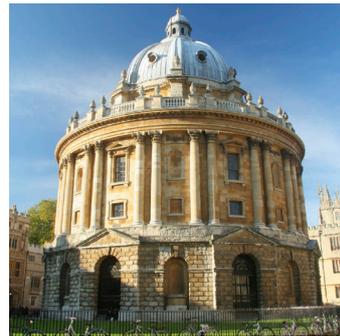


Oxford, the 'city of dreaming spires', is home to one of the most famous universities in the world. Its superb architecture, museums and lively student population make it a great place to visit at any time of the year. The university dominates the city centre, but each college has its own character. The city itself boasts some excellent museums, galleries and attractions as well as numerous fine shops and restaurants. The rivers Thames and the Cherwell offer the opportunity of punting, and open green spaces such as University Parks and the University Botanic Gardens provide a break from the hustle and bustle.



The University

Oxford University is not a campus but a collection of 38 colleges and six halls scattered around the city centre alongside the shops and offices of commercial Oxford. The most famous University colleges are Trinity, Balliol and Christ Church. Many of the scenes in the Harry Potter feature films are shot in various locations of Christ Church College, the most stunning of them all.



The Bodleian Library

The Bodleian Library is the main research library of the University of Oxford. It is also a copyright deposit library and its collections are used by scholars from around the world. The buildings within the central site include Duke Humfrey's Library above the Divinity School, the Old Schools Quadrangle with its Great Gate and Tower, the Radcliffe Camera, Britain's first circular library (as pictured left), and the Clarendon Building.



The Ashmolean Museum

The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology is the world's first university museum. Its first building is attributed to Sir Christopher Wren and was built in 1678–1683 to house the collection or cabinet of curiosities Elias Ashmole gave Oxford University in 1677. The main museum contains one of the finest collections of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, majolica pottery and English silver, while the archaeology department has an excellent collection of Greek and Minoan pottery.



Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace, just 20 minutes from Oxford, is the home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Built for John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, between 1705 and 1722, the palace was a gift from a grateful crown in recognition of the great victory of the battle of Blenheim in 1704. The palace is set in over 2,000 acres of Capability Brown landscaped parkland.

What else can I see and do?

The [Oxford Castle Unlocked](#) attraction reveals the long-held secrets of Oxford Castle, including episodes of violence, execution, great escapes, betrayal and even romance. Walk through these ancient buildings and experience the stories that connect the real people to some extraordinary events.

Climb the steps of the 11th-century [Saxon Tower of St Michael](#), Oxford's oldest building, or the [Carfax Tower](#) for excellent viewpoints over the

city. The Carfax Tower is all that remains of St Martin's Church. The Christopher Wren designed [Sheldonian Theatre](#) is also worth a visit.

Oxford is great for [shopping](#); the Westgate is a modern complex and further shopping centres are found at the Clarendon Centre and the Golden Cross arcade next to the famous Covered Market. The market is home to a fine range of food retailers, gift shops, bakeries and sandwich shops, and is a bustling area, especially on Saturdays.

Your Travelsights leader today is _____

The coach will leave Oxford today at _____

Mobile no _____

Please ensure you are on the coach 10 minutes before the departure time.