



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Escape Winter's Chill With a Trip to the Tropics Without Leaving New York

Experience *Caribbean Garden*, a New Look at the Botanical Garden's Permanent Collection and a Warm Ecotour of the World

January 15–February 27, Admission is Half Price

Visitors to The New York Botanical Garden this winter can find a refuge from the frigid weather outside with a retreat to the warmth of *Caribbean Garden*, a look at the tropical trees, flowers, and foliage in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory's permanent collection, including orange-yellow crotons, fuschia bromeliads, and rosy red hibiscus. Through self-guided strolls, use of free audio tours, or participation in docent-led tours of the Conservatory, visitors can encounter many surprises in the largest Victorian-style glasshouse in the country, open once again to the public after last summer's horticultural and structural refurbishments. Harsh winter frost gives way to warm rain forest mists, soaring palm trees, and bright desert landscapes. This ecotour also allows discovery of aquatics, medicinal plants, unusual species, and the process of evolutionary change. The period between the Botanical Garden's major seasonal shows, when the climate in the Conservatory is inviting, when the crowds are thinner, and when the admission price is discounted, is an ideal time for visitors to fully immerse themselves in and take advantage of these rich collections. Botanical Garden photography instructors will be available every Saturday during *Caribbean Garden* to share tips and techniques about how to capture the beauty of nature like a pro. Check nybg.org for exact times and locations.



JPMorgan is the presenting sponsor of Global Biodiversity Programs.

Palms and Tropical Rain Forests



The journey of discovery begins with the Conservatory's expanded palms display. After a brief hiatus for refurbishment, the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory re-opened in November 2010 with new palms and plantings throughout. The Palm Gallery, renamed *Palms of the World*, features exotic species that occur in warm regions across the globe. A diversity of palms from every known tropical habitat is displayed. Fifty new species have been added to the collection, including the red sealing wax palm *Cyrtostachys renda*, an exotic ornamental from Malaysia prized throughout the tropics for its bright-red crownshaft and clumping habit, as well as the Seychelles stilt palm *Verschaffeltia splendida*, a curious ornamental with a spiny trunk and stilt roots. Towering palms, cycads, and ferns surround a large pool that reflects the magnificent and iconic dome of the Conservatory, 90 feet above.

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A trip to the Garden in winter is also a journey through time, because many plants such as cycads are survivors of great evolutionary changes. Their leaves are not that different today from the leaves of their ancestors geological ages ago.



In the Conservatory's ***Lowland Tropical Rain Forest Gallery***, a re-created Healer's House illustrates how traditional healers use plants to treat human illnesses as well as how ethnobotanists gather and preserve the plants and the healers' knowledge. This ethnobotanical discipline—the study of the relationship between plants and people—not only preserves centuries-old knowledge but also points toward plants that may be useful in pharmacological research, or in the ever-growing market for herbal medicine. Nearby, visitors will discover the cacao tree, the source of chocolate. A skywalk leads up into the taller regions of the rain forest canopy, where one experiences the steady mist that rain forest explorers encounter in the wild.

In the ***Aquatic Plants and Vines Gallery***, lush curtains of tropical vines drape from the arching lattice of the glasshouse roof around an elegant fountain and pool displaying aquatic plants. The Conservatory's aquatic collection—plants adapted to life in the water—includes *Cyperus papyrus*, the plant used to make some of the earliest paper.

As visitors enter the ***Upland Tropical Rain Forest Gallery***, they will see an encased orchid display featuring an assortment of exotic specimens from the Garden's spectacular collection. High-elevation plants dangle and weave throughout the gallery, reminiscent of the tree ferns, mosses, relatives of blueberries, ferns, bamboos, and bromeliads one would find in a cloud forest.

Deserts and Carnivorous Plants

The ***Deserts of the Americas*** and the ***Deserts of Africa Galleries*** house plants such as cacti, agave, boojum trees, euphorbias, aloes, and “living stones” or *Lithops* that have adapted to dry and challenging climates. Many of the desert plants on display in raised beds are succulents, the collective name for the thick-fleshed species designed for water storage. The two galleries provide a contrast between the older deserts of Africa and Australia—with their undulating plains and vast expanses of sand—and the geologically younger deserts of the Americas, with their mountains, basins, and flats.

A display of carnivorous Venus' flytraps and pitcher plants and deliciously fragrant citrus flowers and fruits in the ***Hanging Baskets Gallery*** concludes the educational and enticing trek.

Other Attractions Both Indoors and Out

Younger visitors can enjoy the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Inside the warm and cozy Discovery Center, they can explore the cool winter season at ***The Winter Garden***. Children can count the rings of a tree to discover its age and make “tree cookies” in a Field Notebook, delight in discovering pine cones and making pine cone prints, and pot up some winter wheat to take home. Families investigate nature, using their senses, creativity, and basic science skills to explore the vital sparks of life that lie just below the surface of this quiet season. Special weekend themes in February range from tropical delights to a weekend with your sweetheart.

Now through March 27, in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery, visitors can see beautiful, colorful botanical illustrations on display in ***Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art, The Alisa and Isaac Sutton Collection***. This rare look at the largest American collection of contemporary botanical art comes to The New York Botanical Garden after showing at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh. The exhibition features 54 works of art from the private collection of Isaac M. Sutton and documents a wide variety of plant life in aesthetically stunning fashion. *Botanicals: Environmental Expressions in Art* seeks to emphasize the important role that the botanical artist plays in documenting rare and endangered plants as well as to convey the valuable contribution that common plants make to the planet's biodiversity. The exhibition includes artwork by instructors and alumni of the Botanical Garden's renowned Botanical Art and Illustration Certificate program.

Another indoor exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden is located in the Library building in the Britton Science Rotunda and Gallery. ***Plants and Fungi: Ten Current Research Stories*** offers a peek at some of the mysteries of the plant world that are being unraveled by Garden scientists through their field trips around the globe.

Since the 1890s, scientists at the Garden have traveled far and wide to better understand plants and fungi, their relationship to their environments, and their many uses by people around the world. Visitors can get a glimpse of their valuable work through this exhibition. Photographs, diagrams, unusual plant specimens, artifacts from explorations in remote locales, and audio/visual presentations bring to life ten current research projects, from the study of mosses and lichens to Brazil nuts and vanilla orchids.

The displays and presentations reveal how they use modern tools such as DNA fingerprinting as well as classic techniques of plant exploration, and how they are studying topics like genetic diversity in rice and a nerve toxin in cycads that may provide insight into Alzheimer's disease.



For intrepid lovers of winter, outdoor attractions abound. A **Tram Tour** takes visitors around the Garden's 250 acres of historic landscapes, including the 50-acre **Native Forest** and collections where tree specimens from around the world are grown. The **Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum**, 37 acres surrounding the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, exhibits 250 specimens of the world's temperate pines, spruces, and firs as they live in the wild. This collection, the first ever planted in the Garden, is more than 100 years old. The **Benenson Ornamental Conifers**, 15 acres in the southeastern corner of the Garden, is a collection of more than 400 hybrids and horticultural selections of conifers, including some of the world's rarest dwarf, weeping, and unusual forms of conifers.

Younger visitors can enjoy the **Everett Children's Adventure Garden**. They can participate in hands-on activities, interactive lessons, and crafts projects. Children and their families can use their senses and creativity as well as basic scientific tools to explore the vital sparks of life that lie just below the surface of this cold and quiet season.

Adult Continuing Education classes provide opportunities to start a new career or hobby in botanical art and illustration, botany, floral design, gardening, horticultural therapy, horticulture, and landscape design. **Shop in the Garden** offers a wide assortment of items for sale for garden enthusiasts and nature lovers. **Two cafes** present a Caribbean-inspired menu of entrees, sandwiches, soups, desserts, and beverages.

No matter what the weather is like outside, there is plenty to see and do at The New York Botanical Garden. For more information, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors and students with ID, \$5 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more. Contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org Read the Botanical Garden's popular blog, *Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden* at nybg.org/wordpress

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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