



Start (W3W): shall.deep.tent
Finish (W3W): plates.reap.shin
Distance: 1.25 miles
Slopes: Some gentle slopes
Steps or Stiles: Wooden steps by Gravel Walk for trees 10 and 11 (there is a longer route via a slope)
Terrain: Mostly tarmac and pavement, with some stretches of lawn
Wheel Friendly: Yes
Transport/Parking: On street parking in Royal Victoria Park. Charlotte Street car park (min 4hrs). Nearest bus stop – bthjmwa, Milsom Street
Public Toilets: Charlotte Street car park, below Royal Parade
Refreshments: Various city centre cafés from Queen Square onwards
Rest Points: Benches on Royal Avenue, in Queen Square and Abbey Churchyard
Dog Friendly: Yes
Features: The Circus, Royal Avenue, Queen Square, Pulteney Bridge and Weir

Activities



Tree Trail D: Leafy Legacies

Bath is a UNESCO World Heritage City with six attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, including the green setting of the city. There are many significant trees – in the parks and in the streets – which contribute indirectly to the World Heritage status and the wellbeing of the community.

Here is one of our Urban Treescape trails in digital and map form, where we share a selection of trees in the centre of the city. We invite you to follow our trail and enjoy the shapes and colours of each tree – their flowers, fruits, seeds, leaves and bark – and learn something about each one, while seeing the city from a different perspective.

A digital map is available at:
bathurbantreescape.com



- 1 Feel the bark. Look up through the branches. How many people do you need to encircle this tree's trunk?
Recommended for tree:
- 2 Draw the tree in 1 minute. Draw it again, taking 10 minutes. Look for dropped needles from this tree and draw them.
Recommended for tree:
- 3 Listen carefully under a tree. Write down 20 sounds you can hear.
Recommended for tree:

Try out these activity ideas for all ages on as many trees as you wish. A recommended tree for each activity is listed below. Please remember to take a notebook and pencil.

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Lucy Bartlett, Fiona Bell, Antonia Johnson, Joseph Lavington, Helen Schofield, Hugh Williamson with support from:
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Map and website designed by Joseph Lavington.

1 LONDON PLANE TREES

Platanus × hispanica
The Circus



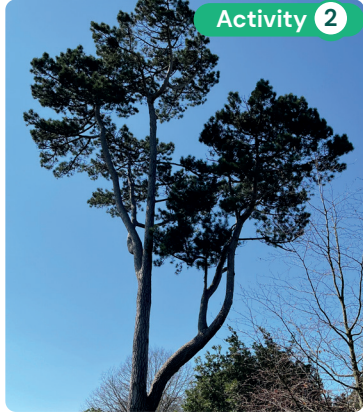
Activity 1

The London Plane is an intercontinental cross (*P. occidentalis* from N America and *P. orientalis* from SE Europe) giving it the hybrid vigour that makes it such a popular urban tree. When the Circus was first built an open space was planned – these trees were planted 40 years later in about 1800.

2 BLACK PINE

Pinus nigra

Royal Avenue



Activity 2

Native to Southern Europe. Black pine often grows with a single vertical trunk, but this example has a beautiful architectural branch structure. The bark is worth a close-up look and feel!

3 COMMON LIME TREES

Tilia × europaea

Royal Avenue



This is Lime Tree Walk, part of the original Park planting in 1830. An 1857 description noted ten trees, of which five or six of the originals apparently survive. The lower trunks of common limes are naturally covered with sprouts (epicormic growth). If they weren't trimmed back they would soon block the pavement.

4 FERN-LEAVED BEECH

Fagus sylvatica

'Aspleniifolia'

Royal Avenue



Close to the stone urn. This is a variant of the common beech where most of the leaves have a spiky shape, giving the overall tree a softer look. The inner tissues of the tree are like the more common beech, and sometimes sprout out to produce twigs and branches bearing the roundish leaves more typical of beeches.

5 CUT-LEAVED LIME

Tilia platyphyllos 'Laciniata'

Royal Avenue



This tree is located beyond the fern-leaved beech. A variety of the broad-leaved lime chosen for its mis-shapen leaves. The old metal label on the trunk is one of very few survivors in the Park. Notice that the name on the label is slightly different to the modern name – scientific names of plants can change over time as we find out more about them.

6 KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

Gymnocladus dioica

Royal Avenue



A tree of this type – probably this one – was here in 1857. Leaves which are made up of smaller leaflets are called 'pinnate'. The leaves of this tree are very unusual in being 'doubly-pinnate' – the leaflets themselves have leaflets! This results in very big leaves up to a metre in length.

7 GOLDEN RAIN TREE

Koelreuteria paniculata

Royal Avenue / Gravel Walk



Sometimes called 'Pride of India', although it originates further East. In spring, the delicate pinnate leaves open with a pinkish colour. These are followed by dramatic panicles of yellow flowers in summer and seeds in little bladders like Chinese lanterns in the autumn.

8 HYBRID STRAWBERRY TREE

Arbutus × andrachnoides

Royal Avenue / Gravel Walk



A small tree noted for its beautiful multi-coloured bark. This example may very well be the same tree noted here in 1857. The similar but less spectacular tree next to it is one of its parents – the strawberry tree.

9 ENGLISH OAK

Quercus robur

Royal Avenue / Gravel Walk



Activity 3

The English oak is often chosen to commemorate national events. This one celebrates VE Day. Oak timber was used to build ships for the British Navy and so was associated with security, power and the Empire.

10 MONTEREY CYPRESS

Cupressus macrocarpa

Gravel Walk



Native to California and one of the largest girthed trees in Bath. It is one parent of the vigorous hybrid, the Leyland cypress. It grows very quickly in Britain – this example may only be 150 years old.

11 PINE AND BEECH

Fagus sylvatica,

Pinus nigra

Gravel Walk



The pine is growing up through the beech, which casts a very deep shade. Only the pine needles right at the top receive sufficient sunshine to survive. Branches without healthy leaves eventually die and fall off, so most of the pine's trunk is bare.

12 MIMOSA

Acacia dealbata

Queen Square / Chapel Row



Native to Australia, this tree likes warm sun and grows best against south-facing walls. It has feather-like leaves and abundant yellow flowers in February / March. It is a member of the pea family. Later in the year you'll see seed pods like miniature pea pods.

13 SILVER LIME

Tilia tomentosa

Queen Square



This is a magnificent tree, in summer or winter. Notice how the pattern of the bark changes at the graft line, 2m from the ground. A silver lime crown was grafted onto common lime rootstock, to improve the tree's vigour. In June, the sweet smell of the flowers carries well beyond the Square.

14 SILVER BIRCH TREES

Betula pendula

Harrington Place (2) & Barton Street (1)



Birches make ideal street trees. There are no heavy branches to fall off or thick masses of leaves to make pavements slippery. They don't grow too big, and provide shade without blocking out too much light.

15 COMMON WHITEBEAM

Aria nivea (syn. *Sorbus aria*)

St John's Almshouses
Rosenberg Garden



Species naturally occurring only in restricted areas are called 'endemic'. Nearly all of Britain's endemic species are whitebeams – there are about 20 in all, mostly found in the West of Britain. In spring, bundles of silvery leaves grow in upright 'candles' which resemble magnolia flowers.

16 MEDLAR

Mespilus germanica

St John's Almshouses
Rosenberg Garden

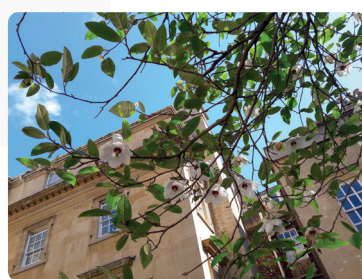


Medlars were planted in Victorian times for their fruit. They were also popular in medieval England and are mentioned by Chaucer and Shakespeare.

17 WILSON'S MAGNOLIA

Magnolia wilsonii

St John's Almshouses
Rosenberg Garden



In May this magnolia has beautiful parasol-like white and purple flowers. It is named after Ernest Wilson, who brought many plants from China to the West.

18 HANDKER-CHIEF TREE

Davidia involucrata

St John's Almshouses
Rosenberg Garden



Native to China, this tree's name refers to the large white bracts which appear for a few weeks in May. A single specimen was discovered growing in the highlands of China. The unique white blooms caused a sensation.

19 LONDON PLANE

Platanus × hispanica

Abbey Green



Planted in 1880, this tree looks much older than its 140 years!

20 CYPRESS OAK

Quercus robur

'Fastigiata'

Parade Gardens



This is a variety of English oak in which all the branches grow nearly vertically. The name comes from its resemblance to the evergreen Italian cypress.

21 SILVER BIRCH TREES

Betula pendula

Orange Grove



The four trees planted around the obelisk are all types of birch. How many similarities and differences can you see between them?

22 CALLERY PEAR TREES

Pyrus calleryana

On pavement overlooking
Parade Gardens



Despite the road, pavement and colonnade underneath, there is just enough soil and water available for these trees to survive.

23 SILVER MAPLE, CAUCASIAN WINGNUT, GREY POPLAR AND WHITE WILLOW

Acer saccharinum,
Pterocarya fraxinifolia,
Populus × canescens,
Salix alba

Pulteney Weir



Grand Parade is a great place to watch these four trees change with the seasons. The wingnut has pinnate leaves and catkins up to 50cm long in summer. The maple has fine autumn colour and the poplar's grey bark and silvery undersides to its leaves identify it throughout the year. Willows love growing by rivers – twigs or branches which they drop into the water may stick in the river bank further downstream and grow into new trees.