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2023-2024

OXFORD GUIDE

By
**Central
Backpackers**



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THE UNAVOIDABLES

THE RADCLIFFE CAMERA

THE main attraction of Oxford, the one you will see on every postcard and Instagram feed! The Radcliffe Camera is the symbol of Oxford. Built in the 18th century, this spectacular library is where Oxford students go to study. Unfortunately, the building is only accessible for those with a library card, but it is still worth stopping by to admire the beauty.

Information & visit:

Radcliffe Square, OX13BG. No visits.

BODLEIAN OLD LIBRARY

Connected to the Radcliffe Camera by the underground Gladstone link, the library gathers over 13 millions books. Considered one of the oldest libraries in Europe, it is still operating for Oxford students looking for a quiet place to study. Harry Potter fans will probably find some of the rooms oddly... familiar.

Information & visit:

Catte St, OX13BG. Guided tours in English from £9.00 for 30min. Several slots available daily. Booking in advance recommended. Multiple languages audio guides available. [More info here.](#)

BRIDGE OF SIGHS

From its original name, Hertford bridge, the Bridge of Sighs is a skyway bridge connecting Hertford college and New College lane. It is often compared with the famous Bridge of Sighs in Venice. A legend tells that the Bridge was closed for years to push students to use the stairs and do more exercise.

Information & visit:

New College Lane, OX13BL. No visits.

OXFORD PRISON AND CASTLE

Who knew Oxford had a castle? The modest but historical centuries old castle will give you a great overview of the city -- and a look at its past. Want to learn more about the Normans? We'd recommend their interactive guided tour to lose yourself in history!

Information & visit:

44-46 Oxford Castle, OX11AY. Guided tour from £15.50, discounts available.

Open 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon-Sun. [More info here.](#)



Oxford's Bridge of Sighs



The Radcliffe Camera



The Bodleian Library

BLenheim PALACE

Located a bit further away from the city centre, about 30 min by bus, Blenheim Palace is the only non-royal country house in the UK having the title of a palace. The 300 years old palace is known to be the birthplace of Winston Churchill and is even placed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. We recommend visiting in the spring or summer as the garden are also worth exploring!

Information & visit:

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, OX20 1UL. Opening times, subject to change

- *Palace*: everyday 10:00 AM - 4:45 PM

- *Garden* : everyday 10 AM - 4 PM

- *Park* : everyday 9:00 AM - 6 PM

Tickets for Palace+Garden+Park from £35.00, include audioguide - discounts available. [More info here.](#)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

The information displayed regarding the opening hours of colleges might be subject to changes during exam period. For the same reason, some areas of the colleges might also be inaccessible during certain periods of time. We suggest that you check online before planning your visit.

CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE

The most famous college to visit in Oxford! Christ Church College has been open since the 16th century and has welcomed over ten Prime Ministers, Kings and royalties as well as authors such as Lewis Carroll, known for the Alice in Wonderland tale. The college has hosted many movie sets over the years. Most notably Hogwarts in the first film of the Harry Potter saga!

Information & visit:

St Aldates St, OX11DP. Open everyday 9:30AM - 4:30PM, subject to change. Tickets from £16.00 online, £18.00 on the door. Booking in advance recommended - discounts available. [More info here.](#)



Christ Church college view from the Meadow

Exeter College

EXETER COLLEGE

Oxford's fourth oldest college, Exeter college has been welcoming students for 800 years. Many authors have studied here such as Philipp Pullman, but the most famous one remains J.R. Tolkien, father of the Lord of the Rings saga. We recommend you visit the garden in the summer, giving you a stunning view of the Radcliffe Camera and Bodleian Library.

Information & visit:

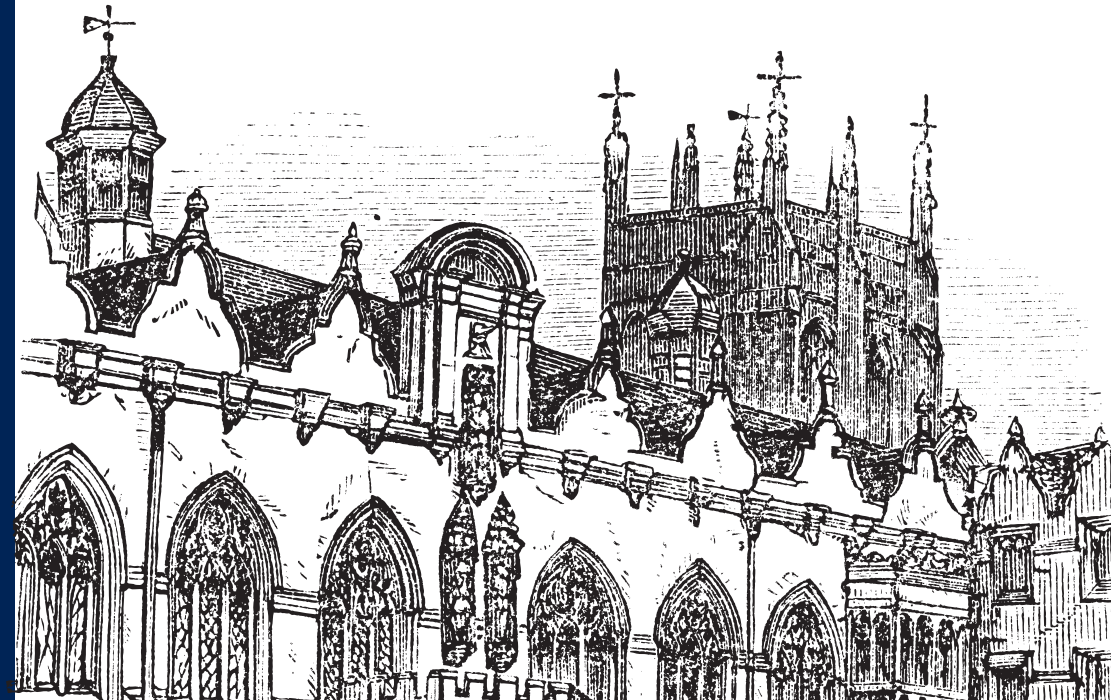
Turl Street, OX13DP. Open everyday 1PM - 5PM, subject to change. £3.00 entry fee, discounts available, no booking needed. Afternoon Tea available to book online. [More info here.](#)

MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Biggest of the colleges in Oxford and the fourth wealthiest, this 500 years old college well represents the university. Many intellectuals have studied there including the world-famous author C.S. Lewis, author of Narnia. Consider visiting for the beautiful garden and deer park!

Information & visit:

Magdalen College, OX14AU. No booking needed. Open 10 AM to dusk or 7 PM. From £9.50, discounts available. Guided tour available in the summer. [More info here.](#)



BALLIOL COLLEGE

One of Oxford's oldest colleges, founded in 1263, Balliol College has welcomed many academics over the centuries -- from Kings and emperors, to philosophers such as Adam Smith, through Prime Ministers such as Boris Johnson.

Information & visit:

Broad St, OX13BH. Open everyday 10AM - 5PM, subject to change. £5.00 entry fee, discounts available. No booking needed. [More info here.](#)

NEW COLLEGE

The College of St Mary of Winchester, commonly known as New College, is one of the best-ranked colleges of the University of Oxford. It has been welcoming many movie sets such as Mamma Mia 2, His Dark Materials, or Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. It is also one of the only colleges that has represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games and won a medal in rowing in 1912!

Information & visit:

Holywell St, OX13BN. Open everyday 10:30AM - 5PM, subject to change. £8.00 entry fee, discount available, no booking needed. [More info here.](#)

THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE

The 17th century theatre has been the home of many Oxford University concerts and plays, from the choir to the philomusica band. It is mostly famous for the matriculation and graduation ceremonies that all Oxford students have to celebrate during their time in the University.

Information & visit:

Broad St, OX13AZ. Opening time subject to change, check online. £4.00 entry fee, discounts available. Guided tours options. No booking needed. [More info here.](#)

The Sheldonian at sunset



MUSEUMS

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

Oldest public museum in the UK, the Ashmolean is a must-visit during your stay in Oxford. Founded in 1683, the museum displays a rich and fascinating collection of arts and archeology from all over the world.

Information & visit:

Beaumont Street, OX12PH. No booking required, free admission. Open everyday 10AM - 5PM. [More info here.](#)

PITT RIVER MUSEUM & NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Located in the same building, both museums offer large and fascinating collections. The Museum of Natural History is displaying over 7 million objects and 30,000 different species, including the only remaining tissue of the extinct dodo bird. The Pitt River Museum has a large collection of 500,000 anthropologic objects from all over the world, all from various periods of time. Histories collide, and distinctions and resemblances between cultures are honoured.

Information & visit:

Parks Rd, OX13PP. Open from 10AM - 5PM every day. No booking required, free admission. More info [here](#) and [here](#).

HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

Located in city centre, this small but rich museum is ideal for a short cultural visit. The museum is a tribute to science and its history, displaying many instruments and early inventions that led to modern thinking. The most famous object is without a doubt the Einstein blackboard, still displaying Einstein's handwriting from 1931 when the scientist gave a lecture in Oxford University explaining his theories on relativity.

Information & visit:

Broad St, OX13AZ. Open Tue-Sun, 12PM - 5PM. No booking required, free admission. [More info here.](#)

PARKS & GREEN AREAS

BOTANIC GARDEN

The University of Oxford Botanic Garden is the oldest botanic garden in the UK. Open for the past 400 years, it collects over 5,000 different plant species. Lewis Carroll found inspiration in the botanic garden to write Alice in Wonderland.

Information & visit:

Rose Lane, OX14AZ. Open everyday 10AM-4PM. £7.00 entry fee, discounts available, no bookings needed but recommended. [More info here.](#)

PORT MEADOW

A 30min walk from city centre, next to the Thames river, port Meadow is one of the largest open areas of the city. Horses and cows walk freely in this large field and locals enjoy a run in the spring or a swim in the summer. Accessible all day, we recommend a relaxing walk around sunset.

Information & visit:

No admission fee, no schedule, open area.



Sunset in Port Meadow

CHRIST CHURCH MEADOW

This large field between Christ Church College and the Thames River offers a great afternoon walk. During the summer, we suggest you find a bench under a tree and watch the rowing team training for their annual competition. Legends say that the tree that inspired Lewis Carroll for the entrance of Wonderland is located in the Meadow...

Information & visit:

St Aldates St, OX11DP. Open everyday 10 AM to 5 PM, subject to change. No admission.

UNIVERSITY PARK

Probably the largest park in Oxford, there's a little bit of everything. From gardens and exotic plants to sports fields through a small river, this is an ideal place to be if you want to be out of the city, but still centrally located.

Information & visit:

S Parks Rd, OX13RF

Open 7:45 AM until dusk, subject to change throughout the year. No admission fee.

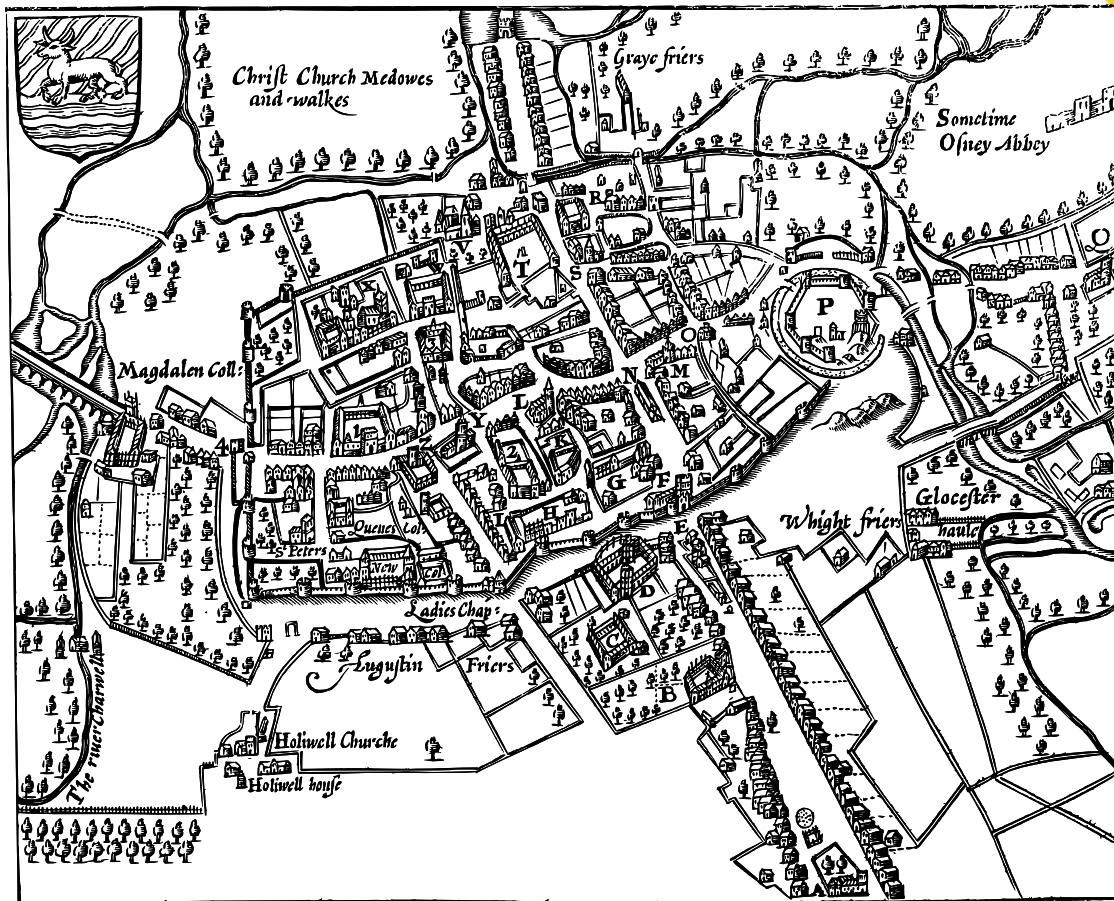


ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

WALKING TOUR

If you are staying in Oxford for a day or two, take a free walking tour! It will give you insight on all the unavoidable places in Oxford and you will learn a lot about the city! Footprint tours offer a free two hours tour, guided by Oxford students. As the tours are free and done by student volunteers, don't forget to tip at the end!

Information & visit: Tour starts at 5 Broad Street. Everyday at 11 AM and at 2:00PM. [More info here.](#)



PUNTING

Punting is a must-do in the spring and summer in Oxford! Whether you feel adventurous and want to punt yourself, or you'd rather enjoy a fresh drink while one of the local punters sails you between Magdalen College Park and Christ Church Meadow, we definitely recommend you give it a try!

Information & visit:

Magdalen Bridge, OX14AU. Open everyday 9:30 AM - 9:00 PM from February until November (subject to change due to weather conditions). £30/hour, up to five people per boat if you punt yourself. £40/30min, up to five people per boat for chauffeured punt ride [More info here.](#)



Punters next to Magdalen college

ICE RINK

Visiting Oxford during the winter? Nothing better to get into the Christmas spirit than Ice Skating! Oxford Ice rink is located about 10min away from the city centre!

Information & visit: Oxpens Rd, OX11RX . Open everyday 6AM until midnight (subject to change). Admission fee £9.10 + £2.00 for skate hire ; 1h30 ice skate session. [More info here.](#)

OXFORD PRIDE

Pride month is being celebrated in Oxford every year in June. Oxford Pride traditionally happens on the first Sunday of June. However, during the entire month the LGBTQ+ community is celebrated and brings people together. Multiple places and businesses in Oxford contribute and participate in various events from pub quizzes to drag queen makeup tutorials. [More info here.](#)

ST GILES FAIR

Happening every year in September, St Giles fair is a historical event which originates from mediaeval times. Originally a children's festival, the fair now consists of multiple rides, games, and street food going on all day until 11 PM.



St Giles fair on a sunny day



May morning on Radcliffe Camera square

MAY MORNING

If May Day is internationally famous, no one celebrates the event better than Oxford University students. The event starts early at 6AM when Magdalen College Choir sings a hymn from the college tower. Students are then gathered next to the college and start celebrating the event with a lot of music and dancing. May morning gathers thousands of people each year for an early morning party. Some students start the event the evening before with all-night balls organised by the University. [More info here.](#)

MOVIE SETS TO SEARCH FOR

Many films and series have been set and shot in Oxford over the years, the most famous one being Harry Potter. Film-lovers will have fun finding and recognizing places only seen on the big screen. Here is a non-exhaustive list of inspirational places.

The Golden Compass (2007), based on Philipp Pullman's saga "His Dark Materials" : Radcliffe Square, Christ Church, Exeter College, Queen's college.

X-men First Class (2011): The Sheldonian, Bridge of Sighs.



Shadowland (1993), based on C.S Lewis' life: Magdalen College (Chapel, Dining Hall), Sheldonian Theatre, Randolph Hotel, Magdalen Bridge,

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001) ; Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secret (2002) ; Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005) ;

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009): Duke Humfrey's library, the Divinity School, Christ Church College's staircase, New College.



Doctor Strange (2016): Exeter College

Mamma Mia 2, Here We Go Again (2018): New College

Many additional films have been set in Oxford. Some examples are: **Les Misérables (2012)**, **Sherlock Holmes 2**, or **The Imitation Game**. Here is a [link](#) detailing all films sets.

FOOD & DRINKS



BRUNCH & BREAKFAST

THE HANDLE BAR

Located in city centre, the Handle Bar offers a large variety of brunch options. All homemade with fresh ingredient, you could indulge an English breakfast or its vegan alternative. During the weekends, the place turns into a tapas and cocktail restaurant. Also a great place to grab a cup of coffee and pastries in the afternoon!

More information : 28-32 Michael St, OX12EB. Open 9AM-4PM Sun-Thur ; 9AM-10:30PM Fri-Sat. Call 01865 25 13 15 for reservations.

CAFÉ COCO

This family style restaurant offers healthy breakfast and lunch options. Enjoy homemade pizzas all week long or refreshing drinks with friends. Did you know the place was owned by Florence Pugh's family? Can you spot her autograph in the building? If you are lucky, you might even meet her!

More information: 23 Cowley Rd, OX41HP. Open 10 AM-5PM Sun-Thur ; 10AM-11PM Fri-Sat. Call 01865 20 02 32 for reservations.

OXFORD BRUNCH BAR

In the heart of city centre, Oxford Brunch Bar is an independent café and restaurant which offers breakfast and brunch all day long! The food is healthy and homemade with many vegan alternative options!

More information : 19 George St, OX12AU. Open every day 7 AM - 4 PM. No reservations.



Oxford Brunch Bar on George Street



BRITISH FOOD

THE CHEQUERS INN

This historic pub from the 16th-century in city centre of Oxford, serves a large range of ales and classic British food, from Fish & Chips to copious amounts of Sunday Roast. A classic to try for a full British experience!

More information : 131 High St, OX14DH. Open every day 12PM-11PM. Reservations [online](#) or call 07401 06 82 73.

THE ISIS RIVER FARMHOUSE

Along the Thames river, a bit further away from city centre, there is the Isis River Farmhouse. A historic British pub serving great British food and offering a large outside seating area during the summer. It is worth the walk along the river. Did you know Isis is the nickname given to the Thames River in Oxford?

More information : Haystacks Corner, TheTowing Path, Iffley Lock, OX44EL. Open during the summer season only. Call 01865 24 38 64 for more information.

THE CHESTER ARMS

Located next to Cowley Road, this restaurant serves quality and classic food. You will find all the British classics but we recommend the steak platters to share with some friends!

More information : 19 Chester St, OX41SN. Open 4PM-11PM Mon-Wed ; 12PM-10PM Thur-Sun. Call 01865 79 04 38 for reservations.

VEGAN VEGETARIAN

THE PUNTER

Located next to the Thames river, this quiet historic pub serves exclusively homemade vegan and vegetarian dishes. Everything is made fresh with seasonal products. The menu changes regularly throughout the year!

More information:
7 South St, OX20BE. Open every day 12 PM - 11 PM. Reservations [online](#).

THE HANDLE BAR

Located in city centre, the Handle Bar offers a large variety of brunch options. All homemade with fresh ingredient, you could indulge an English breakfast or its vegan alternative. During the weekends, the place turns into a tapas and cocktail restaurant. Also a great place to grab a cup of coffee and pastries in the afternoon!

More information : 28-32 Michael St, OX12EB. Open 9AM-4PM Sun-Thur ; 9AM-10:30PM Fri-Sat. Call 01865 25 13 15 for reservations.

HAPPY FRIDAY KITCHEN

The best of plant based comfort food: burgers, pancakes, or hot dogs, everything is fresh and vegan. Located on Cowley Road and mainly inspired by American food, this place offers a perfect combination of comfy food and healthy vegan ingredients!

More information:
282 Cowley Road, OX41UR. Open 12-3PM/5-9PM Wed-Fri ; 11AM-9PM Fri-Sat. Reservations [online](#) or call 01865 70 11 28

COFFEE SHOP

COMMON GROUND CAFÉ

This independent café is perfect for a quiet place to study. Between shared workspace, study areas, and free wi-fi, many students go there for a friendly and chill atmosphere. The café aims to be welcoming and a safe environment for people to work or study. They even offer classes and display exhibitions sometimes!

More information: 38 Little Clarendon St, OX12HF. Open 7:30AM-5:00PM Mon-Fri ; 8:30AM-4:00PM Sat - Sun. No reservations.



BLACKWELL'S LIBRARY CAFFE NERO

Even if Caffe Nero can be found everywhere in the UK, not all of them are in the oldest and first Blackwell's bookshop. Surrounded by books, the place is perfect to relax over a cup of tea and some pastries. Our advice: sit next to the window and enjoy the view of the Sheldonian theatre and Museum of Science History!

More information: Blackwell's Bookstore, 38-51 Broad St, OX13BQ. Open everyday 10AM-5:30PM. No reservations.

ART CAFÉ

This local coffee shop is located in city centre of Oxford and serves coffee and sandwiches all day long, with many vegan and gluten free options. The place also helps local artists to gain visibility by displaying their art and exhibitions everywhere. What a great way to discover about the locals in Oxford!

More information: 14 New Rd, OX11LT. Open 7AM-7PM Mon-Sat ; 8AM-7PM Sun. No reservations.



Blackwell's Library coffee shop

YELLOW SUBMARINE

This charity coffee shop can be found across Oxfordshire and helps people with learning disabilities gain self-confidence and working skills in a friendly and supportive environment. We encourage their mission and recommend anyone to walk in and grab a cup of coffee or shop some gifts and mugs.

More information: 12 Park End St, OX11HH. Open 8AM-3PM Mon-Fri. No reservations.



THE JOLLY FARMERS

One of England's oldest LGBTQ+ pub, The Jolly Farmers is a friendly, warm, and cosy pub in Oxford city centre. Whether you look for a quiet place to loose yourself in a Philip Pullman book or a fun and cheerful Thursday Pub Quiz, the Jolly Farmers offers it all.

More information: 20 Paradise St, OX11LD - Open 12PM-12AM Sun-Thur ; 12 PM-1AM Fri-Sat. No reservation.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Originally a pub from the mid 19th-century, The Lighthouse also serves as cocktail bar, offering great tapas in the evening.

Between traditional ales that have been served for decades, freshly made cocktails and homemade tapas, the Lighthouse is ideal for a social gathering next to the Oxford canal.

More information: 1 Park End Street, OX11HH - Open 4PM-11PM Wed-Frid ; 12PM-11PM Frid; 12 PM-10PM Sun. Call 0333 772 7302 for reservations



THE WHITE RABBIT

A pub and a pizza restaurant! The White Rabbit serves almost exclusively pizzas in a warm and family style atmosphere. An independent pub, their large menu of ales goes well with the homemade Roman style pizzas they serve. Heated terrace during the winter.

More information: 21 Friars Entry, OX12BY. Open everyday 12PM-12AM. No reservations.

ROYAL BLENHEIM

This local 19th-century pub offers a great choice of ales, from the White Horse brewery a couple of miles away to seasonal beers. Considered a rugby bar, this is a great place to support the Lions team during the Six Nations tournament.

More information: 13 St Ebbes St, OX11PT - Open Sun-Thur 12PM-10PM ; 12PM-11:30PM Fri-Sat. Call 01865 24 23 55 for reservations

THE BEAR INN

Considered the oldest pub in Oxford, and maybe one of the oldest in the UK, the Bear Inn has seen centuries of locals drinking their ales since 1242. The pub displays an impressive collection of club ties from generations of Oxford students.

More information: 6 Alfred St, OX14EH - Open 3 PM-11PM Mon-Tues ; 12 PM-11PM Wed-Sun. Call 01865 72 81 64 for reservations or [online](#).

TURF TAVERN

Dating from the 14th-century, this historic pub has welcomed many celebrities from Tony Blair, to Stephen Hawking, and even the Harry Potter crew when filming nearby. A classic and unavoidable in Oxford offering a large range of ales and great food.

More information: 4-5 Bath Place, OX13SU Open 11AM-11PM all day - Call 01865 24 32 35 for reservations or [online](#).



Fresh pint from Turf Tavern

NIGHTLIFE

HANKS

The perfect combination of a cocktail bar and a nightclub. Hanks offers great food and cocktails all night long, in a softened atmosphere with many great songs to dance to!

More information: 36 Queen St, OX11ER - Open 6 PM-2AM Mon-Wed - 6PM-3AM Thur-Fri ; 4PM-3AM Sat. Reservation [online](#).



THIRST

The place to be at night! Whether you like to dance, drink, chill, or smoke shisha, Thirst has it all every day until 3 AM. They also offer a covered heated terrace to take a break in between your best dance moves! Located on the same street as our hostel, your way home will be quick!

More information: 7 Park End St, OX11HH - Open 6 PM-3AM Sun-Thur ; 4PM-3PM Fri-Sat - Reservation [online](#).



THE VARSITY CLUB

A club with a view! On the rooftop of city centre, enjoy fine food, fresh cocktails, and dance all night long with possibly the best panoramic views in Oxford!

More information: 9 High St, OX14DB. Open Mon-Thur 12PM-11PM ; 12PM-3AM Fri-Sat. Reservation [online](#).

CAFE BABA

Located on Cowley Road, this Moroccan & Latino cocktail bar offers great cocktails and tapas every day. Enjoy a shisha in their heated garden or dance all night long to the best music!!

More information: 240 Cowley Rd, OX41UH - Open every day 5 PM- 1:30 AM.

INTERNATIONAL

GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

One of our favourite places in Oxford! The market offers a large selection of international food from Tibetan to Persian, Italian, Sri Lankan, or even Grecian! The hardest part is deciding where to stop, but luckily you can simply ask to try the food before buying it.

More information: 78 Gloucester St, OX12BU. Open 9AM-4PM Wed-Sat. No reservations



Greek souvlaki from the Gloucester Green International food market

COWLEY ROAD

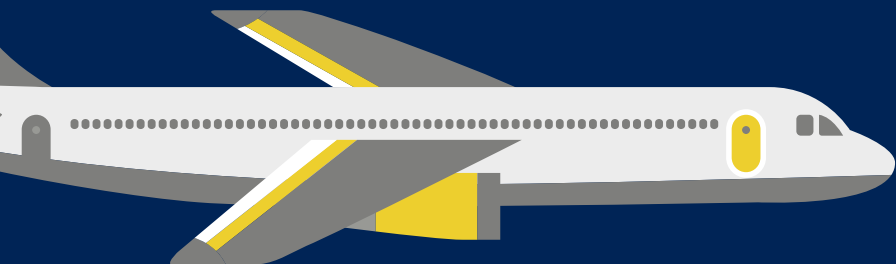
Cowley Road is the most cosmopolitan street in Oxford. From Turkish, Greek, Italianan, Japanese, Caribbean, Spanish, Thai, or Lebanese food -- the whole street is a love letter to international culture! Most restaurants are all independant and the food is homemade.

BANGKOK HOUSE

We think this is the best Thai restaurant in Oxford! Independent and family owned, the staff will be more than happy to give you recommendations. If you want our favourite, try the beef massaman curry.

More information: 42A Hythe Bridge St, OX12EP. Open 5-11PM Mon-Wed ; 12-3PM/5-11PM Thur-Sun. Booking [online](#), take-away and delivery option.

TRANSPORTS



AIRPORTS

The nearest international airports for Oxford are all located in London. London has a total of six major international airports: London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London City, London Luton, London Stansted, and London Southend airport.

The two nearest airports for Oxford are **London Heathrow** (50-55 miles, 1h30min) and **London Gatwick** (80-90 miles, 2h30min). These two airports have a direct coach line with Oxford city centre through the **Oxford airline**.

London Stansted airport is located about 85-90 miles away from Oxford, however there are no direct lines from the airport to Oxford. You will need to take two different buses and/or trains by going through London first. A typical journey from Stansted airport would be around 4h.

Click on the airport you are interested in to plan your journey

[London Heathrow](#)

[London Gatwick](#)

[London Stansted](#)

[Oxford airline](#)





TRAIN STATION

Oxford's train station is about 10min walking distance from city centre. The train station has regular connections with London city centre multiple times every hour. It also connects Oxford to multiple other English cities from Bournemouth to Birmingham. Multiple rail companies are going through Oxford to all over the UK. You can find their schedule & timetable or book direct online here:

*Click on the link you are interested in
to plan your journey*

[Great Western Railway \(GWR\)](#)

[National Rail](#)

[Crosscountry](#)

[Chiltern railway](#)

Oxford train station is located a 5min walk from Central Backpackers.
Park End Street
OX1 1HS.

COACH STATION GLOUCESTER GREEN

The Gloucester Green Coach Station is located a few minutes walk from the hostel. From there, multiple coach companies are operating 24/7 to connect Oxford to various UK cities.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

National Express is ideal for affordable links between Oxford and the rest of the UK. If you like long travel journeys, feel free to book your ticket all the way up to Scotland (with potential correspondances). Plan your journey by clicking [here](#).

MEGABUS

Megabus is the national low cost coach company in the UK. Megabus is known for very affordable costs everywhere in the UK, and offer some lines to Europe. Plan your journey by clicking [here](#).

OXFORD TUBE

Operating 24/7, the Oxford Tube is perfect for your journey to London city centre. Going straight from Oxford city centre to London Victoria, with stops available at Marble Arch and Nothing Hill, the Tube is the cheapest option to go to London and will get you there in about two hours. During the day, coaches leave every 20 minutes. Plan your journey by clicking [here](#).

OXFORD BUS COMPANY AIRLINE

The Oxford Airline offers a direct journey from Heathrow or Gatwick airport to Oxford City Centre. The coach will take you to your airport in about 1h30min (Heathrow) and 2h30min (Gatwick), with no delays in between. Operating 24/7, a coach is leaving every one to two hours. Plan your journey by clicking [here](#).

BUS SERVICE

*Oxford is a pretty small city and does not necessarily require bus transportation. However, there are many lines and buses to transport you easily from Oxford to its surroundings. **The Oxford Bus Company** works with the Oxford bus Company Airline and the Stagecoach company.*

Tickets are divided by zone, from city centre to larger areas in the South of Oxfordshire:

City centre

Daily ticket for 24h: £4.20.
Weekly ticket: £16.00

Oxford surroundings (Blenheim Palace included)

Daily ticket for 24h: £7.00.
Weekly ticket: from £30.00

Discounts for students and children are available. To purchase tickets you can download the Oxford Bus app where all timetables and prices are also made available. Buying a ticket is also possible directly from your coach with either contactless or cash payment. You can also just tap on and tap off in the bus to save time!



Click on the link you are interested in to plan your journey

[Oxford Bus Company](#)

PARK & RIDE

BUS SERVICE

The Oxford Park & Ride system is operated by the Oxford Bus Company. Tickets can be purchased directly from their app or website.

Oxford offers four car parks around the city, all connected with a direct line to the city centre through the Park & Ride bus. The four car parks are the following : Thornhill, Seacourt, Pear Tree and Redbridge.

PRICES

Single journey: £2.00
3-days ticket: £3.50

CAR PARK

The Park & Ride car parks surrounding Oxford are the cheapest parking option. The closest Park & Ride from Central Backpackers Oxford is **Seacourt Park & Ride**.

PRICES

Daily ticket: £4.00
24-48h ticket: £8.00

The Oxford Bus Company offers combined tickets for parking and bus tickets.

Daily combined ticket parking + bus: £6.80
Up to two adults and 3 children

Payment can be done by cash, card, or directly **[online](#)**.
For more information about Park & Ride click **[here](#)**.

CAR PARKS

Parking in Oxford city centre can be quite expensive. For the cheapest option, we recommend you check our [Park & Ride](#) section. The nearest parking from Central Backpackers Oxford is Worcester Street Car Park.

WORCESTER STREET CAR PARK

Worcester Street Car Park, OX1 2BQ. Operates 24/7.

8 hours+ : from £28 on weekdays

After 8PM until 8 AM : from £4.00

More info [here](#).

OXPENS CAR PARK

Oxpens Road, OX1 1RQ. About 7 min walking from Central Backpackers Oxford. Operates 24/7.

From 6 AM to 5 PM: up to £25 for 24h

From 5 PM to 6 AM: £3.50

More info [here](#).

WESTGATE CAR PARK

Thames Street, OX1 1TS. About 10 min walking from Central Backpackers Oxford. Operates 24/7.

From 6 AM to 5 PM : up to £35 for 24h

From 5PM to 6AM: from £3.00

More info [here](#).

TAXI SERVICE

001 TAXI

Call 01865 240000 to order a taxi.

Operates 24/7.

If a taxi is picking you up at the hostel, please communicate this address:

ROYAL CARS

Call 01865 777 333 or book [online](#) or download the app.

Operates 24/7.

Central Backpackers
13 Park End Street
OX1 1HH

SHOPPING

WESTGATE

Westgate is the main shopping centre in Oxford. Located directly in city centre, Westgate has a large number of international brands, a cinema, an escape room, and multiple bars and restaurants. The top floor offers a great panoramic view of the city with open areas and gardens.

More information: Westgate Oxford, Castle St, OX1 1NZ. Open everyday 10 AM - 8 PM. More info [here](#).

COVERED MARKET

Hidden between the main streets of city centre, the covered market has been there for over two-centuries. Multiple small independent shops, cafés, restaurants, and even barbers are there -- promoting local products and cultural heritage from Oxford.

More information: Oxford Covered Market, Market St, OX13DZ

Open Mon-Sat AM - 5:30 PM ; Sun - 10AM-4PM.

More info [here](#).



GLOUCESTER GREEN MARKET

Gloucester Green market is an open air market offering many second hand products from books and clothing to DVDs, plants, and fabrics. Also an ideal place to grocery shop locally with stalls selling fruits, vegetables, cakes, cheeses, and bread.

More information: Gloucester St, OX1 2BU. Open Wed-Sat from 9 AM - 5 PM

More info [here](#).

HOURS & OPENING TIMES

Oxford and the UK in general are in the **GMT time zone (Greenwich Mean Time)**.

AM stands for Ante-Meridiem and is from midnight until midday.

PM stands for Post Meridiem and is from midday to midnight.

Offices are usually open from 9 AM until 5 PM from Monday to Saturday and are closed on Sunday. Shops are usually open 7 days a week until 7 PM, but will close sooner on Sundays.

BANK HOLIDAYS 2023 - 2024

On those dates, double check the opening times of shops, museums, and restaurants as many of them will remain closed. A “substitute day” happens when a national bank holiday is on a weekend. The day is then moved to the previous Friday or following Monday to still allow a public holiday for everyone.

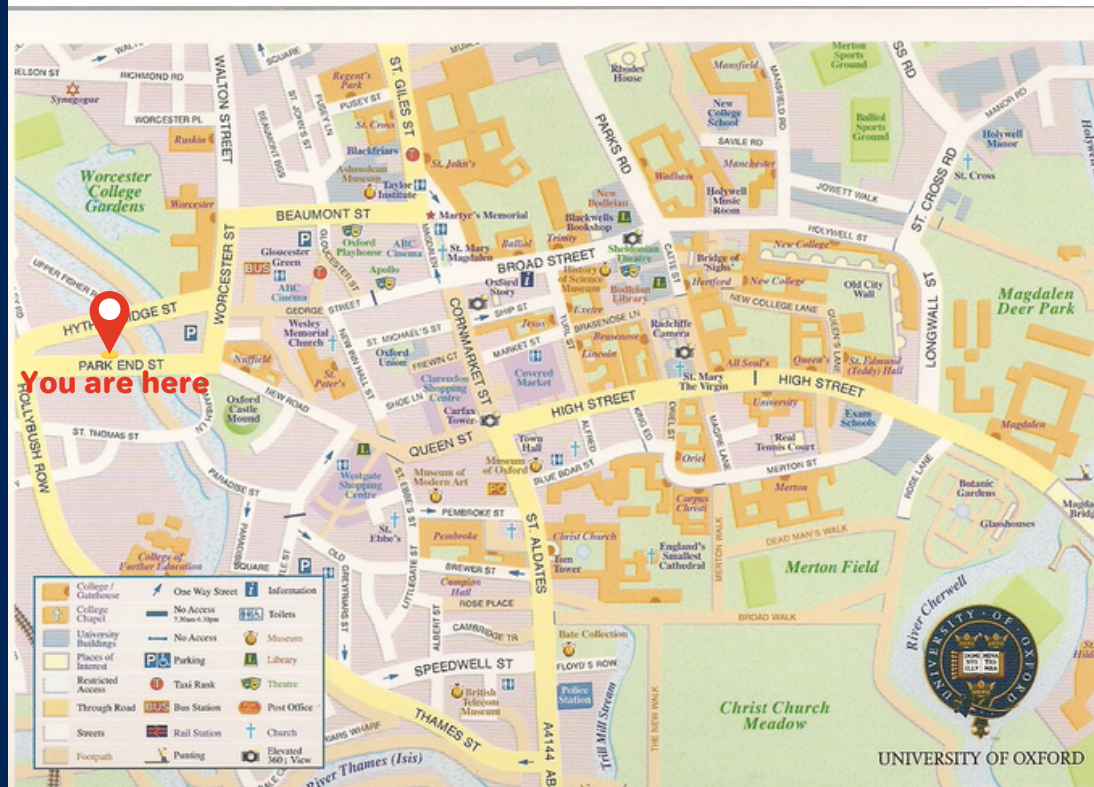
2023

Jan 2nd - New Year's day (substitute day)
Apr 7th - Good Friday,
Apr 10th - Easter Monday
May 1st - Early May bank holiday
May 8th - Coronation of King Charles III
May 29th - Spring bank holiday
Aug 28th - Summer bank holiday
Dec 25th - Christmas Day
Dec 26th - Boxing Day

2024

Jan 1st - New Year's day
March 29th - Good Friday
Apr 1st - Easter Monday
May 6th - Early May bank holiday
May 27th - Spring bank holiday
Aug 26th - Summer bank holiday
Dec 25th - Christmas Day
Dec 26th - Boxing Day

OXFORD CITY CENTRE MAP



For the map link, please click [here](#).