

Walking Tour of Oxford



Oxford walking tour questions

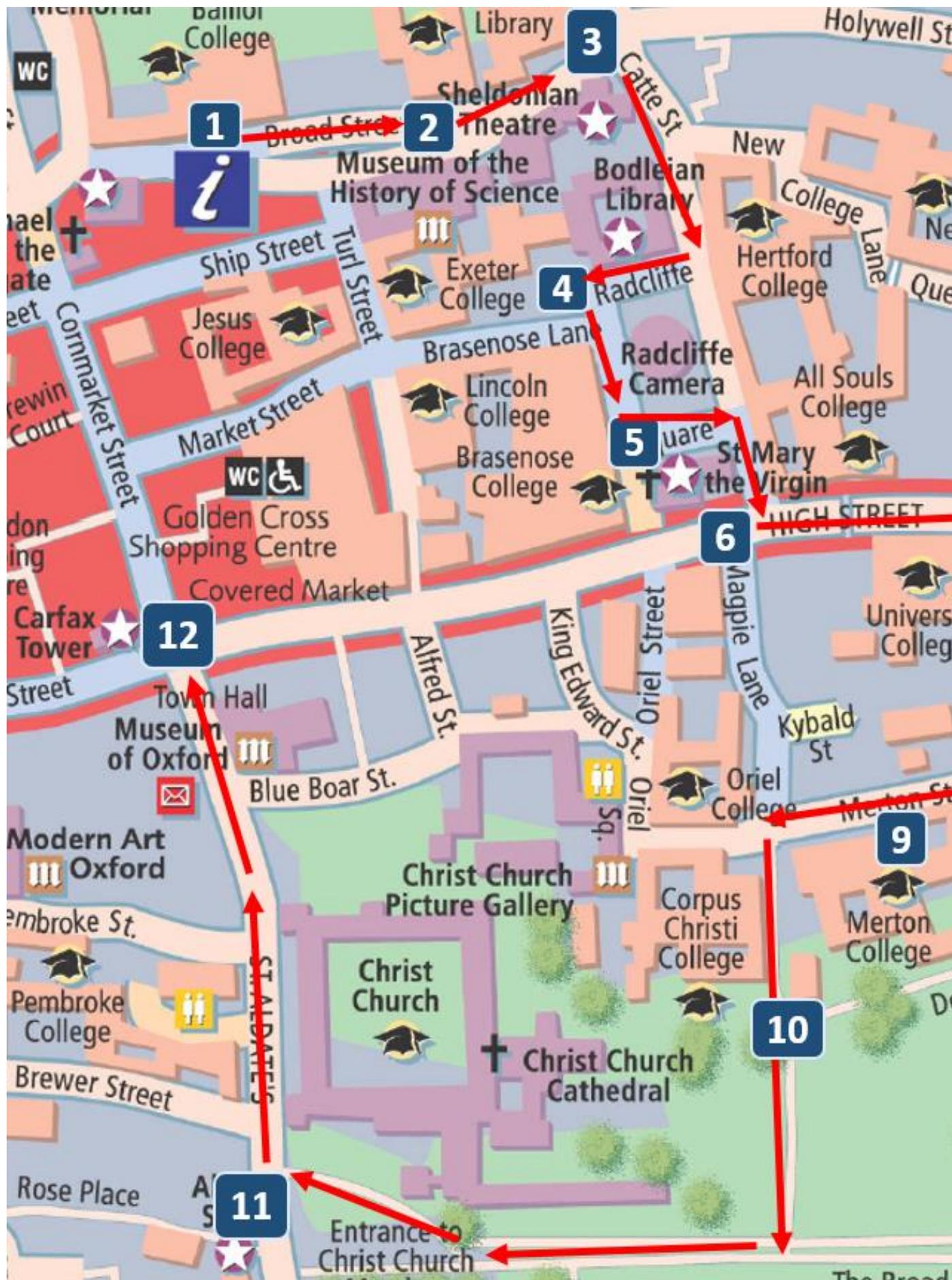
Throughout this tour, there will be quiz questions which are included to help you interact with the students during the walking tour. It will also link the excursion back to the lesson. Make sure you try to elicit the answers, with students guessing the answers, before you tell them. Try to get all students involved. There could even be a winner at the end of the walking tour for the student, or group of students, who answered most questions correctly.

Students may not have covered all questions during the lessons. Most are likely to have covered the questions in bold, but they can guess the answers to the other questions too.

History of Oxford

- Oxford lies in a flat valley which was perfect for the large number of monasteries which were built there in the 10th and 11th Centuries.
- There was a culture of teaching and learning in the monasteries, and private schools were organised by wealthy foreign teachers. The only true University at the time was in Paris, but in 1167 after an argument with the French, King Henry 2nd stopped all students from attending this university. Many of the scholars went to Oxford and a few decades later the city had its first colleges.
- The oldest college in Oxford is University College which opened in 1249.







1. Information Centre

(Stand with your back to the Information Centre. Turn right, and walk along Broad Street until you come to the Sheldonian Theatre. Then stand in front of the theatre.)



2. Sheldonian Theatre

- It was built between 1644 and 1669 and was the first important building by Sir Chris Wren-who also designed St Paul's Cathedral.
- 'Sheldonian' comes from the name of the University Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury, Sheldon, who paid for the theatre to be built.
- All students come here for Matriculation Ceremony (when they become members of the University), and then for Graduation.
- Scenes from '*X-Men First Class*' was filmed near the Sheldonian.
- To the right of the Sheldonian is the Museum of the History of Science (The Old Ashmolean Building). It was built in 1683 and was the first public museum in UK.
- Inside, is a black board used by Albert Einstein.



3. Junction of Broad Street/Catte Street

On the left is Clarendon Building, built in 1712 by Oxford University Press, as its printing works.

The Clarendon Building is now part of Bodlian library.



(Turn right down Catte Street. You will pass Bridge of Sighs on your left.)



- Scenes from 'X-Men First Class' were filmed in Catte Street.
- The Bridge of Sighs is the most photographed building in Oxford. It was built in 1913 to link buildings together when there was a curfew (when people weren't allowed out at night) at the time of world war one.
- Bridge of Sighs shares the same name as the Bridge of Sighs in Venice.

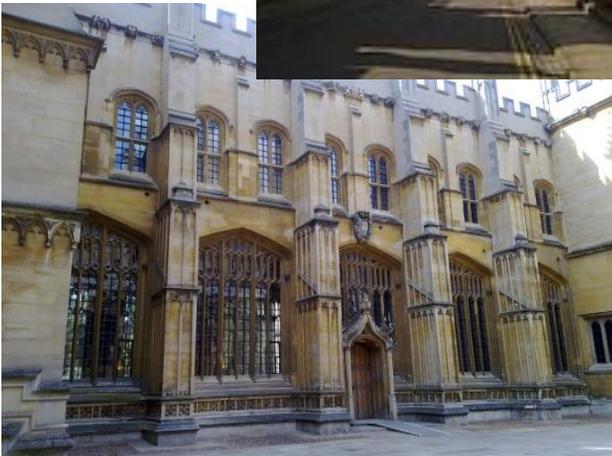
Oxford walking tour questions

Bridge of Sighs

- **Where in the world is there another similar bridge with the same name?**
(Venice, Italy)
- **What interesting fact do you know about this bridge?**
(It is the most photographed building in Oxford)

4. Radcliffe Square and Schools Quad

- As you approach Radcliffe Square, you can step into 'Old School' Quadrangle on the right. 'Old Schools Quadrangle' was built between 1613 and 1624 as a way of connecting lecture rooms, which were all around the city. This is open to the public. You can step inside and have a look.
- In the 17th Century, all lectures were taught in Latin. This is why the inscriptions above the door are in Latin. This building is now part of the Bodlian Library.
- At one end of the Quad is the Divinity School, which is the oldest central university building in Oxford. The Divinity School was '*Hogwarts' Infirmary*' in the '*Harry Potter*' films.
- Leave the quad through the other exit so you find yourself at one end of Radcliffe Square. Architecturally, it is one of the best squares in Europe. All around you are Oxford University Buildings.



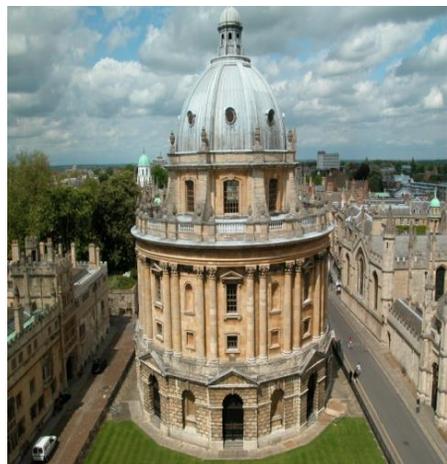
4. Radcliffe Camera



- The Radcliffe Camera Building is in the centre of Radcliffe Square. John Radcliffe was a doctor to the Royal Family. The Radcliffe Camera opened in 1749: the first round library in Britain. The building became part of the Bodleian Library in 1860.
- Scenes from *'Harry Potter'* and *'The Golden Compass'* were filmed in Radcliffe Square and the Bodleian library. The Bodleian was *'Hogwart's'* library. Scenes from *'X-Men First Class'* were filmed in a Bodleian quadrangles.

(Walk down the left-hand-side of the square towards St Mary the Virgin Church)

- On your left is All Souls College- look through the gate at the beautiful courtyard.
- There is a famous sundial designed by Sir Christopher Wren on the top of the buildings on the left of the Courtyard of All Souls College.



Oxford walking tour questions

Bodleian Library and the Divinity School

- **When did the library open?**
(1602- it's one of the oldest libraries in Europe)
- **What film was shot in the Bodleian Library?**
(Harry Potter)
- **Describe one of the Harry Potter scenes which was shot in the Bodleian**
(Harry Potter wore an invisibility cloak to look for clues in books, and was terrified by a monster in a book!)
- **Why is the Divinity School so important in Oxford University's history?**
(It is the oldest surviving purpose-built University room, dating from the 15th Century)
- **What room in Hogwarts did the Divinity school become during filming?**
(Hogwarts infirmary, where both Harry and Ron were treated)

Oxford walking tour questions

Radcliffe Square and Radcliffe Camera

- **The Radcliffe camera was the first ‘what’ in Britain?**
(The first round library)
- **The Radcliffe Camera is part of which Oxford library?**
(Bodleian Library)

5. Church of St Mary the Virgin

(Go through the Church or walk around to the left of the Church.)

- You can climb the tower for a small charge for the best view in Oxford.
- St Mary the Virgin is the parish church of Oxford University. The oldest part are the 13th century Tower and 14th century Spire.

(Make your way outside of the church to High Street.)



6. High Street

(Turn left and continue along the left hand side of High Street heading for next point outside Queen's College.)

Queen's College



7. Queen's College



- Queen's College is not open to the public, but look through the main gate at the impressive courtyard. This college opened in 1340, and is Oxford's best example of classical architecture.
- Many influential and famous people have studied here e.g. the inventor of World Wide Web, Tim Berners Lee, and the actor Rowan Atkinson (Mr Bean!).
- Across the road is University College, also named Univ College. This was the first college in Oxford and opened in 1249.
- Many influential people have also studied here e.g. Bill Clinton, Stephen Hawking, and CS Lewis, author of the Narnia books.
(Cross the High Street and turn into Merton Street.)



8. Corner of Merton Street

(Walk along Merton Street for a couple of minutes until you reach the entrance to Merton College.)

Entrances to:	
Laundry Rooms	Basement of Block B and 2 Holywell Street
Seminar Room	Basement of Block A
Block C Flats	Through Jowett Walk Car Park
4,5 Holywell Street	Via Porters' Lodge and Garden
6,7 Holywell Street	Next to Porters' Lodge

MERTON COLLEGE
 OXFORD
 HOLYWELL BUILDINGS

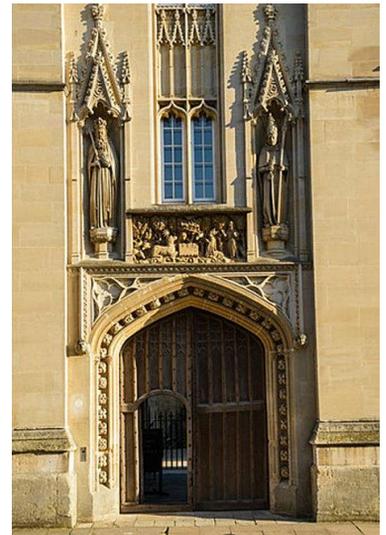


© Merton College, 1996.
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9. Merton College



- Walter de Merton created the college in 1264, and students started studying at the college in 1270.
- The college's Mob Quad is the oldest quadrangle in Oxford, and was built in 1378.
- The 3 statues above main gate are Henry 3rd who was King when the college opened, Walter de Merton, and St John the Baptist. There are also many statues of animals.
- T. S. Eliot, the poet, was a student at Merton College, and J. R. R. Tolkien, the author of *'The Hobbit'* and *'The Lord of the Rings'* was a professor at Merton College.
- The main entrance to Merton College, which is a small door within a large door, may have been the idea for *'Alice in Wonderland''s* long corridor with a tiny door at the end.



(Continue along Merton bear left and then turn left into Merton Grove which is a small path.)

Oxford walking tour questions

Merton College

- **What is particular about the entrance to Merton College?**

(It is a small door within a much larger door)

- **How did this door inspire 'Alice in Wonderland'?**

(If you look through the door, it looks like the long corridor with the small door at the end, which is in the book/film)

10. Grove Walk

(Walk along Merton Grove, go through the gateway surrounded by railings, and then turn right onto broad Walk. Christ Church will be on your right-hand-side and Christ Church Meadow on your left.)



- This is a short historic leafy walk which runs from Merton College and Corpus Christi College to Christ Church College.
- The views looking over Merton field on the left looking back at Merton College are very pretty.



- Christ Church Meadow is where the first hot air balloon ascent was made in Britain in 1784 by James Sadler. The balloon landed 6 miles away.
- Today Christ Church Meadow is popular for walks and picnics in the summer. It is owned by Christ Church.



11. Christ Church College

- Christ Church College is one of the most famous Oxford colleges, and 13 British Prime Ministers studied here – more than any other Oxbridge College
- In recent years, the college has been used for the filming of the Harry Potter films, and the Golden Compass film



Continue along Broad Walk. You will pass the War Memorial Gardens on your right. You will then reach the main road called St Aldate's. Turn right onto St Aldate's until you arrive back at the cross roads with High Street, Cornmarket Street, and Queen Street.

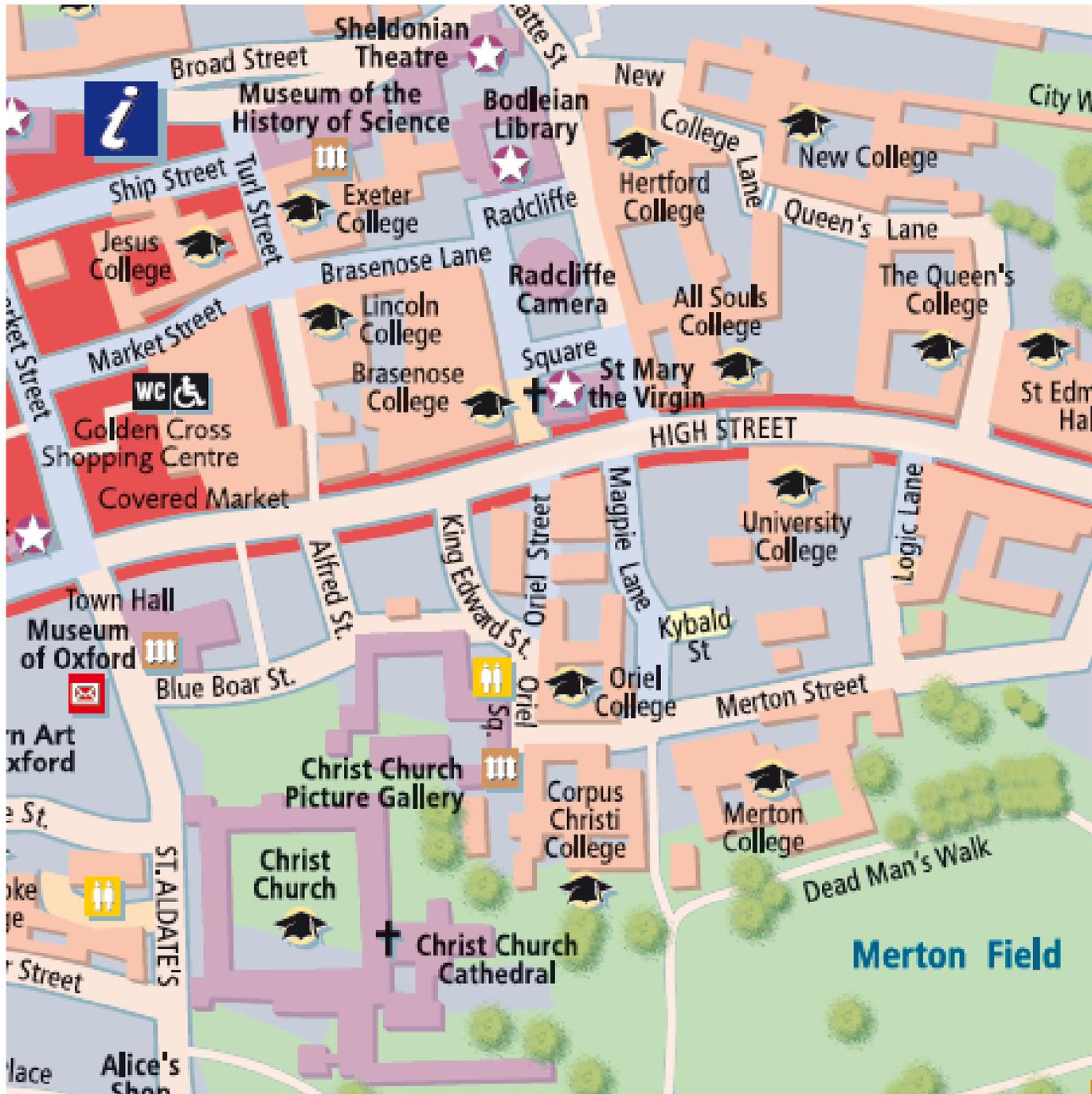


12. High Street

(You will then arrive at the cross roads with High Street, Cornmarket Street, and Queen Street.

Queen Street and Cornmarket streets are Oxford's main shopping streets with many famous chain stores.)





Oxford walking tour questions

General questions

- **Name some films which have been filmed in Oxford**
(Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, The Golden Compass, X-Men First Class, 102 Dalmations, The Spy Game)
- **Hogwart's staircase was filmed in which Oxford college?**
(Christ Church College)
- **The Zeppelin balloon in The Golden Compass was inspired by which real Oxford historical event?**
(The first balloon flight by Englishman James Sadler, which left from fields behind Christ Church College in 1784)
- **What is so special about the Malmaison Hotel in Oxford?**
(It is a converted hotel, and the only prison hotel in the country)
- **Which actor has been in Oxford and Oxfordshire 3 times to shoot films?**
(Brad Pitt)

Oxford walking tour questions

General questions

- **Which films were they?**
(Fury, World War Z, The Spy Game)
- **What was Lewis Carroll's real name?**
(Charles Dodgson)
- **How is Charles Dodgson linked to Oxford?**
(He was a lecturer at the university)
- **When did Dodgson first tell the story of Alice?**
(On a boat trip on the River Thames in Oxford. He told it to a little girl called Alice Liddell (The Dean's daughter) and her sisters.)
- **How is the Deanery Garden; the garden where Alice used to play, linked to the Alice in Wonderland story?**
(*Mad Hatter's tea party* based on Alice's garden Birthday parties; a locked door in the wall like the one in the book/film fascinated Alice; Alice's dad was often late because of this locked door and inspired the *White Rabbit* character; Alice's cat sat in a tree in the garden like the *Cheshire Cat*)