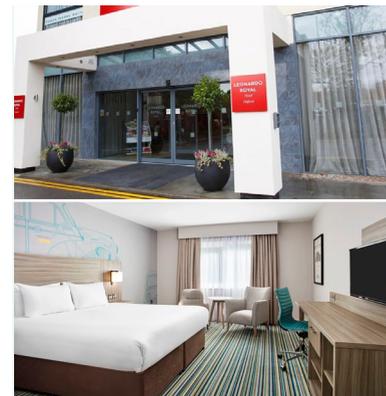
Created by celebrated chef Raymond Blanc OBE, Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons is one of the country's most cherished manor house hotels. They received two Michelin stars in 1984, the first year of their opening, and, remarkably, have held them ever since.

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

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



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



LEONARDO ROYAL HOTEL OXFORD

📍 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



LINTON LODGE OXFORD

📍 C1 City

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



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



MALMAISON

📍 C4 City

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



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



MERCURE OXFORD EASTGATE HOTEL

📍 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.



all.accor.com/hotel/6668/index.en.shtml • 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



MINSTER MILL

C4 County

A glorious, glamorous Cotswolds hotel uncompromising luxury on the banks of the River Windrush. With impressive, vaulted ceilings and original oak beams, the three AA rosette Mill Restaurant & Bar provides a wonderfully atmospheric backdrop for exceptional seasonal food and drink.



minstermill.co.uk • 01993 774441 • Minster Lovell, OX29 0RN



MOLLIE'S OXFORDSHIRE

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



OLD BANK HOTEL

E4 City

The independently-owned Old Bank Hotel, centrally located on Oxford's famous High, is a breathtaking statement in design.

The 5-star hotel has 43 luxury bedrooms, many with unrivalled views of the city's most famous landmarks. 'The Room With The View' is a spectacular rooftop bedroom and terrace overlooking the magnificent High and Oxford's dreaming spires.

Key features include the owner's sophisticated art collection, an exclusive residents library overlooking the garden terrace, in-room spa treatments, personalised amenities, free car parking, electric car charging, and full private dining and conference facilities in the Gallery, Boardroom, and Red Room.



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



OLD PARSONAGE HOTEL

C1 City

Oxford's 17th-century Old Parsonage combines original charm and character with all the luxury, amenities and technology available to an independently owned 5-star hotel.

Best known by locals and visitors alike for its eclectic country house charm, chic modern interiors and striking 20th-century portraits, the Old Parsonage is a luxury home-from-home with impeccable hospitality.

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



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



OLD SWAN

C4 County

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

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



THE RANDOLPH HOTEL BY GRADUATE HOTELS

C2 City

An Oxford landmark in the heart of the city, The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels takes inspiration from the University of Oxford's history, paying homage to its storied innovators and alumni. Just steps from iconic colleges, this historic landmark is a welcome retreat for locals and travellers alike.

The Randolph is more than just a place to lay your head. Make yourself at home in the restaurants, book a pampering treatment at the Wellness Centre and tour Oxford on complimentary bikes.

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



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



THE RELAIS HENLEY

E6 County

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

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



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 • OX1 1HR



SNAPTIP

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



STAYCOTSWOLD

County

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



staycotswold.com • 01451 514000 • Oxfordshire Cotswolds



ST MARGARET'S HOTEL

C1 City

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



themargaretshotel.co.uk • 01865 433864 • 41 St Margaret's Road, Oxford, OX2 6LD



THE STORE OXFORD

D3 City

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

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

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



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



TREEDWELLERS

C3 County

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



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



VOCO OXFORD SPIRES HOTEL

D6 City

Within easy walking distance of Oxford's colleges, museums and theatres, this is the perfect base from which to discover Oxford.



oxfordspires.vocohotels.com • 01865 324324 • OX1 4PS



VOCO OXFORD THAMES HOTEL

D6 City

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



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

FOR YOUR EVENT



EXPERIENCE OXFORDSHIRE VENUE GUIDE



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

View our latest Venue Guide at <https://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/oxfordshire-venue-guide/> Or use our Venue Finding Service to search for your perfect venue: <https://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/venues/>

experienceoxfordshire.org/oxfordshire-venue-guide



CONFERENCE OXFORD

City

Conference Oxford can help to find your perfect event location from among 70 University of Oxford venues and colleges. The venues cater for all kinds of events – conferences, meetings, dinners, weddings, parties, summer schools, accommodation, the list is endless. Conference Oxford can help you to uncover unique Oxford locations and offer your guests an unforgettable experience.



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

Get in touch today to book your next event.

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 • 01993 701064 • OX18 3NJ



THE HAPPINESS HORSEBOX

County

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

happinesshorsebox.co.uk • 07825 737498 • SN7 7QL



OXFORD FINE DINING

City

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

oxfordfinedining.co.uk • 01865 728240 • OX25 3QW



RHODES HOUSE

E1 City

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

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



SCHWARZMAN CENTRE

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

schwarzmancentre@humanities.ox.ac.uk

schwarzmancentre.ox.ac.uk • Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 6GG



STARSTREAM

County

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

starstream.co.uk • 07970 406913 • OX2 9ED



THE STORY MUSEUM

D4 City

This unusual museum in the heart of Oxford celebrates the power of stories and offers a range of interesting, creative spaces available for hire.

storymuseum.org.uk • 01865 790050 • OX1 1BP

WHAT TO SEE AND DO



ABINGDON LOCAL FOOD & CRAFTS

D5 County

Browse in Abingdon's historic Market Place just 20 mins bus ride from Oxford. The "Local Excellence" Markets, selling locally made products and supporting small businesses in the town centre, are on:

23 Mar | 27 Apr | 29 Jun | 31 Aug | 23 Nov | 7 Dec

abingdoneventspartnership.co.uk/markets • 07463 691051 • Abingdon Market Place, Abingdon-on-Thames, OX14 3HH



ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

C2 City

The Ashmolean is the University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology. As Britain's first public museum, it's home to half a million years of human history and creativity, from ancient Egyptian Mummies to modern art, and much more.

Open daily, 10am - 5pm. Admission is free.

ashmolean.org • 01865 278000 • Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford, OX1 2PH



ACTIVATE LEARNING

County

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

Activate Learning has two colleges in Oxfordshire, including Banbury and Bicester College and City of Oxford College and University Centre, offering a variety of education and training opportunities for the local community ranging from entry level, full-time academic and vocational study programmes, apprenticeships, leisure courses and university-level qualifications.

To find out more, visit one of their Open Events.

activatelearning.ac.uk • 0800 6126008



BICESTER VILLAGE

D3 County

Bicester Village is an open air shopping destination, home to more than 150 luxury fashion and lifestyle boutiques – in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside.

Expect the extraordinary from the moment you arrive and dine at an array of world-class restaurants, including Cecconi's, La Tua Pasta, Shan Shui and Soho House & Co's farmshop restaurant & cafe.

If you don't come, you'll never know...

Visit BicesterVillage.com to discover more.

thebicestercollection.com/bicester-village • 01869 366266 • 50 Pingle Drive, Bicester, OX26 6WD



BICESTER HERITAGE

D3 County

Bicester Heritage is the 'centre of excellence' for classic motoring in the UK, home to 50 specialist businesses on a 444 acre former WW2 RAF Bomber Training Station.

Bicester provides a unique setting for the entire family to enjoy and experience the past, present and future of motoring, be it through attending one of the site's Scramble events or visiting the on-site brewery, The Wriggley Monkey.

Ideally located, close to the City of Oxford, Bicester Heritage is a truly unique location.



bicesterheritage.co.uk • 01869 327928 • The Station Armoury, Building 123, Buckingham Road, Bicester, OX26 5HA



BLENHEIM PALACE

C3 County

Blenheim Palace is home to the 12th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting a long and diverse history.

With a rich variety of cultural highlights spanning the calendar year, you can indulge in their programme of special events; from medieval jousting displays and exhibitions in the Palace to their Easter and Halloween offerings.

In addition, this spring 2023 will see the opening of a brand new Adventure Playground, the Lost Garden.

Open daily 10:30am – 5:30pm (last admission 4:45pm)



blenheimpalace.com • 01993 810530 • Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1UL



BODLEIAN LIBRARY

E3 City

A trip to Oxford is incomplete without a visit to the Bodleian Libraries or joining its official University walking tours. You can explore historic spaces that you might recognise from popular films and TV series and visit free, inspiring exhibitions featuring the libraries' rich collections.

The Bodleian Library was founded by Sir Thomas Bodley and officially opened in 1602. Since then, the Bodleian Libraries has grown to be the largest academic library system in the UK. In its reading rooms generations of famous scholars have studied through the ages, amongst them monarchs, Nobel Prize winners, British Prime Ministers and writers including Oscar Wilde, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

tours@bodleian.ox.ac.uk



visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/plan-your-visit • 01865 287400 • Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BG



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 • 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 • 01865 276492 • St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DP



COGGES MANOR FARM

📍 C4 County

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

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

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

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

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

- Farm open daily February half term - October.
- See rare-breed animals: Oxford sandy and black pigs, Cotswold and Oxford Downs sheep, plus goats, hens, ducks, guinea pigs & rabbits, farm cats, Easter chicks.
- Pick up an explorer pack and follow the meadow trail.
- Downton Abbey's Yew Tree farm tours on selected dates.
- Cogges is also a wedding venue and available for private parties and corporate events.

Free parking OX28 3FR

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



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. Enjoy feeding displays, photo opportunities, crocodile talks and much more.

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

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

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



DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE

📍 D5 County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FAIRYTALE FARM

📍 C3 County

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOOK YOUR OXFORDSHIRE EXPERIENCE



experienceoxfordshire.org/shop



FINEST HOUR EXPERIENCES

📍 D3 County

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

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

THE HENLEY DISTILLERY

📍 E6 County

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

thehenleydistillery.co.uk • 07511 208490 • RG9 4LG

HENLEY RIVER & ROWING MUSEUM

📍 E6 County

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

rrm.co.uk • 01491 415600 • RG9 1BF

HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

📍 E3 City

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

hsm.ox.ac.uk • 01865 277293 • OX1 3AZ



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 • 01608 730384 • Brewery Lane, Hook Norton, Banbury, OX15 5NY



IF OXFORD

Oxford

IF Oxford, the city's science and ideas Festival offers 100 interactive events and activities across fantastic venues in Oxford.

if-oxford.com • info@if-oxford.com • Oxford



JUNKYARD GOLF CLUB

C4 City

A riotous mash-up of crazy golf, drinks and pumped-up tunes.

Come for the golf, stay for the party!

junkyardgolfclub.co.uk • OX1 1NU



KELMSCOTT MANOR

B4 County

Visit Kelmscott Manor, the inspirational Cotswold retreat of William Morris he described as 'Heaven on Earth'.

Open April – October
Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays 10.30am-5.30pm

sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor • 01367 252486 • 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.

localwalks.co.uk/oxfordshire-walks • Oxfordshire



MODERN ART OXFORD

D4 City

Modern Art Oxford is one of the UK's leading contemporary art spaces with a rolling exhibitions programme, workshops for all ages, talks, performances, and much more. It is free and open to all.

2024 marks an exciting year for Modern Art Oxford as the gallery is closing between June and October for a major refurbishment of the ground floor spaces. This will give Modern Art Oxford much-needed additional space for participatory work as it includes a new gallery and studio-workshop space, as well as a brand-new shop and artist-designed café.

Visit before June to see Frieda Toranzo Jaeger's new exhibition, join in with family activities or visit the current Shop and Café, or in October to explore their brand-new spaces.



modernartoxford.org.uk • 01865 722733 • 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, OX1 1BP



MUSEUM OF OXFORD

D4 City

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

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

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

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

Opening hours - Monday to Saturday, 10am-5pm
No fixed entrance fee, pay what you can on arrival.

Facilities – Audio Tours (multi language, BSL and family), gift shop, level access, hearing loop, sensory backpacks, gender neutral toilets, baby change.



museumofoxford.org • 01865 252334 • Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX



NEW THEATRE OXFORD

C3 City

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

atgtickets.com/venues/new-theatre-oxford • 0844 8717615 • 24-26 George Street, Oxford, OX1 2AG



THE NORTH WALL ARTS CENTRE

C1 City

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

thenorthwall.com • 01865 319450 • OX2 7JN



THE OXFORD ARTISAN DISTILLERY

F3 City

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

theoxfordartisandistillery.com • 01865 767918 • OX3 7QJ



OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN & ARBORETUM

F4 City / D5 County

Oxford Botanic Garden is the UK's oldest botanic garden, founded in 1621 and is an oasis of green in Oxford city centre. Harcourt Arboretum, just south of the city, is home to 130 acres of British woodland, open wildflower meadows and trees from around the world.

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



OXFORD CASTLE AND PRISON

C4 City

Explore the 1000-year history of Oxford Castle & Prison. Step back in time with their costumed guided tours and see fascinating stories come to life. Hear the great tales of Empress Matilda, the fate of Mary Blandy and step inside their padded jail cell.

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

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

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

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



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



OXFORD INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE

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 working arrangements if needed.

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



OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

City

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

Tickets available - <https://oxfordliteraryfestival.org>

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

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



oxfordliteraryfestival.org • 0333 6663366 • Oxford



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.

Over the past 25 years the OPO has evolved into a world-class symphony orchestra which enjoys relationships with some of the most distinguished musicians in the world, many of whom will join the Orchestra for its 2023/34 season, including Nigel Kennedy, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Mischa Maisky, Evgeny Kissin, James Ehnes, Janine Jansen and Sir Stephen Hough.

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

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

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

Photo credit: Nick Rutter.

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



OXFORD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

D6 City

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

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

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

oufc.co.uk • 01865 337533 • Oxford United Football Club, The Kassam Stadium, Grenoble Road, Littlemore, OX4 4XP



OXFORD RIVER CRUISES & THE FOLLY RESTAURANT

D6 City

Experience tranquillity with Oxford River Cruises & The Folly Restaurant.

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

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

Explore, indulge and relax in the heart of Oxford.

oxfordrivercruises.com • 01865 987147 • No.1 Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4JU



OXFORDSHIRE ARTWEEKS

County

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

artweeks.org • 01865 865596 • Oxfordshire



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/museums • 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 • 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 • 01865 613000 • OX1 3PW



SALTER'S STEAMERS

D6 City

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

salterssteamers.co.uk • 01865 243421 • Folly Bridge, Oxford, OX1 4LA

Events in Oxfordshire



Arts

Family friendly

Food and drink

Historic

Music and shows

Outdoors

experienceoxfordshire.org/whats-on





SHELDONIAN THEATRE | E3 City

In Oxford University's Ceremonial Hall, gaze up at the magnificent painted ceiling and enjoy the best 360 degree panoramic views of Oxford's skyline from the Cupola.

sheldonian.ox.ac.uk • 01865 277299 • OX1 3AZ



SILVERSTONE MUSEUM | E2 County

Discover the stars, stories and technology behind British Motor Racing. An immersive journey through the history of this iconic sport.

silverstonemuseum.co.uk • enquiries@silverstonemuseum.co.uk • NN12 8TN



SKY WAVE GIN | D3 County

The 75 minute Distillery Experience with Gin Tasting is a TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice award winner 2023. Try it for yourself!

skywavegin.com • 01869 713813 • OX27 8AL



SOBELL HOUSE HOSPICE - CHOOSE YOUR CHALLENGE | City

Join Team Sobell this year and run, ride, or walk in support of Sobell House, your local hospice.

sobellhouse.org • 01865 857007 • OX3 7LE



STONOR PARK | E5 County

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

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

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

The stunning gardens, first planted in the 15th century and latterly designed by Lady Camoys, are a treat for visitors to explore, with vistas of the surrounding ancient deer park beyond. A stroll through this house and gardens is a vivid walk through history.

Stonor Park is open for group visits throughout the year, including days when the house is not open to the public, and an experienced guide can take your group through the house. For further information or to book your group, contact enquiries@stonor.com



stonor.com • 01491 638587 • Stonor Park, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 6HF



UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN | E3 City

The University Church of St Mary the Virgin is the spiritual heart of the oldest university in Britain. Go inside to explore one of Oxford's oldest buildings or to find time for quiet reflection. Climb the tower for the finest views of the city.

universitychurch.ox.ac.uk • 01865 279110 • High Street, Oxford, OX1 4BJ



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 teasop serving hot and cold lunches, afternoon teas and delicious cakes. Sculpture by Nathan David.

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



WESTGATE OXFORD | C4 City

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

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

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

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



westgateoxford.co.uk • 01865 263600 • Westgate Oxford, Westgate, Oxford, OX1 1TR

TOUR OPERATORS



CITY SIGHTSEEING OXFORD

City

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

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

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

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



GO COTSWOLDS

B2 County

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

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



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

County

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

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

Themes include:

- Oxford, Cotswolds & Country Pub Lunch
- Warner Bros, Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter & Oxford
- Downton Abbey Filming Locations, Cotswolds & Blenheim Palace
- ... and much more.



internationalfriends.co.uk • 01843 609699 • Oxfordshire



OXFORD OFFICIAL WALKING TOURS

City

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

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

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

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

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

Don't forget to follow us on X @OfficialToursOX



oxfordofficialwalkingtours.org • 01865 686442 • Oxford



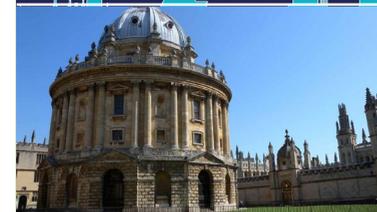
OXFORD TOUR GUIDES

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 or call Sandra, Director of Oxford Tour Guides - who will be pleased to help you plan your visit.



oxfordtourguides.co.uk • 07769 657145 • Oxford

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK



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



THE COCONUT TREE OXFORD

📍 F3 City

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

thecoconuttree.com • 01865 421865 • 76 St Clement's Street, Oxford, OX4 1AH



GEES RESTAURANT & BAR

📍 C1 City

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

Enjoyed by locals and visitors alike since 1989, Gees serves a distinctly Mediterranean-inspired menu using the best seasonal ingredients, simply prepared and expertly cooked, featuring regional dishes from Spain and Italy.

Gees Gallery, an exclusive private venue, upholds an authentic, organic feel, with bare stone walls, oak panelling and rich green marble, featuring its own private bar and art collection.



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



KNOOPS

📍 D3 City

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

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



OXFORD CASTLE QUARTER

📍 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



PARSONAGE GRILL

📍 C1 City

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

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

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



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



PHO

📍 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



QUOD RESTAURANT & BAR

📍 E4 City

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

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

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



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



SANDY'S GROUP

📍 C4 County /
C1 & E4 City

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

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

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

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

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



thesandysgroup.co.uk • 07803 087058 • Oxfordshire



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