

Visit Oxford for educating experience

English city home to renowned university, beautiful spires

Education is synonymous with Oxford. This historic city is home to one of the most renowned universities worldwide and the oldest of its kind in the English-speaking world.

The origins of the University of Oxford date to the 13th century, making it a sparkling wonder in knowledge and learning. It also is a popular tourist attraction. Located less than an hour by train northwest of London, this esteemed academic institution attracts travelers eager to absorb its aura.

Many of the university’s 38 colleges open their doors to nonstudents daily for a few hours, giving them the opportunity to witness the ancient quadrangles, chapels and dining halls. Guided tours are available and several colleges play host to evensong services, including Christ Church, with its celebrated Cathedral Choir.

Ashmolean is the world’s oldest public museum and home to the school’s impressive collection of art and archaeology. Artifacts date from 8000 B.C. to present day. This diverse trove represents most of the world’s greatest civilizations. Admission is free.

Oxford is more than an old, college town. Known as the “city of dreaming spires,” a nickname coined by Victorian



STORIED STRUCTURE – The Radcliffe Camera Library sits in the center of Radcliffe Square at the University of Oxford. *Image: Andrei Nekrassov. Adobe Stock.*

poet Matthew Arnold to recognize Oxford’s enchanting skyline of towers and church spheres, it has inspired countless writers and poets for centuries.

Oxford also provided several iconic locations for the “Harry Potter” films, including New College, whose cloisters were featured in “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” and Christ Church College – home of a magnificent Tudor dining hall that inspired Hogwarts’

Great Hall.

The best views of the city can be found from Carfax Tower, measuring only 74 feet in height. No building in central Oxford can be taller than this famous edifice, which is all that remains of a 12th-century church. Visitors climb 99 steps to its apex and view Oxford’s stately skyline and landmarks.

The city’s most recognizable landmarks are located at Cobbled Radcliffe

Square. Honey-hued buildings include Bodleian Library, the Christopher Wren-designed Sheldonian Theatre and the Hertford College Bridge, often referred to as Oxford’s “Bridge of Sighs.” The circular-shaped Radcliffe Camera Library resides in the heart of the square.

Oxford Covered Market has everything from household goods to haberdashery. More than 250 years old, it’s an ideal place to taste street food from all parts of the world, as well as local fare like mackerel pâté, crispy whitebait, caperberries and Oxford blue cheese.

Have a pint in the Old Bookbinders Ale House or The Bear Inn, Oxford’s oldest pub, dating to 1242. Sit in the same seats that acclaimed writers C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien once occupied at the Eagle and Child.

Visitors should hire a traditional Oxford punt from Salter’s Steamers boat-house near Folly Bridge to view Oxford and Christ Church meadow from a different angle. “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” originated as a story told on a boating trip that began at Folly Bridge, and the Thames riverside is lined with college rowing clubs and inviting old pubs.

Oxford is a beacon of higher education, but some things are better learned outside the classroom.

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title

AAA MOTORIST/OHIO/WEST VA/KENTUCKY

2. Publication Number

1 6 1 8 6

09/12/2023

4. Issue Frequency

BI-MONTHLY (EVERY OTHER MONTH)

5. Number of Issues Published Annually

6

6. Annual Subscription Price

\$1.00

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not Printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)

Addr 1: 1414 12TH ST

Addr 2:

City, State ZIP: PORTSMOUTH, SCIO TO CNTY, OH 45662-4235

Contact Person

HEATHER ROTH

Telephone

412-365-7232

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not Printer)

Addr 1: AAA EAST CENTRAL

Addr 2: 5900 BAUM BLVD

City, State ZIP: PITTSBURGH, PA 15206-3854

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor (do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

Name: TERESA G PETRICK

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10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name

AAA EAST CENTRAL

Complete Mailing Address

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A PENNSYLVANIA NONPROFIT CORPORATION

PITTSBURGH, PA 15206-3854

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or more of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box

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Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:

☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement below)

PS Form 3526, July 2014

13. Publication Title

AAA MOTORIST/OHIO/WEST VA/ KENTUCKY

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below

09/01/2023

15.

Extent and Nature of Circulation

Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months

No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)

186,352

183,879

b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation

(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)

184,723

182,246

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0

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c. Total Paid Distribution

(Sum of 15b. (1), (2), (3), and (4))

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182,246

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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)

1,041

1,041

e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d. (1), (2), (3) and (4))

1,524

1,523

f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c. and 15e.)

186,247

183,769

g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))

105

110

h. Total (Sum of 15f. and g.)

186,352

183,879

i. Percent Paid

(15c. Divided by 15f. Times 100)

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99.17%

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184,723

182,246

c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)

186,247

183,769

d. Percentage Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided by 16c x 100)

99.18%

99.17%

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ Publication required. Will be printed in the 11/01/2023 issue of this publication.

☐ Publication not required

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Signature

FRANK VERDECCHIA

Title

EDITOR

Date

08/24/2023

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