

# FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRAIL

Lace up your walking boots and don your warmest hat for the Ashton Court Family Christmas trail! Discover cool nature facts, fascinating wildlife, breath-taking views, historical landmarks and Christmas surprises. Grab a coffee or hot chocolate from the Courtyard Café to gear you up before you start your trail on the other side of the car park.



Footpath unsuitable for buggies and strollers

# Ashton Court Estate

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### 1 - Framing Bristol

Take a photo between our oak and chestnut trees for the best view of Hotwells and Spike Island. It will be even better with your family in the photo too!

### 2 - Climbing Trees

Welcome to Rownham wood. On your trail you'll have to climb the tree root steps. Be careful, these are quite steep and you'll need to take big steps.

### 3 - Deck the Halls

In Rownham wood we have two big holly bushes, which will be on the left hand side of the footpath. The Smythe family of Ashton Court used to decorate their house with holly like this at Christmas time. Can you spot them?

### 4 - As High as Santa's Sleigh

Woah! You're at the highest viewpoint of the trail. If you have a camera device which can take a panorama photo, now is the time to use it. Can you compare this photo with the one you took at the start of the trail? What differences can you see?

### 5 - Meet an Old Friend

This is a sculpture of the Green Man, an ancient pagan woodland spirit. It was the pagans who started the tradition of bringing a tree inside during the darkest part of the year to brighten up their winters - this tradition became Christmas Trees.

### 6 - A Grand Entrance

Here you will find Clifton Lodge, built in the Tudor-Gothic style in 1886. The road beyond this gatehouse goes straight to Clifton Suspension Bridge. Not bad for a back gate is it?

### 7 - Time for a Pit Stop

You've just walked down the North Drive, which is the longest driveway in the park. Also you've just passed the halfway point, well done! If you're in need of a pit stop, follow the road over the hill to Ashton Court activity hub where you'll find a café, toilets, and a range of activities if you fancy a go.

### 8 - That's Tree-mendous!

Here you will find what we know as the 'Fattest Tree', it's an oak around 1,000 years old. Ashton Court Estate contains the largest single population of ancient trees within the city with 444 individual trees identified. Can you spot any other trees you think might be over 200 years old?

### 9 - Away in a Manger

This is the stables of Ashton Court where the Smythe family kept their horses - we're not sure if any babies were ever born here though! You can now have a warming hot drink and tasty treat in the stables, surrounded by original features, at the Courtyard Café.

### 10 - The Bristolian 'Rein'Deer

Of course, what would a Christmas trail around Ashton Court Estate be without our famous Red Deer? These deer are free to roam around the deer park, so you might see them before you reach stop number 9!