

# His Dark Materials City Trail



Phillip Pullman's trilogy, 'His Dark Materials', has now been adapted twice for screen. In the latest BBC adaptation we see even more of Oxford as a back drop to his fantastical world. Pullman himself has lived in Oxford since his years as a student at Exeter College in 1965, so it is no surprise that this beautiful city has impacted his work in such a profound way.

## 1 Magdalen College (High Street)

Magdalen College stars in Series 2 Episode 2, where Lyra is trying to find the Physicist Mary Malone in our Oxford. The quad, exterior and some interiors are used.

## 2 Botanical Gardens (High Street)

The Botanic Gardens are used throughout the series, most notably as its end point. Whilst only the front gate is used in the series, the bench that Pullman actually wrote about is located in the far left back corner. It's easy to find as members of the public have carved the initials "L and W" for Will and Lyra.

## 3 Merton College (Merton Street)

The front gates of Merton College are used as an entrance to Jordan College. Lyra is seen exiting Merton College to Merton Fields, where Lord Asriel is preparing to leave her behind in his Airship in Series 1, Episode 1.

## 4 New College (New College Lane)

Multiple scenes were filmed on New College Lane and inside New College itself. Internal scenes of Jordan College are filmed within New College throughout the series. Notably, we see Lord Boreal in the Chapel of New College in Season 1, Episode 2, speaking to the Master of Jordan college to ascertain what Lord Asriel presented there in the first episode.

## 5 Radcliffe Square (via Cattle Street)

This iconic section of Oxford is featured at the beginning of Season 2 Episode 2 as Will and Lyra begin their exploration of our Oxford. From here, Lyra spots the Royal Observatory and takes off running under the Bridge of Sighs.

## 6 The Pitt Rivers Museum (Parks Road)

In Season 2, Episode 2, Lyra is left alone in our Oxford as Will checks on his mother. We see Lyra enter the Natural History Museum, walking through the interior as Pantalaimon expresses his discomfort at the taxidermied animals. She then enters the Pitt Rivers Museum, where she consults the Alethiometer on the second floor.

## 7 Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (via Woodstock Road)

The Radcliffe Observatory Quarter is where Jordan college is located in Lyra's Oxford. Lyra runs towards the Radcliffe Observatory in Series 2, Episode 2, expecting to see Jordan College but finding a construction site instead. Today, it houses The Blavatnik School of Government and the Andrew Wiles Mathematical Institute.



Magdalen College



Botanical Garden



Merton College



New College  
New College Lane



Radcliffe Square



The Pitt Rivers



Radcliffe Observatory  
Quarter

