**Map of the Royal Botanical Gardens**

**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 (1856)
  - Romantic-styled, it houses a varied representation of trees and shrubs. It is bordered by a wrought iron pergola built in 1785.

**TB**
- Bonsai Terrace (2004)
  - Bonsai collection donated in 1994 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.

**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
- 20. Auditorium and offices
- 21. Research offices, Library, Archives & Herbarium (not allowed to visit)

**Promenades (pasosos):**
- 22. Paseo Bajo de Gómez Ortega and statues of illustrious botanists
- 23. Paseo de Mútis
- 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
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 heliotropes, 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.

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.

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 (Cypresus 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.

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.

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 1866 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.

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):

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

Plaza de Murillas, 2
28014 MADRID, Spain

www.rjb.csic.es
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