

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



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The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, located in southwest London, is world-renowned for its stunning collection of plants and important contributions to botanical science.

Spanning 326 acres (132 hectares), Kew offers diverse landscapes, including temperate and tropical glasshouses, native woodlands, and expansive lawns. Highlights include the iconic Palm, Waterlily and Temperate Houses, the Treetop Walkway, The Great Pagoda and Royal Palace. With over 50,000 plant species, Kew serves as a global leader in plant conservation and research. Visitors can explore beautiful gardens, lush landscapes, and a rich history, making it a peaceful and educational destination for nature lovers.

What makes this UNESCO Designation special?

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on the banks of the River Thames outside London, is a world-leading centre for plant science, conservation, and education. Covering over 300 acres, it features diverse landscapes, including woodlands, serene lakes, and extensive lawns. The gardens are home to more than 50,000 plant species, with highlights like the largest Victorian glasshouse in the world, the Temperate House, and the iconic Palm House, designed by Decimus Burton.

Kew has a rich history, dating back to the 18th century when it became a royal botanical collection. It has played a pivotal role in advancing plant science and discovery. The gardens house a vast herbarium and the world-renowned Fungarium, a collection of over 1.25 million fungal specimens, supporting vital research on fungi. The gardens also feature two art galleries - the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art, dedicated to contemporary botanical illustration, and the Marianne North Gallery.

As a hub for global plant conservation, today botanical and mycological scientists, horticulturists, curators, and

archivists care for precious collections and apply their knowledge to unlock their secrets, helping solve some of the greatest challenges facing people and planet. Its combination of historical significance, scientific research, and natural beauty makes Kew an extraordinary destination for visitors and scholars alike.



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County: **Surrey**



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