

# CHRISTMAS *in the* BRYN ATHYN HISTORIC DISTRICT



Located in Montgomery County just minutes from Bucks County and Philadelphia, the Bryn Athyn Historic District includes three National Historic Landmarks recognized for their remarkable architecture and craftsmanship: Cairnwood Estate, Glencairn Museum, and Bryn Athyn Cathedral. Bryn Athyn was founded as a religious community in the late 19th century by members of a Christian denomination known as the New Church, inspired by the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg. This historic district is a special destination at Christmastime.

*Cairnwood Estate* is a Gilded Age country house designed in the Beaux-Arts style by the renowned firm Carrère & Hastings for industrialist John Pitcairn and his wife Gertrude in 1895. Guided Christmas tours include three floors decorated for the season by professional florists. Each year a dazzling two-story Christmas tree stands where one once stood at the turn of the century. The Christmas exhibition includes elegant vintage fashions circa 1870s to 1970s worn by the ladies of the house. A festive three-course Holiday Tea is served in the Dining, Billiard, Music, Library, and Living rooms on select days throughout the month of December.

*Glencairn Museum*, once the home of the Raymond and Mildred Pitcairn family (1939-1979), is now a museum of religious art and history. Christmas at Glencairn includes the *World Nativities* exhibition, featuring dozens of hand-crafted nativity scenes from around the world. The 1st floor is decorated with festive wreaths, poinsettias, and a vintage Lionel train circling below a tree decorated with antique ornaments. The popular "Christmas in the Castle" guided tour includes Christmas decorations and traditions of the Pitcairn family, and works of art from the Middle Ages through the 21st century celebrating the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

*Bryn Athyn Cathedral* is highly acclaimed for its outstanding architecture and spectacular stained glass windows. The Cathedral has been an active house of worship since its dedication in 1919, and Christmas is a special time of celebration. A custom-made Nativity scene, commissioned for the Cathedral in the 1920s, is traditionally on display in the Social Hall. Guided tours highlight symbolism throughout the building drawn from the Bible and New Church teachings.



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## CHRISTMAS TOURS IN THE BRYN ATHYN HISTORIC DISTRICT

During the month of December, tour availability and hours of operation may be altered due to demand, weather, special events, and additional church services. **Some dates are not available.** Reservations are required for guided tours and the Holiday Tea. The itinerary for your visit can be customized to best serve your group, including one, two, or all three guided tours. For a full listing of closed dates visit:  
[WWW.BRYNATHYNHISTORICDISTRICT.ORG](http://WWW.BRYNATHYNHISTORICDISTRICT.ORG) or call 215.947.2004

- \* **CAIRWOOD ESTATE:** Guided Christmas tours at 10:00 & 11:00 AM, Tuesday – Sunday; availability subject to change due to private events. Self-guided tours offered on select afternoons. Call for hours and tour times.
- \* **CAIRWOOD HOLIDAY TEA:** Enjoy a festive traditional three-course tea in elegant surroundings. Reservations required, call for information.
- \* **GLENCAIRN MUSEUM:** Guided “Christmas in the Castle” tours. Reservations required. Self-guided access to the *World Nativities* exhibition included with guided tour admission. Call for daily exhibition hours and tour times.
- \* **BRYN ATHYN CATHEDRAL:** Guided tours 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesday – Sunday; availability subject to change due to private services.

### *Sample Tour Itinerary*

#### CAIRWOOD ESTATE:

11:00 AM guided Christmas tour  
12:30 PM Holiday Tea

#### GLENCAIRN MUSEUM:

1:30 or 2:30 PM “Christmas in the Castle” guided tour  
12:00 – 4:30 PM self-guided exploration of the *World Nativities* exhibition

**BRYN ATHYN CATHEDRAL:** 3:15 PM guided tour

**DEPART:** 4:00 PM

**CAIRWOOD ESTATE:** \$15 adults, \$12 seniors & students, 75-minute tour  
Self-guided exhibition only: \$10 per person

**GLENCAIRN MUSEUM:** \$12 adults, \$10 seniors & students, 45-minute tour  
Self-guided exhibition only: \$5 per person suggested donation

**BRYN ATHYN CATHEDRAL:** \$5 per person, 45-minute tour

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CONTACT LISA PARKER-ADAMS AT 215.947.2004, EXT. 31 OR [LISA@CAIRWOOD.ORG](mailto:LISA@CAIRWOOD.ORG)

