

...and Thames!

Taverns, Transport, and Tourism ^v

Tuck in to a feast for the body and mind, Oxford-style!

[Chiang Mai Kitchen](#)- Sit-down, upscale Thai restaurant, with lunch, dinner, and vegan menus.

[The Bear](#)- A small inn and pub tracing back to 1241 (the “oldest pub in Oxford!”). Featuring refined pub classics, a variety of menus, and heated outdoor seating.

[Handlebar Café](#)- Bike shop-themed café with a terrace and cozy décor. Breakfast, brunch, lunch, and coffee.

[Lamb & Flag](#)- 455 Year Old pub where J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Thomas Hardy drank!

[LEON Oxford](#)- Mediterranean “healthy” fast food with counter service and take-out.

[Missing Bean Turl Street](#)- Espresso bar also offering pastries and ciabatta sandwiches.

[The Perch](#)- “Proper British pub food” in a 17th century historic pub and restaurant.

[Pieminster](#)- Casual restaurant serving locally-made savory pies; gluten-free and vegan options.

[Turf Tavern](#)- A charming pub right at the heart of Oxford University. Medieval, winding, interconnected rooms and beer garden.

[Vaults & Garden](#)- An ecologically-minded café serving organic, locally-sourced breakfast, lunch, tea, and coffee – with a front-row view of Radcliffe Camera.

[Wagamama Oxford](#)- Famous British chain of Asian-inspired restaurants featuring communal dining and noodle bowls.

[Wasabi](#)- Chain Japanese restaurant serving bento boxes and sushi, with dine-in or out options. 11-12 Cornmarket St.

Nightlife

[The Jolly Farmers](#)- Oxford’s oldest LGBTQ+ bar and venue.

[The House](#)- A young person’s bar with games room and happy hour.

[Varsity Club](#)- A rooftop bar, club, and cocktail lounge with 360 degree views of Oxford spires.

Transport

[Airline Coach Service](#)- Bus service to/from Heathrow and Gatwick airports. For London Stansted airport, take the [Stansted express](#) train to London Liverpool St., then the Tube to Paddington or Marylebone to catch the train to Oxford.

Bikes are a popular form of transportation in Oxford, with many streets closed to motor vehicles.

[Brompton Bike Hire](#)- A national network of self-serve folding bikes stored in lockers. Near the train station.

[Donkey Republic](#)- Bike rental via app.

[Pony](#) Bikes and Electric Scooters- Find and unlock via app.

[Oxford Bus Company](#)- Website with a full listing of local maps, routes, and fairs.

[Oxford Tube](#)- Coach (bus) that runs between Oxford and London.

[Taxis](#)- This webpage covers different options for hiring a cab in Oxford.

Train- Several different rail companies serve Oxford. Search using the [National Rail Enquiries](#) website.

Tourism

Museums

[Ashmolean](#)- The University of Oxford's museum of art and archaeology. Free admission.

[Museum of Oxford](#)- A museum dedicated to telling the story of Oxford and its people. Free admission for individuals.

[History of Science Museum](#)- Right around the corner from the Bodleian Library, the History of Science museum is described as a "meeting point for people, science, art and belief." Free admission.

[Oxford Castle & Prison](#)- Historical site tracing back to William the Conqueror. Climb St. George's tower, descend into the 900-year-old crypt, and explore 18th century prison cells. Student admission £16.50.

[Oxford University Museum of Natural History](#)- Houses a stunning collection of natural history specimens and offers teaching, research, and events focused on the natural world. Free admission.

[Pitt Rivers Museum](#)- A unique University of Oxford museum featuring colonial and world history objects arranged by type into a "democracy of things." Free admission

[The Story Museum](#)- Ostensibly a children's museum, but certainly of interest to students of literature, The Story Museum celebrates the human need for stories through magical, interactive exhibits.

[University of Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum](#)- The UK's oldest botanic garden, with plants from around the world and an arboretum housing English plants as well as rare and endangered trees from around the world.

[University of Oxford Colleges](#)- Each is unique and replete with historical significance and charm. Explore beyond Lincoln College on your own or join a guided tour. Your Bodleian Library card can earn you free admission to many of these colleges.

Exercise

[Buzz Gym](#)- Open 24 hours, no contract, £22.99/month for students.

[Oxford University Sport/ Iffley Road Sports Centre](#)- Oxford University sports center. Bread Loaf students need to purchase a “concessions” level membership.

[PureGym](#)- No-contract gym for £18.99/month.

Outdoors

[Hinksey Park](#)- Near the center of Oxford, for walking, lake, kids’ splash park, [pool](#) (fee) and tennis courts.

[Oxford University Parks](#) – A green oasis in the heart of Oxford. Enjoy walks, ponds, Swift Tower nesting boxes for endangered swifts, and artfully-constructed bridges.

[Port Meadow](#)- A nearby Site of Special Scientific interest, with cattle, horses, and wildfowl for walking, picnicking, fishing, and swimming at your own risk.

[South Park](#)- 50 acres of open space with views of Oxford. Has a fitness trail and children’s play area.

Also...Thames

There are several companies offering narrowboat and barge tours of Oxford’s canals and the River Thames.

Boat Tours

[Oxford River Cruises](#)- Offers a range of specialty river cruisers, including afternoon tea cruise, picnic cruise, and evening cocktail cruise.

Punting

[Cherwell Boathouse](#)- Punting by the hour. Venture into the countryside or through University Parks. Punts hold up to 6 people. A £100 deposit and £20 per hour.

[Magdalen Bridge Boathouse](#)- Punting along the River Cherwell. Options for self-hire (£25-30 by the hour) or chauffeured (£35-40 per 30 mins.)

...and Trade (aka shopping!)

Small [grocery stores](#) nearby include Sainsbury’s Local and Tesco Express, both on Magdalen St. A larger Sainsbury’s is at 21 Westgate Street.

[Blackwell’s Bookshop](#)- With several locations (including Broad St., near the Bodleian), a famous purveyor of new and rare books since 1846.

[Boots Pharmacy](#)- A British drugstore chain that carries lots of other essentials. 8-10 Cornmarket St.

[Clarendon Centre Oxford](#)- A small indoor shopping mall with clothing stores, cafes, and fast-food eateries at 51 Cornmarket St.

[The Covered Market](#)- a 1770s indoor bazaar with artisan grocers, boutiques, and cafes right around the corner.

[Oxfam](#) – With several locations, a unique bargain shop with clothes, gifts, and housewares sold for a good cause.

[Westgate Oxford](#)- A big, new mall easily-accessible from Lincoln College.

And if you're looking for adventure beyond Oxford, there are so many options for weekend or daytrips—including the Cotswolds, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Stonehenge-- many of which are accessible by train. Read about 15 great options at [Insider's Oxford](#).