



— walk route (3 km)
— options (around the meadow adds 1.2 km, Thames route from station to Botanic Garden: 3.5 km)
— foot paths
 shopping areas pedestrian areas
Q colleges named in blue
12 references to notes
0.5 km

N

OXFORD

Oxford time line

Oxford grew up north of a crossing of the Thames, on a major route (now A34), nestling between there and the Cherwell. Alfred the Great chose it as one of his Burghs and it flourished.

By the Norman Conquest, there were said to be about 1,000 houses in Oxford, making it the 6th largest town in England, probably reaching its zenith at that time.

The University at Oxford was founded in 1167 when Henry II banned English students from studying in Paris. In Medieval Oxford there was much tension between townspeople and students. In the 12th and 13th centuries Oxford was a manufacturing town, noted for its wool cloth and leather.

However, in the 14th and 15th centuries manufacturing declined and Oxford came to depend on the custom of students. By Tudor times, Oxford was a town of brewers, butchers, bakers, tailors, shoemakers, coopers, carpenters, and blacksmiths, economically dependent on servicing the university as the students provided a large market for beer, food, clothes, and other goods. Oxford became a city in 1542 when Henry VIII created the new See of Oxford, and in 1586 the University was granted the privilege of printing books. OUP is now the largest university press in the world.

In 1642 a royalist army occupied Oxford. and the king made it his headquarters. However, by 1646 the king was losing the war and he was forced to flee.

In the late 19th-century, a marmalade-making industry began in Oxford. There was also a publishing industry and an iron foundry, yet Oxford remained a city of craftsmen producing things for the university. In 1913 a man named Morris began making cars in the city. In 1919 a radiator-making company was formed and in 1926 a pressed steel company that made car bodies; Oxford became an important manufacturing centre.

The University now has 38 colleges, and there is now a second University - Oxford Brookes - developed from the Poly. See a list of colleges at the back of the notes

Self Guided Walking Tour of Oxford.

A Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology

The Ashmolean is Oxford's flagship museum and one of the top Oxford sights. Widely recognised as the first modern museum in the world, the Ashmolean has housed the university's historical and archaeological collections since 1683. (Not now in its original site - the current building of 1841-5 is by Charles Cockerell.)

Elias Ashmole of Lambeth left his collection of curiosities (including those given to him by John Tradescant) to Oxford University.

The Ashmolean Museum is an excellent and free museum; the treasures inside include the Alfred Jewel and the Egyptian mummies, ceramics and textiles from the Middle East

B Martyrs' Memorial

At the top of Magdalen Street is the Martyrs' Memorial, commemorating the three Anglican bishops known as the Oxford Martyrs. Hugh Latimer, and Nicholas Ridley were burned at the stake nearby under Queen Mary's rule in 1555 and Thomas Cranmer in 1556.

The martyrdom of these three bishops was part of the larger political and religious upheaval that followed King Henry VIII's break with the Roman Catholic Church. Cranmer had helped with Henry's annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, putting into motion the events that would lead to his death at the hands of Mary years later.

C Balliol College

While proceeding down Magdalen Street East, Balliol is on the left. It is one of Oxford's oldest colleges,

founded around 1263 by John I de Balliol (de Bailleul) Lord of Barnard Castle.

Lord John married Dervorguilla of Galloway, who inherited a fortune. (His son was made King of Scotland and forged the Auld Alliance with France before being deposed by Edward I.)

When Lord John died, his wife continued setting up the college, as well as making the college statutes and giving the college its first seal. Because of her work she is honoured as the co-founder.

John Wycliffe was a master here.

D Martyrs' Cross

Turning left into Broad Street there is a plaque on the wall about the Oxford Martyrs. Look in the middle of the road opposite the plaque to see a cross made of bricks which marks the actual site of their burning. Legend claims that Latimer turned to Ridley and said: "Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out."

Thomas Cranmer was burned a year later. Before his death stories say that he put his right hand into the fire first because he had "signed with [his] hand what [he] did not believe with [his] heart" when he recanted his faith in order unsuccessfully to save his life.

E Trinity College

As you continue walking down Broad Street, you will also pass Trinity College on your left. Sir Thomas Pope, a privy councillor of Queen Mary Tudor, founded his college in 1555 as a small community of clerics, diligent in their studies and in teaching undergraduates. It had no new buildings, the first President, 12 fellows and 12 scholars moved into the vacant quadrangle and wooded grove of Durham College, the Oxford house of the great Benedictine cathedral.

The college struggled to conform to the Protestant rites imposed by her successor Queen Elizabeth I. There were financial and legal difficulties, and the Durham buildings, needed constant repair. A new, spacious Hall and Beer Cellar opened in 1615. Ralph Bathurst entered Trinity as a scholar and was President for 40 years; he enlisted Sir Christopher Wren to design a new accommodation block – now part of Garden Quad. But it was Bathurst's new baroque Chapel, opened in 1694, that really put Trinity on the map. It is a 'must see' attraction for visitors to Oxford. Known also for its gardens.

📖 Blackwell's Bookshop

This ancient shop is a perfect place for bibliophiles. Blackwell's Art & Poster Shop is across the street, and has cards and postcards.

🏛️ Sheldonian Theatre

Designed by Christopher Wren (his first significant architectural project), this building is the official ceremonial hall of the University of Oxford, where all students matriculate and graduate. It is also a concert venue for many different events. Check out the Sheldonian's schedule to see the wide range. When the theatre is not in use, however, it is open for the public to explore. Take some time on your walking tour to explore inside and see the stunning painted ceiling, the beautiful organ, and climb up to the cupola. This is a favourite view of Oxford – the small entrance cost to explore the theatre is recommended.

🌉 Bridge of Sighs

The iconic Bridge of Sighs (so-called as a nod to its namesake in Venice) joins two parts of Hertford College together. On some occasions, like May Day, the Hertford Choir sings from inside the bridge and invites the public to stand on New College Lane and Catte Street to enjoy their singing.

📖 Bodleian Library

The university's original library, trashed by a zealous protestant Dean of Christ Church, was re-founded by Sir Thomas Bodley, a fellow of Merton College, in 1598. The library consists of many buildings across Oxford. Enter through the ornate gate opposite the Bridge of Sighs on Catte Street.

The Bod contains over 12 million items and is the second-largest library in England (after the British Library). The old building is equally impressive. Look up to see the beautiful carvings and fantastic gargoyles carved high up on the Bodleian walls. This library complex contains the gorgeous Duke Humfrey's Reading Room as well as the Divinity School, both used in filming Harry Potter.

📷 Radcliffe Camera

Part of the Bodleian Library is the Radcliffe Camera, built with a donation from John Radcliffe, a former student and fellow at the university who became royal physician to William III and Mary II. Today, this building is considered the most iconic building in all of Oxford.

Radcliffe, a Yorkshireman, also contributed towards a new quad for Univ, the Observatory and the Infirmary which all bear his name.

🏛️ All Souls' College

(Or more properly: College of the Souls of All the Faithful Departed!)

Planned, built, and endowed in the 1430s by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury, it received its foundation charter in 1438 from King Henry VI, co-opted as the College's co-founder.

Chichele envisaged the medieval equivalent of a graduate college, an institute of advanced practical study. The College only occasionally took in undergraduates. Its Fellows had to have studied

elsewhere for at least three years and most would already have a BA. Once admitted, they were to study or teach for the higher degrees of theology, law, and medicine - especially theology and law. The Fellows, all in Holy Orders, had to prepare themselves, not for life in the ivory tower, but for service to Church and government.

The college was effectively 'refounded' by Sir William Anson, Warden 1881-1914, with a blend of academics and non-academics, Prize, Research, and Professorial Fellows. The emphasis moved from theology to law and history, service to government and empire.

Originally designed for a Warden and forty Fellows, All Souls has since enlarged its ranks and extended the range of subjects studied, right across the humanities, and also into theoretical sciences. Women have been eligible for Fellowships since 1979.

The Codrington Library was founded in 1710 by a bequest of C. Codrington, former fellow, and slave/plantation owner.

🏛️ St. Mary's Church

You can learn more about this church while visiting here; it has historical importance including being adopted as the first building of the university in the early days of Oxford University.

You can climb to the top of the spire for what is claimed to be the most iconic view over the city of Oxford; you can often hear musicians practising for concerts and church services inside, and there's a delightful cafe attached called the Vaults and Gardens that serves delicious scones.

🏛️ University College (UNIV)

Turning left into the High Street puts University College on the right. Founded by William of Durham in 1249, it moved to this site in 1332 and its main quad was built 1640-70. The Radcliffe quad to the left was

funded by previous undergraduate John Radcliffe, with the stipulations that it must match the style of the main quad and be on the same axis. With the constraints of the plot, many rooms have irregular shapes. The college has an accommodation building by Charles Barry and a library by George Gilbert Scott.

N Magdalen College

Magdalen is one of the richest and most attractive colleges within the university and has its own deer park to the north. If you are time limited, this is one to visit. Magdalene College was founded by William Waynflete in 1458 on the site of the Hospital of St. John. He was Lord Chancellor and Bishop of Winchester. In 1467, work began on the Longwall, which circled the whole of the site, and in 1474 the Cloisters, with their Chapel, Hall and Library. The mason was William Orchard. The bell tower, 144 feet high, was ready for use by 1505. Addison's Walk is where J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis often walked and talked together.

P University of Oxford Botanic Gardens

Built on the site of an old Jewish cemetery, it is the oldest botanic garden in the UK, and home to over 5,000 different plant species. Begun in 1621 as a physic garden, it is known for its walled garden and herbarium.

Fans of the His Dark Materials series will find Will and Lyra's bench in a corner of the gardens.

P Christ Church College

Christ Church is the largest college and one of the wealthiest. First founded by Thomas Wolsey as Cardinal College in 1525 on land gained from the dissolution of the Priory of St Frideswide (Oxford's patron saint) and money from Wallingford Priory, Tom fell from grace leaving the main quadrangle $\frac{2}{3}$ complete and the priory church with the west end

demolished to make way for it. Wolsey's property escheated to Henry VIII, who re-founded it in 1532 as King Henry VIII's college but did little with it. In 1546 Henry created 6 new dioceses, including Oxford, and re-founded the college as Christ Church. A new west wall was built for the chapel, which also now served as cathedral. Tom Quad was not completed until the Restoration and then included a gateway tower (Tom Tower) to the design of Christopher Wren.

Christ Church was the seat of King Charles I's royal parliament during the Civil War.

The chapel's nave, choir, main tower and transepts are late Norman. There are also styles up to and including the Perpendicular, and a large ten-part rose window. The Becket Window in the Lucy Chapel dates back to 1320 and there are windows by Linge and Burne Jones.

Charles Dodgson studied and worked here.

P Carfax Tower

The tower at this important crossing is popularly called Carfax Tower, but it is actually St. Martin's Tower, all that remains of the original St. Martin's Church from the 12th century. It still contains six bells that are rung on special occasions by the Oxford Society of Change Ringers.

This church was important throughout Oxford history and was once the official City Church of Oxford.

However, in 1896, the main portion of the church was demolished to make room for road traffic.

Behind the tower is the gravestone of William Butler, a mayor of Oxford who died in 1865; when the church was demolished the grave was left in place.

You can pay a small fee to climb to the top of this 74 foot high tower and see views of central Oxford.

Carfax is most famous today for its views.

R The Covered Market

When you leave Christ Church, turn right on St.

Aldates and then turn right on High Street. On the left side of the street, you'll find entrance to the Covered Market. Keep a look out for The Cake Shop, which makes cakes in replicas of iconic Oxford buildings.

P Saxon Tower of St Michael at North Gate

St Michael at the North Gate with its Saxon Tower, is Oxford's oldest building, likely constructed between 1000 and 1050. (It is mentioned in the Domesday Book). It has been the current City Church of Oxford since the early 1970s.

John Wesley, fellow of Lincoln College, delivered the Michaelmas sermon here in 1726 and the pulpit he used is still in use and on view today.

The oldest pieces of stained glass in Oxford are here; four medallions date from 1290 and hang above the altar, depicting St Nicholas, the Virgin and Child, St Edmund of Abingdon, and St Michael.

The Oxford Martyrs were imprisoned near here in the Bocardo Prison in 1555 before being burned at the stake. Today you can see their cell door in the church tower if you decide to climb it. The small fee is good value for its historical merit and for the view.

P Pitt Rivers Museum

This museum is a hodgepodge collection of fascinating items from around the world, arranged far more like a Victorian attic than a museum.

P Keble College

Keble's crazy architecture of 1820 – largely redbrick with contrasting white, black and golden patterns – was always meant to make a statement and the architect William Butterfield definitely succeeded. Keble has a chapel striking enough to stop you in your tracks. It contains the world-famous Light of the World painting by Holman Hunt, in a small room to the side of the chapel.

The college's hall is the longest in Oxford – not to mention its most impressive – it makes Christ Church's look tiny by comparison.

❶ Oxford Castle & Prison

The development of Oxford Castle began in 1071 when Robert d'Oilly built Oxford Castle for William the Conqueror. The Castle was strategically positioned near to the river, on the western edge of the existing Saxon town defences. The Motte, or Mound, with a well chamber, stands over 20 metres high and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Castle was refortified and garrisoned during the English Civil War but was eventually destroyed by Parliamentary troops. It remained the site of the Gaol, however, and the prison buildings were repaired and extended.

In the 1770's a Prison report by John Howard condemned the buildings, as unfit for human habitation. The site was reacquired by the Government and a major redevelopment programme ensued. The new and austere buildings, some designed by prison architect William Blackburn, formed the basis of the Gaol's lugubrious appearance today.

It has now Oxford's Oldest 'New Quarter'. The historic buildings have been restored and additions made, offering many other facilities. Accommodation is provided in 40 unique apartments and, for the shorter term guests, a Malmaison Hotel is located within the prison walls.

❷ Folly Bridge and Island

Oxford's first stone bridge was built over the Thames by Robert d'Oilly in the 11th century. It was part of the great causeway, or grand pont, which carried what is now the Abingdon Road, over water meadows on more than forty arches, from St Aldates to the bottom of Hinksey Hill.

At the end of the causeway a defensive gate was constructed. When no longer used for defence, Thomas Waltham (alias Welcome) added another storey to the tower and it became known as Welcome's Folly, giving the bridge its present name. By the late 18th century the bridge was no longer fit for purpose. The current bridge was designed by the London architect Ebenezer Perry and built in 1825-7 of Headington stone.

Pubs

The Bear Inn. One of the oldest – hidden in the maze of streets between Christchurch and the High Street, there's been a pub in this spot since 1242 – though its current incarnation dates from the 17th century.

❶ *The Turf Tavern*, Bath Place, thought to have opened in the 15th century. It's a bit hard to find, but when you do, you will find a quaint old building that's straight out of the history books and some of Oxford's best pints. (Greene King)

❷ *The Lamb & Flag*. Perched across the road from The Eagle & Child, the Inklings also used The Lamb & Flag as one of their meeting spots. It's owned by St John's College next door and profits from the pub go towards funding student scholarships.

It's also rumoured that Thomas Hardy wrote much of *Jude the Obscure* sitting in the pub.

❸ *Eagle & Child* was where the world-famous Inklings (a literary society who counted J.R.R Tolkien and C.S Lewis among its members) met each week to discuss their respective works. Closed until 2022, when it will open as a Youngs pub.

❹ *Kings Arms* Holywell Street is another pub in close competition for the title of the oldest pub in Oxford – it opened in 1607 and has been a popular student haunt and local drinking spot ever since. (Youngs)

❺ *The Rickety Press*, *Cranham Street* used to be the *Radcliffe Arms* before being transformed into its current incarnation in 2015. Owned by brewery Arkells, so the beer is top-notch – with Arkells' ales on taps and a range of locally-sourced beers available too. Away from centre.

❻ *Head of the River* a popular pub overlooking the Thames at Folly Bridge.

❼ *Bear Inn* Another oldest pub contender, small, with a small well kept offering from Fullers

Colleges by year of founding

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Blackfriars | 1221 |
| University | 1249 |
| Balliol | 1263 |
| Merton | 1264 |
| St Edmund Hall | 1278 |
| Exeter | 1314 |
| Oriel | 1326 |
| The Queen's | 1341 |
| New | 1379 |
| Lincoln | 1427 |
| All Soul's | 1438 |
| Magdalen | 1458 |
| Brasenose | 1509 |
| Corpus Christi | 1517 |
| Christ Church | 1546 |
| Trinity | 1554 |
| St John's | 1555 |
| Jesus | 1571 |
| Wadham | 1610 |
| Pembroke | 1624 |
| Worcester | 1714 |
| Hertford | 1740 |
| Regents Park | 1810 |
| Keble | 1870 |
| St Stephen's House | 1876 |
| Wycliffe Hall | 1877 |
| Lady Margaret Hall | 1878 |
| Somerville | 1879 |
| St Anne's | 1879 |
| St Hugh's | 1886 |
| Mansfield | 1886 |
| Harris Manchester | 1889 |
| St Hilda's | 1893 |
| Campion Hall | 1896 |
| St Benet's Hall | 1897 |
| St Peter's | 1929 |
| St Antony's | 1953 |
| Nuffield | 1958 |
| Linacre | 1962 |
| St Catherine's | 1963 |
| St Cross | 1965 |
| Green Templeton | 1979 |
| Wolfson | 1981 |
| Kellogg | 1990 |