



Our inclusive guide to visiting Father Christmas

Are you planning a visit to see Father Christmas with family and friends this festive season? Here are just a few of the inclusive Santa's Grotto experiences in Gloucestershire.

[Regent Arcade, Cheltenham](#)

With Father Christmas taking to the shop floor, Regent Arcade offers an alternative to a Christmas Grotto and there is a #ChangingPlaces facility at the nearby John Lewis store. This is accessed with a radar key or alternatively there is a contact number for access on the door. Chargable blue badge holder parking is available in Regent Arcade but alternative parking is available nearby.

[Gloucester Quays](#)

Claus' Christmas Cabin and the magical world of the North Pole has arrived at Gloucester Quays. With step free access in and out of the Grotto, you can contact the organisers on 01482 320099 to discuss your individual requirements and to book a quiet time to visit. There is a #ChangingPlaces Facility open to the public at the Gloucestershire College Campus on Llanthony Road which is just over the bridge from the Quays. It is open until 5pm (weekdays only). There is no weekend access. Please go to College reception and let staff know that you would like to use the facility.

[Cotswold Farm Park](#)

Father Christmas and his toy room have landed at Cotswold Farm Park for selected dates this December. With designated time slots and opportunity to discuss individual requirements, this experience offers a story, craft and a gift for each child. Thank you to [Hard Days Out Made Easy](#) for their recommendation of Cotswold Farm Park. You can read their full review [here](#).

[Dobbies Garden Centre, Gloucester](#)

Join Father Christmas for Breakfast or Tea at Dobbies Garden Centre. Seated at your own table, families will enjoy a main meal, festive activities and a gift from Santa. Taking place in the restaurant, there is step free access, an accessible toilet and individual meet and greet opportunities. A spacious alternative to a traditional Grotto.

[Dobbies Garden Centre, Cirencester](#)

The “Sensitive Santa” is an opportunity for children with additional needs to meet Santa in a relaxed environment. Vicki from [Hard Days Out Made Easy](#) has supported Dobbies Cirencester staff with the planning of these sessions available on Sunday 9th, 16th and 23rd December. Booking is required.

[Merrywalks Shopping Centre, Stroud](#)

Father Christmas will be taking up residence at Merrywalks Shopping Centre on selected dates throughout December. Accessible toilets and blue badge holder parking is available as well as step free access (with a small taped down lip up to the Grotto). Individual requirements can be met by contacting the organisation, and with specific appointment times, you can avoid the queues.

[Clearwell Caves](#)

The ever popular Christmas Spectacular returns to the caves this year. Follow the seasonal story of Cora and the Bloobious Bright and meet Father Christmas in this unique location. Before arrival, you can call the organisers to arrange a drop off. Due to the nature of the caves, the ground is uneven and sloped in places including a steep slope at the start of the caves. The venue is not accessible for people using a powerchair or mobility scooter but it is accessible for pushchairs (2 adults per pushchair are recommend). Inside the caves there is soft lighting, quiet music and an accessible toilet.

Top tip from Clearwell Caves: Visit during the week (avoid weekends as often fully booked and queues are unavoidable). Open until 8pm on Fridays.

For an outdoor alternative experience to visiting Father Christmas:

[Pittville Park Elf Hunt](#)

On Saturday 8th December, mischievous elves will be hiding waiting for you to find them! Tickets give you entry to the Elf trail, Christmas crafts, a toy, hat and 'Elfie' opportunity. A #ChangingPlaces facility is also available in Pittville Park.