

Brooklyn Botanical Gardens Travel Guide

What am I getting myself into?

Are you ready for a break from the chaos of the city and immerse yourself into mother nature? Then take a subway to the outer boroughs and emerge into a hidden oasis—The Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Located next to the Brooklyn Museum and stretching out over 52 acres, the garden is a horticulturalist’s dream--boasting a myriad of gardens from the Japanese-Hill-and-Pond, to an English Cottage style garden curated and inspired by the works of William Shakespeare, to an Herb Garden that boasts varieties as diverse as and reflect of the people of Brooklyn themselves.

How long does it take?

How much time you spend there is up to you and how much time as you need to remove yourself from the city’s never-ending busyness. A “quick” over view would take about two hours while a prolonged stroll through every section can take up to four. But how much you want to explore is solely in your hands. Much like visiting a museum you can choose to see all of it, or just pick one specific garden or pavilion to take in.

What’s the history and stats of this place?

Founded in 1910, Brooklyn Botanical gardens were intended to be a green oasis in what was fast becoming a bustling metropolis. The original plan for the garden composed of 39 acres. Although both it and the city have grown over the century to continually counter-balance each other. The garden now boasts 14 different types of gardens and five indoor pavilions.

What has it been used for in the past?

While the garden now plays host to flora from the world over, it was initially intended to preserve the natural plants that were being uprooted by the city’s development. But in true New York form, the garden began to incorporate the larger world from well outside its borders.

When’s the best time to go?

When it comes to gardens, there is no time better than Spring to make a visit. It is a great way to knock off the chill of winter and refresh your spirit with the new life emerging from all around. It would also be a great opportunity to stroll down Cherry Esplane and see all the emerging cherry blossoms.

The gardens are open ten months out of the year, closing only for the coldest months in January and February. From Spring to early fall in October, the gardens are open Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00pm. On weekends hours a bit shorter from 10am to 6pm. To make the best of your visit, try getting there no later than 10:30 am. With little to no crowds at that time you will feel as though you have stepped into your own private oasis.

If you have the misfortune of getting rained out, you can always take a detour into the Steinhardt Conservatory. With three pavilions, one bonsai museum and the aquatic house and orchid collection, there is plenty of nature to be experience behind closed doors.

Recommended for...

While the gardens are suitable for anyone at any age, a visit here would make for a great daytime date. Why? It has all amenities one would need. It is in equal parts romantic and Instagram-able. You could play hooky from and spend a day with your beloved away from the daily grind. To up the romance level, bring a book of short stories, love poems or even jokes. Or if you want to impress them with your knowledge of bonsai trees and cherry blossoms, google some of the gardens most beautiful flowers and share what you learned with your date. It could be most romantic field trip you ever take. Or just spend the day slowing down and maybe taking a few pictures along the way. Whatever your dating style, you can have it here.

How to get there?

Now for the logistics. To reach the gardens, you have a myriad of options. From the Subway, you can take the 2 or 3 to Eastern Parkway—Brooklyn Museum station. You can take the B, Q, S to the Prospect Park station. Lastly, you can take the 4 or 5 to the Franklin Avenue station.

By Bus you can take:

B16 to Ocean Avenue	B45 to Washington Avenue	B41 or B69 to Brooklyn Public Library
B41 to Empire Boulevard	B48 to Eastern Parkway	B49 to Eastern Parkway
B43 to Washington Avenue	B16 to Lincoln Road	B65 to Classon Avenue

By the LIRR you can take:

LIRR to Flatbush Avenue/Atlantic Avenue Station. Connect with 2, 3, 4, or 5 train or B41 bus.

Parking

Can be found at the parking lot at 900 Washington Avenue. Rates range from \$5 for up to an hour to \$18 if you stay over 6 hours. The parking lot opens at 6 a.m. on weekdays and 7 a.m. on weekends.

Adventure scale

Aside from an attack from Hay fever, there is little to no risk from attending. But if it is a date, be sure to check with your date to be sure that they have no allergies or other ailments that might otherwise impede on the fun. As long as you wear comfortable shoes you should be fine.

Price scale

Rate for the Gardens are more than reasonable. Pricing is \$15 dollars for adults and is free for kids under12.

Where to buy/sign up?

Tickets can be purchased at the main entrance of the gardens. No need to prepay online.