

National Trust Press Release

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Images attached: <https://we.tl/t-DGNnPxfy2h>

Enjoy the festive season at Shugborough Estate.

This December, wrap up warm and make a trip to Shugborough Estate to enjoy the wonders of the festive season. The National Trust property in Staffordshire is the perfect place to get the most out of this magical time of year, with activities and adventures for all the family. From 1st to 22nd December, the mansion will be adorned with Christmas decorations. Discover the adventures, travels and triumphs of the Anson family, with the festive display.

Throughout December, you will be able to join a lantern lit journey across the estate. On weekends throughout December you will be able to craft a paper pyramid lantern at a workshop with the help of an artistic guide. Then, bring them back with your friends and family, and revel in the sparkle of a lantern lit parades on the 21st and 22nd December. Be sure to book your place on these special events so you do not get disappointed.

Marie Smith, Shugborough's Events and Programming officer says 'There is no better place than Shugborough at Christmastime. You will be able to marvel at this magical time of year, be delighted by decorations and indulge in tasty treats. When you come for some Christmas sparkle, it helps us to work our magic.'

If you're bringing your little ones for some fun, be sure to head over to the play area 'Explorer's Wood' and have a go on the zip wire. But play doesn't stop at the play area, so make sure you complete your '50 things to do before you're 11¼'. At Shugborough you can tick off lots of things, such as flying a kite, jumping in muddy puddles and playing pooh sticks down at Essex Bridge. Over the Christmas holidays you will be able to pick up a trail sheet from visitor reception.

The changing seasons will make a walk at Shugborough truly magical. The Estate covers 900 acres of Grade 1 listed Parkland, full of a variety of tree species that will be standing strong in the cold winter weather. See the breath of the cows across the parkland, as you take your four legged friend on a walk. The National Trust looks after land as far as Great Haywood Cliffs and Stafford Plantation, so the more adventurous wonderers will have plenty of space to explore. Make sure you ask at visitor reception for one of the winter walks maps.

While you're out and about, enjoying the frost on the ground, make sure to say hello to the animals grazing out in the fields. Shugborough has a working farm, meaning all of our animals are there for a purpose. We care for longhorn cows, southdown sheep, dorkin chickens and tamworth pigs, that you will be able to see as you wonder around.

After you've soaked up this special part of Staffordshire's heritage make sure you visit the shops and cafes. You can warm yourself up with a hot chocolate and a soup from Park Farm café, or enjoy a heartier meal down at the Mansion Tearoom. There

are two shops at Shugborough where you will be able to finish off your Christmas shopping. You will be able to find everything, such as books, toys, cosy homeware and liquors. Shugborough is only closed on Christmas day, so make sure you visit the estate to burn off those brussels on a festive walk.

Staffordshire County Council gave back management of Shugborough Estate to the National Trust in November 2016, and the site has been open under the Trust since March 2017. This means that all members have to do is to scan their card for entrance to the entire Estate. The site is open year round, only closing on Christmas day. The National Trust is a charity, meaning that your memberships, visits and any money you spend whilst on site, all goes towards caring for Shugborough Estate. Buying a membership will also allow you entrance into over 500 other National Trust properties, including Wightwick Manor and Gardens in Wolverhampton, Biddulph Grange Garden near Stoke-on-Trent and Attingham Park near Shrewsbury.

Please check Shugborough's website to book onto events. Shugborough Estate is open Monday –Sunday 9.00am-4.00pm, and is closed on Christmas day. Normal admissions apply to the site.

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