



OXFORD INFORMATION

Oxford, the “City of Dreaming Spires,” is most noted for its renowned and centuries-old University. Since the Sorbonne ousted its British students from Paris during the reign of Henry II in 1167, Oxford has been home to such distinguished scholars as Sir Thomas More, John Wycliffe, and John Wesley; scientists Robert Boyle, Edmund Halley, and Stephen Hawking; politicians Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, and Bill Clinton. Oxford has even been home to the famed comedian Rowan “Mr. Bean” Atkinson.

The list of authors associated with Oxford is both extensive and illustrious, including the likes of Samuel Johnson, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lewis Carroll, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, T.S. Eliot, Dorothy L. Sayers, W.H. Auden, Evelyn Waugh, William Golding, Iris Murdoch, Colin Dexter, John le Carré, Humphrey Carpenter, and Lady Antonia Fraser. The Inklings—including Owen Barfield, Nevill Coghill, Hugo Dyson, Roger Lancelyn Green, C. S. Lewis, Warren Lewis, Christopher Tolkien, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams—created their heavenly-minded works amidst the city’s gleaming splendor.

Gorgeous gardens, spacious parks, and quiet college quadrangles await exploration, while two rivers provide idyllic venues for punting and picnicking. Rich in history, architecture, and academia, Oxford is a bustling town, packed with internationals and tourists soaking up its scholarly ambience. Step off the busy High Street into the hushed sanctuary of a grassy college quad or mingle with the “town and gown” in one of the many quaint pubs tucked along narrow cobbled lanes, and you will glimpse the mystique that has captivated students and poets for centuries.

The University consists of a collection of 38 self-governing colleges and 6 permanent private halls of learning spread throughout the town, each with its own individual buildings and grounds as well as faculty and traditions. Students are accepted into a specific college where they live, dine, study, and attend tutorials – one-on-one sessions with a don or professor – in their chosen field. Lectures are not required but can be attended by any student from any college regardless of what they are “reading.” Many colleges are open to visitors year-round (generally, in the afternoon) but may be closed or have set visiting hours during the eight week term times: Michaelmas (October-December), Hilary (January-March), and Trinity (April-June). Please inquire at the Porters’ Lodge of each college before entering and be sure to stay off the grass! Only college Fellows have the privilege of walking on the lawns.

ORIENTATION

Oxford's name quite literally sprung from the city's topographical features, as the town was built at the site where two rivers, the Cherwell (pronounced *Char-well*) and the Isis, a tributary of the Thames, can be forded. At the town's center, the 14th century Carfax Tower marks the intersection of four main roads: St. Aldate's (heading south to the Isis, Folly Bridge, and on to Abingdon); Queen Street (west to the canal, the train station, and Botley Rd); Cornmarket (north, splitting at St. Giles to the towns of Woodstock and Banbury); and The High Street (south toward the Cherwell and Headington on the London Rd.). Queen Street leads to **Marks & Spencer** and the **Westgate Shopping Center**. A pedestrian zone runs parallel to High Street down Broad Street and stretches across Cornmarket. A busy shopping district since medieval times, Cornmarket has numerous boutiques, bookstores, eateries, a **Sainsbury's grocery mart**, and a **Boots Pharmacy**. The post office is on St. Aldate's across from Christ Church.

- ◆ **Tourist Information: The Oxford Information Centre (TIC)**, where you can obtain maps & pamphlets, as well as book rooms and walking tours. 15-16 Broad Street. Times: 9:30am-5:00pm, Monday-Saturday. Also 10:00am-3:00pm Sunday & Bank Holidays from March 27-October 30, tel.01865/252-200, tic@oxford.gov.uk or www.visitoxford.org).

GETTING AROUND OXFORD

Although Oxford is more citified and congested than its rival Cambridge—"The Other Place"—the city fathers have worked hard in recent years to make the town more pedestrian friendly by banning through traffic in the city center. As a result, driving and parking in Oxford is difficult, but the town is now easier to enjoy on foot or by bicycle. Should you need transportation to the perimeter of the city center or to London there are many taxi companies and two main bus lines to choose from.

- ◆ **Bicycle Rentals:** The Bike Zone Rentals £18/day (extra days £6/day). Monday to Friday: 8:00am-6:00pm, Saturday: 9:00am-6:00pm, Sunday: Closed. 28-32 St. Michael Street, tel.728-877. www.bike-zone.co.uk/home-1-0.html.
- ◆ **Taxis:** ABC Taxis (tel.770-077/ 775-577); City Taxis (tel.794-000); Radio Taxis (tel.242-424); 001 Taxis (tel.240-000).
- ◆ **Buses:** Two companies, The Oxford Bus Company Cityline (tel.785-400) and Stagecoach Oxford (tel.772-250) compete for business with similar rates and routes. Bus stands are lined up at Christ Church across from St. Aldate's, on Queen Street at Carfax, or on George's Street near Cornmarket and St. Giles. To find your destination and the correct queue, read the time tables or ask for help, as most Brits are eager to be of assistance. Pay the driver on boarding after stating your destination. If traveling often by bus, ask for a day travel card.

OPTIONS FOR FREE TIME IN OXFORD

Walking Tours

- ◆ **Self-Guided Tours:** Booklets are available for a small fee from the TIC.

- ◆ **Guided “Inklings” walking tours:** Sign up with the C.S. Lewis Foundation for a two hour guided walking tour of “Inklings” sites including, Magdalen, Merton, University, and Exeter Colleges, and ending at the Eagle & Child pub. Entrance fees for Magdalen and Merton will apply for the afternoon tours.
- ◆ **Guided City Walking Tours:** Departing from the TIC, these 2 hour walking tours conducted by the Guild of Guides will introduce you to the history of the University and of the town. The quality of the tour depends completely on the guide, but you will visit inside 2-3 colleges. Buy your tickets and get schedules at the TIC. (£8.00, tours run daily, Sunday-Friday 11:00am, 2:00pm; Saturday 10:45am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm. Additional tours leave the center during busy periods, subject to demand).
- ◆ **City and College Tour including Divinity School:** Subject to availability, these tours include admission to Divinity School and part of the Bodleian Library. Leaves from the TIC (£8.50).
- ◆ **Inspector Morse Walking Tours:** Follow in the footsteps of Inspector Morse, Oxford's most famous television detective, based on the character in the mystery novels by Colin Dexter. Very popular, so book in advance. (£8, from the TIC, Monday 1:30pm & Saturday 1:30-3:30pm, tic@oxford.gov.uk).
- ◆ **Blackwell’s Walking Tours:** Quintessentially British gentlemen give lively and interesting 90 minute walking tours from Blackwell’s Oxford Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, across the street from the Sheldonian Theatre and down a block from the TIC. Recently offered tours include “**Literary Oxford**” and an excellent “**Inklings**” tour visiting favorite haunts of **J.R.R. Tolkien** and **C.S. Lewis**. Check the store for current tours and times. (Adults £7). Tel.01865/333-606; email: oxford@blackwell.co.uk.
- ◆ **Punting Tours** are a superb way of experiencing one of many quintessentially British pastimes. There are two rivers and several companies that rent out boats and punts. If you’re inexperienced, you may want to hire a “chauffeured” punt and enjoy a relaxing ride.
 - The most centrally located boat company is down the steps by **Magdalen College** and just under the bridge. (Punt hires for cash only, £14/hr, £30 deposit; chauffeured punts, £20/½ hr; open daily, 10:00am until dusk, tel.202-643).
 - **Salter’s Steamers, Ltd.** is located under Folly Bridge and **The Head of the River**, a popular, picturesque riverside pub, just a few blocks south of Christ Church on St. Aldate’s. (Punts & row boats £15/hr, £50 deposit, chauffeured punts - £35/hr. 10am-6pm weekdays, 10am-7pm weekends, tel.243-421).

Bus Tours

- ◆ **Hop on/hop off bus tours:** These tours feature live English guides or a multilingual taped commentary on bright red double-decker buses. Stops

include the train station, Gloucester Green coach station, and Broad St. across from the TIC. Buy your ticket (valid all day) from the driver and keep it for re-boarding and local discounts. For the best experience, sit on the top deck as close as possible to the windshield and the guide. If foul weather forces you below, you may not get your money's worth. (£13, seniors £10, students £11. Departs every 10-15 minutes, 19 stops, 1 hr circuit depending on traffic, summer 9:30am-6:30pm, tel.01865/790-522, info@citysightseeingoxford.com, www.citysightseeingoxford.com).

- ◆ **Cotswold roaming minivan tours outside of Oxford:** Offers excellent, informative, and personalized full and half day tours in 8-15 passenger minivans from Oxford to the Cotswold villages and countryside, Blenheim Palace, Stratford & Warwick Castle, Bath & Castle Combe, Stonehenge & Salisbury, and even to Tintern Abbey & the Welsh borders. Affable owner and head guide Philip Baum will also arrange customized tours for small groups on request. All tours depart from the Playhouse Theatre in Beaumont Street, next to the Randolph Hotel and across from the Ashmolean Museum. Arrive 10 minutes before departure time. (£40-£55 for full day tours, £27.50 for half day, concessions. Bookings may be made by tel: 01865/308-300, fax: 01865/763-232, or email: tours@cotswold-roaming.co.uk, www.cotswold-roaming.co.uk).

Oxbridge participants will have very full and exciting schedules during the week. If you would like to visit surrounding areas such as the Cotswolds, Bath, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwick, or one of the many other fascinating sights nearby, it is best to plan for several extra days of sight-seeing prior to or after the Oxbridge Conference.

OXFORD SITES

- ◆ **Christ Church College** (also known as “The House”), the largest, most prestigious, and some think the “most pretentious” of Oxford’s colleges was founded by Cardinal Wolsey. Like everything else of Wolsey’s, it was turned over to Henry VIII whose large portrait scowls over the dining hall next to those of famous alumni such as William Penn, John Wesley, Lewis Carroll (Charles Dodgson), and thirteen prime ministers.

The 800-year-old chapel serves as the city of Oxford’s cathedral, the smallest and most ornate in England. Some of the beautiful stained glass dates back to the 14th century and some is the work of 19th century Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones. The 144-foot spire, one of England’s earliest as it was built in the 13th century, dominates the Oxford skyline. Attend Evensong (Daily, 6:00pm) in this jewel of a cathedral and avoid the entrance fee. When you exit the chapel, take a left and climb the staircase under the beautiful fan-vaulted ceiling to peek in Oxford’s largest Hall with its magnificent 16th century timber hammer-beam roof. The Hall and Tom Quad gained their current fame as set locations for the *Harry Potter* films. The gate of Christ Church lies in the imposing Tom Tower built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1681. Every evening at 9:05 “Great Tom” – the six and a half ton bell in the tower – tolls 101 times for each of the original 101 students at Christ Church.

The College is open Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 2-5pm, last admission 4:30pm, tel.276-492, admission is £7.50. Entrance to church services from Tom Tower is on St. Aldate’s.

- ◆ **Christ Church Meadow** also has lovely walks along the river and skirts the backs of Corpus Christi and Merton College to the Botanic Gardens, providing a peaceful alternative to the High and a shortcut to St. Aldate's.
- ◆ **The Christ Church Picture Gallery** houses a fine collection of 300 paintings and nearly 2000 sketches from Italian, Flemish, and Dutch Old Masters, including Michelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael, and many of Lewis Carroll's drawings for *Alice in Wonderland*. (Adults, £3. Gallery only entrance by Oriel Square at Canterbury Gate. Open Monday-Saturday 10:30am-5:00pm, Sunday 2:00-5:00pm, tel.01865/276-172).
- ◆ **Magdalen College** (pronounced *–maudlin*"), where **C.S. Lewis** served as a Fellow from 1923-1954, has one of the most recognizable towers in Oxford. Its grounds encompass a 15th century quad of cloisters, a deer park, and an impressive 18th century Palladian structure known as the *–New Building*" where Lewis had his set of rooms and hosted meetings of the **Inklings** on Thursday evenings from 1933 to 1949. Staircase 3 on the first floor (what would be the second floor in America) is not open to the public. Magdalen has a lovely Fellows' garden and a maze of garden walks along the River Cherwell (pronounced *Char-well*). The best-known, **Addison's Walk**, was where **J.R.R. Tolkien** and Hugo Dyson talked with Lewis late into the night in September 1931, convincing him that Christianity was the *–true myth*." (Adults, £4.50, seniors/students, £3.50. Open daily, 12:00-7:00pm, tel.01865/276-000).
- ◆ **Merton College** vies with University and New College for the status of oldest college. It can definitely claim the oldest quad: its Mob Quad dates to the 14th century and houses a superb medieval *–hained*" library. Tours of this most impressive library, which include an overview of the college and the Chapel, are available during visiting hours (check the Porters' Lodge for times). Connected to the impressive dining Hall by a *–secret passage*" are the Queen's Rooms, where Katherine of Aragon and Elizabeth I stayed and Charles I's Queen Henrietta Maria hid from Cromwell during the English Civil War. One of Merton's most famous professors is **J.R.R. Tolkien**, the creator of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*; favorite sons include poet T.S. Eliot and Japan's Crown Prince Narahito. (Monday-Friday 2:00-5:00pm. Saturday-Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm, Merton Street, tel.01865/276-310).
- ◆ **Exeter College** boasts Sir Gilbert Scott's jewel-like neo-Gothic chapel, modeled on Paris' Sainte Chapelle and displaying a tapestry, *The Adoration of the Magi*, designed by Pre-Raphaelites Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris, both alumni. Exeter was also home to author **J.R.R. Tolkien** during his undergraduate years and also to the actor Richard Burton. (Free, normally open daily 2:00-5:00pm, Broad and Turl St., tel.01865/279-600).
- ◆ **University College** is the alma mater of **C.S. Lewis** and served as home to former President Bill Clinton during his days as a Rhodes Scholar. Claiming King Alfred the Great as its founder and boasting buildings that date back to 1249, University College rivals Merton for the title of oldest college. Although Romantic Poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was expelled for his pamphlet on atheism, he now has a beautiful monument dedicated to him. (Tel.01865/276-602).

- ◆ **Pembroke College** was the academic home of **J.R.R. Tolkien** during his tenure as Fellow and Professor of Anglo Saxon (1925-1945), until he moved on to Merton College as Professor of English Language and Literature in 1945. Samuel Johnson and evangelist George Whitfield were also favorite sons of Pembroke. (Entrance next to St. Aldate's Church, across Pembroke Square, not generally open to the public, tel.276-444).
- ◆ **The Ashmolean** was founded in 1683; The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology is one of the oldest and finest public museums in the world and contains priceless antiquities and works of art. (Free, Monday-Sunday 10:00am-6:00pm. Beaumont Street, tel.01865/278-000, group bookings and tours: Tel.01865/278-015, www.ashmolean.org).
- ◆ **Sheldonian Theatre** is passed through by most students at Oxford only when they arrive at the university and when they leave, degree in hand. The first major building project of a young physics professor, Sir Christopher Wren, the Sheldonian's design – with an expansive painted ceiling, gold trim, stone columns, pipe organ, and chandeliers – is delightful to behold, but impossibly uncomfortable to sit in for any length of time. The building functions as a concert hall on Saturday evenings or can be seen without backaches by paying £2.50. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-12:30pm and 2-4:30pm. www.sheldon.ox.ac.uk.
- ◆ **The Bodleian Library**, one of the world's largest libraries with over five million books and acres of underground stacks, receives a copy of every book printed in the UK. Not open to the general public, the –Bod,” including the magnificent Medieval Duke Humphrey Library with its chained books, can be toured with guides leaving from the gift shop off the main quad. While shopping, check out the lovely fan-vaulted ceiling in the adjacent **Divinity School Library**, one of **Lewis's** favorite rooms in Oxford. (£6.50, tours Monday-Saturday 10:30, 11:30, 2:00, 3:00, Sunday 11:30, 2:00, 3:00). www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk.)
- ◆ **Great St. Mary's – The University Church**, now Anglican, was the site of the trials of bishops Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley, all of whom were condemned for heresy by Catholic Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) and burned at the stake on Broad Street. Scorch marks from the fire can still be seen on the wooden doors of Balliol College and a cross in the street pavement outside the TIC marks the spot of the pyre. **Lewis** preached –The Weight of Glory” here on June 8, 1941. The 14th century bell tower at St. Mary's affords one of the best views of the spires of the city, but the narrow and twisting one-way stairs and the even narrower ledge around the lookout are not for the faint of heart. Organic food and coffee are offered in the vault or outdoor garden. (The Church is free, however entrance to the tower will cost £3. Open daily 9:00am-6:00pm, last entry to the tower is 30 minutes before closing).
- ◆ **Carfax Tower** is located at the junction of St Aldate's, Cornmarket, High, and Queen Streets. Climb 99 steps to the top of the tower to get a bird's eye view of Oxford's –Dreaming Spires.” (£2.50, open daily 10:00am-5:30pm).

- ◆ **Botanic Garden** is the oldest Botanic garden in Great Britain. This lovely garden sits across from Magdalen College on the High Street and stretches along the river and Christ Church Meadow. (Adults £3.80. Open 9:00am-6:00pm, last admission: 5:15pm. www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk).
- ◆ **Blackwell's Bookstore**, one of the largest bookstores in the world, is itself a tourist destination, boasting miles of shelves as well as several smaller satellite shops around town. Don't be deceived by the tiny ground floor entrance: check out the basement level Norrington Room which is the size of a city block. The main store has a coffee shop on the first floor, public restrooms on the top floor, and an elevator. (Monday-Saturday 9:00am-6:30pm, Sunday 11:00am-5:00pm, 51 Broad St., tel.01865/792-792).

**All fees and times listed above are subject to change.*

RESTAURANTS

**This is a selection of some of the best restaurants, eateries, and pubs in Oxford.*

Quick Bites & Lunch

- ◆ **Covered Market:** A maze of shops and cafes offering a wide array of goods and food. Great for a quick breakfast, lunch, or a picnic. Located between Market Street and Carfax. (Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5:30pm). Connected to the Covered Market and down an alley off of Cornmarket St. is a collection of moderately priced restaurants, including a **Pizza Express**, in a picturesque courtyard called **The Golden Cross**. (Open daily for lunch and dinner). Clustered around **Gloucester Green** and the coach station are a number of good eateries catering to the student crowd. **Kebab vans**, parked along curbs on Broad and High streets and in front of Christ Church on St. Aldate's, offer hearty and cheap after-hours fare to hungry students and tourists.
- ◆ **The Vaults and Garden:** This café is located on the ground floor of the University Cathedral of St. Mary's. It has a lovely garden for dining outside with a beautiful view of the Radcliff Camera, All Souls College, and the Old Bodleian. (University Church of St. Mary's, 25 High Street, £10-£15). www.vaultsandgarden.com.
- ◆ **G&Ds (George & Davis):** Considered to be an institution in Oxford, this ice cream parlor is located right next to St. Aldates. Rumor has it, if you draw a picture of a cow on a Tuesday, you get 10% off of your order. Also features "create your own bagel sandwiches" as well as homemade ice cream and is open until midnight (£5-£10).
- ◆ **Café Nero:** Located on High Street as well as in Blackwell's Bookstore. For a quick bite, ready made Italian sandwiches and wraps, soups and salads, pasta and pastries. (14 High Street: £5-£7). www.cafenero.com.
- ◆ **Queen's Lane Coffee House:** This coffee house *also* claims to be the oldest coffee house in England! Along with coffee they provide a delicious selection of Mediterranean and Lebanese ready-made meals. (40 High Street: £7-£10).

- ◆ **West Cornwall Pasty Co:** Hot, traditional, freshly made pastries. Many different fillings and sizes to choose from. (5 Cornmarket Street: £3-£6). www.westcornwallpasty.co.uk.
- ◆ **Cleo Creperie:** Located in busy Gloucester Green square, this is one of the few creperies in town. Crepes with Nutella or fruit make a great snack, and those filled with meat or eggs make a great meal. (Gloucester Green off of George Street: £5-£7).
- ◆ **Fasta Pasta:** An Italian/Mediterranean delicatessen that serves deli style, “create your own sandwiches” for lunch. Only take away; no sitting room. (121 The Covered Market, City Centre: £3-£5).
- ◆ **Alpha Bar:** A natural foods café that features all organic meals and fair-trade, organic coffee drinks, and they aim to use local sources to supply their delicious spread. Create your own salads and sandwiches or take the quick route with ready-made food. Small outside area for sitting. (The Covered Market, £3-£5).
- ◆ **Mortons:** A coffee house serving a wide range of baguette sandwiches and an array of beverages. (103-105 The Covered Market, Avenue 2: £5-£7).
- ◆ **Brothers:** A stylish coffee house with an Italian décor. Serves a range of ready made sandwiches, salads, and bagels. (The Covered Market, Avenue 3: £5-£7).
- ◆ **News Café:** Busy little café off of Cornmarket Street. Along with the great food it is a place to find out what is happening in the city. (1 Ship Street: £7-£13).
- ◆ **Makan La:** A good place to find a unique meal! Malaysian food located off of Cornmarket Street. (6 St. Michael’s Street. £7-£10. Does not accept American Express).

Afternoon Tea

- ◆ **The Old Kitchen Bar:** Located at Magdalen College, this lovely place is open from 12:30pm to 5:30pm daily for light lunches and afternoon teas.
- ◆ **The (MacDonald) Randolph Hotel:** The place to stop for the quintessential English high tea. Soothing classical music and a gracious wait-staff will allow you to slow down and pretend to be rich. (£18.95-the Famous Randolph Afternoon Tea with sandwiches, scones, and cakes is ample enough to sub for supper; £12.25-Tradition Cream Tea with scones, daily, 3:00-6:00pm. Beaumont St. and St. Giles directly across from the Ashmolean and around the corner from The Eagle and Child, tel.0844/879-9132, www.randolph-hotel.com).
- ◆ **The Rose:** Located on the High Street. Great place to get a traditional Cream Tea. A modern and elegant tea house; serves lunch daily. (51 High Street: £6-£12. Their menu changes every day according to seasons and the availability of local produce, <http://the-rose.biz>.)

Dining

- ◆ **The Mitre Beefeater Restaurant and Pub:** Offers a posh but reasonably priced dining experience in a centuries' old tavern. Pictures of former patrons include Paul McCartney, Julie Andrews, Vivien Leigh, and Sir Laurence Olivier. This was another favorite watering hole of the **Inklings**. (Monday-Thursday 10am-11pm, Friday-Saturday 10am-12am, Sunday 10:30am-11pm, High Street and Turl, tel.244-563).
- ◆ **The High Table Brasserie and Bar:** The newly renovated, posh restaurant of the **Eastgate Hotel** serves breakfast, lunch, tea, and dinner. A frequent meeting place of **Lewis, Tolkien & the Inklings** and where **Tolkien** dined almost nightly in his last years when he lived next door at # 21 Merton St. (Eastgate Hotel, now called Mercure Oxford Eastgate Hotel, 71-73 High St. and Merton St, tel.248-695, <http://www.thehightableoxford.co.uk>).
- ◆ **Jamie's Italian:** owned by British TV celebrity chef Jamie Oliver serving classic Italian cuisine. (24-26 George Street; £ 6-8 pastas, £ 11-16 entrées. Mon.-Sat 12:00-11:00pm, Sun. 12:00-10:30pm, tel. 838-383).
- ◆ **The Cherwell Boathouse:** Being one of the finest restaurants in town, reservations are highly recommended! A two course lunch will cost approximately £13.50. Located in North Oxford just past the University Parks, Cherwell Boathouse also rents boats and offers a riverside outdoor café for less expensive fare (punts, rowing boats, and Canadian canoes, £14 per hour, £70 deposit weekdays; £16 per hour, £80 deposit weekends. Bardwell Road, tel.01865/515-978. www.cherwellboathouse.co.uk).
- ◆ **The Grand Café:** Very elegant, claims to be the oldest coffee house in England. A hip place for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. (84 High Street: £15-£30).
- ◆ **The Nosebag:** –“This is where the Professors' wives go.” A small restaurant hidden off of Cornmarket. They serve buffet style, home-made meals, accompanied by home-made desserts. Calm atmosphere and a great place for conversation. (6-8 St. Michael's Street: £7-£13).
- ◆ **Pizza Express:** A nice selection of gourmet pizza in a casual atmosphere, with outside seating available and a great selection of vegetarian options. (8 Cornmarket Street: £10-£15). www.pizzaexpress.com.
- ◆ **Posh Fish:** A little distance from the City Center but worth the walk. This is the place to go for the traditional English Fish and Chips meal. Always busy, probably because of the great food and big portions. (109 Walton Street: £5-£10).

PUBS

You needn't drink alcohol to take pleasure in a visit to one of the city's many fine pubs; tea and soft drinks are also to be had, as is cheap food or –pub grub.” Pubs are

also good places to try fish and chips, an obligatory thing to do while in England! Often you'll order and pay for drinks at one bar and food at another (they will give you a table marker and then bring your food when it's ready). Unless it's designated as a restaurant where you order your food from a waiter, tipping is not necessary or expected in a pub. Happily, it's difficult to find a pub in Oxford or Cambridge that is not picturesque or without some historical or literary association, but these are especially worth a stop:

- ◆ **The Eagle and Child:** Also known as the “Bird & Baby,” this place is one of Oxford's most famous pubs, where **Lewis, Tolkien,** and the other writers known as the **Inklings** first read aloud their works in progress. Paneled alcoves and wainscoted walls covered with photos of the Inklings entice devotees of Middle-earth and Narnia. Go for the ambience and the beverages, not just the food. (Monday-Wednesday 11:00am-11:00pm, Thursday 11:00am-11:30pm, Friday-Saturday 11:00am-12:30am, Sunday 10:00am-11:00pm, 49 St. Giles St, tel.302-925). If it's too crowded, walk across the street to **The Lamb and the Flag** where the Inklings also convened in the latter years and where Thomas Hardy set some of *Jude the Obscure*.
- ◆ **Turf's Tavern:** This ancient 13th century tavern is a favorite of students and tourists alike with its outdoor garden and a warren of cozy rooms nestled against the old city wall. The food goes beyond the typical pub grub and is surprisingly good. Can seem a bit difficult to find; just follow the stream of students down the narrow alleys of Bath Place off Holywell St. or under Hertford College's Bridge of Sighs on New College/Queen's Lane, across from the Sheldonian. (Monday-Saturday 11:00am-11:00pm, Sunday 12:00-10:30pm, 4 Bath Place, tel. 243-235).
- ◆ **The Bear:** The oldest pub in Oxford, which makes a trip there historically significant! (6 Alfred Street: £7-£15).
- ◆ **The King's Arms:** Is just around the corner from the Turf and another favorite of the “town and gown.” Was also a meeting place of the **Inklings**. It boasts a few tables outdoors, rambling rooms within, and a pleasant smoke-free/family-friendly room in the front. Good traditional fare. (Daily 10:30am-12:00am, 40 Holywell St. at the corner of Parks Rd, across from the Sheldonian, tel.242-369).
- ◆ **The White Horse:** Is worth a peak at what must be one of England's tiniest pubs, also frequented by the **Inklings** – especially during the war. (Food served 12:00-4:00pm, open Monday-Thursday 11am-11:30pm, Friday-Saturday 11am-12am, Sunday 12pm-11:30pm, 52 Broad Street, next to Blackwell's, tel.728-318).
- ◆ **The Trout:** Another favorite watering hole of the **Inklings** and Colin Dexter's fictional Inspector Morse. On an excursion down the Thames to the Trout, Lewis Carroll first related the adventures of Alice to the Liddell sisters. This 12th century inn also welcomed Henry II as he made surreptitious visits to his mistress Rosamund the Fair in the Godstow Nunnery, the ruins of which are still visible on the island across the river. On a fine day, The Trout's gardens along the riverbank will be packed with locals feeding the peacocks and ducks and enjoying the fine brews and cuisine as well as the idyllic setting. This is

merry ole' England at its finest. The Trout is a rewarding hour walk across the Port Meadow (a stop at Binsey Lane for refreshments at **The Perch** is highly recommended) or a bus/car ride north of the city center: 10 minutes up the Woodstock Rd, take the 5th and last turn at the big roundabout onto Godstow Rd, follow it through the village to the inn. (195 Godstow Road, Lower Wolvercote, Oxfordshire, tel.510-930). **J.R.R.Tolkien** and his wife Edith are buried in the nearby **Wolvercote Cemetery**.

*"Oxbridge Guide to Oxford" © 2005 by Melanie M. Jeschke, author of the **Oxford Chronicles**.
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