



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

**Explore Kew Gardens
and Wakehurst**

A year in the life of Kew Gardens

January

Start the year by enjoying colourful holly, other winter berries and fragile snowdrops in the fresh, open air of the Gardens or the tropical delights of the steamy glasshouses.

February

This year's Orchids Festival runs from 4 February to 5 March and is a colourful celebration of India's vibrant plants and cultures. Entry is included in the cost of admission to the Gardens.

March

Early spring is drenched with pristine colour as myriad bulbs and clusters of delicate buds burst into life including camellias, crocuses and daffodils.

April

Confetti-like cherry blossom, magnificent magnolias and colourful tulips help transform the Gardens. This year's family-focused Easter Festival runs from 1 to 17 April and is inspired by the illustrated world of the Moomins.

May

Carpets of native bluebells, showy azaleas and banks of early rhododendrons abound as nature heralds the change in season from spring to summer.

June

Gently scented flowers in the traditional Rose Garden complement the more exotic perfume of the Mediterranean Garden in early summer and the Waterlily House is awash with new blooms.

July to August

Summer's horticultural highlight is the dazzling display of colour that is created by The Great Broad Walk Borders. Stretching for more than 1,000ft (300m), they feature more than 30,000 flowering plants.

September

As summer turns to autumn, the leaves of the Arboretum's specimen trees from around the world turn from greens to golds, oranges, reds and scarlets.

October

The Treetop Walkway, located in the Arboretum, affords stunning, bird's-eye views at this time of year as you witness the Gardens from high in the tree canopy.

November to December

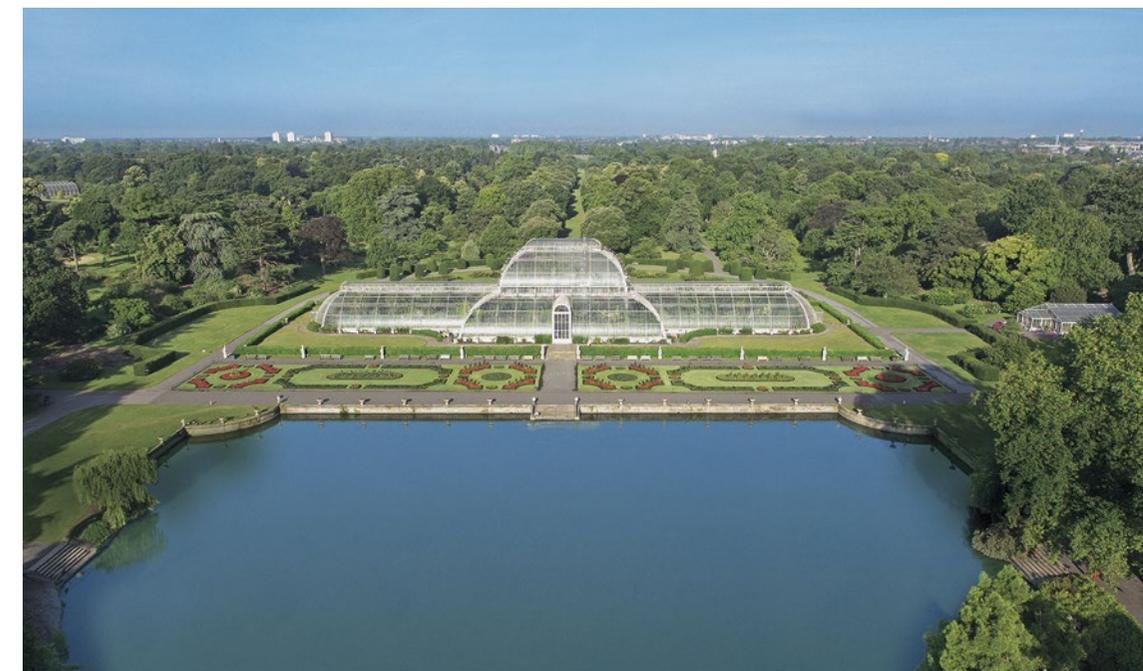
Christmas at Kew – our magical, after-dark experience – is a beautiful, illuminated trail through the Gardens. Running from 22 November 2017 to 1 January 2018, this separately ticketed event is now in its fifth year.

Welcome to Kew Gardens

There have been royal gardens at Kew since 1759 – the same year that the British Museum first opened its doors and that the first pint of Guinness was poured. Founded by Princess Augusta, Princess of Wales and mother of King George III, Kew Gardens is, today, home to the largest and most diverse collection of living plants anywhere in the world. In 2003, it was awarded World Heritage Site status by UNESCO in recognition of its advancement of botany and ecology. It is regarded as a scientific research centre of global importance.

Set in 326 acres (132 hectares) of exceptional landscape featuring glasshouses, a royal palace, art galleries and immersive installations as well as stunning floral displays, Kew Gardens is the perfect day out for visitors of all ages.

In 2016, Kew Gardens was voted Best Attraction in London as part of the Worldwide Attractions Awards.



OPENING TIMES

Daily from 10am. Closing times vary according to season.

Kew Gardens is closed to the public on 24 and 25 December.

BRENTFORD GATE



ELIZABETH GATE

VICTORIA GATE

KEW ROAD

KEW BRIDGE STATION

THE BOTANICAL

THE PALM HOUSE

THE GREAT BROAD WALK BORDERS

THE ORANGERY

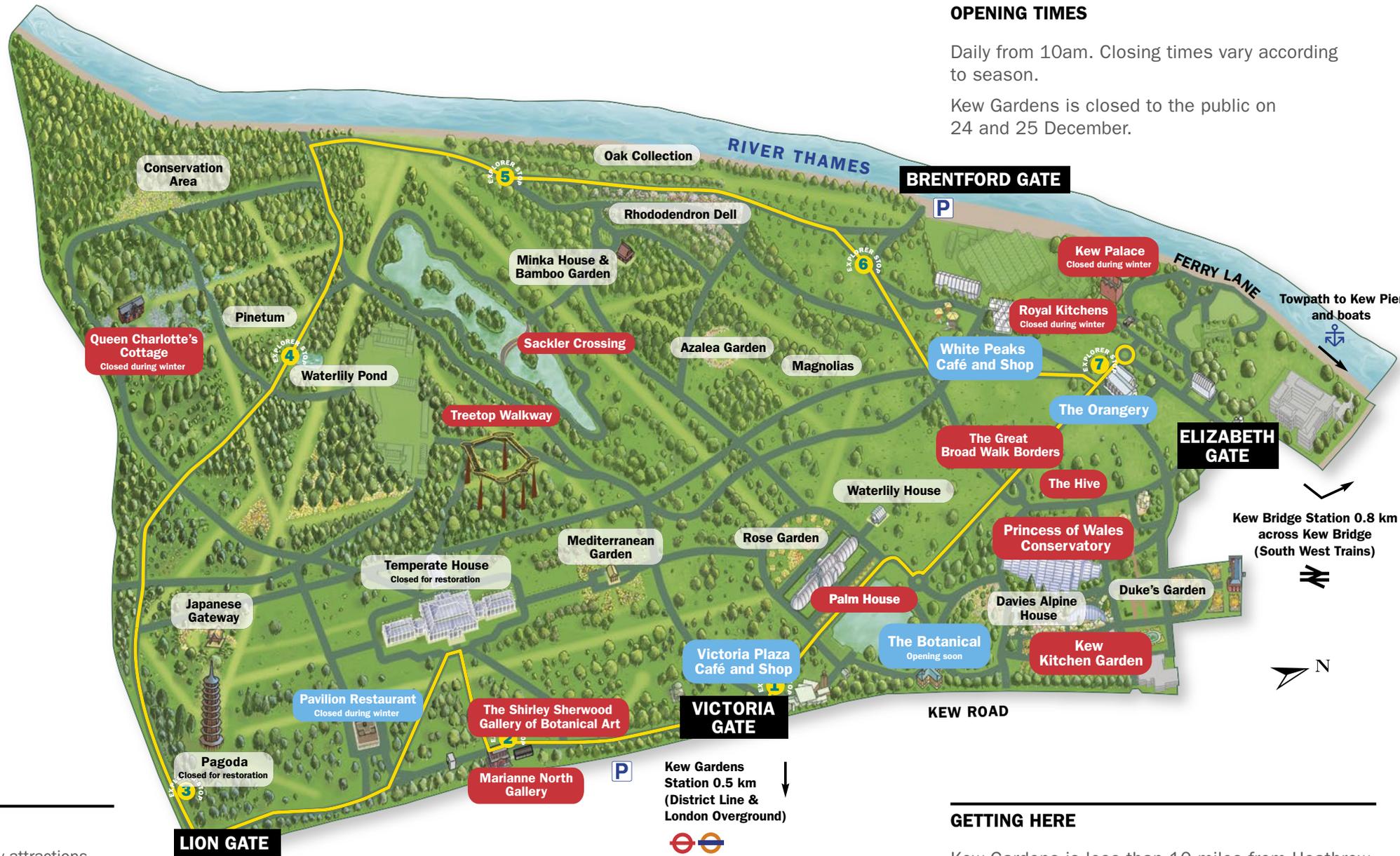
THE HIVE

THE SHIRLEY SHERWOOD GALLERY OF BOTANICAL ART

GETTING HERE

Kew Gardens is less than 10 miles from Heathrow airport and is easily accessible by road (M4, M25 and M3). Just 30 minutes from central London, it has excellent public transport links for London underground, national rail and riverboat.

Our postcode is TW9 3AB



KEY

- Key attractions
- Restaurants, cafés and shops
- Kew Explorer route
- Pathway
- Grass pathway

Richmond Station 1 km
South West Trains, District Line & London Overground



Kew Gardens Station 0.5 km
(District Line & London Overground)



The Hive

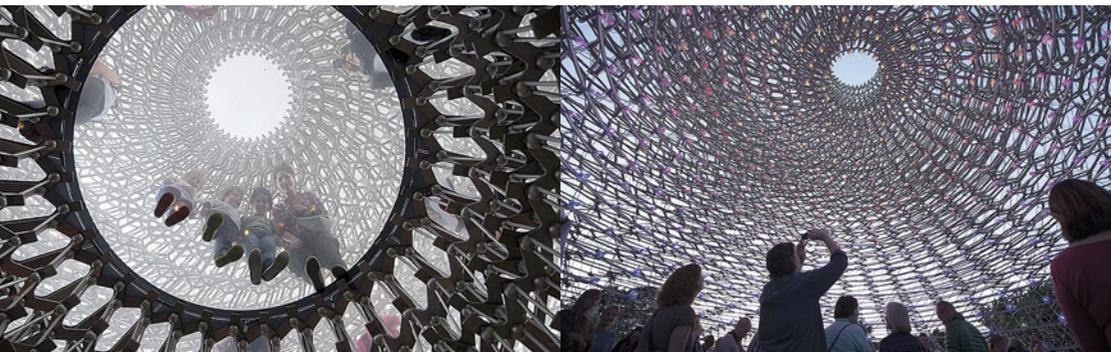


Opened in June 2016, The Hive is a fully immersive, interactive aluminium and steel structure designed by Wolfgang Buttress. Conceived to highlight the plight of the honeybee and to underline the vital role that bees play in pollinating the world's crop species, this 55ft (17m) high installation is connected to a real beehive in the Gardens. Microchips inside the beehive detect the bees' movement, which in turn activates a light and soundscape in The Hive itself.

The Great Broad Walk Borders



Featuring over 30,000 flowering plants, The Great Broad Walk Borders is the largest horticultural project to be undertaken at Kew Gardens for nearly 30 years. Flanking both sides of the 1050ft (320m) long Broad Walk, the borders present a swathe of colour from early spring to late autumn, with the summer months of June, July and August providing the floral highlights. The planting is arranged over eight beds, each with its own distinct theme.



Glasshouses



The iconic Palm House was built in the mid-1840s by architect Decimus Burton and iron-maker Richard Turner. Today it is home to plants from the tropical regions of the world, with temperatures kept at a steamy 81°F (27°C) all year round.

Next to the Palm House is the Waterlily House. Quietly unassuming compared to its neighbour, it nonetheless features some of the Gardens' most incredible plant specimens. From the giant *Victoria amazonica* to *Nymphaea thermarum*, the world's smallest waterlily.

The ultra-modern Davies Alpine House contains some of Kew's extensive collection of alpine plants. Automatically operated blinds prevent overheating and a ventilation system provides constant airflow to ensure these delicate plants are kept at optimum temperature all year round.

Meanwhile, the Princess of Wales Conservatory, opened by Diana, Princess of Wales, features ten different zones, each representing distinct climate conditions. It showcases the variety of plants that grow on the planet and how they have adapted to extremes of heat and humidity.



Kew Palace



The former residence of King George III, Kew Palace is open from 1 April to 1 October and admission is included in the cost of entry to the Gardens. It has been thoughtfully restored and offers a fascinating insight into the life of the royal family in the late 18th century. Next to the Palace are the Georgian Kitchens, which originally serviced the White House (now demolished) and act as a reminder of the difference between life above and below stairs.

Art Galleries



Kew Gardens is home to two remarkable art galleries. The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art – the only one in the world dedicated solely to the art-form – showcases work from new artists as well as from its own, extensive collections. A modern gallery, it offers a rolling programme of exhibitions.

Next door is the Marianne North Gallery. Named after the intrepid, late 19th century explorer and artist, the gallery features 832 of the paintings which catalogued her travels around the world.



Kew Explorer



Popular with visitors of all ages is the hop-on, hop-off land train service, the Kew Explorer. Operating regular, scheduled departures throughout the year, the service offers the opportunity to explore some of the further reaches of the Gardens while the driver provides guided commentary throughout. There are seven stops along the route to allow passengers to explore areas in more depth. It is an ideal service for those with limited time or with mobility issues. Additional charges apply.

Catering and shopping

As well as the exceptional attractions, Kew Gardens provides wonderful opportunities for shopping and has a number of different catering offers.

Victoria Plaza Shop and Café

Enjoy an exclusive range of bespoke Kew-branded gifts as well as beautiful books and plants in the shop, then treat your taste buds to delectable breakfast pots, hot pies, seasonal cakes, fresh pastries, and hot or cold drinks in the café. It's the perfect start or finish to your visit.

White Peaks Café and Shop

A great shopping experience for visitors with young adventurers that's packed full of toys and children's books as well as more traditional gifts. The adjacent café provides a playful space that entertains both children and adults alike, offering a wide and tasty variety of children's meals, fresh salads and ready-to-go food, plus sweet treats and drinks.

The Orangery

Relax and enjoy a delicious selection of hot dishes, fresh salads, cakes and drinks, whilst taking in the stunning surroundings of The Orangery. For those eager to explore the Gardens, there's a great choice of ready-to-go delights.

Pavilion Restaurant

Al fresco dining is the name of the game at the Pavilion, offering tasty food from the grill and outside barbecue as well as healthy salads, drinks and meals to go.

The Botanical

Discover an exciting afternoon tea experience, inspired by Kew Gardens' own plants, sumptuous seasonal flatbreads with a twist, and carefully selected alcoholic beverages in the latest addition to our catering offer.



Welcome to Wakehurst

Set in a recognised Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty deep in the West Sussex countryside, Wakehurst is one of the most significant botanic gardens in England. Since 1965, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has managed and transformed the private estate into a garden where ornamental plantings and exotic tree and shrub collections of international importance sit within 465 acres (188 hectares) of native woodland. With its magnificent valley gardens, nature reserve and 16th century mansion, Wakehurst offers its visitors a genuine chance to immerse themselves in the heart of the English countryside.

Wakehurst is also home to the Millennium Seed Bank, which houses and protects seeds taken from the world's most substantial and diverse collection of threatened and useful plants. This crucially important science-based conservation programme is the largest of its kind in the world and hopes to conserve these vital plant species out of an estimated global total of 400,000.

Spring and summer



Spring sees Wakehurst's woods and meadows carpeted with crocuses, daffodils and bluebells while azaleas and rhododendrons bring vibrant colour to the Himalayan Glade. Magnificent magnolias line the Slips and Water Gardens to Westwood Valley.

In summer, the Sir Henry Price Garden is rich with colour while sweet peas, roses and chocolate cosmos offer a delicious mix of scents. The secluded Iris Dell in the Water Gardens is filled with delicate Japanese irises and the wildflower meadows are a magnificent sight throughout the summer.

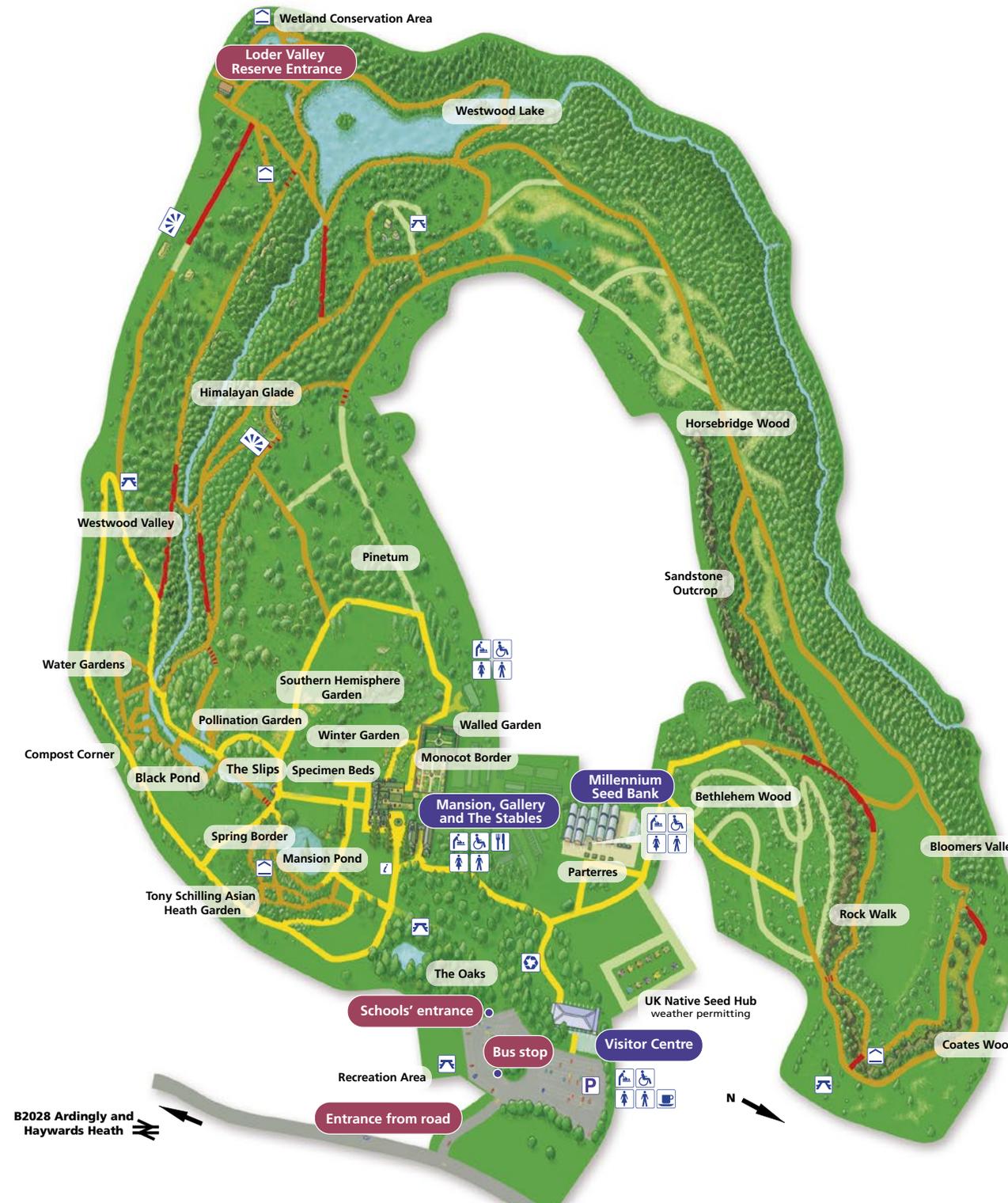


Autumn and winter



Wakehurst is awash with brilliant yellows, rich ambers and vivid reds of the National Collection of southern beech, while drifts of autumn crocus, meadow saffron and dainty cyclamen scatter the grass with their bright colours.

In winter, England's tallest living Christmas tree, a towering giant redwood, is lit to herald the festive season. The year's first snowdrops can be found in sheltered corners and the hardy flowers of the Winter Garden mean there is always something to admire at this special time of year.



KEY

- Shelter/hide
- View point
- Picnic tables
- Baby changing facilities
- Snacks and drinks
- Guided walks start near the Carriage Ring
- Toilets

PATHS

- Made-up and suitable for wheelchairs
- Gravel or bark, uneven in places
- Grass paths
- Steep paths
- Arrival / entry / exit
- Buildings

OPENING TIMES

Daily from 10am. Closing times vary according to season.

Wakehurst is closed to the public on 24 and 25 December.

GETTING HERE

Wakehurst is located in West Sussex on the B2028 between Turners Hill and Ardingly. Haywards Heath is the nearest railway station, approximately six miles away and Gatwick Airport is less than 15 miles away.

Our postcode is RH17 6TN.

KEW GARDENS

For more information about visits to Kew Gardens, including admission charges, and for help with planning your visit:

Tel: +44 (0)208 332 5648

Email: groups@kew.org

www.kew.org/groups

WAKEHURST

For more information about visits to Wakehurst, including admission charges, and for help with planning your visit:

Tel: +44 (0)1444 894067

Email: wakehurst@kew.org

www.kew.org/wakehurst-groups

