



Royal Botanic Gardens

# Kew

**Explore Kew Gardens  
and Wakehurst**

# Something to see in every season

## Spring

As the days get longer and the temperature rises, Kew comes alive with colour. Vibrant daffodils, dreamy bluebells and charming cherry trees are just some of the highlights of the season. Stroll between the Great Broad Walk Borders to see bulbs at their best ([see page 9](#)).

From May to September 2020, join Kew's main festival and explore our relationship with plants. Take a moment to reflect as you become surrounded by desert cacti, oak saplings or lush tropical palms in specially commissioned artworks and come away feeling energised and connected ([see page 11](#)).

## Summer

Discover the extraordinary life of bees in The Hive. Set in a beautiful wildflower meadow, which is at its loveliest in summer, this incredible structure hums and glows, echoing activity in a real bee hive at Kew ([see page 8](#)).

On a sunny day, be dazzled by 80 sparkling dragons, restored to the iconic Great Pagoda after more than 200 years ([see page 7](#)).

Don't miss Kew Palace, which opens its doors for the summer months. Enter the smallest royal palace for

an imitate introduction to its most famous resident, King George III, and his family ([see page 7](#)).

## Autumn

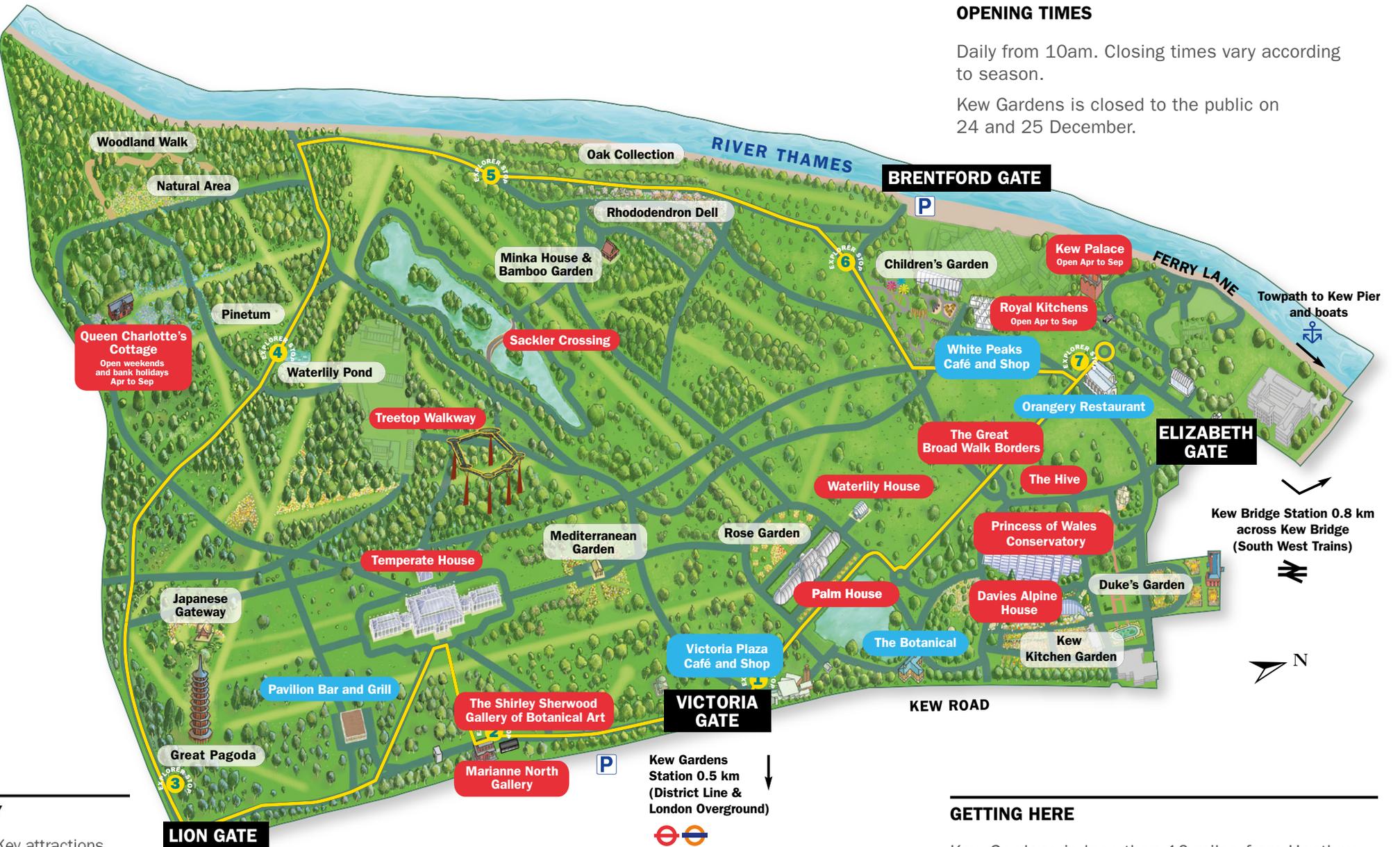
See every stunning shade of autumn colour – from fiery reds to warm oranges and glowing yellows. One of the most spectacular spots is the Sackler Crossing, from where you can admire the reflections of transforming trees in the lake ([see page 9](#)).

As the temperature drops, head to the Shirley Sherwood and Marianne North galleries to warm up beneath beautiful botanical art ([see page 10](#)).

## Winter

From late November until the New Year, join us after dark for a magical light trail through the Gardens. Christmas at Kew will fill you with festive cheer, with spectacular sparkles, tempting treats and gorgeous gifts ([see page 12](#)).

Winter blues getting you down? Our annual Orchid Festival – a riot of colour in the warmth of the Princess of Wales Conservatory – opens in February ([see page 12](#)).



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

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

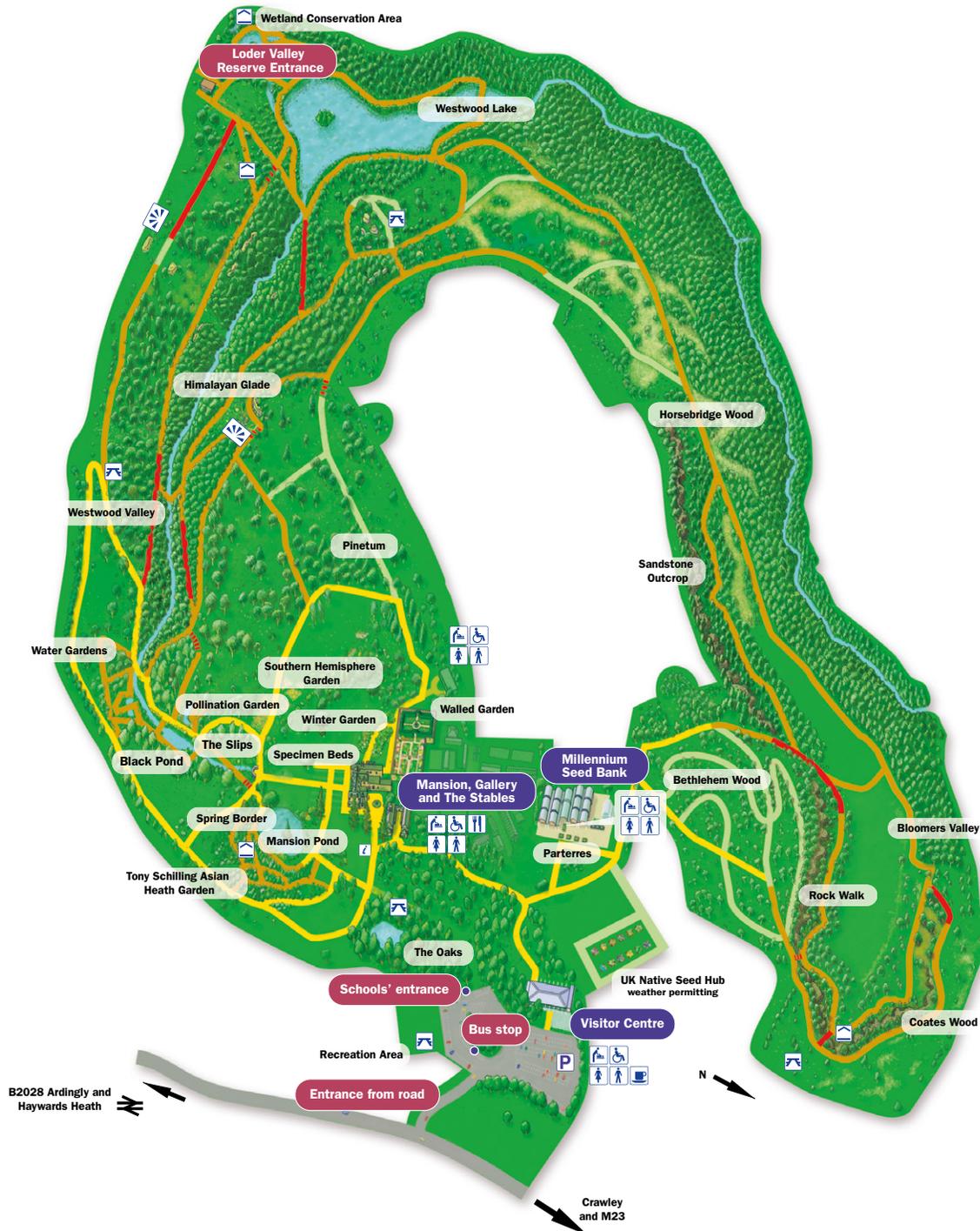
**Kew Gardens Station 0.5 km**  
 (District Line & London Overground)

**OPENING TIMES**

Daily from 10am. Closing times vary according to season.  
 Kew Gardens is closed to the public on 24 and 25 December.

**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

-  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.

# Welcome to Kew Gardens

Breathtaking natural beauty, world-class science, and over 260 years of history combine at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Founded in 1759, today our plant and fungal science and conservation research are tackling some of the world's most urgent challenges.

Get swept up in the wonder of nature as you explore the largest and most diverse collection of living plants in the world – it is just one of the reasons we've been named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stunning landscapes, iconic buildings, and inspirational art make this the perfect day out for groups of all ages.

You'll find us just 30 minutes from central London, with easy transport links by road, rail, London Underground and river. We are open every day except 24 and 25 December.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



# Beautiful buildings



## Temperate House

See the beautifully restored Temperate House, home to some of the rarest and most threatened plants in the world. Get up close to 1,500 species and find out how our scientists are protecting these precious plants as you explore the world's largest surviving Victorian glasshouse.

This breath-taking architectural wonder first opened to the public in 1863 but construction continued for another 36 years afterwards. Its enormous structure covers 4,880 square metres and is composed of 15,000 panes of glass.

The Temperate House is just one of our gorgeous glasshouses – from the tropical Palm House to the cool Davies Alpine House, they will transport you around the world.





## Great Pagoda

The Great Pagoda was designed by Sir William Chambers and completed in 1762. A ten-storey octagon tower, it stands at almost 50 metres. In 2018 it was restored to its 18th century splendour. The 80 dragons which originally adorned the roofs were brought back to life and now sit sparkling and snarling against the sky. From April to September, the Great Pagoda can be climbed for a small, additional charge, affording spectacular views of London from the top.

## Kew Palace (April to September)

In summer, see Georgian splendour behind the doors at Kew Palace, London's smallest and most intimate royal palace. George III and his wife, Queen Charlotte, spent happy summers at Kew Palace with their 15 children. It was an important refuge during his infamous episodes of 'madness'. Today, you can also get an insight into the lives of their servants in the Royal Kitchens. Admission to Kew Palace is included in the cost of entry to the Gardens.



# Natural wonders



## The Hive

Discover the extraordinary life of bees in The Hive. Set in a beautiful wildflower meadow, this incredible, 17-metre-tall metallic structure hums and glows, echoing activity in a real bee hive at Kew.

The installation is a fully immersive, multi-sensory experience designed by artist Wolfgang Buttress to highlight the plight of the honeybee and is a symbol of the vital role of pollinators in feeding the planet.

The meadow surrounding The Hive is also a beautiful reminder of the importance of wildflower meadows which provide food and shelter for bees and other pollinators but are disappearing from our countryside.





### **Great Broad Walk Borders**

The Broad Walk is the most impressive way to approach the iconic Palm House. Its borders contain over 30,000 plants, including wild species and plants from Kew's collections, carefully chosen to create a unique display of colours and textures from early spring to late autumn.

### **Sackler Crossing**

The Sackler Crossing is the gateway to some of Kew's quieter areas. Spanning our biggest lake, its curving path mimics the rounded banks. It's one of the best places in the Gardens to see wildlife, including the red-crested pochard, tufted duck, widgeon and mandarin duck. In autumn, it provides glorious views of the islands on the lake, where the trees were planted for their vibrant colours.



# Awe-inspiring art



## Galleries

No trip to Kew is complete without visiting our two remarkable galleries.

The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art showcases work from new artists as well as some of the 200,000 artworks held in our archives. A modern gallery, it offers a rolling programme of exhibitions.

Next door is the Marianne North Gallery – a space like no other. Marianne North was a remarkable Victorian artist with a great eye for botanical detail. In this extraordinary gallery, you can see 833 of her paintings displayed in geographical order, which she hung after travelling around the world.





## Summer Festival 2020

Join Kew's main festival this year and explore our relationship with plants.

The highlight of the event will be a series of new installations by artist Vaughn Bell. Be amazed by the specially commissioned artworks, housing plant species from across the globe and experience a unique way of getting up-close and personal to plants. Take a moment to reflect as you become surrounded by desert cacti, oak saplings or lush tropical palms and come away feeling energised and connected.

The festival runs from May until September 2020.



# Spectacular events



## Christmas at Kew

From late November until the New Year, join us after dark for a magical light trail through the Gardens. Step into a world of Christmas colour where the earth glows and the sky sparkles. Warm up with a festive tippie or tempting treat and find perfect gifts for all your loved ones in our shop. Christmas at Kew is not to be missed!

## Orchids – 8 February to 8 March 2020

Escape dreary winter skies and explore the wonders of Indonesia through Kew's iconic 25th annual orchid festival. Rainforests and volcanoes will be brought to life inside the Princess of Wales Conservatory through an exotic array of vibrant orchid displays.

## Chrysanthemums – 3 October to 1 November 2020

In October 2020 Kew will launch a brand new annual festival celebrating Chrysanthemums. Large eye-catching displays of vibrant Chrysanthemums will fill the Temperate House as part of the event, which will be drawing its inspiration from Japan in its inaugural year.



# Enhance your visit

## **Kew Explorer**

Popular with visitors of all ages, the Kew Explorer is a hop-on, hop-off land train which operates regular, scheduled departures throughout the year. The seven stops along the route offer the opportunity to explore some of the furthest reaches of the Gardens while enjoying the insightful guided commentary of the driver. Additional charges apply, subject to availability on the day.

## **Guided tours**

For those looking for more in-depth information, our award-winning guides can provide walking tours covering a range of subjects. Tours can be tailored to focus on specific themes and are available for either 60 or 90 minutes. Additional charges apply.

## **Shopping**

Peruse our exclusive range of bespoke Kew-branded gifts at one of our onsite shops or head online to [shop.kew.org](http://shop.kew.org) to find that perfect souvenir. When you buy something from our shops you are supporting our vital science-based conservation work around the world.

## **Self-service catering**

We have a wide variety of cafés and restaurants in the Gardens to compliment your trip. Look out for seasonal specialities, fresh pastries and delicious cakes at our Victoria Plaza and White Peaks Cafés. Alternatively, our largest on-site restaurant, the Orangery, provides a historical backdrop for you to enjoy a wide selection of hot dishes, fresh salads, sandwiches and drinks. Or why not head to our exciting new eatery, the Pavilion Bar and Grill, for year-round dining among the trees and a slice of fascinating history?

## **The Botanical restaurant**

The Botanical affords stunning views across the Pond to the Palm House, serving breakfast, brunch, lunch and traditional afternoon tea. A quintessentially British addition to a wonderful day out. Table service only.



# Welcome to Wakehurst

## **Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex**

Wakehurst is Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex, with over 500 acres of dramatic landscape. Discover beautiful ornamental gardens, temperate woodlands and a nature reserve teeming with wildlife. Wakehurst is also home to a picturesque Elizabethan Mansion, nestled between formal and informal borders, a sweeping lawn, a pond and a walled garden.

At the heart of Wakehurst is the world's largest wild seed conservation project, whose mission is to conserve 25% of the world's bankable plant species by 2020. Step inside the Millennium Seed Bank to discover the important work of Kew scientists.

This extraordinary estate is situated in the Sussex High Weald. An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it has something to see in every season.

You'll find Wakehurst in Ardingly, West Sussex, just 10 minutes from Haywards Heath. Open every day except 24 and 25 December.

We hope you enjoy your visit.



# Remarkable buildings and refined landscapes



## **Millennium Seed Bank**

At the heart of Wakehurst is the world's largest wild seed conservation project. Step inside the Millennium Seed Bank, the most bio-diverse spot on Earth, to discover the important work of Kew scientists. Currently over 2.25 billion seeds are stored here from over 190 countries.

## **The Mansion and Walled Garden**

Discover our Elizabethan Mansion, dating back to the 16th century, situated in beautiful formal gardens ablaze with colourful flowers.

## **Winter Garden**

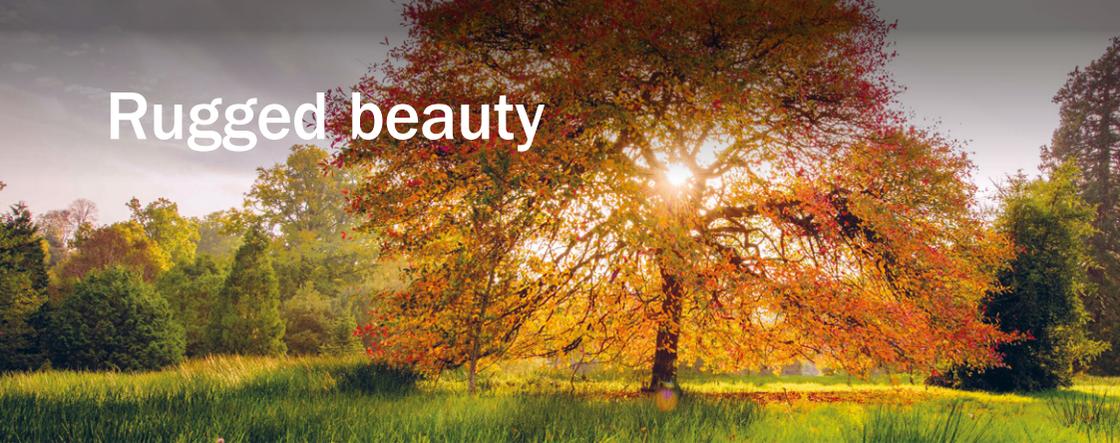
Just beyond the Mansion, experience a breathtaking display of colour, scent and texture from over 33,000 plants in the newly designed Winter Garden.

## **Water Garden**

Journey through interconnected water gardens and see rock roses, magnolias, lilies, and our magnificent Iris Dell with over 60 varieties of Japanese water iris.



# Rugged beauty



## **Westwood Valley**

One of Wakehurst's most stunning natural features, home to semi-evergreen forests of rhododendrons, laurels, maples, alders, oaks, birches and conifers.

## **Himalayan Glade**

Lying in a deep cleft on the north side of Westwood Valley, see the mountain flora of the Himalaya and China, as well as stunning views across the valley.

## **The Wetlands**

Head down to Westwood Lake to experience the tranquil beauty of one of Wakehurst's most evocative conservation hotspots and wander the newly renovated boardwalks.

## **Loder Valley Nature Reserve**

Settle down in one of our nature hides and you can see badgers, marsh tits and butterflies on this 150-acre reserve.

## **Temperate Woodlands**

Enjoy a walk through the stunning temperate woodlands of the world and admire giant redwoods, hickories, gum trees and even the 'dinosaur' of trees – the Wollemi pine.

### **Enhance your visit**

**Guided tours:** For those looking for more in-depth information, our guides can provide walking tours. Tours can be tailored to focus on specific themes or parts of the gardens. Additional charges apply.

**Shopping:** Discover our range of bespoke gifts at our Visitor Centre shop and plant sales area to find that perfect souvenir or present. When you buy something from our shop you are supporting our vital science-based conservation work around the world.

**Catering:** We have a variety of catering options available to you during your visit, offering exceptional British food in stunning surroundings using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. Visit the café or restaurant to enjoy delicious food, whether you are looking for a quick coffee or a warming hot lunch.

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## KEW GARDENS

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

Tel: +44 (0)208 332 5648

Email: [groups@kew.org](mailto:groups@kew.org)

[www.kew.org/groups](http://www.kew.org/groups)

For school & college visits to Kew Gardens:

Tel: +44 (0)208 332 5627

Email: [schools@kew.org](mailto:schools@kew.org)

For community group visits and for information about our Community Access Scheme:

Tel: +44 (0)208 332 5048

Email: [community@kew.org](mailto:community@kew.org)

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## WAKEHURST

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

Tel: +44 (0)1444 894067

Email: [wakehurst@kew.org](mailto:wakehurst@kew.org)

[www.kew.org/wakehurst/visit-wakehurst/group-visits](http://www.kew.org/wakehurst/visit-wakehurst/group-visits)



Front cover shows *Cleistocactus winteri* growing in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, Kew.