



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

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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 6).

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 5).

On a sunny day, be dazzled by 80 sparkling dragons, restored to the iconic Great Pagoda after more than 200 years (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 4).

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 6).

Winter

As the temperature drops, head to the Shirley Sherwood and Marianne North galleries to warm up beneath beautiful botanical art (see page 7).

This is also the perfect time to discover the beautifully restored Temperate House, one of several magnificent glasshouses located within the Gardens (see page 3).

CONTACT US:

For more information about pre-paid group visits to Kew Gardens or travel trade enquiries:

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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.

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 to find that perfect souvenir. When you buy something from our shops you are supporting our vital science-based conservation work around the world.

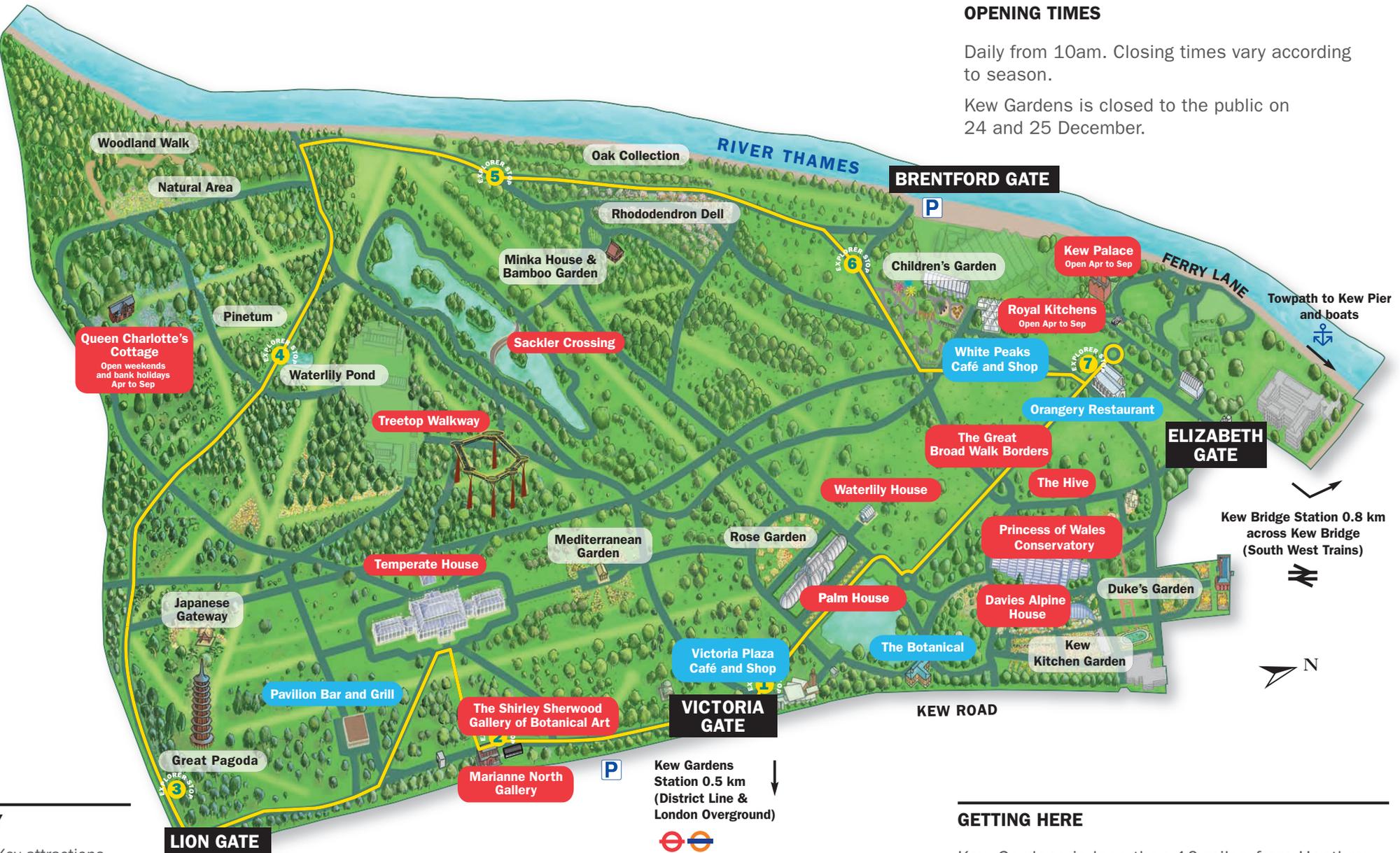
Self-service catering

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 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.





OPENING TIMES

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

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

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)



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