

The Golden Compass City Trail



Oxford is well known as the inspiration for Philip Pullman's 'Dark Materials' Trilogy, so it is not surprising that when they came to film the Golden Compass the city became one of their busiest locations. The film, starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig, uses the architecture of the university and city to evoke Lyra's fascinating and yet slightly threatening childhood world. Jordan College, where Lyra lives, is based on Exeter College in Turl Street where the author studied as an undergraduate.

1/2 Exeter College (Turl Street)

Lyra saves Lord Asriel's life early in the film and they take a walk in Exeter College's Fellows garden. The camera swings up to show the impressive Radcliffe Camera in the background. Make sure you go up to the raised garden at the back to get one of the great views in Oxford! As you go out of the college look up in Exeter's front quad to see the roof top architecture – meticulously copied and recreated in the studio to create another part of Lyra's mysterious world.

3 Radcliffe Square (via Catte Street)

Early shots in the film establish Radcliffe Square as Lyra's magnificent playground. It is here that she and Roger run around to escape from the Gyptians to take refuge in Jordan College at the start of the film.

4 Queen's College (High Street)

The backdrop to the appearance of Lord Asriel early in the film. The unmistakable College cupola are caught on these early shots as he walks down the college passageways.

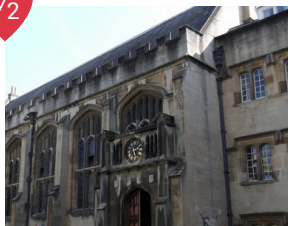
5 Christ Church Meadow (via St. Aldates)

At the beginning of the film, Lyra, Roger and the Gyptians throw mud and chase each other around the field before making off to Jordan College.

6 Christ Church (St. Aldates)

In the film, Christ Church becomes Cardinals and it is here in the main quad that Mrs Coulter, taking Lyra by the hand, climbs into the Zeppelin airship and flies off to London.

1/2



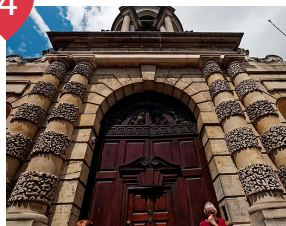
Exeter College

3



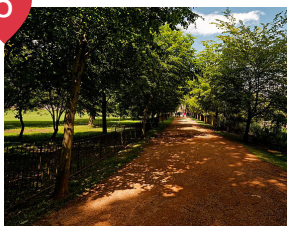
Radcliffe Square

4



Queen's College

5



Christ Church
Meadow

6



Christ Church

