

# NYBG

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## **Holiday Fun for All Ages during NYBG's *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> Includes Evergreen Express, Sounds of the Season Performances, Films, and More, Plus Bar Car Nights for Adults**



**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup> showcases new replicas of iconic Central Park architectural treasures in the 28th year of this beloved tradition. Enchanting model trains zip through a display of more than 175 New York landmarks, each re-created with bark, leaves, acorns, cinnamon sticks, and other natural materials. Complementing the exhibition is a wide range of programming for all ages, adding to the seasonal experience at the Botanical Garden. The *Holiday Train Show* opens to the public on Saturday, November 23, 2019, and runs through Sunday, January 26, 2020.

The following events, activities, and programs are scheduled during the exhibition:

- The festive and popular **Bar Car Nights** return to NYBG on select Fridays and Saturdays. Exclusively for adults 21 and over, the wintry landscape of NYBG sets the scene for lively outdoor adventures, with an after-dark viewing of the *Holiday Train Show* as the centerpiece. Purchase a spiked hot chocolate or a holiday specialty cocktail from one of our seasonal bars and a bite to eat from the **Bronx Night Market Holiday Pop-up**, then set out to explore the night's offerings. Warm up around the handcrafted **fire pits** in the Leon Levy Visitor Center, feel the excitement of the season with **artistic ice carving** and **festive performers** such as contortionists and acrobats from American Circus Theatre, sing along with **dueling pianos** in the Pine Tree Café, and dance the night away to DJ sets curated by Uptown Vinyl Supreme. Bar Car Nights take place 7–10:30 p.m.; November 23, 29, & 30; December 7, 14, 20, 21, 27, & 28, 2019; January 3, 4, 11, & 18, 2020. Performers vary each night and advance tickets—Non-Member \$38/Member \$28—are recommended. Check [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) for details and to purchase tickets.

- During **Evergreen Express** in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden, children can pretend to ride the rails aboard our child-sized play train and cabooses, hike winter trails to discover evergreen trees and shrubs, and put on a winter woodland puppet show. In the Discovery Center, they can design an evergreen-scented swag (a simple miniature evergreen wreath with a bow), craft a cone critter with googly eyes, and learn how to create a conifer collection at home. Young scientists can discover why evergreens stay green all winter and then test their identification skills outdoors. Every weekend features a different music and movement program with dance, puppetry, and theater games in English and Spanish. Guided Activities: Weekdays, 1:30–5:30 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays, 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Bilingual program: Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m.
- Carols, pop hits, and instrumental music fill the air during **Sounds of the Season Performances** by an eclectic lineup of choral and instrumental groups. Saturdays & Sundays, November 23, 2019–January 1, 2020, plus daily December 23–24, 2019, & December 26, 2019–January 1, 2020; 1, 2, & 3 p.m. For the schedule of performers, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)
- NYBG's annual **Holiday Tree & Menorah Lighting Ceremony** is a high point of the *Holiday Train Show* season, featuring a stunning conifer display, the soaring voices of carolers, and special guests on Sunday, December 8, 2019, 4–5:15 p.m.
- NYBG's **Annual Bird Count** is for both novice and expert bird-watchers. Collect data on resident bird populations and migratory species across the Garden's 250 acres. The information helps scientists assess the health of bird populations and guides conservation action. December 14, 2019, at 11 a.m.
- New York poet, NYBG Poet Laureate, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins returns to NYBG for **The Poetry of Trains: Billy Collins and Young Poets**. Collins will read poems inspired by trains, the holidays, and The New York Botanical Garden on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 2 p.m. As part of the Young Poets Contest and in partnership with the Poetry Society of America, he will also select 12 winning poems to be displayed at NYBG during the *Holiday Train Show* and will be joined by the selected student authors to share their work during this special reading.
- Enjoy favorite holiday movies on the big screen in Ross Hall during the **Holiday Favorites Film Festival**, featuring a rotating selection of titles for kids and adults alike. Films include *Trolls Holiday*, *'Tis the Season to be Smurfy*, and *Merry Madagascar*. December 21–24 & 26–29, 2019; 11 a.m.–4 p.m. For the full listing, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)
- Embark on an invigorating 45-minute walking **Winter Wonderland Tree Tour**. View the Garden's stately conifer collection and old-growth forest in the beauty of winter. Even in cold weather, there's plenty of visual interest in our gardens and collections. Saturdays, December 7, 2019–January 25, 2020, at 12:30 p.m.
- Get a fascinating overview of the Garden's history and its importance as a vital New York City cultural destination since 1891 on our **Holiday Landmarks Tour**. Walking with an expert

guide, explore the Mertz Library Allée, the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life, and the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. The tour concludes at the Garden's iconic Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. Sundays, December 1, 2019–January 26, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

- Children join Thomas and Driver Sam on a fun-filled, sing-along, mini-performance adventure during ***All Aboard with Thomas & Friends™***. In *Thomas Cleans Up*, everyone's favorite blue locomotive arrives at Knapford Station with a trainload of materials to dispose of. Kids help him and Driver Sam figure out how to recycle everything to protect the environment and save Earth's precious natural resources. Make sure to have a professional photo taken with the Really Useful Engine to capture the special day. January 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 25, & 26, 2020. Visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) for the full performance schedule.  
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This year, the *Holiday Train Show* is presented in an immersive indoor winter wonderland adjacent to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory as the Conservatory's palm dome undergoes restoration. Replicas debuting this year include the Belvedere Castle, the Dairy, the Naumburg Bandshell, Bethesda Terrace, and two graceful pedestrian bridges. The new Central Park replicas will share the spotlight with old favorites, including the Statue of Liberty, the original Pennsylvania Station, and Radio City Music Hall.

Visit the Garden's Web site, [nybg.org](http://nybg.org), to check dates and times for all of the holiday offerings and to purchase advance timed tickets.

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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, bus, or subway.**

***HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:***

**During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 23, 2019–January 26, 2020, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Sunday, and Monday, December 16, 23, 30, and January 20, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., December 26 and 29. The Garden is closed all day on November 28 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 13 and 24 (Christmas Eve).**

**PRICING:**

*All-Garden Pass* tickets start at \$23 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during weekends and holiday weeks. Members and children under 2 are free.

Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org). Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Sales at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

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Images available.