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Fall at The New York Botanical Garden Brings Spectacular Experiences, Both Night and Day, in Celebration of the Season

Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail Makes Worldwide Debut at NYBG for a Nine-Week Limited Engagement, Select Evenings September 27 through November 30, 2024

NYBG Transforms into New York City's Pumpkin Headquarters During *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*, September 28 through October 27, 2024, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., with Pumpkin Carving Favorite Adam Bierton, Bales & Ales, and Fall Activities for All Ages



Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is a must-see destination this fall season, both night and day, with a fun and engaging array of activities, programs, photo opportunities, and new offerings. NYBG comes alive with the magic of **Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail**, a brand-new, nine-week limited engagement, on select evenings from September 27 through November 30, 2024. It's a dazzling outdoor, nighttime light spectacle, within the historic grounds of The New York Botanical Garden. The timeless 1993 Disney film comes to life with projections and sculptures, creating an exciting journey for all ages. Tickets for Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail can be purchased online at [TheNightmareBeforeChristmasLightTrail.com](https://www.thenightmarebeforechristmaslighttrail.com).

During the day from September 28 through October 27, 2024, NYBG is transformed into New York City's pumpkin headquarters during ***NYBG Fall-O-Ween***, with plentiful pumpkin displays and the return of pumpkin carving favorite Adam Bierton, plus a slate of special programs that invite visitors to enjoy fall like never before. The much-loved Bales & Ales is back with a wide selection of local breweries, lawn games, live music, fermentation demonstrations, and food for purchase. Tickets for *NYBG Fall-O-Ween* are on sale now at <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>.

The season's fall foliage hits its peak in November during **Fall Forest Weekends**, the perfect time to see **Kiku: *Spotlight on Tradition***—which runs November 2–17, 2024—in the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections, a colorful display of Japanese chrysanthemums expertly trained over the past 11 months into incredible shapes and styles.

Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail

In this never-before-seen nighttime spectacle, The New York Botanical Garden's South Arboretum comes alive with the magic of Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail. Join Jack Skellington, Sally, and Zero on a walk of wonders, as favorite characters, scenes, and songs from the immortal film come to life amongst the leaves of New York's most treasured garden. Marvel at this first-ever immersive display that illuminates the art of Halloween Town and Christmas Town from the classic film against a backdrop of botanical beauty—a must-see New York event for anyone who loves all things seasonal, festive, and fun. This nine-week limited engagement runs on select evenings from September 27 through November 30, 2024.

Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail is created by Adventurelive, the producing team behind Broadway's *Hamilton*, and LETSGO, the Madrid-based creative team behind *Tim Burton's Labyrinth* and *Lights in Nature*, presented by special arrangement with Buena Vista Theatrical. Bringing Burton's distinctive artistic vision and storytelling to life, the outdoor adventure will feature over 8,300 square feet of dazzling light installations forged by cutting-edge technology, including interactive video projection, intelligent LED lighting, and 3-D printed sculptures of the film's iconic characters. The experience will ignite the senses and invite audiences deep into the imagination of the story's visionary creator, Tim Burton.

Operating hours for Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail are from dusk to 10 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday beginning September 27 through November 30, 2024, (open the Wednesday before Thanksgiving; closed Thanksgiving Day). A full schedule can be found at TheNightmareBeforeChristmasLightTrail.com. Tickets start at \$39 per person (Jack's 4-pack for 4 or more tickets), \$49 for adults and \$39 for children (Timed Entry), or \$55–59 (Flexible Entry adult/child).

NYBG Fall-O-Ween

This fall, The New York Botanical Garden becomes the region's pumpkin headquarters during *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*, from Saturday, September 28, through Sunday, October 27, 2024; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Beginning with the Bales & Ales celebration with craft beer, live music, and outdoor fun, marvel as seasonal displays overflow with hundreds of pumpkins, gourds, and flowers, highlighting the diversity of the cucurbit family, and, of course, offering picture-perfect selfie moments. Fan favorite Adam Bierton returns to NYBG to create his intricate and nature-inspired pumpkin carvings and to host a master carver competition. Award-winning giant pumpkins return in October, taking center stage at the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Plaza. After the *NYBG Fall-O-Ween* pumpkin highlights conclude, the autumn festivities continue with Fall Forest Weekends programming celebrating the colorful spectacle of autumnal foliage in the Thain Family Forest, and the amazing chrysanthemum display *Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition* in the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. From pumpkins aplenty to vibrant leaves, experience autumn's best at NYBG.

Pumpkin Carving with Adam Bierton

October 5, 6, 13, 14, 19, and 20, 2024; 12–3 p.m.

Witness Adam Bierton's monstrous and imaginative carved pumpkin designs every weekend through the end of October and learn new tips and tricks to create the ultimate jack-o'-lantern at home. Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver based in New York, most famously known for his 3-D pumpkin carvings and his season five win of the popular Food Network series *Halloween Wars* in 2015.

Annual Pumpkin Carving Face-Off

October 14, 2024; 12–3 p.m.

Now in its fourth year, NYBG's annual carving competition is hosted by Adam Bierton and features three master carvers going head-to-head to create imaginative designs from NYBG's current exhibition *Wonderland: Curious Nature*, inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*, and *What Alice Found There*. From pumpkin faces of the Cheshire Cat to silhouettes of the Mad Hatter, who knows what designs will emerge?

Meet the Giant Pumpkin Growers

October 19 and 20, 2024

This year's winning giant pumpkins from the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth weigh-offs will be on display at NYBG during the final weeks of October. Meet the growers of these giant pumpkins and stay for deseeding demonstrations and conversations on the pumpkins' growth.

Giant Pumpkin Palooza Weekend

October 26 and 27; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Giant Pumpkin Carving

October 25–27, 2024; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Adam Bierton returns for the pumpkin-carving season finale to carve one of the largest pumpkins in the world. From last year's 2,246-pound pumpkin, after 21 hours of scraping, chiseling, carving, and detailing, a botanical beast with tentacles emerged. This year, Bierton and a team of carvers once again transform a giant pumpkin sourced by the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth into an organic masterpiece.

Family Activities

October 26 and 27, 2024; 1–4 p.m.

Dress up in your favorite Halloween outfits and join us for a family-friendly weekend to say goodbye to the hundreds of pumpkins and gourds, as well as the Garden-wide exhibition *Wonderland: Curious Nature*. Watch as Adam Bierton carves a giant pumpkin, listen to live music, and enjoy hands-on crafts and activities. Scrumptious snacks, sweets, and beverages will be available for purchase.

Bales & Ales

Saturday, September 28, 2024; 12–5 p.m.

Tulip Tree Allée

In the event of inclement weather, this event will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024. Special Ticket Required; Tickets are for adults 21 and over.

Non-Member Pricing \$50; includes commemorative Sampling Cup and All-Garden Pass. Member Pricing \$25; includes commemorative Sampling Cup; All-Garden Pass free for Members.

This much-loved event is back. Celebrate the fall season at NYBG with craft beer from a wide selection of local breweries, live music, and outdoor fun. Receive a souvenir sampling cup with your ticket to explore what's on tap, with unlimited samples of craft beers, ciders, and spiked seltzers available, then join in on lawn games, relax to live music, and grab a bite to eat. Don't miss harvesting and fermentation demos with visiting brewers—making for the perfect autumn afternoon out!

Beer Garden

12–5 p.m.

Pick up your NYBG souvenir 4 oz. sampling cup and sample some of the best local craft beers, ciders, and hard seltzers.

Participating breweries include, but are not limited to:

- Captain Lawrence Brewing
- The Bronx Beer Hall
- Soul Brewing Co.
- Miles, The Prince Brewing
- Run & Hide Brewing
- Marlowe Ales
- Shrewd Fox Brewery
- Quartz Rock Ciders
- Broken Bow Brewery
- Simple Motive
- Lunar Seltzer
- Return Brewing
- KCBC

Live from the Lawn

12–5 p.m.

Settle down among bales of hay for music, games, and lite bites on the lawn, surrounded by autumn’s abundant fall color.

Music Performances

Sets throughout 12–5 p.m.

A line-up of New York City bands provide live musical sets throughout the afternoon. Bands performing include Big Sweater, Low Roller, and DD Island.

Fall Forest Weekends

November 2, 3, 9, and 10, 2024; 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thain Family Forest

The Thain Family Forest—New York City’s largest remaining tract of old-growth woodland—is this year’s fall foliage headquarters. Leaf-watch locally and explore the Forest’s 50 acres full of vibrant fall color—a front row seat to the best views of the season close to home. These weekends offer Native American Heritage Month activities, tours, and educational demonstrations.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

November 2–17, 2024

Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections

Kiku: *Spotlight on Tradition* in the Nolen Greenhouses, displays Japanese chrysanthemums, or *kiku*, that have been expertly trained over the past 11 months into incredible shapes and styles. Chrysanthemum blooms burst with color, trained

into traditional shapes, including the *ozukuri*, or ‘thousand bloom’—a feat of nature and intricate plant cultivation, which produces hundreds of chrysanthemum flowers from one stem. Seasonal fall flowers in warm, rich hues complement this must-see spectacle.

For more information about *NYBG Fall-O-Ween*, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>.

About Adventurelive

Adventurelive is an experimental entertainment company that specializes in interactive works and storytelling within sensory theatrical worlds. Born from the success of Broadway production company, Adventureland, Adventurelive is owned and operated by Jeffrey Seller, four-time Tony Award winning producer of *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, *In the Heights*, and *Hamilton*; Pete Milano, Founder and CEO of the live entertainment merchandise company Creative Goods, and RPM Agency; and Maggie Brohn, Chief Operative Officer of Adventureland and Executive Producer of *Hamilton* on Broadway and on tour.

About LETSGO

LETSGO is a Spanish company specializing in entertainment and content creation, with shows and experiences that travel around the world. Responsible together with Andrew Lloyd Webber for a new version of the musical *The Phantom of the Opera*, which begins its successful second season in Madrid and will soon tour South America, and together with Tim Burton with the creation of the immersive experience *Tim Burton's Labyrinth*, which opened in Madrid to great success in 2022 and continues to tour Europe (Paris, Brussels, Berlin, and Milan), they also highlight the creation of the lighting experience *Lights in Nature*, with more than a million visitors during last season, including historical outdoor spaces of Spain (Real Alcázar in Seville, Gardens of Royal Palace of Pedralbes in Barcelona, and Alcázar in Córdoba) and now with Disney, Adventurelive, and Tim Burton with Disney *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* Light Trail at The New York Botanical Garden.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has been a connective hub among people, plants, and the shared planet since 1891. For more than 130 years, NYBG has been rooted in the cultural fabric of New York City, in the heart of the Bronx, its greenest borough. NYBG has invited millions of visitors to make the Garden a part of their lives, exploring the joy, beauty, and respite of nature. NYBG's 250 acres are home to renowned exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music, and events with some of the most influential figures in plant and fungal science, horticulture, and the humanities. NYBG is

also a steward of globally significant research collections, from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection to the plant and fungal specimens in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant people of NYBG—dedicated horticulturists, enthusiastic educators, and scientific adventurers—are committed to helping nature thrive so that humanity can thrive. They believe in their ability to make things better, teaching tens of thousands of kids and families each year about the importance of safeguarding the environment and healthy eating. Expert scientists work across the city, the nation, and the globe to document the plants and fungi of the world—and find actionable, nature-based solutions to the planet’s dual climate and biodiversity crises. With eyes always looking forward, they train the next generation of botanists, gardeners, landscape designers, and environmental stewards, ensuring a green future for all. At NYBG, it’s nature—or nowhere.

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The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org.

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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