

# COLCHESTER'S ROMAN TRIVIA TRAIL



1. Firstsite
2. Colchester Castle
3. Charles Gray's Summer House
4. Roman House
5. Outer Temple Wall
6. Roman Theatre
7. Queen Boudica
8. Elephants
9. Mercury Theatre
10. Balkerne Gate
11. Roman Church
12. Roman Circus

**KEY:**  
Colchester Town Walls are the oldest and longest in Britain!

Walk the trail with an adult and discover fascinating facts about Roman Colchester. You'll find lots of information panels along the way where you can learn even more.

When you've finished, write your own fascinating fact or draw a picture of Roman Colchester and we'll give you a prize in return!

We advise checking opening hours of various heritage attractions prior to starting the trail to avoid disappointment. Please note Hollytrees Museum is closed on Sundays. The Roman Circus Centre is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Most of the route is fully accessible. Please contact the Visitor Information Centre on 01206 282920 who can advise you if you have concerns about your access requirements.

**1. Roman Mosaic** - This was originally the floor of a Roman dining room. It was discovered in 1923 and spent many years on display at the Castle. It is now back at almost the exact spot it was originally found.

**2. Colchester Castle** - The Castle is Norman but built on the ruins of a Roman Temple, partially of Roman tiles - can you spot them? At 950 years old it is less than half the age of the Roman Wall!

**3. Charles Gray's Summer House** - Charles Gray once owned the land that is now Castle Park. He was given the Castle as a wedding present. This summer house was built by Charles in 1731 to resemble a Roman Temple.

**4. Roman House** - You can see the outline of a Roman House near the Castle Park bandstand. There's no ruins as the bricks from these houses were used to build the Castle! Can you imagine what the rooms were used for?

**5. Outer Temple Wall** - Don't miss the small brick wall on your lefthand side as you exit the Park. It's the last remaining piece of the Roman Temple of Claudius! It would have formed part of the great curtain wall.

**6. Roman Theatre** - Peer through the window to see a section of the Roman Theatre. If you look at the paving stones nearby you can see the shape of the theatre marked out in a darker colour, and part of the stage can be seen in the wall of St Helen's Chapel.

**7. Queen Boudica** - As you reach the Town Hall, look up at the statues. Can you see Boudica? She is famous for leading a rebellion against the Romans, and destroyed the Roman City of Camulodunum.

**8. Elephants** - Colchester is full of elephants! These two help people find their way, and if you look up at the top of Jumbo Water tower you'll see an elephant on the weathervane too! Can you think of any more? It's said the Roman emperor Claudius rode elephants into Colchester - the first elephants in Britain!

**9. The Mercury Theatre** - This is named after the Roman Messenger God, Mercury, who had wings on his feet. There is a big statue on the front of the building, and inside a smaller statue that is a replica of an important Roman artifact found in Colchester! The original can be seen in the Castle Museum.

**10. Balcerne Gate** - This is the largest standing Roman Gateway left in Britain! It's amazing that you can still walk through it. There would have been an even larger gateway next to the one that you can see, which is where the Emperor Claudius would have arrived with his elephants.

**11. Roman Church** - It's thought that this might have been the very first Christian church in Britain, but it's difficult to know for sure, and it may have been a smaller temple for a Roman God called Mithras.

**12. Roman Circus** - This is the only known Roman Chariot Racing site in Britain. At it's height, up to eight horse drawn chariots would have raced around the circuit, and attracted huge numbers of spectators.

