

Conservatory Garden My last stop of the day was the six-acre Conservatory Garden in the northeast corner of the park, which is actually three formal gardens in three different styles - Italian, French and English.

I entered the garden through the ornate, wrought-iron Vanderbilt Gate on Fifth Avenue between 104th and 105th Streets. The majestic gate serves as a visual entryway, perfectly framing the centerpiece fountain in the Italian garden. Behind the fountain, a pergola overgrown with wisteria vines served as a lush backdrop.

I continued north into the French garden, with its circular paths. Several arched trellises led to the center of the garden, with its stately sculpture of three dancing women. Bright blue, pink, yellow, orange and purple blooms lined the pathways. Some of the flowers were only ankle-high, while others towered over me.

In the English garden, a variety of flowers and shrubs grew beside its stone walkways. The fountain at the center of this garden pays tribute to the book, *The Secret Garden*, written in 1922 by Frances Hodgson Burnett.



The Conservatory Garden was my last stop in Central Park, but only for that day. I had discovered five sanctuaries in the park, all places that I'm eager to return to and share with my friends and family. 📍

To read Lisa Field's complete story about Central Park's Secret Gems, go to NewYorkByRail.com/Secret-Gems-Of-Central-Park.

DO IT BY TRAIN! Take Amtrak to Penn Station (NYP). **For Hallett Conservatory and Dene Slope**, walk one block east to the 34th Street Herald Square subway station, then take an uptown N, R or W train to the Fifth Avenue/59th Street station. **For the Swedish Cottage**, take an uptown C train to the 81st Street-Museum of Natural History station. **For the Ravine Walk and Conservatory Garden**, take an uptown 2 or 3 train to the Central Park North (110th Street) station.



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