RELIGION AND THE
RULE OF LAW
At Oxford

Travel Between Heathrow Airport and Christ Church, Oxford

*If you are arriving at **Gatwick Airport**, please see separate instructions.*

The easiest and least expensive way to travel between Heathrow Airport and Oxford is to take a bus (coach) run by the commercial transport company **The Airline**. Their buses are large, comfortable, and air-conditioned, with free Wi-Fi, power sockets, and onboard toilets.

Where to board. Buses leave Heathrow for Oxford 24 hours a day. During the day and evening, buses depart every 20 minutes. Departures are less frequent in the middle of the night and early in the morning.

- If you arrive at **Terminal 2 or 3**, the bus departs from the Central Bus Station. After passing through customs, follow signs for "Central Bus Station" and wait in the waiting area until the departure bay is announced.
- If you arrive at **Terminal 4**, take the free underground Heathrow Express train to the Central Bus Station to catch the bus.
- In **Terminal 5**, the bus departs from Stand 10 at the arrivals concourse.

For more information, see the first map on page 3 of this document and/or the interactive Heathrow map. If you pre-book tickets online, your ticket will include additional directions.

Timetables. The journey to Oxford takes about 90 minutes. You can access the timetables online for departures from Heathrow to Oxford (page 2) and from Oxford to Heathrow (page 1). Please note that this schedule (current from September 2024) is subject to change, due to construction or other traffic-related issues. Before your flight, you may want to check The Airline's website to ensure the schedule hasn't significantly changed. (Scroll down to "the airline timetable.")

Tickets. We recommend purchasing a two-way "return" ticket because it is less expensive than buying two separate fares. A return ticket covers your bus fare at the beginning of your stay (from Heathrow to Oxford) and the end of your stay (from Oxford to Heathrow Airport). You can purchase here a "fixed date return" ticket (£31.50) or a slightly more expensive "flexible return" ticket (£35.00).[1] **Be sure to purchase a "Heathrow to Oxford Return" ticket** (NOT an "Oxford

[1] A **fixed date return ticket** allows you to choose a specific date and time for both your outbound and inbound trip and guarantees you a seat for both trips. A **flexible return ticket** allows you to choose a specific date and time for the first leg of your trip (which guarantees your seat) and then return any time (within a year).

to Heathrow Return"). Pre-booking requires that you purchase the ticket at least 12 hours ahead of your coach's departure time.

If you don't pre-book online, you can also buy your ticket at an airport kiosk/help desk, from the coach driver upon boarding (with British pounds or with contactless card, including Apple Pay and Google Pay), or through the Oxford Bus app. Be sure to retain your ticket for your return trip.

During the online/app purchase process, you will be asked to select a departure time—a time you estimate you will board the bus. We have found, however, that the coach company allows for the vagaries of airline schedules. Therefore, even if your flight is early or delayed—or the baggage-claim and customs processes take longer or shorter than expected—the company typically allows you to board at the airport within 24 hours of your scheduled boarding time.

Bus stop. The bus will make several stops once it reaches Oxford. You can find a list of stops and stop times by inputting your travel date here.

- **For those staying in Christ Church housing at 117 St Aldates**: You will disembark at the third stop in Oxford—Stop H5, St. Aldates—in front of Tom Tower/Gate, the main entrance to Christ Church. (See map 2, on page 4 of this document.)

  At Tom Gate, a porter will direct you to the Porters' Lodge, just inside the gate to the left, marked by a sign. The porters may ask to see your passport. **Check-in is after 3:00 p.m.** on your indicated arrival date. If you arrive before that time, you may check your luggage with the porters and explore the city. Upon check in, the porters will provide you with a packet with your room number, lanyard, and key fob (and special-diet card, if applicable). The porters may ask to see your passport.

  Your key fob and lanyard identify you as a Christ Church "resident." For residents, Tom Gate is open daily, 7:00 a.m.–7:30 p.m. (For visitors, it is open Mondays–Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.).

  The Porters' Lodge is open all hours. If the gate is closed, to alert the porter you may push a button on the left-hand side of Tom Gate, or you can call +44 1865 276150.

  Once you've checked in, you can take your luggage to 117 St Aldates.

  > **Walking directions**. After exiting Tom Gate, you will cross the road with your luggage, turn to the right, and walk up the road about 0.2 mile to 117 St Aldates, located next door to the Sainsbury's Local grocery store. (In this photo, the 117 St Aldates door is on the far left, with the octagonal window above the door.)

- **For those staying in other accommodations**: You can disembark at the fourth and final stop in Oxford, at the Gloucester Green Bus Station. (See map 2, on page 4 of this document.) If your accommodation is some distance from the bus station, taxis are available in the large square behind the bus station. Depending on the location of your accommodations, a taxi ride should cost ~ £10–15.

Maps. The first map below shows where to catch the bus at Heathrow Airport's various terminals. The second map shows where to get off the bus at Oxford. You can also find these maps online (by scrolling down to "Stops: Where to get on and off").

FAQs. You can find more information about the bus service to Oxford and answers to Frequently Asked Questions here.

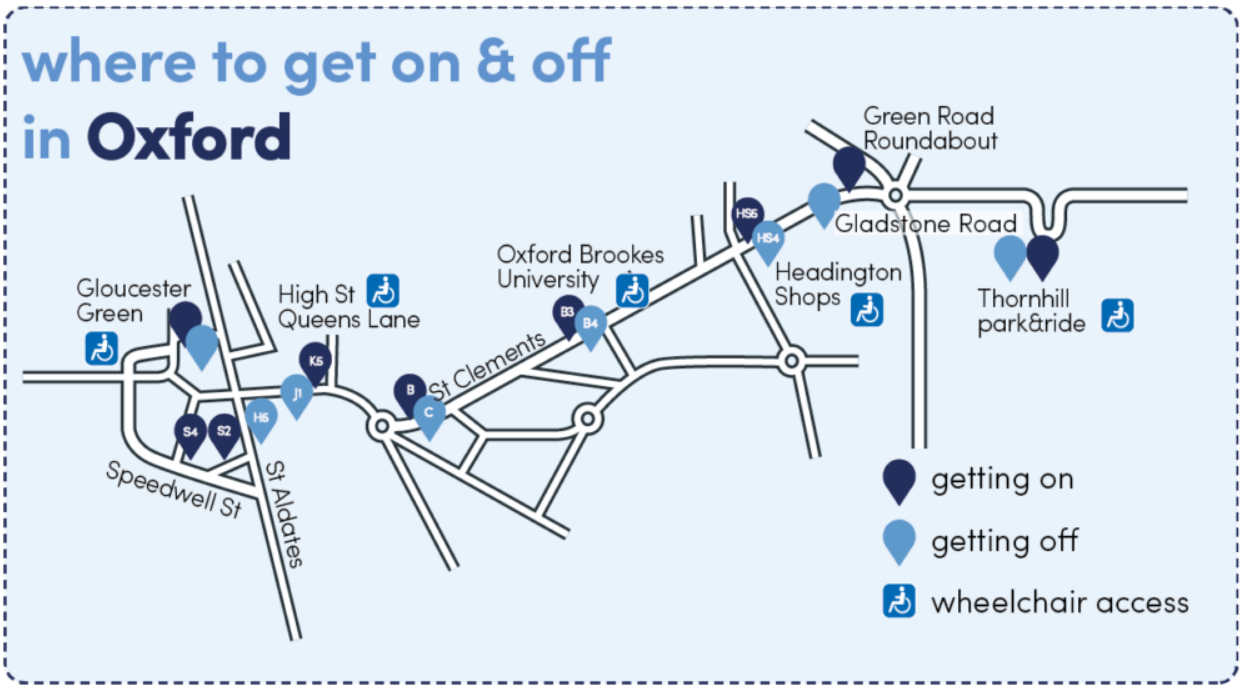
Return Travel

Return ticket. To return to the airport, be sure you have your return ticket (which may say "Megabus" but is for **The Airline** coach service).

Location. You will catch the bus at **The Airline stall** at the Gloucester Green Bus Station in Oxford. (There are other bus stops closer to Christ Church, but we've found the Gloucester Green Station to be the most reliable.) You will need to take an Uber or a taxi to the bus station. You cannot hail taxis in Oxford, but you may book a taxi either (1) in person at the 001 Taxi office close to Christ Church, (2) by calling 001 Taxis at +44 1865 537383, or (3) through the 001 Taxis website.

Timetable. You can find the Oxford-to-Heathrow bus timetable here (page 1). The bus takes approximately one hour and 40 minutes to travel to Heathrow Airport and makes stops for the various terminals, as indicated in the first map below.

Plan for delays. Plan to leave with enough time to travel to the airport and pass through security. In 2022, some participants experienced a two-hour wait in airport security checkpoint lines. In 2023, some participants waited an hour to check their luggage.


where to get on & off
in Oxford
Green Road
Roundabout
Gladstone Road
Oxford Brookes
University
Headington
Shops
Thornhill
park&ride
Gloucester
Green
High St
Queens Lane
St Clements
Speedwell St
St Aldates
HS6
HS4
B3
B4
K5
J1
B
C
H5
S4
S2
getting on
getting off
wheelchair access