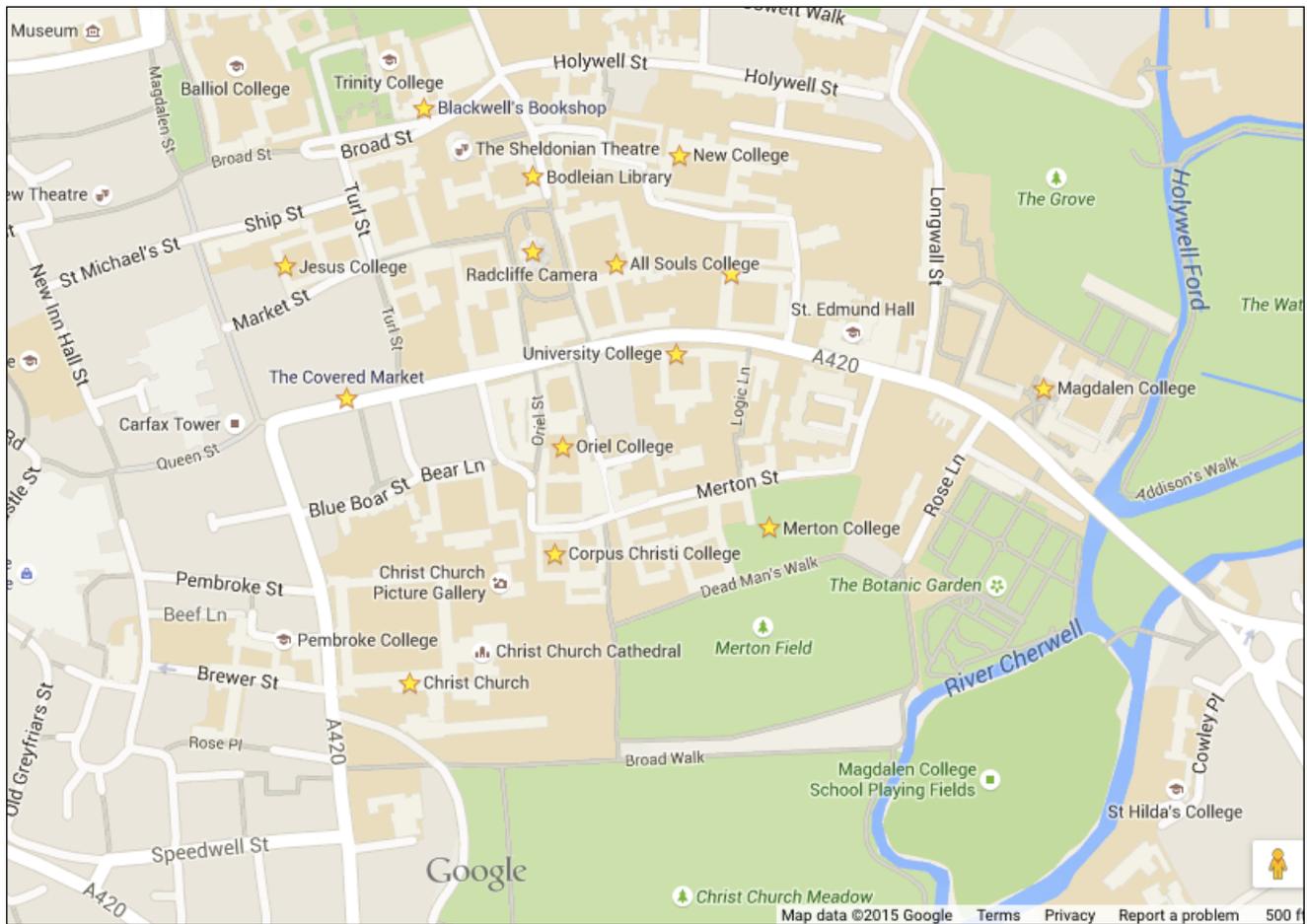


## A brief unofficial guide of the All Souls Trilogy Locations

The Tenth Knot - Summer 2015



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## Oxford

Known as the city of dreamy spires and right on the Cherwell and Thames rivers, Oxford is breathtaking. We spent four days to explore Oxford and recommend setting aside at least three to four days to enjoy the full potential. The good news is that most of the All Souls Trilogy locations are clustered around the center of town and are all walking distance from each other.

⚠️ Oxford is crowded and accommodations scarce and as expensive as London. We recommend booking a hotel or any other accommodations four-to-six months in advance.

⚠️ Comfortable shoes are highly recommended as the center of town has areas paved with cobblestones. Parks and towpaths are also irresistible if you enjoy long walks.

### The Bodleian Library

*The leather-bound volume was nothing remarkable. Chapter 1, ADOW*

With the very first scene of the All Souls Trilogy set in the Bodleian Library, you get the sense that this location is very significant for the entire series. “The Bod” or Bodley’s Library is one the largest and most famous libraries in the world. The areas open to the public are the quadrangle, the Divinity School, and the medieval Duke Humfrey’s Library. In the quadrangle, you can admire the frilly spires, the big leaded windows, the ancient doors leading to the specific departments, and the statue of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. Does this name ring a bell? That’s Mary Sydney’s son!

⚠️ **Duke Humfrey’s Library is accessible only if you take a guided tour.** Tickets can be purchased at the kiosk in the passage across the courtyard. Just as described in A Discovery of Witches, there’s a protocol to enter Duke Humfrey’s.



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*I deposited my bag in the cubbyholes by the door after first removing my wallet, computer, and notes, and then I headed up to the twisting wooden stairs to the third floor. Chapter 4, ADOW.*

Visitors, just like scholars, must check in their bags in a locker—a big chest is used for groups during the guided tours, and small lockers are provided for scholars and individual visitors. Cue the fangirl moment!

To the chagrin of the All Souls Trilogy fans, it is only possible to visit the Arts End. Alas, the Selden End is not open to the public, as the noise from visiting crowds would be disruptive for the scholars. Unless you're a scholar, you can admire the Selden End on books and/or stock photography. We found a stunning photo album on this [Oxford University page](http://www.oxforduniversityimages.com), <http://www.oxforduniversityimages.com> (type Duke Humfrey's in the search field), plus a wonderful virtual tour, <http://www.chem.ox.ac.uk/oxfordtour/bigpanoshow.asp?ID=1320>. [...] *I said, already moving in the direction of the Selden End, the airy seventeenth-century addition that ran perpendicular to the main axis of Duke Humfrey's. Chapter 1, ADOW.*

Photography is not not allowed inside Duke Humfrey's, so we couldn't take any photos.

The adjacent round **Radcliffe Camera** was originally built as a medical library. However, today it's used as a reading room and is part of the gigantic Bodleian Library complex that runs through tunnels underneath the Radcliffe Camera.

Not-to-be missed: The small **Bodleian Library gift shop**, a book lover heaven, where you can admire many Bodleian Library-inspired items, including the tote bag with the Bodleian Oath that Diana "purchases" for 20 British pounds during one of her visits.



*I had taken it from the library shop when we retrieved the Book of Life, making sure to leave a twenty-pound note under the pencil cup near the till. Fittingly, the canvas bag had the library oath emblazoned upon it in red and black letters. Chapter 37, TBOL.*

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*“One year ago you walked into the Bodleian Library and straight into my heart.” - Diana Bishop, Chapter 22, TBOL.*

Factoid: Duke Humfrey’s was the location of the Hogwarts Library restricted section in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer Stone. The flame in Harry’s lantern was computer generated as fire is absolutely forbidden in the Bodleian Library.

Address: Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG

Website: [bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

### Bridge of Sighs

Modeled and named after the Bridge of Sighs in Venice, Oxford’s Bridge of Sighs is immediately visible when entering New College Lane with the Bodleian Library at your back. The bridge connects two sides of Hertford College and is one of the most photographed (and filmed) sights in Oxford.

*The vampire sat in the shadows on the curved expanse of the bridge that spanned New College Lane and connected two parts of Hertford College, his back resting against the worn stone of one of the college’s newer buildings and his feet propped up on the bridge’s roof. Chapter 3, ADOW.*

### New College



Diana’s college is open to the public for a fee, and absolutely worth touring. Check their website or call in advance to verify hours and whether any specific area is closed for a private function. Hours vary widely depending on whether classes are in session, and/or private functions. A “must see” is the Great Hall, the Cloister, and the garden.



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*I skirted under the chapel windows and through the narrow passage into the quad that had views of Oxford's only surviving medieval garden, complete with the traditional mound that had once offered a green prospect for students to look upon and contemplate the mysteries of God and nature. Chapter 2, ADOW.*

Address: New College, Holywell Street, Oxford OX1 3BN

Website: [new.ox.ac.uk](http://new.ox.ac.uk)

Factoid: The stunning Cloister is the filming location of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.

## All Souls College



*There was one college in Oxford notorious for its exclusivity and rigid attention to protocol.*

*It was the same college famous for its brilliant fellows. Chapter 14, ADOW.*

As we learn from the trilogy, there are no undergraduate students at All Souls College, and All Souls Fellows are primarily involved in research and teaching.

*All Souls College was a masterpiece of late Gothic architecture, resembling the love child of a wedding cake and a cathedral, with its airy spires and delicate stonework. I sighed with pleasure, unable to say much—at least not yet. Ch. 14, ADOW.*

The only sections of All Souls College open to the public are the Great Quadrangle accessible from High Street, the college front visible from Catte Street, and the chapel (closed at the time of our visit). From Catte Street, you can also admire the ornate gates facing the Radcliffe Camera.



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*It was the A pair of ornate, scrolled gates guarded his college as if it were Wonderland. Chapter 14 , ADOW.*

Individuals or larger groups with specific interests in the college's history or architecture must arranged tours in advance by contacting the Domestic Bursar, via the [email form](#) at [asc.ox.ac.uk/content/contact?recipient=bursary](http://asc.ox.ac.uk/content/contact?recipient=bursary).

As Deborah Harkness has told us before, with the second largest wine cellar in the UK (the largest is in Buckingham Palace), All Souls College is the perfect college for Matthew Clairmont.

*Matthew looked down with a shy smile. "Welcome to All Souls." Chapter 14 , ADOW.*

Address: All Souls College, Oxford OX1 4AL

Website: [all-souls.ox.ac.uk](http://all-souls.ox.ac.uk)

## Blackwell's

With the main bookstore location facing the Bodleian Library and the Sheldonian Theatre, Blackwell's is one of the world's largest bookstores. Satellites shops are throughout Oxford. The Norrington Room in the basement holds stack after stack of books. The second floor is where Diana goes for tea and lunch. And that's also where she first meets Agatha Wilson.

*My usual meal consisted of a twenty-minute break in the nearby bookstore's second-floor café. I smiled at the thought of Miriam occupying herself during that time, trapped in Blackwell's where the tourists congregated to look at postcards, smack between the Oxford guidebooks and the true-crime section. Ch. 6, ADOW.*

Address: Blackwell's, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BQ

Website: [blackwell.co.uk](http://blackwell.co.uk)



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## Oxford Covered Market

A colorful maze of shops, complete with fruit stands, bakeries, butchers, cafés, gift shops, and a lot more, the Covered Market is a feast for the senses. Sandwiched between Market Street and High Street, the market is featured in two separate chapters of *A Discovery of Witches*. The café where Matthew invites Diana for breakfast (Chapter 7) is inspired by Brown Café inside the Covered Market (confirmed by Deborah Harkness). And in chapter 12, Diana leaves her apartment at New College, *passing by the dome of the Radcliffe Camera, where the undergraduates read the assigned books, and the medieval walls of Jesus College, I went shopping along the aisles of Oxford's Covered Market. Ch. 12, ADOW.*

In our exploration, we couldn't get enough of Brown's Cafe and the fruit stand (no chestnuts in the summer unfortunately but their gooseberries were amazing), and we went back



multiple times. We were surprised by some sudden rain during our last unplanned visit, so we took advantage of the downpour to take cover at Brown's Cafe to sample their tea, which indeed is served *without bloodshed* (Ch. 7, ADOW), and a delicious apple pie.

The market is open every day, but it's a good idea to check market website for specific opening hours.

Address: Market Street, Oxford OX1 3DZ

Website: [oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk](http://oxford-coveredmarket.co.uk)

## River Thames and the Isis Tavern

A stroll down the River Thames (aka Isis River) from the center of town to the Isis Tavern (renamed Isis Farmhouse) at Iffley Lock is undoubtedly one of the most relaxing activities to escape the Oxford crowds. A late morning departure is recommended if you want to grab

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lunch at the Isis Tavern. Wear the most comfortable shoes as it's a 2.3-mile walk departing from New College, which will take approximately 45 minutes, one way. By the way, Google maps is a life saver to help you navigate the maze of walking trails.

Deborah Harkness recommends a departure from Christ Church Meadows in her Oxford Guide, which is also beautiful (Deb's guide is in the Waterstone edition of The Book of Life, published in the UK).

The Boathouse Walk between Folly Bridge and Iffley Lock is a fun stretch for All Souls Trilogy fans as you get to admire all the college boathouses. It is here that the college rowing teams race against each other in the two annual regattas - 'Torpids' in late February and 'Eights' in mid May.

*The sky darkened behind my closed lids, and the booming sound of traffic overhead indicated that I'd passed underneath the Donnington Bridge. Ch. 4, ADOW.*

Continuing south of the Boathouse Walk, you'll cross the Donnington Bridge. Leave the towpath and head over to the bridge if you want to enjoy Matthew's vintage point, which Diana finds "infuriating." Note the City of Oxford boathouse by the Donnington Bridge. That's where Diana feels the cold stare of Matthew Clairmont, and then the nudge from a daemon as she's rowing down the river (Ch. 4, ADOW).



Proceeds south where you can enjoy the rewards of an earthy meal at the Isis Farmhouse. Worth it!

**⚠ The Isis Farmhouse is a cash-only establishment and does not accept credit cards.**

*Turning the boat in front of the Isis Tavern, I spotted Clairmont standing beside one of the pub's tables. He'd managed to get there from the Donnington Bridge—on foot—in less than I'd done it in a racing scull. Ch. 4, ADOW.*

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Address: Isis Farmhouse, Haystacks Corner, The Towing Path, Iffley Lock, Oxford OX4 4EL

Website (Yelp): <http://www.yelp.com/biz/isis-farmhouse-oxford>

## Other Locations

### Colleges

*“I’ve been a member—once—of Merton, Magdalen, and University colleges. I’ve been a member of New College and Oriel twice each. And this is the first time All Souls has paid any attention to me.”* Matthew Clairmont, Ch. 14, ADOW.

In *A Discovery of Witches*, several colleges are mentioned. While we don’t cover them in this guide, they are truly beautiful and worth a visit time permitting. If you only have time for one college besides to the obligatory stops at All Souls and New College, we recommend Christ Church. You’ll find some of the colleges mentioned in *A Discovery of Witches* on the “Other Colleges” photo album on Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thetenthknot/albums>.

*“My familiar route took me past Oriel College and to the tall, black iron gates between Merton and Corpus Christi.”* ADOW, Ch. 7.

*Clairmont rolled along the drive to the gates of Christ Church, where he waited for an opening in the early-morning traffic dominated by delivery trucks, buses, and bicycles.”* ADOW, Ch. 7. (Note: Christ Church is Phoebe Taylor’s college).

*Clairmont steered up the hill and took a right down the High Street. We passed the statue of George II’s wife standing under the cupola at The Queen’s College, then headed toward Oxford’s botanical gardens.* ADOW, Ch. 7.



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## Pitt Rivers Museum

*Marcus had even checked Matthew's favorite Oxford haunt, the Pitt Rivers Museum, where the vampire could often be found dividing his attention between the skeleton of an iguanodon and a likeness of Darwin. Ch. 16.*

The Pitt Rivers Museum holds one of the world's finest collections of anthropology and archaeology. Note: The entrance to the Pitt Rivers Museum is through the Oxford University Museum Natural History (OUMNH) on Parks Road.

Address: 1 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6NN

Website: <http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk>

## Old Parsonage Hotel

*"The chef from the Old Parsonage's restaurant made it-and provided precise instructions on how not to burn it to a crisp when I reheated it." Matthew, Ch. 14, ADOW.*

It's the hotel where Matthew procures the memorable dinner he serves to Diana in his rooms at All Souls College (Ch. 14). At a very short walk from the Ashmolean Museum, this stylish hotel occupies a 17th-century parsonage, and it's ranked one of the best hotels in Oxford. It's no surprise, the restaurant is Matthew's pick.

Address: 1 Banbury Rd, Oxford OX2 6NN

Website: <http://www.oldparsonage-hotel.co.uk>



## King's Arms

*Sean, who'd shared many a drink with me in the pink-stuccoed pub across the street in our graduate-student days [...] Ch. 1, ADOW.*

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The pink-stuccoed pub mentioned in the very first chapter of *A Discovery of Witches* is The King's Arms. We recommend it if you want to experience good, traditional English pub fare.

Address: 40 Holywell Street, Oxford, OX1 3SP

Website: <http://kingsarmsoxford.co.uk>

### **Turf Tavern**

*We navigated the uneven sidewalks of Holywell Street, past the entrance to the Turf pub, and through the New College gates. Ch. 14, ADOW.*

Tucked in a short, narrow alley nestled against the old city wall, the Turf Tavern feels like finding a treasure. Look for the St. Helen's Passage under the Bridge of Sights to reach the tavern. And weather permitting, enjoy the outdoor beer garden.

Address: 4-5 Bath Place, Oxford, OX1 3SU

Website: <http://www.turftavern-oxford.co.uk>



### **University Church of St. Mary the Virgin (not in the trilogy and best view)**

Worth the 127 narrow, twisting stairs of the bell tower, the climb rewards visitors with a stunning view of All Souls College, the Radcliffe Camera, the Bodleian, and other Oxford landmarks.

Address: The High Street, Oxford OX1 4BJ

Website: <http://www.university-church.ox.ac.uk>

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## Weston Library (not in the trilogy)

Check the website of the newly reopened [Weston Library](#) to find out what exhibit is available. At the time of our visit, the awe-inspiring [Marks of Genius](#) exhibit showcased many All Souls Trilogy-related items, including a portrait of [Thomas Bodley](#) by Nicholas Hilliard, works of Shakespeare, Marlow, Vesalius, the [Gutenberg Bible](#), [Newton's Principia](#), and more.

Address: Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG

Website: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/our-work/estates-projects/weston>

## Museum of the History of Science

Adjacent to the Bodleian and the Sheldonian Theatre, the Museum of the History of Science holds a collection of early scientific instruments mostly from Oxford illustrious “celebrities,” including Einstein’s chalkboard featuring his equations from a lecture in Oxford. This is the museum confirming the authenticity of the “re-discovered” telescope built by Thomas Harriot and Nicholas Vallin.



*THE WORLD'S leading expert on early scientific instruments at Oxford University's Museum of the History of Science, Anthony Carter, confirmed today that a refracting telescope bearing the names of Elizabethan mathematician and astronomer Thomas Harriot and Nicholas Vallin, a Huguenot clockmaker who fled France for religious reasons, is indeed genuine. Ch. 40, SON.*

All Souls Trilogy fans will also enjoy the collection of astrolabes, which are also detailed in the museum's [online catalogue](#).

Address: Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AZ

Website: <http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk>