Caveat Emptor: This guide is meant to help you survive your first couple days in Oxford, not to list all the possible businesses. Use it in conjunction with your map of Oxford. If you find stores you think should be added (or places that have closed) please e-mail that information to us at oxford@uga.edu using the subject line “Retail Guide Changes.” Thanks!

Oxford City Centre
This is the home of the big bookstores, the old colleges, and the fast food restaurants. And the nightclubs, and lots of sit-down restaurants, and...

Bookstores - The big bookstores are on Broad Street (which is only one block long—to the east it’s Holywell and to the west it’s George). Blackwells, which is just down from Trinity College, is spread across a number of buildings, with the music and art departments on the opposite side of the street from the main bookstore. Waterstone’s (a big chain store) is at the corner of Broad and Cornmarket. There are other, smaller, bookstores as well.

Food - There are a number of fast food restaurants (KFC, McDonald’s, Burger King, Pret a Manger) along Cornmarket, as well as a number of stores selling mobile phones. At the end of Cornmarket opposite Broad Street are High Street (to your left) and Queen Street (to your right). There are many restaurants on both George and High Street, and you should walk through the Covered Market (just off Cornmarket) at least once during your stay in Oxford! There’s also a large Sainsbury’s grocery store in Westgate Shopping Centre, which is on Queen Street, and a small Sainsbury’s and a Tesco by the bus stands on Magdalen.

ATMs - There are ATM machines for a number of banks on or near Cornmarket.

General Supply Stores - If you need to buy towels, you’ll probably want to start at Boswell’s, which is next to Waterstone’s, or Debenhams, a large department store on the opposite corner. The big Boots is on Cornmarket, as is W. H. Smith, one of the three large stationers (i.e., office supplies stores). The second is Rymans, which is on the High Street. Finally, there’s a Staples in the block between Park End Street and Hythe Bridge Road.

Post Office - The main Post Office is on St. Aldates, which is what Cornmarket becomes after the intersection with High and Queen. You can buy stamps many other places, as well.

For Alice in Wonderland Fans - The Alice Shop is located along St. Aldates. The Alice Shop is housed in the building that is immortalized in Alice in Wonderland as the Old Sheep Shop.

Summertown
Grocery Stores – North of the UGA at Oxford Center on Banbury Road is an area called Summertown. This is your best bet for close by grocery stores if you’re at the Center — Marks & Spencers and the Co-op (just to name the big chain stores) are on Banbury Road on the same side of the street as the Center. There is also a shop with fresh produce. Please note: most of these stores are closed by 6 p.m. on Sunday! (Luckily for us, there is a Tesco Express opposite the Marks & Spencers which is open longer.)

ATMs - There are ATM machines for at least Barclays, Lloyds, and Nat-West on Banbury Road. (Note: The Barclays machine is easiest to spot, and, in common with all British Banks, Barclays doesn’t charge a transaction fee to use their machines.)
Pharmacy – Summertown also has a small Boots, which is across Banbury Road from the grocery stores.

Food - Restaurants include an all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet, a Lebanese deli, an Indian and French restaurant, a fabulous Greek restaurant, and numerous Italian cafés. For details see the attached ‘Oxford – Eating Out’ handout. [https://oxford.uga.edu/images/OxfordRestaurantsGuide.pdf]

Jericho
A final retail area within fairly close walking distance is Jericho, the main street of which is Walton Street, the second main north-south road west of Banbury. (Like most roads in Oxford, its name changes depending on where you are. North of Jericho it’s Kingston Road.) Here are more restaurants and many small shops, mostly of the “arty” or boutique kind. It is also home to a very good second-hand bookshop and The Oxford University Press.

Oxford – Sites to See and Things to Do

Museums – There are a number of museums in Oxford catering to different tastes.

The Ashmolean (www.ashmolean.org) on Beaumont Street near City Centre is the oldest public museum in the world. (It was founded in 1683). Its collections include antiquities, western and eastern art, and coins. The old Ashmolean Building on Broad Street now houses the Museum of the History of Science (www.mhs.ox.ac.uk).

Christ Church Picture Gallery (www.chch.ox.ac.uk/gallery) is in Christ Church. Christ Church is unique among the Oxford and Cambridge colleges in possessing an important collection of Old Master paintings and drawings, housed in a purpose-built Gallery of considerable architectural interest in itself.

The Modern Art Oxford (www.modernartoxford.org.uk) is located at 30 Pembroke Street focuses on twentieth century art.

The Bate Collection of Musical Instruments (www.bate.ox.ac.uk) is housed in the Oxford University Faculty of Music buildings on St. Aldates next to Christ Church College. The collection includes many historical instruments.

The Oxford Museum of Natural History, aka, The Pitt Rivers Museum, (www.oum.ox.ac.uk) on Parks Road (near Keble College and University Parks) boasts a number of scientific exhibits, but it’s worth a look just for the building!

The Museum of Oxford (www.oxford.gov.uk/museumofoxford) is located on St. Aldates near High Street. This museum focuses on the history of the city rather than the university. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 5pm, and admission is £1.50.

Jogging - If you like to jog, two good places to do it are University Parks (www.parks.ox.ac.uk) across from Keble College (for a more pleasant trip to and from the park, use a map to figure out the “back” way rather than using Banbury Road) and Port Meadow. To reach Port Meadow, take Rawlinson Road (across Banbury Road from the Center and a bit south) to Polsted Road to Aristotle Lane. (Basically, there are a number of ¼ block jogs; you can usually see the road you are headed for.) Once you reach Port Meadow, turn left onto the paved path. You can either stay on this path to the car park and then around the end of Port Meadow, or you can take the unpaved footpath across Port Meadow. When you reach the gated bridge, you are at the Thames. Cross the bridge, go down the ramp, and then you can either continue north or you can make a U-turn and go south along the
Thames Path. Port Meadow is the old Oxford Commons, and there are still livestock pastured there, so watch your step.

**The Perch and The Trout** - If you’d like to go for a long walk and experience an old pub, there are two options off Port Meadow. (See the directions to Port Meadow and the Thames Path in “Jogging.”) Stay on the Thames Path north after crossing the gated bridge. You’ll pass the town of Binsey on your left. Shortly afterwards you will see a sign to the back entrance of The Perch, an old thatch-roofed pub. If you want a longer walk, continue on the path north. You’ll pass the Godstow Lock and the ruins of Godstow Abbey. Just past the abbey, you’ll find a gate to the road. (You’ll be able to see the outdoor dining area of The Trout from here.) Take the road over the Thames (beware cars!) and then turn right into The Trout, one of the famous river pubs.

**Tolkien Sites** - This is another long walk, but if you want to make a Tolkien pilgrimage, here are some places you can see. Leave the Center and turn left. Then take the next two lefts (Linton and Northmoor). The Tolkiens lived at 20 and 22 Northmoor, and one of the houses is noted by a round blue sign on the upper story. Then continue on to the cross street and turn left again. Turn right when you reach Banbury Road. (At some point, you’ll need to cross to the other side of Banbury; Summer-town is probably the best place to do it.) Eventually, you’ll reach the Ring Road. You’ll be able to see the pedestrian crossing to your left. Cross the road and continue north. Shortly afterwards, you’ll see the sign to Wolvercote Cemetery. Follow the signs inside to Tolkien’s grave. If you’re up for a longer walk, you can continue on past the Center on your return until you reach St. Giles and the Eagle and Child pub, where Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and others met regularly.

*Last updated: 18 October 2011*