



Map of the Royal Botanical Gardens

0 m 20 m 40 m 60 m 80 m 100 m

Calle Alfonso XII

Calle Claudio Moyano

Paseo del Prado

Plaza Murillo



Visitors' access



Access to the research building



Information



Toilets



Drinking water



Emergency exit



Buildings, gates (puertas), statues and sundry:

1. Puerta de Murillo
2. Puerta del Rey
3. Statue of Carlos III
4. Water plant pond
5. Shop & Cafeteria
6. Didactic classroom
7. Santiago Castroviejo Greenhouse
8. Palm Tree Stove
9. De los Tilos bower South
10. De los Castaños bower
11. Linneo's bower & pond
12. Villanueva Pavilion
13. De los Plátanos bower
14. De los Tilos bower North
15. De la Noria bower
16. De la Noria pond
17. Bonsai pond
18. Seminar Hall
19. Bonsai Greenhouse
20. Auditorium and offices
21. Research offices, Library, Archives & Herbarium (not allowed to visit)

Promenades (paseos):

22. Paseo Bajo de Gómez Ortega and statues of illustrious botanists
23. Paseo de Mutis
24. North Pergola
25. South Pergola
26. Paseo de los Olivos

Collections of interest:

27. Rockery
28. Bulbs and rockery plants
29. Succulent plants
30. Winter garden
31. Ornamental meadows
32. Bonsai

TC

Terraza de los Cuadros (1781)

The collections are arranged in paintings according to their uses: ornamental, medicinal, aromatic and garden-use. Each painting has a little fountain in the middle.

TE

Terraza de las Escuelas (1781)

Collection of plants classified in systematic order. Each school displays species that are evolutionarily close.

PF

Plano de la Flor (1858)

Romantic-styled, it houses a varied representation of trees and shrubs. It is bordered by a wrought iron pergola built in 1786.

TB

Bonsai Terrace (2004)

Bonsai collection donated in 1996 by the former Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe González. Made up of Asian and European species, mainly from the Spanish flora. This makes it a unique collection.

The **Royal Botanical Gardens (RJB)** is a place of botanical, historical and artistic interest. Their eight hectares house a collection of more than five thousand species of plants from different continents that are on display according to scientific and aesthetic criteria. They were first located on the river Manzanares in **1755** by order of Fernando VI, although years later (in **1781**), Carlos III determined their transfer to Paseo del Prado.

Since their inception, the **RJB** have been committed to the study, teaching and dissemination of botany.

They also have a cultural heritage that is the result of scientific expeditions carried out in the **18th** and **19th** centuries, which is preserved in the Herbarium, the Library and the Archives. The Germplasm Bank preserves seeds of wild origin for the preservation of genetic diversity. This entire heritage allows for the study of Botany and Natural History. They were declared Historical Gardens in **1942** and are registered in the Catalogue of Cultural Interest Assets of Spanish Cultural Heritage. Nowadays, the **RJB** belong to the Spanish National Research Council (**CSIC**) and its scientific activity aims at studying the diversity of plants, fungi and ecosystems for their better knowledge and conservation.

When you visit the Gardens, do not miss...



Ornamental area:
a visit for the senses

The plants that first bloom at the end of January are hellebores, followed by daffodils and saffron. They are followed by hyacinths, camellias and magnolias in March. Tulips cover the ground from March to May. In April and May, you can also admire lilies, peonies and roses. Finally, beautiful dahlias light up the Gardens in the hotter summer months.



Orchard and fruit trees:
discovering edible plants

This area of the Gardens has a didactic function, since the edible parts of the plants that are grown are not collected, but they are left to grow so that they can be seen in their different phases of growth. The insect hotel located next to the orchard helps to keep the pollinator populations of the Gardens. The best time of year to visit is from April to November, when most plants are in bloom or fruition.



Great unique trees:
witnesses to the history of the Gardens

They are located throughout the Gardens and can be identified by their large size, as well as by their identifying signs. Some of them have witnessed first-hand several centuries of history, like the elm (*Ulmus minor* Mill.) known as "**Pantalones**" (Trousers) because of the shape of its two branches, or the cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* L.), which we call "**Abuelo**" (Grandpa) because it is one of the oldest specimens. Any time of the year is appropriate to take a walk and look at these great living monuments.



Santiago Castroviejo Greenhouse:
a journey from the desert to the tropics

It houses three departments that represent the different biomes of the planet. The desert department has plants from arid areas (such as cactuses, euphorbias or lithops); the subtropical department contains a representation of the flora of the Canary Islands, as well as species from subtropical areas and edible plants. Finally, the tropical department displays tropical plants such as orchids, heliconias or bromeliads. This area of the Garden is a must-see any time of the year, as it always has optimal conditions for the species on display.

The "Estufa de las Palmas"
(Palm Tree Stove):
a jewel made of wrought iron and glass

Also known as "**Estufa de Graells**" as it was built in **1856** under the direction of Mariano de la Paz Graells. Its wrought iron structure remains unchanged from that time. It was heated by the fermentation of the manure produced under the floor. The iron grids are maintained and are part of this heating system called "**gloria**" (glory). In this room mainly palm trees are displayed and also tree ferns or specimens of the *Musa* genus (bananas). Like the Castroviejo Greenhouse, this building is recommended for visits throughout the year.



Bonsai Terrace:
little garden jewels

Spain's most remarkable bonsai collection is displayed here, due to the quality and diversity of its specimens. The former Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe González, donated it but it has grown with new specimens. Visiting this area of the Gardens is interesting any time of the year. Deciduous specimens undergo spectacular variations in the different seasons.



Water plant pond:
a summer visit

It was refurbished in **2014** under the coordination of Santos Cirujano and in collaboration with Canal de Isabel II (Madrid Water Authority). It contains an aquatic ecosystem typical of the Iberian Peninsula, as well as some non-native species present in our ecosystems. Water is purified by plants themselves, which bring oxygen, allowing the decomposition of organic matter by bacteria. The best time to visit this area is from June to September. Frogs are camouflaged by water lilies and are not always easy to see.



Bulbs and rockery plants

Several bulbs of Mediterranean origin that are of great interest from the point of view of botany and conservation are displayed on these tables. Several plants that live in rockeries, adapted to survival in environments with little water, such as houseleeks or sedums, are also displayed. Bulbs are in full bloom in early summer, making your visit becomes more interesting.



Villanueva Pavilion:
a visit to the temporary exhibitions in the Garden

This majestic **18th** century building was built according to the plans of Juan de Villanueva as a greenhouse and is currently an exhibition hall. Any time of year is ideal to come to the Villanueva Pavilion and visit the temporary exhibitions held therein.



OPENING HOURS

Open to the public all year-round excepting Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Open from:
10 AM

Until (depends on the month):

ENE-FEB	MAR	ABR	MAY-JUN-JUL-AGO	SEPT	OCT	NOV-DIC
6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	7 PM	6 PM

Ticket offices, Bonsai Terrace, greenhouses, exhibitions, shop and cafeteria close 30 minutes before the Gardens' closing time.

Plaza de Murillo, 2
28014 MADRID, Spain



Map

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