



Oxford Royale Academy

inspirational cultural and academic courses

What to do in Oxford

Oxford Royale Academy Summer School



For ages
19-25

Welcome to OXFORD

During ORA-organised activities you will have many opportunities to see some of Oxford's grand colleges, fascinating museums, beautiful gardens and fabulous libraries. Here are some more good ideas on how you can use your own free time, exploring for yourself the delights that Oxford has to offer.



1	Cinemas	2
1.1	For the latest blockbusters	2
1.2	For a local cinema experience	2
2	Theatres	5
2.1	For a fringe show	5
2.2	For a more mainstream experience	5
3	Shopping	6
3.1	For traditional shopping	6
3.2	For fashion lovers	8
3.3	For a bit of vintage	8
3.4	For Oxford University memorabilia	9
3.5	For bookworms	9
4	Where to have lunch in Oxford	12
4.1	For sandwiches, paninis & baguettes	12
4.2	For a hot lunch	14
4.3	For classic English cream teas	14
4.4	For those with a sweet tooth	15
4.5	For healthy options	15
5	In the Evening	16
5.1	For taking in the sights	16
5.2	For the dark and mysterious	17

1 Cinemas

1.1 For the latest blockbusters

The Odeon

Featuring the most recent and popular films, Odeon has two cinemas in central Oxford (on George Street and Magdalen Street), each with multiple large screens. Student discounts are available for most performances.

1.2 For a local cinema experience

The Ultimate Picture Palace

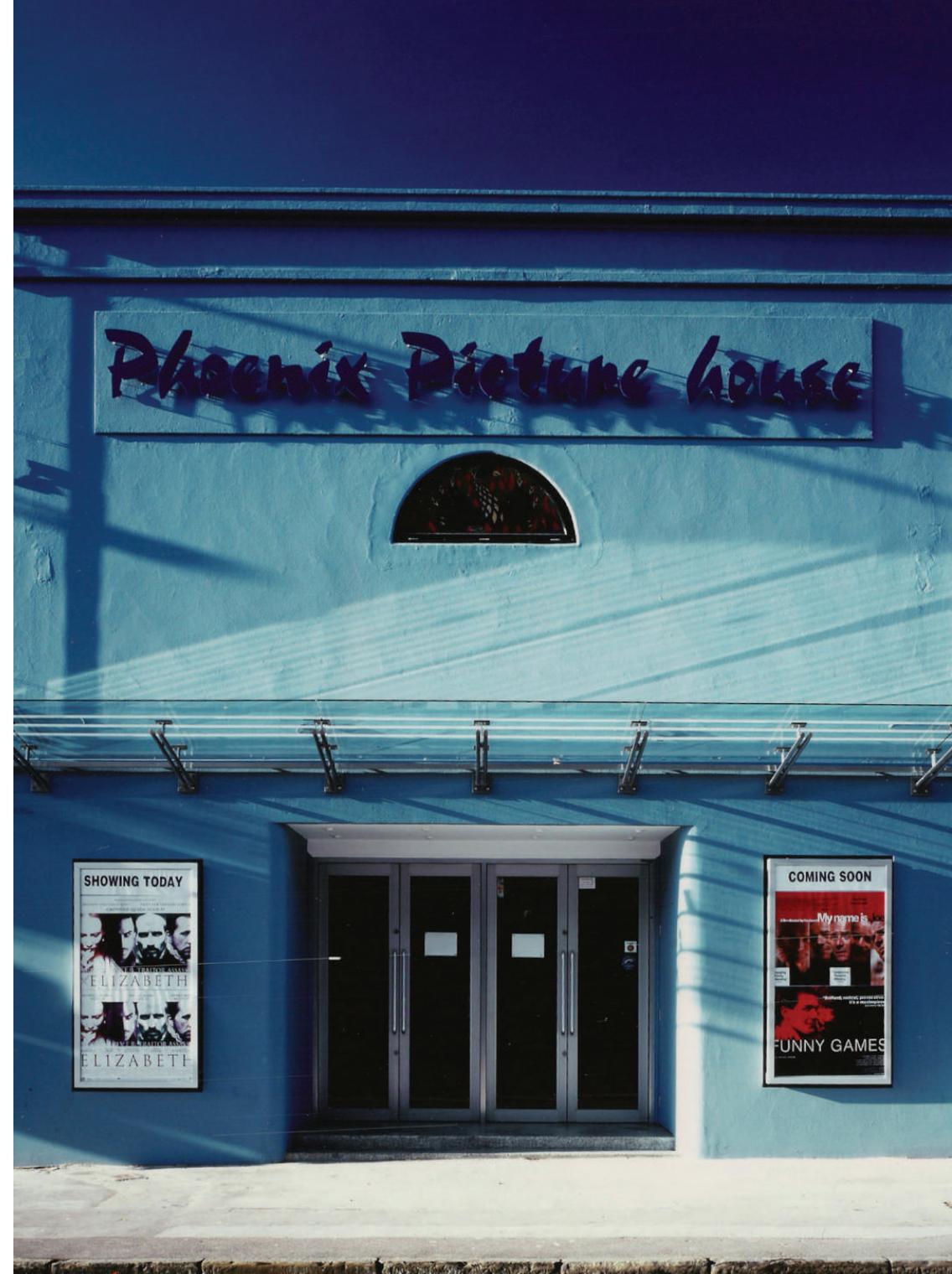
Located on the Cowley Road, this single-screen cinema is the oldest in the city and shows a variety of foreign and classic films. With traditional ticket stubs and its own candy stand, the UPP is a perfect place for old-fashioned cinema lovers. Student discounts are available.

Phoenix Picture House

Situated in Oxford's residential district of Jericho, this small local cinema is popular with both students and locals. It features numerous foreign, arthouse and mainstream films. Student discounts are available.

Curzon Cinema, Westgate Centre

A cinema showing the latest in blockbusters as well as arthouse cinema, located in the superb new Westgate Centre.





2 Theatres

2.1 For a fringe show

The Old Fire Station

This unusual theatre is located on George Street. In 2010, it was converted from a fire station into a social enterprise arts centre, which now showcases up-and-coming artistes, as well as offering a gallery, and a small coffee shop. The range of fringe productions changes on a weekly basis, and it's well worth checking the website to see what's on.

2.2 For a more mainstream experience

New Theatre Oxford

If you're into more main-stream entertainment, the New Theatre is for you. Also located on George Street, it offers a range of musicals, bands, and popular comedy shows. George Street also offers a wide variety of restaurants and bars for a pre-theatre meal or post-theatre drinks, all within walking distance of both theatres.

The Oxford Playhouse

Oxford Playhouse presents a wide range of live performances, including the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows, comedy, lectures and poetry.

3 Shopping

Oxford isn't known as a "shopping city", but there are plenty of places to suit most tastes if you know where to look. Ask a member of campus staff if there is something specific you are looking for.

3.1 For traditional shopping

The Covered Market

This quirky eighteenth-century Covered Market, situated just off the High Street, houses many traditional market stalls such as greengrocers, fishmongers and cobblers, as well as a plethora of fun gift shops, florists, bakeries, snack bars, clothing retailers and small arts and crafts outlets. You really can find everything under one roof!

Gloucester Green Market

This open air market is located in a small square just off George Street, almost on the Odeon Cinema's doorstep. It runs on a Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and ticks two boxes at once; food and retail therapy. Rummage in the vintage clothing racks, or visit the many jewellery and gift stalls, all while soaking up the intoxicating scent of street food from around the world. Fancy a Sri Lankan coconut curry, or a handful of Japanese yakitori? Look no further.

Boswells

Located on the corner of Broad Street, this family-run, old-fashioned department store offers a wide variety of items including toys, games, umbrellas, cosmetics and Oxford University clothing. It is a great place to find souvenirs for your family and friends.



3.2 For fashion lovers

The Westgate Centre

This newly developed shopping mall boasts an impressive array of brand outlets, from Calvin Klein to Superdry, along with some great eateries and leisure activities. A must-visit for all shopping lovers, and also for superb views of Oxford from the roof terrace.

Cornmarket Street and Queen Street

The two main shopping streets of Oxford include many High Street clothing brands like Topshop, Next, River Island and Fat Face. You can also visit other shops including WH Smith and Paperchase (for stationery).

Clarendon Shopping Centre

The Clarendon Shopping Centre accommodates a number of high street fashion brands including Gap, Zara, French Connection and H&M.

3.3 For a bit of vintage

Reign Wear

Definitely a favourite among Oxford students, this vintage boutique located on the Cowley Road stocks vintage clothes, shoes and accessories. Many of the items in Reign come from continental Europe and you can find some real gems for fancy dress parties and costumes for plays.

Unicorn

Nestled near the iconic Radcliffe Camera, Unicorn stores a large collection of clothes from every era. Visit this shop if you are looking for fancy dress, or if you have a spare afternoon and want to discover new treasures!

3.4 For Oxford University memorabilia

The University of Oxford Shop

The University of Oxford Shop, located on the High Street, is the university's official retailer. It sells all sorts of university-branded items including clothing, games, calendars, stationery and ornaments. You will find plenty to choose from if you are looking for an University of Oxford souvenir.

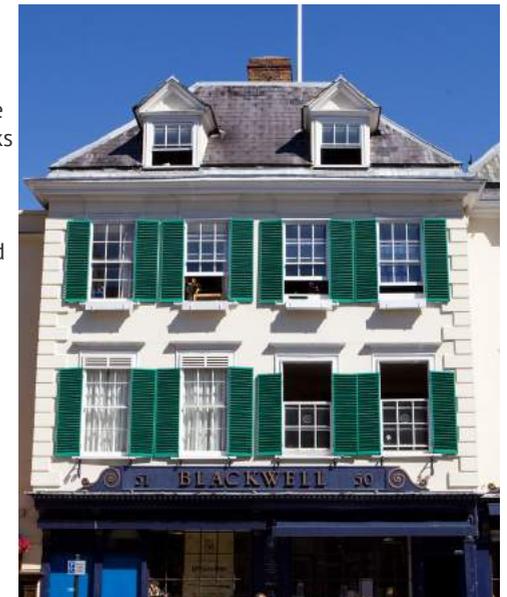
Flaggs

This souvenir shop on Broad Street is another treasure trove of Oxford memorabilia. Here you can find university-branded rugby shirts, t-shirts, caps, and scarves. The shop also offers British designer-branded goods like Wedgwood china and Burberry rainwear.

3.5 For bookworms

Blackwell's Bookshop

Located on Broad Street, Blackwell's is an old Oxford family business and is by far the best place to buy books on every possible subject of study. It also has a good selection of fun reading, a second-hand book section upstairs, and an excellent coffee shop. The bookshop's Norrington Room, with three miles (five km) of shelving, is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest single room selling books in the world. If you are looking for a good present for your parents, Blackwell's has an art and poster shop (with prints and photographs of Oxford), a travel shop and a music shop (with CDs recorded by Oxford college choirs), also on Broad Street.





Merton College

Merton College was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton, who later became the Bishop of Rochester. It was originally founded for twenty fellows, with undergraduates being admitted in the 1380s. Eminent Mertonians have included authors, poets, linguists, philosophers, chemists, physicians, diplomats, mathematicians, zoologists, sociologists, mountaineers, and royalty.



University College

Founded in 1249, University College is among Oxford's most historic Colleges and is possibly its oldest – other candidates include Queen's, Merton, and Balliol. Its original buildings were on the site of what is now Brasenose College, but in 1332 the College moved to its iconic High Street location. One of Oxford's largest and grandest Colleges, it boasts an impressive catalogue of alumni ranging from Bill Clinton to Stephen Hawking, as well as Labour Prime Minister Clement Attlee, and C.S. Lewis (author of *The Chronicles of Narnia*).

4 Where to have lunch in Oxford

There are plenty of places to have lunch, snacks or afternoon treats in Oxford. Below is a selection of ORA's favourites, but if you are looking for something in particular, you can always ask a member of campus staff for advice on where to go during your free time.

4.1 For sandwiches, paninis & baguettes

The Alternative Tuck Shop

During the academic year, this small baguette shop on the pretty Hollywell Street (just opposite New College) is always crowded with Oxford students. In the summer holidays, it is the perfect choice for those wanting an affordable, wholesome lunch. The shop offers a wide selection of sandwiches and baguettes on a variety of breads, as well as cakes and muffins.

Tick Tock Café

The Tick Tock Café, situated on the corner of the Cowley Road closest to town, serves coffee, tea, cakes and sandwiches at a reasonable price. The staff are very friendly and the café boasts several comfortable sofas on which to recline and enjoy a quiet hour or two with friends. There are also free magazines and newspapers to read.

Vaults & Garden

This quaint cafe and restaurant is located on Radcliffe Square, in the shadow of the iconic Radcliffe Camera library, and is set within the Old Congregation Hall of the University Church of St Mary. V&G offers delicious, seasonal summer breakfast and lunch menus. And, if sustainability is your thing, the cafe was voted The Most Sustainable Restaurant in Oxfordshire at the 2016 Oxfordshire Restaurant Awards, so you can have a clean plate and a clear conscience!



4.2 For a hot lunch

Pieminister (Covered Market)

Located in the Covered Market, Pieminister is a must-visit for the hungry student! They have a large variety of imaginative and tasty pie fillings, both for meat eaters and vegetarians – all served with peas, mashed potatoes and gravy!

Mission Burrito

With two branches (Kind Edward Street and St Michael's Street), Mission Burrito serves burritos, tacos and salad bowls. Most of the fillings include meat, with a couple of vegetarian options on offer.

4.3 For classic English cream teas

The Grand Café

The Grand Café is decorated inside with classical columns and is a great place to enjoy a special tea or lunch. The café specialises in 'cream teas' (tea served with scones, raspberry jam and clotted cream) and cakes, but also serves a variety of lunch options. The Grand High Tea includes finger-sandwiches, scones and hand-made chocolates, served on a traditional silver-tiered tray, complete with tea or coffee.

The Rose

The Rose is an excellent little tea shop on the High Street which serves wonderful freshly baked scones and possibly the best cream teas in Oxford – definitely worth visiting! At lunchtime the café specialises in freshly prepared meals, often made with local produce.



4.4 For those with a sweet tooth

Ben's Cookies

Ben's Cookies, a small shop which has been selling cookies since 1984, has become a key part of Oxford's fabric and perhaps the finest cookie shop in the UK. The original store in the Covered Market still bakes yummy cookies every day. If you ask the staff to tell you what has just been baked, you can have your cookie straight from the oven.



Moo-Moo's

Located in the Covered Market, this family-run shop is one of the best milkshake and smoothie bars in Oxford, making freshly prepared juices, shakes and smoothies from delicious ingredients. Moo-Moo's offers all sorts of fresh fruit smoothies, and milkshakes made with ice cream and the chocolate of your choice. You can even design your own combination of ingredients to make your dream mix!

G&D's

G&D's, with one location on St. Aldate's and two others in Jericho and Cowley, is primarily an ice-cream shop. G&D's are famous for their creative, delicious, home-made flavours as well as their ice cream sundaes. The café also sells home-made cakes, bagels and hot drinks.

4.5 For healthy options

The Nosebag

The Nosebag is tucked away on St Michael's Street in a gorgeous oak-beamed, fifteenth-century building, and offers a superb selection of soups, salads and jacket potatoes.

Olives

This tiny delicatessen/baguette shop on the High Street caters to a more Mediterranean taste, offering baguettes filled with buffalo mozzarella, Italian parma ham, sheep's cheese and sun-dried tomatoes. Olives also offers a selection of breads including crusty baguettes and olive ciabatta.

5 In the Evening

Oxford is arguably at its most picturesque at night. With the stones and spires gently lit by streetlamps, it inspires a brooding atmosphere like no other city in the world. As well as theatres, we have a range of night spots for you to explore after a hard day of study.

5.1 For taking in the sights

The Westgate Centre Rooftop

The newly developed Westgate Centre offers stunning views of the city from its gorgeous rooftop terrace, home to several bars and restaurants as well as other entertainments including crazy golf. Well worth a visit on a sunny summer's evening, and a great spot for taking in the splendour of Oxford's spires.

Turf Tavern

This place can be easy to miss if you're not paying attention. Located near the famous Bridge of Sighs (off Cattle Street; look for a small lane just after the bridge on the left) the Turf is a popular haunt for Oxford students. Traditional pub favourites such as burgers and beer rule the menu, and a cosy garden space makes a summer night a real treat.

The Varsity Club

Walking distance from Merton College, Varsity boasts a rooftop bar from which you can admire the dreaming spires on a summer evening with a cocktail and a dish of nibbles. If you're not used to a cooler climate, bring a jacket. Even summer nights can be nippy.

5.2 For the dark and mysterious

The Eagle and Child

Affectionately termed "The Bird and Baby" by its latter-day literary patrons JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis, this little nook of a pub is exactly that - a nook. Not designed for oafish humans, it is a cosy little place, with barely enough room for two people to pass in any given spot. So if you feel like pretending to be an oversized elf or a gnome while you sup at your tankard, this place is for you.

Raoul's

This small and unassuming cocktail bar in Jericho is popular for its dark and mysterious atmosphere with a buzzing undercurrent of energy. The cocktail menu is extensive, and the bar staff are more than happy to tailor drinks to suit, all while entertaining you with their antics.





Oxford Royale Academy

inspirational cultural and academic courses

www.oxford-royale.co.uk

+44 (0) 845 130 60 21

Oxford Royale Academy

Yarnton Manor
Church Lane
Yarnton OX5 1PY
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 845 130 60 21

Fax: +44 (0) 845 280 01 22

admin@oxford-royale.co.uk

www.oxford-royale.co.uk