

Self-guided walk

A walk following in the footsteps of Shakespeare

This circular walk is approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and takes around 15– 20 minutes at a steady pace.

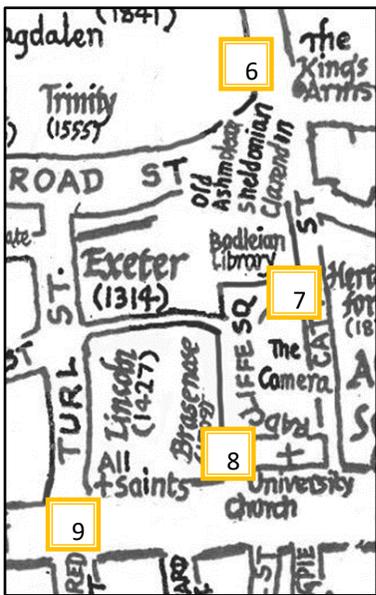


This self-guided walk is taken from Shakespeare in Oxford— A guide and brief trail.

Starting point: Carfax Tower, Oxford City Centre.

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5. Along Broad Street look for the **Martyr's Cross**, a few saved cobbled bricks containing a cross set within the tarmac. This was the site of the execution of three Protestant bishops, Latimer, Ridley and Cranmer.



Cranmer appears in Shakespeare's late history play *Henry VIII*, written in collaboration with John Fletcher.

Continue down Broad Street, viewing the colleges of Balliol, Trinity and Exeter.

6. At the end of the street, on the corner with Holywell Street, you will see **The King's Arms**.

THE KINGS ARMS



The King's Arms was used by players in the early 17th century, with a stage erected in the yard. It seems likely that this would have been a favoured venue for Shakespeare.

7. **Turn right** into Catte Street, passing the Bodleian Library on your right. **Enter** Radcliffe Square and marvel at the architecture.



The **Bodleian Library** owns over 12 million printed items including many valuable editions of **Shakespeare**.

8. Walk alongside **University Church** where Cranmer and the other martyrs were tried. **Turn right** at the end of the street back onto **High Street**.



9. Walk back up the High Street to **Carfax**, passing the former City Church, now the library of Lincoln College.



Inside this library (not publicly accessible) there is a monument to **John Davenant** and his family.

1. Start at **Carfax**.

Turn left and walk down Cornmarket Street.

2. After **15m** stop.

On your right is an entrance stairwell to BetFred— look up, above this on the second floor is the **Painted Room**.

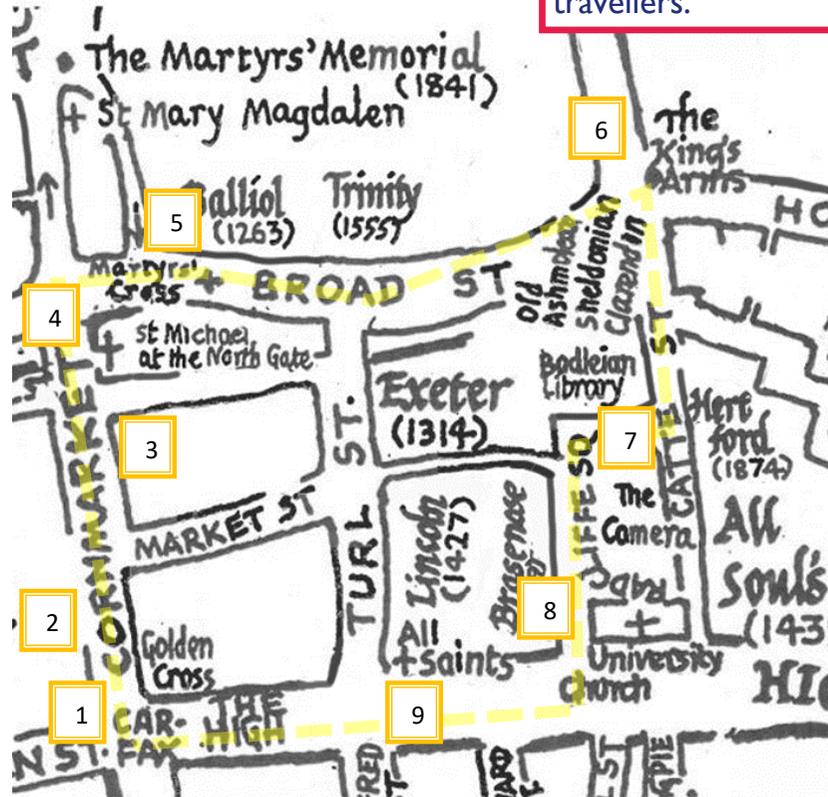
Look down the High Street to view the road Shakespeare would have taken onwards to London. A city panorama can be obtained by climbing Carfax Tower, all that remains of the former town **Church of St Martin's**.

The **Painted Room** is all that remains of **The Crown Tavern**, with its extensive 16th century wall paintings which remained preserved behind later wooden panelling until they were uncovered in the **1927**. For a virtual tour visit: www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Shakespeare almost certainly stayed in **The Tavern** (later **The Crown**), one of only three places in the city licensed to serve wine.



The innkeeper from around 1600 was **John Davenant**. It is speculated that Shakespeare had an affair with Jane Davenant (his wife) and fathered a child, poet and dramatist **William Davenant** (pictured). Shakespeare was his godfather. William Davenant liked to share this inferred information.



3. After another **5m** stop. On your right is the small opening to **Golden Cross Inn**.



The buildings largely date from the **16th Century**, and now serve as shops and restaurants. The **Golden Cross** was an inn for travellers.



4. Leave Golden Cross and **turn right**, heading north along Cornmarket Street. Spot two fine historic buildings which Shakespeare would have noted: the former **New Inn**



(1385) on the corner of Ship Street, and the **Church of St Michael at the Northgate**.



The Church of St Michael at the Northgate contains the **font** from **St Martin's**, so Shakespeare might have stood at this font as godfather to William Davenant.

4. Continue to the end of Cornmarket Street,

St Mary Magdalen Church and **St Giles** is straight ahead of you—this would have been the thoroughfare by which Shakespeare would have approached the city.

Turn right into Broad Street.



Continued overleaf.