OXFORD MUSEUMS



A DAY AWAY

Explore four free Oxford museum collections on a five-hour Tuesday-Sunday route, with walking time, a café break and a separate Monday alternative.

TUESDAY TO SUNDAY

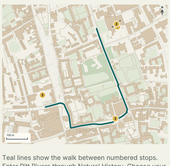
10:00-15:00

Open this day online ↗

THE LAY OF THE LAND

Start among the dinosaurs on Parks Road, pass through Pitt Rivers, then head south to the instruments on Broad Street. A café break leaves the afternoon for the Ashmolean. The numbered sequence includes walking time.

01 / THE AREA



Teal lines show the walk between numbered stops. Enter Pitt Rivers through Natural History. Choose your own stop for the unpinned break.

Open the interactive route ↗

02 / THE DETAIL



01 Natural History

02 Pitt Rivers

03 History of Science

04 Open-choice break

05 Ashmolean

OpenStreetMap contributors / ODbL ↗

STOPS 1 & 2





10:00 - 10:50

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Dinosaurs, minerals and the iron-and-glass main court make a striking start. This first visit concentrates on the central displays rather than every case. The adjoining Pitt Rivers Museum follows, giving the morning two very different settings without a walk across town.

Free, unticketed entry. Start on Parks Road at 10:00. Leave ten minutes after the visit for the adjoining museum entrance and a short break.

Read the venue guide ↗

11:00 - 11:50

PITT RIVERS MUSEUM

Musical instruments, textiles and objects from many cultures fill the cases and galleries. Fifty minutes gives you time for a selection of displays, with the wider collection a reason to return. Visitor entry is through the Museum of Natural History.

This morning slot works Tuesday-Sunday. On ordinary Mondays Pitt Rivers opens at noon. Leave fifteen minutes afterwards to reach Broad Street.

Read the venue guide ↗

THE DAY 1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5

STOPS 3 & 4





12:05 - 12:50

HISTORY OF SCIENCE MUSEUM

Einstein's blackboard brings a working scientific idea into the gallery: the equations survive from his 1931 Oxford lecture. Astrolabes, sundials and other instruments show different ways people have measured time and understood the world. The Old Ashmolean building is part of the story.

Free general admission, Tuesday-Sunday. Groups book ahead. The basement access lift is out of action and there are no public toilets. See the access details before visiting.

Read the venue guide ↗

Museum access information ↗

12:50 - 13:20

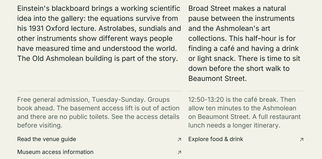
COFFEE & REGROUP

Broad Street makes a natural pause between the instruments and the Ashmolean's art collections. This half-hour is for finding a café and having a drink or light snack. There is time to sit down before the short walk to Beaumont Street.

12:50-13:20 is the café break. Then allow ten minutes to the Ashmolean on Beaumont Street. A full restaurant lunch needs a longer itinerary.

Explore food & drink ↗

THE DAY 1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5



THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

13:30 - 15:00

ASHMOLEAN

Finish with art and archaeology at the Ashmolean. Early England and European paintings make a rewarding pairing, while the museum's Spotlight Trail offers another focused introduction. Ninety minutes suits a selection of galleries. The bright central atrium links rooms across the redeveloped museum, with ancient worlds and Asian art offering further routes for a return visit.

GOOD TO KNOW

The permanent collection is free. Advance booking is recommended at busy times; major exhibitions have separate tickets. Lifts serve the public floors. Individual galleries and objects may be temporarily unavailable.

Read the venue guide ↗

Admission & exhibition tickets ↗

THE DAY 1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5

THE USEFUL DETAILS

SUGGESTED TIMES. RESERVATIONS ARE SEPARATE.

GETTING TO OXFORD

Arrive by train or coach, or use Park and Ride if you are driving. Allow time to reach the first stop.

Oxford arrival guide ↗

BETWEEN STOPS

Use the numbered map to locate visits, then open the online route for walking directions and current visit information.

View this itinerary ↗

MAKE IT YOURS

Open the full route to save the stops and arrange the day around your own start, pace and bookings.

Open the planner ↗

BEFORE YOU GO

Start times are suggested. Arrange timed tickets and meals separately, then adjust the sequence around your confirmed bookings.

MAKE THE DAY YOURS.

Open my week ↗