

Self-guided Walk in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney

As recommended by our Volunteer Guides for September/October

Welcome to our Gardens, and the bright colours of the Spring Walk which dates from 1856. Follow the Must See route using the coloured map available from the Gardens Shop and the key below.



❶ Spring Walk – Colours and Fragrances Grid N9

To begin the walk – from the Information Booth walk down the ramp, cross the small bridge and ahead of you is our colourful Spring Walk. Enjoy the pink flowers of the ‘Fringe Flower’ *Lorapetalum chinense var. rubrum* next to the bridge and from there it is a continuous display of azaleas, rhododendrons, iris, primula and many other spring flowers. On the right there are tulips of every colour with an enhancing ground cover. As you walk along the path, the tall tree on your right in the first bed is a ‘Queensland Tree Waratah’ *Alloxylon flammeum*, look up at the spectacular red flowers. As you continue your walk you will see the mass of colour from the repeated theme of blue and white Wisterias and the delicate pinks of the Prunus. Behind them a double hedge of ‘White May Bush’ *Spirea cantoniensis* ‘Lanceaea’ is framed by the blue of the ‘Blue Floss Flower’, *Bartlettina sordida*.

❷ Circular Garden – Dragon Tree – Lion Gate Lodge Grid N10

Tulips are the main feature of the circular garden bed, a spectacular sight in September. Continue straight ahead and on your right note the ‘Madagascar Dragon Tree’ *Dracaena marginata*, with its wonderful sword like leaves. Ahead on the left notice the plastic guard around a tree to deter possums from eating the young shoots. Brightly coloured pansies form another attractive ground cover. Towards the end of the walk on the left are the pink flowers of the ‘Tree Mallow’ *Lavatera maritime*, and on the right there are the vibrant colours of the ‘Lilac Hibiscus’ *Alyogyne huegelii*. Sit on the seat outside Lion Gate Lodge and enjoy the view back along the Spring Walk and to the city skyline.

❸ Lion Gates – Bunya Pine

Turn left and pass through the iron gates and between the lion and lioness statues. Take the central path – with the Bunya Pine, *Araucaria bidwillii* on your right. This tree produces huge cones weighing 6.5 kilograms which bear edible seeds. The harvesting of these provided an opportunity for a great festival for aborigines. Continue along this path towards the harbour- and take note of the golden grevilleas on your left.

❹ ‘Boy Extracting Thorn’ statue – Harbour view Grid M11

At the statue of the ‘Boy Extracting Thorn’ there is a magnificent view over the harbour to the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House – a great photo opportunity across the striking red cannas! Alongside the statue are some spectacular Rock Orchids *Dendrobium speciosum*. Continue on down the path that circles the statue. Further on you will pass a clump of Golden Giant Bamboo, *Bambusa vulgaris* ‘Striata’.

❺ ‘La Ballarina’ Statue - Main Pond – Oriental Garden Grid M7

At the next intersection stop and look at the newly restored statue of ‘La Ballarina’ on the left. Follow the sign to the Palm Grove Centre, past the Choragic Monument and the Main Pond. Just before the bridge read the informative sign on the small weeping White Willow.

Cross the bridge and a little further on, turn left and pass between the Temple Dogs and into the Oriental Garden and walk under the wisteria covered arches.

To return to the Information Booth and the Palm Grove Centre, walk towards the kiosk and then up to the left to complete the walk.

For more details or to book a walk please phone 9231 8304.

Take a leisurely free guided walk with one of our Volunteer Guides.

Walks leave 10.30 am daily, except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday.

Lunchtime tours are also held at 1 pm daily, Monday–Friday (March to November)

All walks leave from the visitor information centre next to the Gardens Shop.



Botanic Gardens Trust
SYDNEY