

The Gruffalo Trail – Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

What is *The Gruffalo Trail*?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) takes visitors on a journey through the winding paths and gardens to spot your favourite characters from the popular children's book using a new augmented reality app.

What is *The Gruffalo*?

The Gruffalo is a children's book initially published in 1999 in the United Kingdom and celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The book was penned by writer and playwright Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler, and tells the story of a mouse on a walk through a European forest.

The book has sold over 13 million copies, has won several prizes for children's literature, and has been developed into plays on both the West End and Broadway and even adapted into an Oscar nominated animated film.

When will *The Gruffalo Trail* be available?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) is now open and will be available until July 2020.

Where does *The Gruffalo Trail* take place?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) takes place in the gardens at Rippon Lea Estate.

Rippon Lea Estate
192 Hotham Street
Elsternwick VIC 3185
Australia

For details on how to get to Rippon Lea Estate visit www.ripponleaeestate.com.au

When is the best time to visit?

Wander [The Gruffalo Trail](#) during opening hours at Rippon Lea Estate:

May to August

Open Daily
10am – 4pm (Last entry 3.30pm)

September to April

Open Daily
10am – 5pm (Last entry 4.30pm)

How long does it take to complete *The Gruffalo Trail*?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) is self-guided, and we recommend 45 minutes to complete the full trail.

What age is *The Gruffalo Trail* recommended for?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) is recommended for children aged 3 and up.

How do I participate in *The Gruffalo Trail*?

Prior to your visit to Rippon Lea Estate make sure to download *The Gruffalo Spotter AUS* App to your smart phone device, simply:

1. Open the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) (The Gruffalo Spotter AUS app is free for both iOS and Android users based in Australia)
2. Search 'Gruffalo Spotter AUS'
3. Tap the app to open
4. Click the get/install button
5. Open the app and start the trail once at Rippon Lea

Once you arrive at Rippon Lea Estate look for the markers along the way to bring the characters to life. There are five markers to activate Mouse, Fox, Owl, Snake and *The Gruffalo*. Jump behind or beside the marker to snap a photo, and be sure to save your photos before deleting the app. We suggest using your phone in landscape for the best picture.

Then, make sure to share your favourite images on social media using #NationalTrustVic and #GruffaloSpotters.

Do you have Wi-Fi available?

No, we recommend prior to your visit to Rippon Lea Estate to make sure to download *The Gruffalo Spotter AUS* App to your smart phone device. See above for details.

What if I don't have a smart phone?

[The Gruffalo Trail](#) can be completed without a smart phone and *The Gruffalo Spotter AUS* App, however without the App you will not get to experience the augmented reality aspect of the trail where the characters come to life.

How much does *The Gruffalo Trail* cost?

The Gruffalo Trail is included in your general admission entry ticket to Rippon Lea Estate. General admission entry includes house tours, garden entry and [The Gruffalo Trail](#).

See entry prices below:

Adult: \$15
Concession: \$12
Child (4-15 years): \$9
Family (2 adults & 2 children): \$40
National Trust Members: Free

For more information on what your general admission ticket includes visit www.ripponleaestate.com.au

How do I purchase tickets?

General admission tickets can be purchased on arrival to Rippon Lea Estate. General admission entry includes house tours, garden entry and [The Gruffalo Trail](#).

Do I need to pre-book?

Tickets do not sell out for [The Gruffalo Trail](#) and can be purchased on arrival at Rippon Lea Estate.

Planning your visit

What do I need to bring to participate in *The Gruffalo Trail*?

To complete [The Gruffalo Trail](#) visitors are encouraged to bring their smart phone device. We also suggest downloading *The Gruffalo Spotter AUS* App to your smart phone device prior to arriving at Rippon Lea Estate.

We also encourage visitors to wear sturdy shoes for around the garden and to dress appropriately for all weather conditions. Visitors are also welcomed to pack a picnic lunch and enjoy the 14-acre garden.

Travel Options

By car

Rippon Lea is located approximately 7 kilometres from Melbourne's CBD, in the bayside suburb of Elsternwick.

Street parking is available should you wish to drive. Please note that there is no onsite parking.

Public Transport

By train

The property is a five minute walk from Rippon Lea Station, on the Sandringham Line.

By tram

Catch Tram Route 67 (to Carnegie) to stop number 42 – Tram Tracker ID 2042. Tracker Stop ID 1042 (to Melbourne University).

By bus

The 216 or 219 Bus departs from Queen Street in the City on the south east corner of Queen and Collins Streets. Depending on traffic the journey takes 30 – 45 minutes. There is a stop directly outside Rippon Lea Estate. Ask the driver to set you down at the first stop after Glen Eira Road.

Where is the nearest ATM?

An ANZ ATM is located on Glen Eira Road, Ripponlea. This is approximately 5 minutes' walk from Rippon Lea Estate.

Is there disabled access?

There is limited disabled access to [The Gruffalo Trail](#) due to the historic layout of the gardens. Should you have mobility issues we would recommend a carer to accompany your visit. Please speak to the staff in the Gatehouse for a map which highlights the more accessible paths.

The Rippon Lea Gatehouse has disabled bathroom facilities and there is disabled access to the ground floor of the Mansion.

Is there disabled parking on site?

Limited disabled parking is available on site. Should you have mobility issues where offsite parking is problematic please call the duty supervisor (03) 9523 6095 to arrange suitable access. Please note to accommodate requests we prefer 24 hours' notice.

Are prams permitted?

Prams are permitted in the gardens, however are not permitted inside the mansion.

Is there a Café on site?

Rippon Lea Gatehouse Tea Rooms offer a range of sweets, hot and cold drinks and sandwiches. The Gatehouse has limited seating and is walk-in only. The Café has EFTPOS facilities.

Do we need to make a reservation for the café?

No, seating for the café is walk-in only. Please note the café has limited seating. All enquiries regarding larger bookings, please contact our Bookings Office on (03) 9656 9889.

Can I bring a picnic and sit in the grounds?

Picnics are encouraged! We have plenty of space in the gardens for you and your family to have a picnic lunch. Please remember to take all rubbish home with you.

Is there a gift shop?

We have a gift shop on site, with a range of merchandise and gift items for purchase. The gift shop has EFTPOS facilities.

Can I take photographs?

Absolutely! There will be an opportunity at each stop along [The Gruffalo Trail](#) to take a photo with your favourite character. We suggest using your phone in landscape for the best picture.

If you're posting to social media make sure to follow and tag us, plus hashtag #NationalTrustVic and #GruffaloSpotters to allow us to repost your pics!

Will I be able to see the mansion?

Yes, Rippon Lea Estate will be open to explore with your general admission ticket. Please note entry to the mansion is via guided tour only. Ask the Gatehouse staff for the daily mansion tour times.

Are there bathroom facilities?

Yes, there is accessible bathrooms located in the Gatehouse and in the toilet block located next to the Coach House. Please speak to the staff in the Gatehouse for a map which highlights your closest bathroom.

Contact

Can I contact someone for more information?

For more information on [The Gruffalo Trail](#) and Rippon Lea Estate visit the website (www.ripponleaestate.com.au).

Or phone (03) 9523 6095, daily 10am to 4pm or email bookings@nattrust.com.au.

Come in and say hello

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