TRAVELLING TO OXFORD

FLYING

Heathrow and Gatwick

For those flying into Heathrow or Gatwick the bus is by far the best way to reach Oxford from the airport and in most cases is both quicker and cheaper than the train. There are buses directly to Oxford at least once an hour during the day. This is almost always quicker and easier than travelling via London or taking the train. The name of the bus is the airline and details are available here: https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/

Buses serve both terminals at Gatwick. At Heathrow, they stop at the Central Bus Station (which serves Terminals 1, 2 & 3) and Terminal 5. If you are travelling via Terminal 4 there is a free bus connecting it with Terminal 5. It takes between 10 and 25 minutes to move between the two terminals depending on the time of day.

Tickets can be purchased in advance, or you can buy one on the day. You'll want a period return. The cost is low enough to put on a card (they don't have machines where you can enter your pin on most buses).

Stansted

It is best to avoid Stansted if possible. If not, there are direct buses from Stansted to Oxford, but these are less frequent than the Heathrow and Gatwick buses and they take about 4.5 hours. To check details see here: http://www.nationalexpress.com/en/airports/stansted-airport.aspx
It is also worth checking with Eurobus.

If the bus does not look viable, then there is the Stansted Express train into Central London every 15 minutes: https://www.stanstedexpress.com/

Take the Stansted Express to Liverpool Street Station. From there it is easiest to take the Hammersmith and City or Circle line on the Tube to Paddington or Marylebone, from where there are direct trains to Oxford regularly (see below).

London Luton

We would recommend avoiding Luton, if possible, as onward connections to Oxford are very limited: http://www.nationalexpress.com/en/airports/luton-airport.aspx
It is also worth checking with Eurobus.

London City

The Docklands Light Railway runs directly to and from London City. It's therefore easy to purchase a ticket that will allow you to change onto the underground and reach either Paddington or Marylebone, from where you can catch trains to Oxford. There are no direct bus or train services to Oxford, but the ease of connection on the London transport system makes this an easier airport to travel through than Luton.

Birmingham International

If you have to fly, then it is also worth looking at Birmingham airport if London-bound flights look problematic, as there might be a better option via Birmingham. There are direct trains from Birmingham International to Oxford approximately every hour. Tickets can be booked in advance via the trainline and as mentioned above, we'd recommend an off peak period return.

BUSES AND TRAINS

If you are travelling via train or bus from abroad, you will almost certainly need to change in London. The info below may also be useful for anyone travelling via Stansted or London City.

Trains from London

It's very easy to get from either Liverpool St Station or King's Cross St Pancras to the two main stations that have regular trains that will take you to Oxford: Marylebone station and Paddington station (but please note, if you get the train from Marylebone, do NOT disembark at Oxford Parkway, stay on the train until Oxford Station). Direct trains run every 20-30 minutes. They take c.1 hour from Paddington and 1 hour 40 from Marylebone to get to Oxford (avoid any 'local stopping services' from Paddington -- you will be able to identify these as there will be more than 4 stops listed before Oxford – as these can take far longer).

Rail tickets (including some flexible ones) can be booked in advance on various websites such as the Trainline: https://www.thetrainline.com/ and either sent to your phone or collected from a machine at the station, or can be purchased from machines at the station.

It's usually cheaper in the UK to buy a return ticket (open returns are available) than two singles. A London Underground (Tube)map can be found here: http://content.tfl.gov.uk/standard-tube-map.pdf

Buses from London

If there are any problems with the rail network, then there are direct buses from very close to Victoria Station that leave several times an hour. The service is called the Oxford Tube (see https://www.oxfordtube.com/ for stops and timetable).

STAYING IN OXFORD

You will be staying in the EasyHotel in Summertown, Oxford: 280 Banbury Rd, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7DY

The nearest bus stop is "Summertown shops". For those arriving in Oxford via bus, it is easiest to get off at Gloucester Green Bus Station (the final stop, which is just off George St) and then walk to Magdalen St, from where you can take a 2, 2A, 2B or S5 to Summertown.

For those arriving on the train the S7 bus goes directly from the station to Summertown. Alternatively, take the S1 to South Parade West and then walk along south parade towards Summertown. You will see the Easy hotel when you reach Banbury Road.

Oxford has two bus companies. Information about their services can be found <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

