



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 admire a wide range of bulbs (see page 5).

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 beehive at Kew (see page 4).

Don't miss Kew Palace, which opens its doors for the summer months. Enter the smallest royal palace for an intimate introduction to its most famous resident, King George III, and his family (see page 3).

Autumn

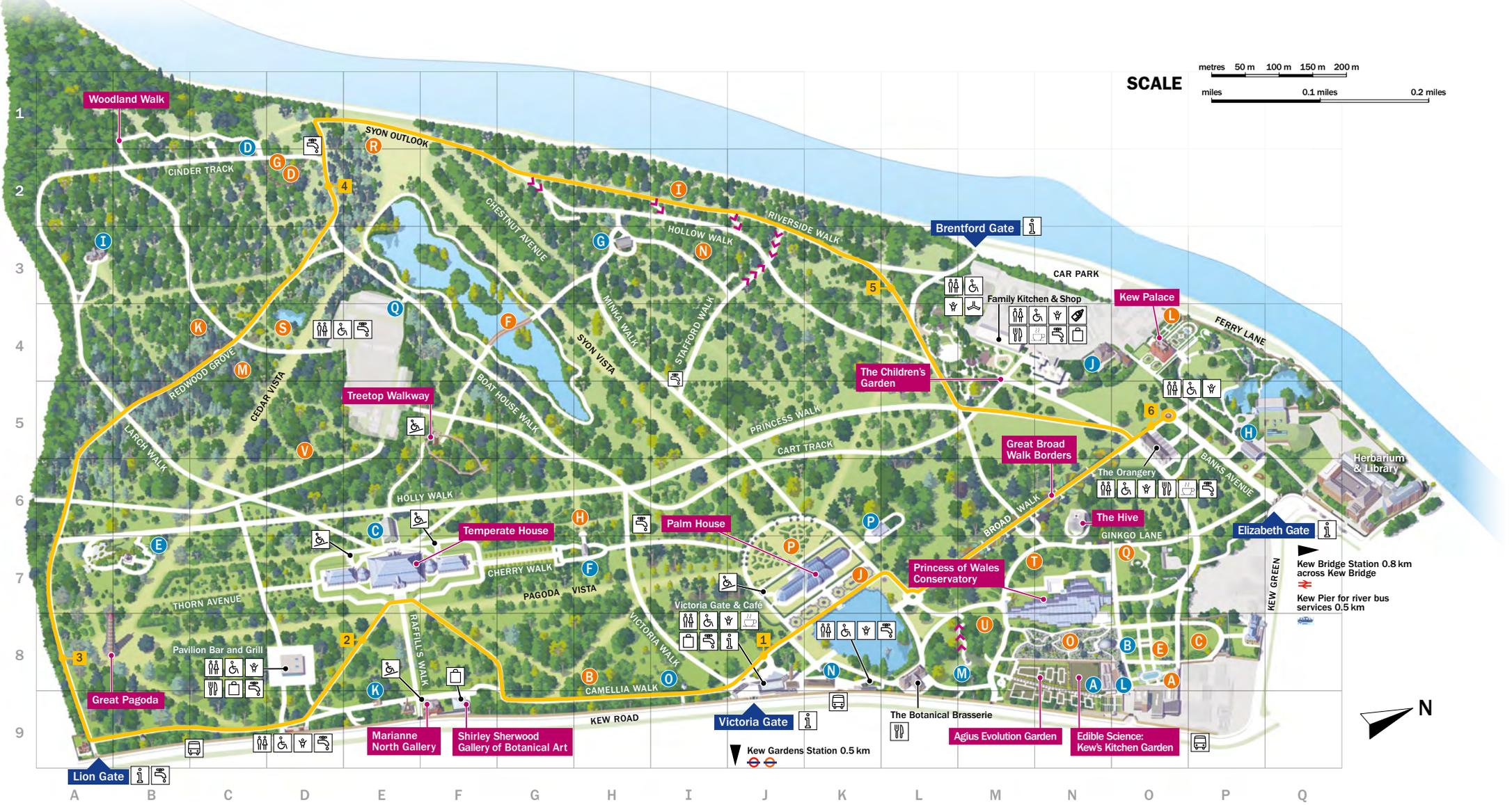
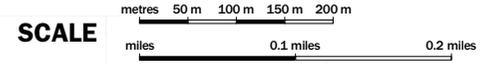
See every stunning shade of autumn colour – from fiery reds to warm oranges and glowing yellows. One of the most spectacular spots is the Lake Crossing, where you can admire the reflections of transforming trees in the Lake (see page 5).

As the temperature drops, head to the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art and the Marianne North Gallery to warm up beneath beautiful botanical art (see page 6).

Winter

From late November until into 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 8).

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 8).



Richmond Station 1 km

Kew Gardens Station 0.5 km

Kew Bridge Station 0.8 km across Kew Bridge

Kew Pier for river bus services 0.5 km

Paths

- Fully accessible
- Lawn paths
- Kew Explorer route
- Kew Explorer stops
- Steep path not suitable for wheelchairs, the chevrons point downhill

Symbols

- Toilets
- Accessible toilets
- Baby change
- Changing place
- Restaurant
- Café
- Shop
- Water
- Accessible entry
- Information
- Bus stop

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 ten 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.



Paths

-  Fully accessible path (hard surface, no steps or slopes)
-  Made path (hard surface, may be uneven, with steps or slopes)
-  Unmade path (bark, chippings or mud)
-  Steep path not suitable for wheelchairs, the chevron indicates the downhill gradient
-  No visitor access

Symbols

-  Way in
 -  Toilets
 -  Café
 -  Restaurant
 -  Viewpoint
 -  Shelter
 -  Field Studies Centre
 -  Nature Hide
 -  Picnic Area
 -  Car Park
 -  Bus Stop
 -  Steps
- A to C Entrance
 - 1 to 2 Millennium Seed Bank
 - 3 to 14 Mansion Gardens
 - 15 to 17 Global Collections
 - 18 to 20 Asia
 - 21 to 22 North America
 - 23 to 24 Chile
 - 25 to 26 Australia & New Zealand
 - 27 to 32 British Isles
 - 33 to 42 Loder Valley Nature Reserve
 - 43 to 45 Playspaces

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 Kew Gardens.

The Gardens were founded in 1759, and still today Kew is at the forefront of plant and fungal science and conservation, with our researchers 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 – 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 breathtaking 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.



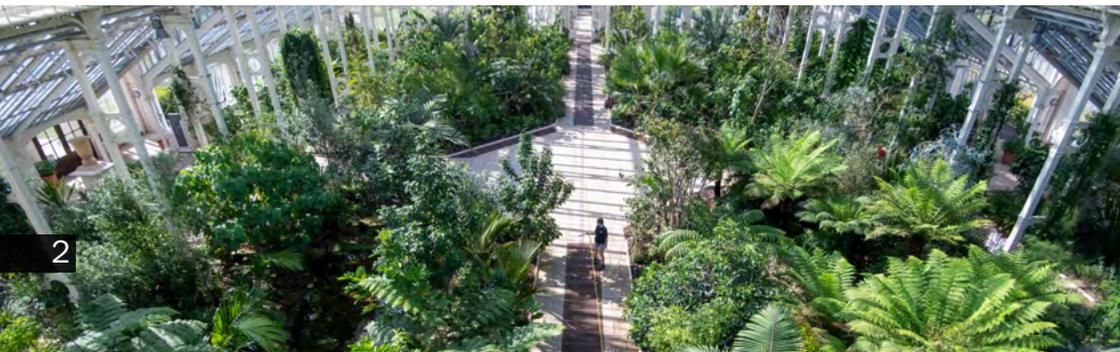
Great Pagoda (April to September, additional charge applies for admission)

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.

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.

Please consult hrp.org.uk/kew-palace in advance of your visit for the latest opening times and visitor information related to Kew Palace and the Great Pagoda.



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Meg Boldison © RBG Kew 2019



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Natural wonders



The Hive

Discover the extraordinary lives 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 beehive at Kew.

The installation is a fully immersive, multisensory experience designed by artist Wolfgang Buttress to highlight the plight of the honey bee, 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.

Lake Crossing

The Lake 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 chose to display after travelling around the world.

Palm House

Built in the 1840s, the Palm House was the first of Kew Gardens' glasshouses. It allowed plants from the tropical regions of the world to be housed in their natural growing conditions. Many plants in this collection are endangered; some are even extinct in the wild. There are also many species here that are used by Kew scientists for research into medicines.

Princess of Wales Conservatory

Opened in 1987 by Diana, Princess of Wales, but named after Augusta, Princess of Wales, who founded the Gardens, this modern glasshouse allows you to take a journey through ten climatic zones under one roof. From the arid conditions of the desert to the steamy humidity of the rainforests, travel around the botanical world without getting your feet wet.

This is also where our annual orchid festival takes place.



Spectacular events



Christmas at Kew 2024

From late November until into 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 – 4 February to 5 March 2024

Celebrate the rich and colourful culture of Madagascar at Kew's 28th annual orchid festival. Step inside the Princess of Wales Conservatory and discover vibrant horticultural displays inspired by the country's incredible landscapes and diverse wildlife.

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 five 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 on-site shops or head online to 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 complement your trip. Look out for seasonal specialities, fresh pastries and delicious cakes at our Victoria Gate Café. 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 the Pavilion Bar and Grill for year-round dining among the trees and a slice of fascinating history?

The Botanical Brasserie

The Botanical Brasserie enjoys 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

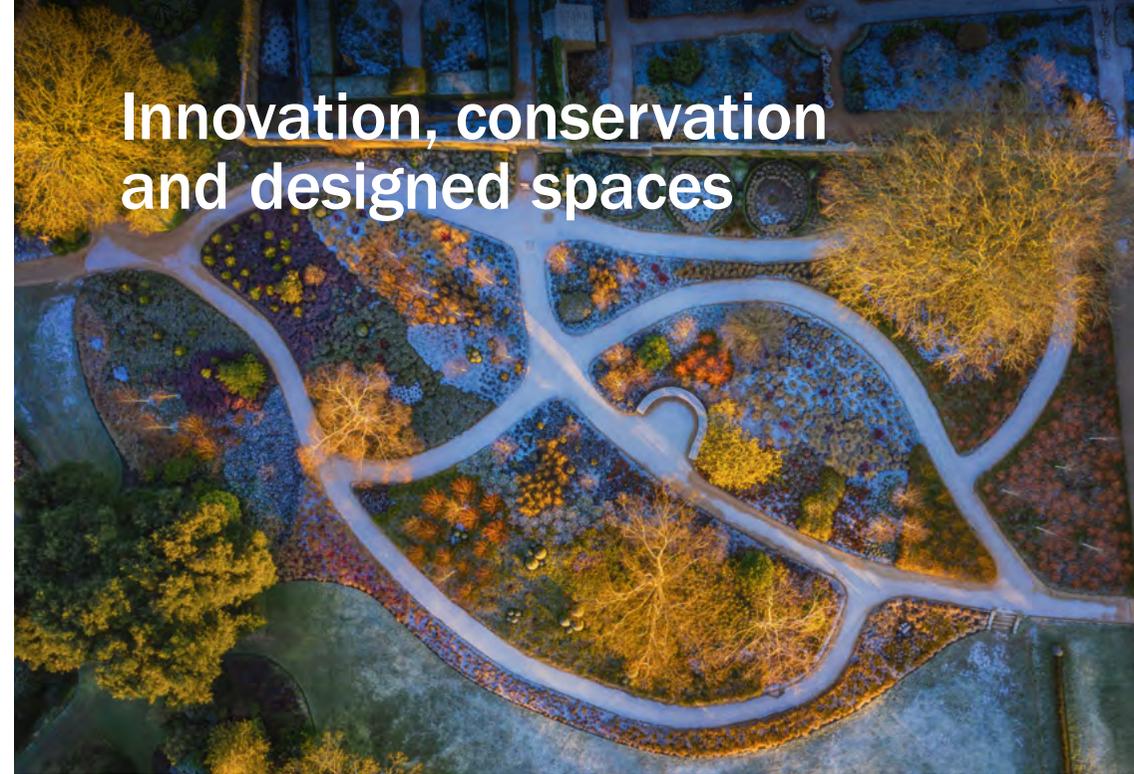
Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex

Wakehurst is Kew's wild botanic garden in the heart of Sussex. With over 500 acres of dramatic landscape and a diverse collection of plants from Britain and around the globe, Wakehurst is a living laboratory for science and conservation. Discover beautiful ornamental gardens, temperate woodlands, striking valleys, vast meadows and wetlands as well as a nature reserve teeming with wildlife.

Wakehurst is also home to the world's largest wild seed conservation project, the Millennium Seed Bank: step inside to find yourself in the most biodiverse place on the planet. Watch the scientists in action as they collect and bank seeds that could hold the solutions to humanity's greatest challenges.

Situated in the Sussex High Weald, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Wakehurst has something to see in every season.

You'll find Wakehurst in Ardingly, West Sussex, just 20 minutes from Gatwick, and with direct train links from London Victoria to our nearest station, Haywards Heath. Open every day except 24 and 25 December. Enjoy your visit.



Innovation, conservation and designed spaces

Millennium Seed Bank

A treasure trove of scientific excellence, the Millennium Seed Bank hides an underground collection of over 2.4 billion seeds from around the world. Banked in sub-zero chambers, seeds are conserved in flood-, bomb- and radiation-proof vaults.

American Prairie

This innovative, six-acre landscape is inspired by North America's sweeping prairies and vibrant grasslands, and created from seeds collected in the wild. It's a valuable resource for building knowledge of this threatened ecosystem for conservation and restoration.

Walled Gardens

Secluded and intimate, this stunning formal garden is the perfect place to slow down and enjoy the soft, subtle hues of pink and purple.' Discover something new from every angle as you stroll around the pleasance.

Winter Garden

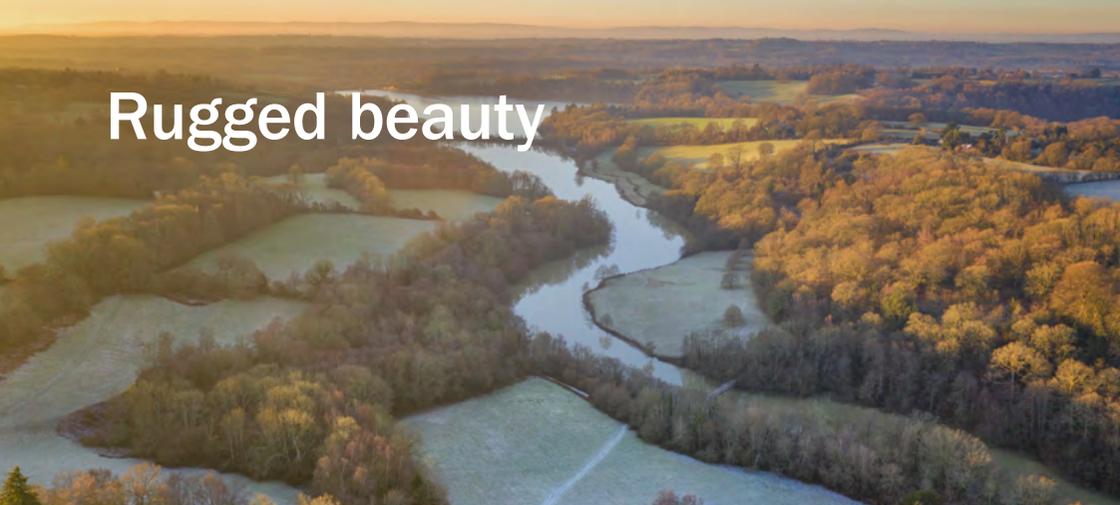
Experience a breathtaking display of colour, scent and texture from over 33,000 plants in the Winter Garden.

Water Gardens

Journey through interconnected water gardens and see rock roses, magnolias and lilies, alongside our stunning collection of 70 different Japanese iris species that flower in the Iris Dell in summer.



Rugged beauty



Into the wild

Enjoy a walk through the stunning temperate woodlands of the world, head down to Westwood Lake to meander along the boardwalks, or strap on your hiking boots and explore our 150-acre nature reserve.

Glow Wild and the UK's tallest living Christmas tree

As darkness falls, join us on a spellbinding winter lantern trail for all ages. The gardens are brought to life with beautifully hand-crafted lanterns and captivating light installations created by leading artists. Plus, don't miss the UK's tallest living Christmas tree, decorated with 1,800 lights.

Enhance your visit

Guided tours: Discover the garden's seasonal highlights on a guided walking tour of Wakehurst. Tours leave at 11.30am every day, subject to availability.

Shopping: Explore the Visitor Centre shop and Plant Centre to find that perfect bespoke gift or souvenir. Every purchase supports Kew's vital science-based conservation work around the world.

Catering: A variety of catering options are 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.



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

kew.org/groups

For school and college visits to Kew Gardens:

Tel: +44 (0)208 332 5627

Email: 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

WAKEHURST

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

Tel: +44 (0)1444 894066

Email: wakehurst@kew.org

kew.org/wakehurst/visit-wakehurst/group-visits

