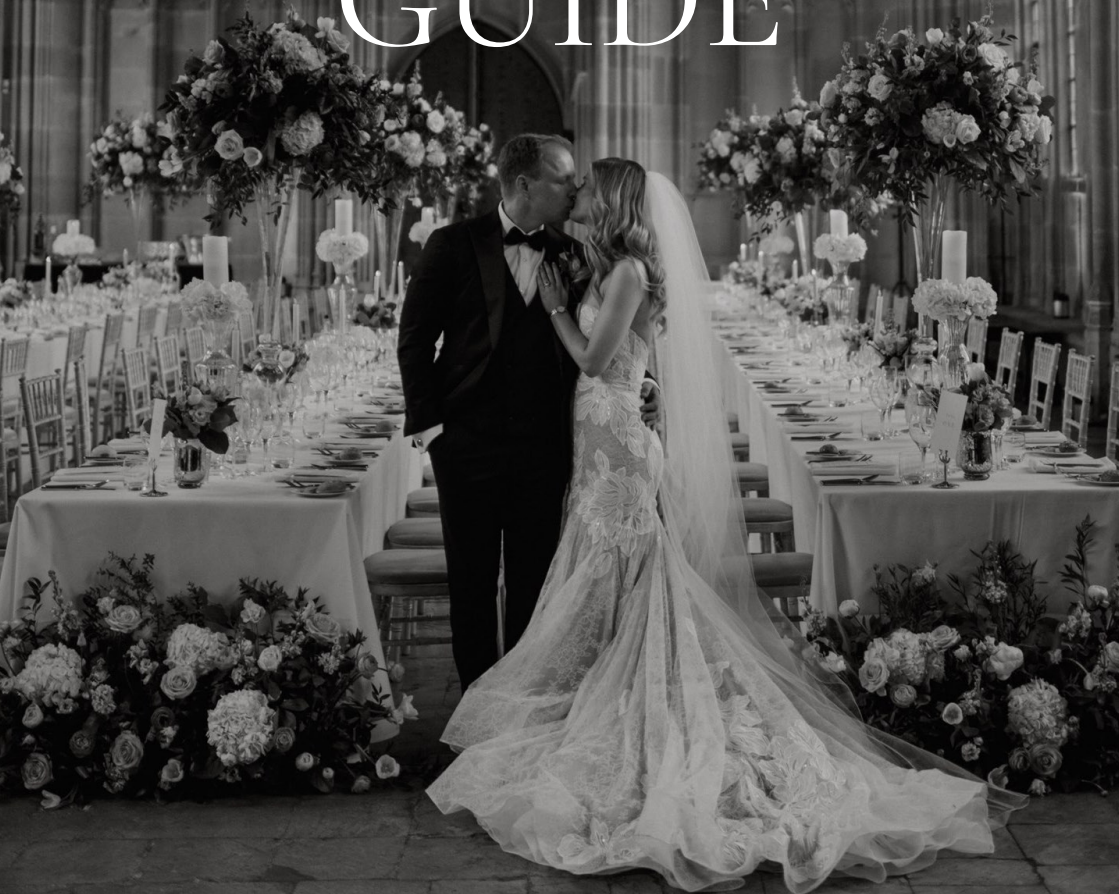


THE BODLEIAN LIBRARIES



BODLEIAN
LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The
WEDDING
GUIDE



Our timeline



Welcome to your *dream* venue

The Bodleian Libraries invites you to toast your once-in-a-lifetime celebrations with us. The Old Bodleian boasts intricate details in the stone walls of the Old Schools Quadrangle, masterful late gothic architecture of the Divinity School, and the distinguished ceremonial space of the Convocation House. This is a space like no other, and we would be delighted to host your wedding day in our venue.

Wedding showround

An opportunity to visit the venue and visualise the space as your own. It's also the ideal time to ask us any questions you may have in person.

Date placed on hold

We ask you to complete a reservation request form to place the date on hold. We can hold a date for up to two weeks before you sign.

Venue Hire Agreement (VHA) signed

This is the official contract that confirms you have booked the date with us and covers our terms and conditions as well as information on payment.

Deposit invoice

After signing the VHA, we will send across a 50% non-refundable deposit invoice. If you want to change the date (subject to availability), this deposit is carried over.

Final invoice

6-8 weeks before your wedding day, we will send across the final invoice of the hire fee.

Details meeting

About 6 weeks before your wedding day, we organise a meeting to run through the details of the day with you and confirm your suppliers and timings.

Wedding ceremony rehearsal

An optional run through of your wedding ceremony, to iron out any details – or settle any nerves. We also recommend dropping items off the Friday before.

Your wedding day!

Ceremonies

Whether you are planning for 100 guests or just the two of you, we would love to host your wedding at the Bodleian. Steeped in history, it's the perfect backdrop for your dream day. Keep the magic going with a drinks reception afterwards with one of our fantastic drinks suppliers.



Convocation House

Suggested time hire: 12:00 to 15:0
 Maximum Guests: 100
 2026: £3750 / 2027: £4000 / 2028: £4250

Suggested Timings:

12:00 Start of hire time
 12:30 Guests arrive
 13:00 Ceremony begins
 13:30 Ceremony concludes
 13:30 Drinks reception
 14:30 Drinks reception concludes
 15:00 End of hire time



Divinity School

Suggested hire time: 11:30 to 15:30
 Maximum Guests: 150
 2026: £6500 / 2027: £7000 / 2028: £7500

Suggested Timings:

11:30 Start of hire time and chair set up
 12:30 Guests arrive
 13:00 Ceremony begins
 13:30 Ceremony concludes
 13:30 Drinks reception
 14:30 Drinks reception concludes
 15:30 End of hire time



Receptions

Host an unforgettable wedding reception within the Bodleian's magnificent spaces, where historic architecture and timeless elegance create a truly special setting. Whether you're planning an intimate gathering or a larger celebration, the atmosphere lends itself beautifully to every style of celebration, offering a unique and memorable backdrop for you and your guests.



Ceremony & Reception

Hire time 16:00 to 01:00
 Maximum Guests: 120
 2026: £11500 / 2027: £12200 / 2028: £12800

Suggested Timings:

16:00 Start of hire time, set up begins
 16:30 Guests arrive
 17:00 Ceremony begins
 17:30 Ceremony concludes
 17:30 Drinks reception in Old Schools
 Quad or Proscholium begins
 18:45 Call for dinner
 19:00 Dinner service to commence
 21:00 Dinner service to conclude
 21:00 Speeches & cake
 21:45 Music to begin and bar to open
 23:15 Last orders
 23:30 Bar closes
 23:45 Music to conclude
 00:00 Guests depart
 01:00 Venue closes

Reception Only

Hire time 16:00 to 01:00
 Maximum Guests: 120
 2026: £11500 / 2027: £12200 / 2028: £12800

Suggested Timings:

16:00 Start of hire time, set up begins
 17:30 Guests arrive
 17:30 Drinks reception in Old Schools
 Quad or Proscholium begins
 18:45 Call for dinner
 19:00 Dinner service to commence
 21:00 Dinner service to conclude
 21:00 Speeches & cake
 21:45 Music to begin and bar to open
 23:15 Last orders
 23:30 Bar closes
 23:45 Music to conclude
 00:00 Guests depart

Oxford Fine Dining



The Bodleian Libraries work in partnership with Oxford Fine Dining who have, for over 10 years, been creating and executing one-of-a-kind weddings throughout Oxfordshire and the Cotswolds.

Oxford Fine Dining's dedicated Weddings and Events planner understands the importance of your wedding day and will work closely with you to ensure every detail is considered and every expectation exceeded. Their chefs use innovation and creativity tailored to you to ensure deliciously different menus on your most special occasion.

Fine Planning

Building on the expertise of Oxford Fine Dining, Fine Planning offers seamless wedding planning from concept to completion, perfectly complementing their catering.

With a focus on elegant, personalised celebrations, the team brings creativity and precision to every stage—from design to on-the-day coordination—ensuring a wedding that feels effortless, refined, and uniquely yours.

Testimonials

“The Bodleian Wedding Team are meticulous in helping to coordinate the logistics of your ceremony and ensure everything is clearly communicated; not a stone left unturned! Together with the setting and the perfect level of friendliness and professionalism, everyone had an unforgettable day.”

E&H

“We are so pleased we were able to have our wedding at the Bodleian, it was a beautiful space to hold our intimate ceremony with friends and family. What a gorgeous venue, from the history and architecture to the wedding team. Thank you!”

P&C

“The team at the Bodleian have been absolutely amazing! They made our dreams come true, holding our wedding ceremony in Convocation House. Ever since our initial meeting, they have been fantastic!”

K&D

“For the planning and on the day itself, the Bodleian Weddings Team were unprofessional, courteous and responsive. The history and solemnity of the venues spaces created an atmosphere that suffused the events.”

S&E

THAT Event Company

THAT Event Company are an Oxford-based audio, visual and lighting hire company, supporting weddings of all sizes with professionalism and creativity.

Offering an extensive range of high-quality equipment - including uplighters, speech systems and dance floors - they provide everything needed to enhance both the atmosphere and flow of your celebration. Their experienced team works closely with you and your venue to ensure seamless setup and delivery, creating the perfect ambience from ceremony through to evening festivities. With a focus on reliability, technical expertise, and attention to detail, THAT Event Company help bring your vision to life and ensure your day *looks* and *sounds* exceptional.



Fabulous Flowers



Exceptional florists who are knowledgeable and passionate about flowers and floral art, Fabulous Flowers bring creativity, artistry, and a deeply personal touch to every wedding they design. Working closely with each couple, they transform ideas into beautifully curated arrangements that enhance and complement your chosen setting, from intimate details to striking installations. With a commitment to seasonal blooms, thoughtful design, and flawless execution, their work adds a sense of natural elegance and occasion to every celebration.



Small Weddings



Ceremony & dinner

Suggested hire time: 15:30 to 22:30
 Maximum Guests: 50
 2026: £9200 / 2027: £9500 / 2028: £9800

Suggested Timings:

15:30 Start of hire time
 16:30 Guests arrive
 17:00 Ceremony begins
 17:30 Ceremony concludes
 17:30 Drinks reception
 18:30 Call for dinner
 18:45 Dinner service to commence
 20:30 Dinner service to conclude
 20:30 Evening reception (low level music)
 21:15 Guests depart
 22:30 Venue closes

Ceremony & lunch

Suggested time hire: 10:00 to 17:00
 Maximum Guests: 50
 2026: £7800 / 2027: £8200 / 2028: £8600

Suggested Timings:

10:00 Start of hire time
 10:30 Guests arrive for Ceremony
 11:00 Ceremony
 11:35 Drinks reception
 12:45 Lunch
 15:45 Guests to depart
 17:00 Venue closes

Duke Humfrey's Library

Few spaces capture the romance and history of the Bodleian quite like the Duke Humfrey's Library. With its hand-painted ceilings, wooden bookcases and soft, atmospheric light, it offers an unforgettable setting for couple portraits. The quiet grandeur of the space creates a sense of intimacy, allowing you to step away from the celebrations and capture timeless photographs surrounded by centuries of scholarship and stories.

For those planning a private elopement, the Duke Humfrey's Library provides a truly unique backdrop for your vows. Rich in heritage and character, it's an extraordinary place to mark the beginning of your next chapter together.



FAQs

What is a dry-hire venue?

When you dry hire a venue, it means you only hire the space and hire everything else yourself; a dry hire venue is a venue that only provides the space, and the staffing in the case of the Bodleian. However, we work with a number of fantastic suppliers, including florists, musicians and photographers.

What catering packages do you have?

As a dry-hire venue, we do not provide catering, but work closely with Oxford Fine Dining, who provide excellent service for any occasion. We strongly advise reaching out to them for a catering quote around the same time you place a date on hold with us.

Is there any AV/lighting included in my booking?

If you have booked any package with an evening reception hire, basic AV is included in the booking. THAT Event Company (TEC) provide their basic up-lighting and a PA system for your band or DJ, anything else is not included in the package.

Do you have approved/recommended suppliers?

We have two suppliers that you are required to use for a reception, Oxford Fine Dining and THAT Event Company, however you have freedom to use any other suppliers. We do have lists of recommended suppliers, which you can find on our website under Our Suppliers.

Can I have confetti at my wedding?

Yes! We are happy to work with your photographer to organise confetti under the Bridge of Sighs, as it cannot be on the Bodleian Libraries site. We do ask that it be either biodegradable paper or dried flowers.

What is your wet weather option for the drinks reception?

For smaller guest numbers, the Proscholium is able to fit guests for the event. However, we would recommend considering hiring the Sheldonian as an alternative drinks reception venue for larger wedding parties. You can find out more here, or email us if you have any questions.

Can I get married in the Duke Humfrey's Library?

While you cannot have a legal ceremony in the Duke Humfrey's Library, you are able to have an intimate celebrant-led ceremony in the space. We allow up to 15 guests, for these ceremonies. Read more about Duke Humfrey's elopements here.

Do you have any parking on-site?

We have limited parking on-site, and it is reserved for suppliers. We will speak to you during your details meeting about which suppliers may need parking. For guests, we recommend using the Oxford Park and Ride, or hiring coaches for your guests at the end of the night.

Do you offer an alumni discount?

We do not offer any discounts on our wedding packages; however, we have a range of different packages that are suitable for different price points and we would be happy to talk to you further about what works best for you.

The Team

A quartet of romantics...



Kate

Kate's style is classic with a celebratory flourish - elegant, considered, and full of atmosphere. She's drawn to timeless details, from soft, romantic peonies to a perfectly chilled Bellini, and indulgent touches like red velvet cake. She loves the moment a space is completely transformed, when lighting, flowers and music come together to create something truly magical. With dreams of a New York honeymoon, her approach balances creativity with practicality - her advice is to stay in control of the details and savour the excitement as your vision comes to life.



Rachael

Rachael's approach is effortlessly modern and guided by the beauty of the season. She gravitates towards what's naturally at its best, from fresh textural florals and David Austin roses, to vibrant flavours and elegant alcohol-free fizz, her choices always feel effortless yet intentional. With an eye for contemporary aesthetics and a love of authenticity, she's drawn to the quiet, meaningful moments. Inspired by the calm beauty of her honeymoon destination, St Ives, her philosophy is simple: be present, trust your instincts, and shape a day that feels entirely, unapologetically your own.



Ruth

Ruth's style is rooted in classic romance, with an emphasis on authenticity and personal expression. She's drawn to timeless choices: white roses, rich chocolate cake, and a perfectly mixed mojito - but it's the individuality of each wedding that inspires her most. From the moment the dress is revealed, she values the details that reflect who you truly are. With the Yorkshire Dales as her ideal escape, her advice is heartfelt and simple: stay true to yourselves, and create a day that feels sincere.



Scarlett

Scarlett brings a bold, joyful energy to weddings, with a love of colour, personality and moments that feel full of life. Think bright sunflowers, rich chocolate flavours, and a dancefloor that doesn't slow down. She's especially drawn to the togetherness of the day - those big, laughter-filled group photos that capture everyone in one place. With Southeast Asia on her honeymoon wish list, her outlook is vibrant and collaborative, always encouraging couples to communicate openly and enjoy every step of the journey.



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