

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS > HISTORY AND CULTURE > **GARDENS**

10 Best Botanical Gardens In The U.S.



Portland Japanese Garden in Oregon
PHOTO CREDIT: RITU MANOJ JETHANI / SHUTTERSTOCK



See Purpose and Safety Summary with Warnings on Olumiant.com

Olumiant® is a registered trademark owned by Company, its subsidiaries or affiliates.
PP-BA-US-1762 07/2022 © Lilly USA, LLC

RELATED:

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

BEST OF TRAVEL

BEST OF TRAVEL AWARDS: 2023

DESTINATIONS

GARDENS

HISTORY AND CULTURE

NEWS AND TIPS

UNITED STATES

TravelAwaits' 2023 Best Of Travel Awards, presented by [AllTrails](#) and with the support of [Luggage Free](#), the premier luggage shipping service, showcases our readers' favorite destinations and businesses. Nominations and voting took place earlier this year, and we hope the final selections inspire your future adventures; congrats to all of the winners!

LAURA RAY

JUN.23.2023

Presenting Sponsor



Try AllTrails+ Free

Botanical gardens offer a captivating escape into the realm of natural beauty and tranquility. From vibrant floral displays to diverse plant collections, these stunning gardens across the country are a testament to the incredible biodiversity and horticultural expertise that exists within the United States.

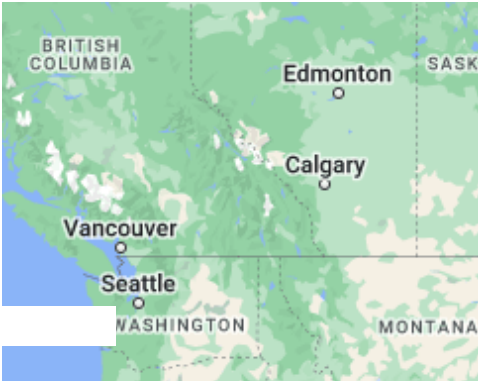
Πανερωπαϊκό νόμο για το διαδικτυακό εκφοβισμό επιχειρεί το Ευρω...



As voted on by *TravelAwaits* readers in our annual [Best Of Travel Awards](#), we present to you the

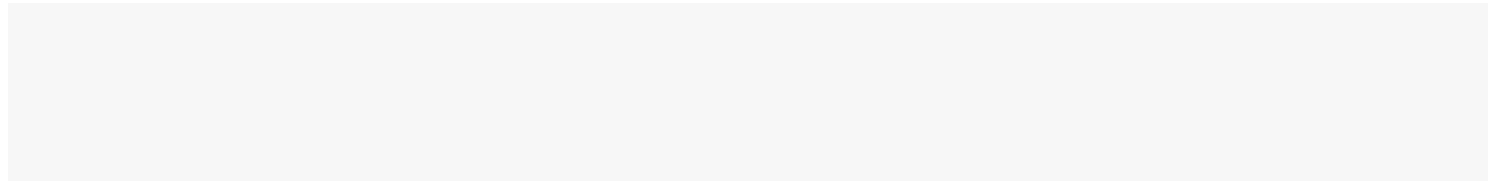
TravelAwaits' Best Botanical Gardens ...

[About](#)



[Terms](#)

This map was created by a user. [Learn how to create your own.](#)





New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

PHOTO CREDIT: NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC GARDEN AT TOWER HILL

1. New England Botanic Garden At Tower Hill (Winner) Boylston, Massachusetts

Congratulations to this year's winner of Best Botanical Garden in the U.S., [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#)! Nestled in Massachusetts, this hidden gem showcases 171 acres of stunning gardens and woodlands. Visitors can stroll through the picturesque grounds, admiring its 18 distinct gardens, including the breathtaking Secret Garden and the enchanting Garden of Inspiration. With its charming landscapes and seasonal flower displays, this garden is a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts.

New England Botanic Garden is one of the prettiest places in Massachusetts to enjoy fall foliage. With views of the Wachusett Reservoir and Wachusett Mountain, the breathtaking garden provides ample photo ops.



Bridge in the Japanese Garden at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL DEEMER / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

2. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Combining art and nature, [Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park](#) in [Grand Rapids, Michigan](#), is a true marvel. Boasting an impressive outdoor sculpture collection, including works by renowned artists, this garden offers a unique blend of horticulture and artistic expression. Visitors can explore the vast Japanese Garden, immerse themselves in the serene setting of the Michigan Farm Garden, or marvel at the intricate beauty of the Carnivorous Plant House. The gardens host a summer concert series as well as a fall festival each year. Here's [everything you need to know before you visit one of the best gardens in Michigan](#).



Desert Botanical Garden entrance

PHOTO CREDIT: ROSEMARIE MOSTELLER / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

3. Desert Botanical Garden

Phoenix, Arizona

Just 10 minutes from Sky Harbor airport, the 55-acre [Desert Botanical Garden](#) showcases the extraordinary beauty of desert flora. With over 50,000 plant displays representing more than 4,000 species, this [Phoenix](#) garden offers a captivating journey through the vibrant colors and unique adaptations of desert plants. Visitors can witness the breathtaking cacti and succulent collection (such as the [crested saguaro cactus](#)), embark on dusty, scenic trails, and enjoy engaging exhibits that showcase the region's rich cultural and botanical heritage.

ENJOYING THIS ARTICLE?
SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS

Email Address

SUBMIT

Avoid going in the heat of the Arizona summer. In December, thousands of flickering luminaria bags line the garden paths for [Las Noches de las Luminarias](#). Here are some more [tips for visiting Desert Botanical Garden](#).



Lily pads at the Denver Botanic Gardens

PHOTO CREDIT: PAT E JOHNSON / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

4. Denver Botanic Gardens

Denver, Colorado

Spanning 24 acres, [Denver Botanic Gardens](#) in Colorado is a lush oasis in the heart of the city. Its diverse gardens include the Japanese Garden, the Orangery, and the Romantic Gardens. Visitors can lose themselves in the tranquility of the Monet Pool water garden or explore the enchanting Conservatory, home to exotic tropical plants. With its stunning landscapes and educational programs, this garden provides a delightful experience for all.

While the peak bloom occurs from June through September, there's an abundance of reasons to visit the botanical garden throughout the year. Particularly during the holiday season, visitors can marvel at the garden's illuminated flora and naturalistic landscapes, brought to life by the enchanting Blossoms of Light event.



Longwood Gardens in Kennet Square

PHOTO CREDIT: OLIVIA COLACICCO / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

5. Longwood Gardens

Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Nestled in Pennsylvania, [Longwood Gardens](#) is a horticultural masterpiece that has captivated visitors for over a century. With its sprawling 1,077 acres, this garden boasts an array of awe-inspiring features, including the stunning Italian Water Garden, the breathtaking Flower Garden Walk, and the magnificent Main Fountain Garden. Visitors can also immerse themselves in the beauty of the Orchid House or stroll through the serene tranquility of the Meadow Garden.

During the holidays, this beloved destination captivates garden goers with an enchanting display of over 500,000 lights illuminating over 100 beautifully decorated trees. A miniature railway and 140-foot-long tunnel of light round out the festivities.

6. Missouri Botanical Garden

St. Louis, Missouri

Founded in 1859, the [Missouri Botanical Garden](#) in St. Louis is one of the oldest botanical institutions in the U.S. This 79-acre garden houses an extensive collection of plants, including the iconic Climatron conservatory, which simulates a tropical rainforest environment. Visitors can explore the serene Japanese Garden, marvel at the vibrant blooms in the Kemper Center for Home Gardening, or enjoy educational programs and events throughout the year.

The Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden area and children's programs at the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House keep little ones busy. In the summer, MoBot hosts the Whitaker Music Festival, while the holiday season brings the annual Garden Glow. This year, the garden is proud to present the works of Dale Chihuly in [Chihuly in the Garden 2023](#).



Corpse flower at the San Diego Botanic Garden

PHOTO CREDIT: RYAN WILLIAM FREDERICK / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

7. San Diego Botanic Garden

Encinitas, California

Nestled on 37 acres in California, the [San Diego Botanic Garden](https://www.sdbg.org/) is a delightful destination for nature lovers. Four miles of scenic trails connect 29 themed gardens from around the world, including the iconic bamboo grove, desert gardens, a tropical rainforest (complete with a spectacular waterfall), and an interactive children's garden.

With its mild climate and stunning botanical displays, the San Diego Botanic Garden is a true paradise for plant enthusiasts.

8. United States Botanic Garden

Washington, D.C.

Situated in the nation's capital, the [United States Botanic Garden](#) was established in 1820, making it the oldest continuously operating botanic garden in the U.S. Within this living plant museum's conservatory, you'll find a diverse collection that includes native Hawaiian plants, a rich array of medicinal plants sourced from around the globe, as well as an exquisite selection of rare and endangered plant species.

Just across Independence Avenue, Bartholdi Park awaits, offering a serene setting complete with a stunning fountain and an opportunity to witness sustainable gardening practices in action.

Meanwhile, the National Garden houses remarkable features such as the First Ladies Water Garden, a tribute to the esteemed spouses of American presidents. It is free to visit, but if you're unable to go in person, you can always take a virtual tour.

Pro Tip: Ask for directions to the *really* old ferns.



Fort Worth Botanical Garden in springtime
PHOTO CREDIT: VICTORIA DITKOVSKY / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

9. Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Fort Worth, Texas

Fort Worth boasts the enchanting Fort Worth Botanic Garden, spanning over 100 acres of breathtaking landscapes. With its extensive rose garden, featuring over 2,500 rose bushes, and the stunning Japanese Garden with its serene ponds and waterfalls, this garden is a visual feast. Visitors can explore the vibrant Fuller Garden or wander through the picturesque Botanical

Research Institute of Texas, making it a must-visit destination for nature lovers in the Lone Star State.

10. Portland Japanese Garden

Portland, Oregon

One of the most authentic Japanese gardens outside of Japan can be found in [Portland's Washington Park](#). Spanning 12 acres, the [Portland Japanese Garden](#) exemplifies the principles of Japanese gardening, featuring meticulously pruned trees, serene koi ponds, and traditional tea houses. Visitors can experience the contemplative beauty of the Strolling Pond Garden, immerse themselves in the Zen-inspired Sand and Stone Garden, or enjoy breathtaking vistas from the hilltop viewpoints.

These botanical gardens in the U.S., as voted on by *TravelAwaits* readers, offer an exquisite blend of natural beauty, horticultural artistry, and cultural exploration. Whether you're captivated by vibrant floral displays, fascinated by desert flora, or drawn to the serenity of Japanese gardens, each of these locations provides a unique and immersive experience. Embark on a journey to these botanical marvels and discover the captivating world of plants that awaits you.

Be sure to take a look at all of our [2023 Best Of Travel Awards](#).

Related Reading:

- [7 Gorgeous Gardens To Experience In San Diego](#)
- [10 Beautiful U.S. Botanical Gardens To Visit During Christmas](#)
- [These Are My 9 Favorite Gardens To Visit Around The World](#)

CATEGORIES

[ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS](#) • [BEST OF TRAVEL](#) • [BEST OF TRAVEL AWARDS: 2023](#) • [DESTINATIONS](#) •
[GARDENS](#) • [HISTORY AND CULTURE](#) • [NEWS AND TIPS](#) • [UNITED STATES](#)

**LAURA RAY**[VIEW FULL PROFILE](#)

Laura Ray has lived in Atlanta, the Bay Area, SoCal, and Austin. After moving from Texas, she and her husband rambled about the Midwest in a camper for a couple of years before finally settling on 35 acres in their home state of Kentucky. When she isn't clacking around on the keyboard (cat in lap), you...

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

enter an email

SUBMIT

It's our time to explore

[ABOUT US](#)[CONTACT US](#)[TERMS OF USE](#)[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[DO NOT SELL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION](#) [CHANGE CONSENT](#)

