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Suggested day trip plans for 1, 2 or 3 days

From our guide **Top 10 Best Day Trips from Oxford**. Print it or save it to your phone.



Day 1: Blenheim Palace and Woodstock

Take the bus from Oxford to Blenheim in the morning and explore the palace and park. Have lunch in Woodstock, then walk back through the park before returning to Oxford. This is the easiest day, with very little travel time.

Day 2: The Cotswolds by train and bus

Take the Cotswold Line to Moreton-in-Marsh, then a bus to Bourton-on-the-Water for the morning. In the afternoon, continue to Chipping Campden if the timetable allows. If you prefer a simpler day, take the bus to Burford instead and spend the whole day there.

Day 3: Bath or London

For a long day with a lot to see, take the train to Bath for the Roman Baths, the Abbey and the Crescent. If you would like a shorter journey, take the direct train to London and choose one museum or neighbourhood. Both are best with an early start.

The 10 places at a glance

1. Blenheim Palace and Woodstock

How to get there: Take a Stagecoach bus (the S3 or S7) from central Oxford to the palace gates, then walk about 10 minutes into the park. The journey is usually well under an hour, but check the current timetable and stop.
How long to spend: 3 to 5 hours, or a full day with Woodstock and a long park walk.
Best time to go: Spring to early autumn for the gardens, or a clear winter day for quieter parkland.
Tip: Buy tickets online and check the official site for the discount for sustainable travel.
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2. Burford

How to get there: Take a bus from Oxford towards Burford, which usually takes about an hour. Check the current operator and timetable.
How long to spend: 3 to 4 hours.
Best time to go: Spring and summer for flowers and long days, or a crisp winter morning for fewer crowds.
Tip: Check the last bus back before you settle in for lunch.
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3. Bourton-on-the-Water

How to get there: Train from Oxford to Moreton-in-Marsh, then a local bus to Bourton-on-the-Water. Allow about 1 to 1.5 hours each way.
How long to spend: 3 to 5 hours.
Best time to go: A weekday morning in spring or autumn.
Tip: Look up the bus timetable from Moreton-in-Marsh before you leave Oxford.
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4. Bath

How to get there: Train from Oxford to Bath Spa, usually with a change at Didcot Parkway. Allow around 1.5 hours each way.
How long to spend: A full day.
Best time to go: Spring or autumn, and a weekday if possible.
Tip: Book Roman Baths tickets online and check which services run on the day.
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5. Stratford-upon-Avon

How to get there: Train with one or more changes, or a bus. Allow 1.5 to 2 hours each way and check a journey planner.
How long to spend: A full day.
Best time to go: Spring to autumn, when the gardens and river are at their best.
Tip: Buy a combined ticket for the Shakespeare properties on the official trust website.
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6. Warwick Castle

How to get there: Train from Oxford, usually with a change, then walk or take a short taxi. Allow about 1.5 hours.
How long to spend: 4 to 6 hours.
Best time to go: A dry weekday outside school holidays.
Tip: Check the show schedule before you arrive and plan your day around it.
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7. London

How to get there: Direct train from Oxford to London Paddington or London Marylebone, about an hour each way.
How long to spend: A full day.
Best time to go: A weekday outside peak hours, or a weekend with an advance ticket.
Tip: Choose one area or theme rather than trying to see everything.
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8. Windsor

How to get there: Train via Reading to Windsor and Eton Riverside (or Windsor and Eton Central via Slough). Allow 1.5 to 2 hours each way.
How long to spend: A full day.
Best time to go: A weekday in spring or autumn.
Tip: Check the Royal Collection Trust website for closures before you travel.
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9. Winchester

How to get there: Train from Oxford, either direct or with a change at Reading. Allow about 1 to 1.5 hours each way.
How long to spend: 5 to 7 hours.
Best time to go: Spring and summer for the water meadows, or any dry day.
Tip: Check cathedral visiting arrangements on the official website, because services can affect access.
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10. Chipping Campden

How to get there: Train from Oxford to Moreton-in-Marsh, then a local bus or taxi. Allow about 1.5 hours each way.
How long to spend: 4 to 6 hours.
Best time to go: Late spring or early autumn.
Tip: Check the last bus back to Moreton-in-Marsh before you leave the town.
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Getting around from Oxford

Oxford has two main stations for day trips: **Oxford station**, in the city centre, and **Oxford Parkway**, on the northern side. Most national rail services and the Cotswold Line leave from Oxford station, while some services to London Marylebone use both.

For Blenheim Palace and Woodstock, buses run from the city centre and the station area. Cotswold villages are best reached by train and a connecting bus, so look up the bus timetable before you set off. Use the National Rail journey planner for trains, and the operators' websites for bus times, because services change often. Rail passes, railcards and off-peak or advance tickets can cut the cost significantly.

Opening times, prices and transport change often, so check with each venue or operator before you go. For the full guide, photos and FAQs, see https://toptravelinsider.com/top-10-best-day-trips-from-oxford/.