

Oxford has many museums, galleries and libraries, often housed in fine buildings. This walk takes you past some of them. Please note that University libraries are mostly not open to the public. The walk starts in Bonn Square and ends in St John Street near Beaumont Street

The walk

1. In **Bonn Square** itself you will find two 'stacks of books' and some individual 'books' at different locations. The 'book sculpture' by Diana Bell was presented to Oxford by the City of Bonn and unveiled on 22 May 2009. Some of the spines of the taller pile have KNOWLEDGE, TRUST, FRIENDSHIP, and UNDERSTANDING engraved on them, while the smaller pile has the German equivalents: WISSEN, VERTRAUEN, FREÜNDSCHAFT, and VERSTANDIGUNG.
2. Immediately opposite the start point in Bonn Square is **Oxford Central Library**, including local studies library, a family history centre, and collections of maps, photographs and oral history tapes. Opening times for the Centre are from 9am to 5pm on Tuesdays, and Thursdays to Saturdays.
3. Walk ahead from Bonn Square, crossing Queen Street and walking downhill in St Ebbe's Street, taking the first turn left into Pembroke Street.
4. Walk along Pembroke Street, passing **Modern Art Oxford** (free, closed Mondays) on your left. No fossils there! At the end of Pembroke Street turn left into St Aldate's Street. Cross St Aldate's Street with care and walk uphill to the corner of Blue Boar Street. This building was at one time the home of **Oxford Central Library** then for many years the Museum of Oxford (now relocated within the Town Hall itself). Walk along Blue Boar Street, continuing along Bear Lane to its end, then turn left at Oriel Square and walk along King Edward Street to High Street.
5. Look left along High Street, on its opposite side (immediately before Turl Street and The Mitre Hotel) is the former **All Saints'** church, now the **library of Lincoln College** (since 1975).

6. Cross High Street with care, bearing to your right so as to walk away from the Lincoln College library, and turn left into St Mary's Passage (immediately before the University Church of St Mary and its prominent tree). Walk through to Radcliffe Square. Here is the **Radcliffe Camera**, built from 1737-1749 - a bequest from Dr John Radcliffe, royal physician. Built as a library, the Camera is now a reading room of the Bodleian Library: opened in 1602 with funding from Sir Thomas Bodley, now open to visitors on Sundays 11am-5pm.
7. Before proceeding further, look at the soft stone wall of **Brasenose College** (to your left). See the many fossilised shells in the soft stone.
8. Walk around Radcliffe Square to its opposite corner and walk north along Catte Street. On the left side is the '**old**' **Bodleian Library**, then the **Clarendon Building** with its roof statues of the nine muses – built as the printing house of the Oxford University Press. The **New Bodleian Library** will be found on the far side of Broad Street, at its junction with Catte Street and South Parks Road (opposite the King's Arms). The 'New Bod' was constructed in 1937-40, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.
9. Turn left into Broad Street, passing **Blackwell's** bookshop to the right, and the **Museum of the History of Science** to the left. It occupies the **Old Ashmolean Building**; the world's first purpose built museum opened here in 1683. It includes collections of scientific instruments such as astrolabes and sundials, and famous objects such as a blackboard used by Einstein. Continue past **Blackwell's Art & Poster**, and **Music Shops** (at Turl Street), to the end of Broad Street. Here is **Waterstones** (on the corner of Cornmarket Street).
10. Turn right from Broad Street into Magdalen Street West, passing Debenhams and Borders stores, and walk 100 metres to the junction with Beaumont Street. On the north corner, opposite the Randolph Hotel, the **Ashmolean Museum** – extensively refurbished in 2009. The fine façade was created in 1845 as the University Galleries.
11. Cross the road at the junction and walk along Beaumont Street, past the Ashmolean to your right, and turn right into St John's Street. Here, 20 metres along the street, is to be found the **Sackler Library**, which specialises in Archaeology, Art History and Classics. This is one of the many University libraries, closed to the public.

Here the walk ends. Bonn Square can be reached by turning around and retracing your steps. to cross Beaumont Street and walking ahead, south, to the end of Gloucester Street, where turn right into George Street then immediately left into New Inn Hall Street. If you find any anomalies on this route, please email info@oxstreets.org.uk

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