

time
for us

48 hours in...



...Oxfordshire

Offering opportunities to explore its varied landscape, visitor attractions and rural heritage, Oxfordshire makes an excellent destination.

Take time out to enjoy the county's bustling market towns, discover the film and literary connections or simply watch the world go by while sipping a drink by the river.

If you're looking for a cultural getaway then Oxford is a must. Renowned for its history and heritage, exquisite architecture, and ancient University, Oxford sits at the very heart of this rural county.

Getting to Oxfordshire by car

Positioned in the heart of the county Oxford is easily accessed by the M40 or M4 + A34, and is just 90 minutes drive from London or 60 minutes from Birmingham.

Parking in Oxford is limited so visitors take advantage of the efficient Park and Ride system. Five sites are clearly signposted from the Oxford Ring Road.

There are good A-roads across the county, making Oxfordshire easy to explore. Further information on parking and travelling by car in Oxfordshire can be found at www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com

Top 5 must see places

The city of Oxford
The historic university city known for its dreaming spires and many colleges.
www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com

Blenheim Palace, Woodstock
A World Heritage site and one of the finest baroque houses in England set in idyllic parkland.
www.blenheimpalace.com

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Founded in 1683, the most important museum of art and archaeology in the heart of Britain.
www.ashmolean.org

Broughton Castle
One of the most beautiful, romantic castles in England, located just outside Banbury.
www.broughtoncastle.com

Waterperry Gardens
Eight acres of landscape ornamental gardens which have inspired and delighted countless gardeners for more than seventy five years, situated just outside Oxford.
www.waterperrygardens.co.uk

the Beautiful South

48 hours in Oxfordshire

Day one

Start your day with a visit to the 12th century market town of Woodstock. Behind the village stocks discover the Oxfordshire Museum - a wonderful introduction to the history and crafts of Oxfordshire. There are real dinosaur footprints in the walled dinosaur garden, with a life sized (model) Megalosaurus.

Follow up with a visit to Blenheim Palace, the only private palace in England, with its magnificent State Rooms and acres of parkland, landscaped by 'Capability' Brown. The formal gardens, including the Water Terraces, are exquisite. Most people spend the whole day here, exploring the grounds after their guided tour of the palace itself. It's the perfect place to relax over lunch in the restaurant or for a picnic by the lake.

Alternatively, Woodstock offers a range of restaurants and cafes, amongst them The Bear, a former 13th century coaching inn, once frequented by Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

For variety, Bicester Village Designer Outlet provides a relaxed shopping haven in the Oxfordshire countryside, where fabulously discounted labels normally only found in the world's most exclusive shopping streets are to be found.

You can finish the day by heading into Oxford for theatre, concerts, choral evensong, night clubs, and worldwide cuisine.

Day two

Start the morning in Oxford, checking out the historic and cultural hotspots. You can follow in the footsteps of 'Inspector Morse' with a self guided walk around film locations or book an Official Guided Walking Tour from the Oxford Tourist Information Centre and learn more about the city's past and present.

Rest your feet and enjoy refreshments in the Morse Bar at Oxford's Randolph hotel before heading out of town for the afternoon.

Travel to Henley on Thames and visit the acclaimed River and Rowing Museum. If enthused, you'll be in the perfect location to take to the water yourself, or simply relax at the water's edge. The town has many cafes offering alfresco dining, so, weather permitting, sit out and enjoy the atmosphere.

You may wish to continue the film locations trail of the morning and explore the surrounding area, notable in the TV series 'Midsomer Murders'.



Where to stay

Midsomer Cottage
Victorian self catering cottage.
www.midsomercottage.co.uk
01491 875939

Gables Guest House
Award-winning guest house.
www.gables-guesthouse.co.uk
01865 862153

Brook Barn
Delightful countryside b&b.
www.brookbarn.com
01235 766502

Malmaison Hotel
Luxury boutique hotel.
www.malmaison.com
01865 268400

The Oxfordshire Golf, Hotel
Modern luxury.
www.theoxfordshire.com
01844 278300

Old Swan & Minster Mill
Beautiful countryside hotel.
www.oldswanandminstermill.com
01993 774441

Where to eat

Fallowfields Country House
Quintessentially British food.
www.fallowfields.com
01865 820416

The Bear & Ragged Staff
Traditional country cooking.
www.thebearandraggedstaff.co.uk
01865 862329

The Fleece
Ideal Gastro-pub.
www.fleecewitney.co.uk
01993 892270

Macdonald Randolph Hotel
Perfect for lunch, dinner or afternoon tea.
www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
0844 8799132

Wild Thyme
Perfect for a special meal.
www.wildthymrestaurant.co.uk
01608 645060

Villandry, Bicester
Ideal for French cuisine
www.villandry.com
01869 355 070