

# The Sweet History? Trail



Visit the interactive map at [www.sweethistory.org](http://www.sweethistory.org)

The suggested trail will take about 3 hours. The route uses pedestrian crossings where possible, and may involve some steps, however there is usually an alternative nearby.



**1 Ostrich Inn**  
Location: Lower Guinea Street, Redcliffe  
Built around 1745



**2 Guinea Street**  
Period: Stuart, Georgian



**3 Redcliffe Caves**  
Period: Georgian



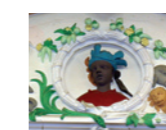
**4 Quaker Burial Ground**  
Location: Redcliffe Hill  
Period: Georgian



**5 St Mary Redcliffe Church**  
Location: 10 Redcliffe Parade West, BS1 6SP  
Period: Medieval



**6 The Seven Stars Pub**  
Location: Thomas Lane, Redcliffe, BS1 6JG  
Period: Georgian



**7 Corn Exchange**  
Location: The Exchange, Corn Street, BS1 1JQ  
Period: Georgian



**8 Commercial Rooms**  
Location: 43-45 Corn Street, BS1 1HT  
Period: Georgian



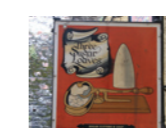
**9 Natwest Bank**  
Location: 32 Corn Street, BS1 1HQ  
Period: Georgian



**10 Statue of Edward Colston**  
Location: Colston Avenue  
Period: Stuart, Georgian



**11 Lewin's Mead Sugar House**  
Location: Hotel du Vin and Bistro, BS1 2NU  
Period: Georgian



**12 Three Sugar Loaves Pub**  
Location: 1 Christmas Steps, West End, BS1 5BS  
Period: Stuart, Georgian



**13 Horn and Trumpet Pub**  
Location: 14/15 St Augustines Parade, BS1 4UT



**14 The Georgian House**  
Location: Great George Street, BS1 5RR  
Period: Georgian



**15 Merchant Venturers' Almshouse**  
Location: King Street, BS1  
Period: Stuart



**16 King Street**  
Period: Stuart



**17 Theatre Royal**  
Location: King Street  
Period: Georgian



**18 The Custom House**  
Location: Queen Square  
Period: Georgian



**19 Queen Square**  
Period: Georgian



**20 The American Consulate**  
Location: Queen Square  
Period: Georgian



**21 33-35 Queen Square**  
Period: Stuart, Georgian



**22 Number 29 Queen Square**  
Built in 1709



**23 Hole in the Wall Pub**  
Location: Queen Square, BS1  
Period: Stuart, Georgian

**Key to historical periods**  
1216 – 1485 Medieval period  
1603 – 1714 Stuart period  
1714 – 1837 Georgian period

## Bristol's Buildings

Find out more about terms in **bold** online at: [www.sweethistory.org/about/glossary](http://www.sweethistory.org/about/glossary)

### 1 The Ostrich Pub

This pub was used by the sailors, dock-workers and merchants who worked in the port of Bristol at the time of the slave trade.

### 2 Guinea Street

Named after the gold coin the 'guinea' that was used for trading with Africa, this street was the home of slave ship captain Edmund Saunders.

### 3 Redcliffe Caves

Used to store goods used in the African and West Indian trades. Sand was collected from the caves to make glass bottles for bottling rum made from slave produced sugar cane.

### 4 Quaker Burial Ground

Some Bristol **Quakers** became wealthy merchants through their involvement in the triangular trade. Quakers were actively campaigning for the abolition of the slave trade by the 1760s.

### 5 St Mary Redcliffe Church

In the 18th century this church had many wealthy **Merchant Venturers** in its congregation who had become wealthy through their involvement in the **triangular trade**.

### 6 The Seven Stars Pub

The Seven Stars pub was visited by anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson during research to support the Abolition Act.

### 7 Corn Exchange

The Exchange was built for merchants of all types and has plasterwork carvings that represent Bristol's foreign trade.

### 8 Commercial Rooms

Built after the abolition of slavery (but when there were still over 800,000 enslaved Africans in the British Empire), this was a centre/club for Bristol merchants.

### 9 Natwest Bank

Originally set up in 1750, this was the site of one of the first banks outside London. The plaque on the side of the building remembers the 'Old Bank'. As merchant wealth increased so did the need for banks.

### 10 Statue of Edward Colston

Edward Colston was a merchant and slave trader who was also a generous charity donator in Bristol. He was born on 2 November 1636 and died on 11 October 1721.

### 11 Lewin's Mead Sugar House

In the 18th century this was one of 20 busy sugar houses in Bristol, that processed slave produced sugar to be used in tea, desserts and rum.

### 12 Three Sugar Loaves Pub

This pub gets its name from a nearby sugar refinery that burned down in 1859. The processed sugar was moulded into conical shaped loaves.

### 13 Horn and Trumpet Pub

Has a replica carving of a Native American with a headdress of tobacco leaves outside. The original was a figurehead from the steamship the **Demerara**.

### 14 The Georgian House Museum

Former home of the wealthy merchant and sugar plantation owner John Pinney and his slave Pero.

### 15 Merchant Venturers Almshouse

Merchant Venturers built this **almshouse** for sick and retired sailors.

### 16 King Street

This street was the home of Captain Henry Webb of the slave ship Nevis Planter.

### 17 Theatre Royal

Set up by 50 wealthy, local patrons including the Farr family, Henry Blight and Michael Miller who were all involved in the African trade.

### 18 The Custom House

The original Custom House on this site was built in 1711. Ships involved in the trade with Africa would have had to pay port taxes here.

### 19 Queen Square

Queen Square used to be a popular place to live for rich merchants and traders. In 1775 seven merchants who traded with Africa lived in the Square.

### 20 The American Consulate

There were very strong trade links between Bristol and the USA, and a lot of slave grown and harvested tobacco came into the city.

### 21 33-35 Queen Square

Former home of Captain Woodes Rogers (1679-1732). He invested his money in the slave ship Whetstone Folly which took 270 enslaved Africans to Jamaica from Africa.

### 22 Number 29 Queen Square

Former home of **Alderman** Nathaniel Day who part-owned several slave ships and who became Bristol's Mayor in 1737. Day fought against having to pay taxes on trading slaves.

### 23 Hole in the Wall Pub

There is a small spy hole on the harbour side of the building which is said to have been used by a lookout to warn the sailors drinking inside of **customs men** and **press gangs**.

## Sweet History?

During 2007/08 The Architecture Centre, Bristol worked with young people from the Knowle West Media Centre Archimedia core group on a project exploring the impact of the sugar and slave trade on the built environment heritage of Bristol.

The young people worked with artists and historians to learn about the social and economic impact of the international trades on the port city as part of Abolition 200, commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the international slave trade.

The young people have been central to the development of the Sweet History? project and website resource and have contributed much of the photographic and media content.

This walking trail takes you to some of the key buildings and locations connected to Bristol's history with the sugar and slave trades.

### The impact of the sugar and slave trades on the built environment of Bristol

The city of Bristol grew considerably and became extremely wealthy during the 18th century. This wealth came from the city's involvement in trades such as sugar, slavery and tobacco.

The profits generated from these trading activities helped to fund the construction of grand houses and public buildings, such as the library and theatre. The Sweet History? Trail around Central Bristol reveals some of the buildings and houses that can be linked to the sugar and slave trades.

Visit the website for further detailed information about the locations on this trail as well as learning resources including teaching activities, podcasts, and an m-scape.

[www.sweethistory.org](http://www.sweethistory.org)

### www.sweethistory.org

Please visit the website for information and learning resources relating to this project.

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### Project Team

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# Sweet History?

A trail exploring the impact of sugar and slavery on the built environment of Bristol  
[www.sweethistory.org](http://www.sweethistory.org)

