

Destination Stratford launches their largest Christmas Trail yet with forty-six retailers, expanding into St. Marys and Shakespeare for the ultimate holiday shopping experience.

The 2023 seasonal Christmas Trail marks the largest number of trail participants since the inception of the trail in 2014.

For Immediate Release: November 1, 2023

(Stratford, ON) Destination Stratford is pleased to announce the expanded return of the popular Christmas Trail with a record number of 46 participating locations, each with their own hand-selected holiday item.

Stratford is the perfect spot to hub and spoke as you make your way to St. Marys and Shakespeare to discover more holiday gifts included in your selection. The additional stops encourage visitors to stay longer in the region and explore more retailers. The Christmas Trail offer 30 stops located in Stratford, and 16 spots between St.Marys and Shakespeare. Trails can be purchased in both Stratford and St.Marys.

"With a record number of local and regional stops this year and building upon the record sales from last year, we are thrilled to welcome back our Christmas Trail for another season. This unique retail-focused trail is always highly anticipated and has become a cherished holiday experience that visitors and locals have enjoyed year after year," says Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford.

The Christmas Trail is just \$35 (+HST) and participants will enjoy customizing their own merry adventure by selecting six unique gifts from the fun, festive and trendy offerings across the 46 stops on the trail. The Christmas Trail can be purchased in person at Destination Stratford, located in the heart of the city at 47 Downie Street (Mon - Sat: 9am - 12pm and 1pm-5pm), as well as Bradshaws (129 Ontario Street) open Mon - Sat: 10am-6pm and Sun: 11am-5pm and Stone Home Creatives (158 Queen St. E. St.Marys) Mon/Tues: 10am-5pm, Wed-Fri: 10am-5:30pm, Sat: 9:30am-4pm and Sun: 12pm-3pm.

On your journey you will discover holiday gifts, home décor, seasonal treats and so much more. Participating Christmas Trail stops are ready and waiting to welcome you as you shop your way around town. Stratford is a truly magical place to spend during the holiday season.

Make your holiday selections at: Apt. 6 Skin Co; Avon Theatre Store; The Barkery; Black Angus Bakery & Catering; Blowes Cards & Gifts; Bradshaws; Corner Store Candy Co; Distinctly Tea; Got it Made, illume Wellness Spa; Jenn & Larry's; Junction 56 Distillery; Kandy Cakes; Kinna Sohna; La Osa Jewelry & Vintage; The Little Green Grocery; MacLeod's Scottish Shop; Madilta Art & Bar; Miss Sophie's; Olive Your Favourites; Poppin Kettle Corn; Rocky Mtn Chocolate; Samsonite Retail Outlet; Small-Mart; Stilettos & Sawdust; Touchmark; Treasures; Werk-Shop; White-Balmer Shoes; Wills & Prior. SHAKESPEARE: The British Touch; Chok Fine Chocolates; Wild Hog. ST.MARYS: Betty's Bookshelf; Bungalow; The Chocolate Factory; The Flower Shop; Hyggeligt Fabrics; Lauren Whitney Lifestyles; O'Grady's; Practical Art; Stone Home Creatives; Troyer's Spices; Tuttco; The Wine Lab; Zenfire Pottery.

Trail vouchers are presented at each of the 6 stops of your choice to redeem your holiday item. Christmas Trail vouchers are valid from November 1 through to December 20, 2023. Trail participants are encouraged to share their experiences on social media using #StratfordChristmasTrail.

Find more details about the 2023 Christmas Trail at <u>visitstratford.ca/ChristmasTrail</u>. Stay up to date on all things happening this holiday season by checking out our <u>event calendar</u>, including our upcoming <u>Lights On Stratford</u> Winter Festival starting December 15th until January 13, 2023.

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