

A botanical adventure in the Adelaide Hills . . . put on your walking shoes, pack your camera and get ready to explore!

Whether you are out for a leisurely stroll or a more vigorous trek, there is always something new to discover at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden. Meander along the multitude of paths that sprawl across 97 hectares – with a surprise awaiting you around every corner. Mount Lofty Botanic Garden is dedicated to the cultivation and display of the world's cool-climate plants, which thrive in the Adelaide Hills environment.

Immerse yourself in their spectacular colour, rich aromas and amazing diversity.

Explore for knowledge; explore for pleasure, just explore.

botanicgardens.sa.gov.au



Mount Lofty Botanic Garden

Getting here

Entrances: Summit Road, Crafers (Upper Entrance) or Lampert Road, Piccadilly (Lower Entrance)

Parking: Metered parking in upper and lower car parks.

Closures

The Garden will be closed on days when the predicted fire danger rating is Severe, Extreme or Catastrophic as issued by The Bureau of Meteorology – bom.gov.au

Want to see more?

Mount Lofty Botanic Garden is one of three sites that together comprise the Botanic Gardens of South Australia. For more information about Gardens at Adelaide and Wittunga visit botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Free admission!

Want to donate to the Gardens?

We need and appreciate your ongoing financial support, because together as keepers and temporary custodians of the Gardens, it is our responsibility for ensuring that future generations enjoy the beauty, peace, and tranquillity we take for granted. You can donate, make a bequest or major gift through the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation. You can also support the Gardens through the Garden Bench Tribute Program. The Foundation has deductable gift recipient status for taxation purposes. For more information visit our website or call 08 8222 9311.

Find us online



botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Mount Lofty BOTANIC Garden

Plants. People. Culture.





ATCO Heritage Rose Garden



- Information board
- Gully walks
- Points of interest
- Guided walks meeting point
- Toilets
- Wheelchair access
- Parking
- Heysen Trail entry/exit points
- Heysen Trail
- Nature Trail
- Public fire evacuation assembly area
- Sculpture
- Wedding sites
- Steep gradient
- No public access

In the event of a fire emergency, immediately assemble at one of the marked fire assembly areas

Mount Lofty BOTANIC Garden

Opening hours

Admission is free, 365 days a year

Week days
8.30am - 4.00pm

Weekends and public holidays
10.00am - 5.00pm (6.00pm during daylight savings)

Mount Lofty Botanic Garden is closed on days that the fire danger rating is severe, extreme or catastrophic.

For more information:
botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Regulations

- No bicycle or scooter riding
- Do not damage or remove plants
- Do not enter garden beds
- No vehicles
- No pets
- No alcohol
- No skateboarding or rollerblading
- No BBQ's
- No ball or throwing games
- No sound equipment

- 1** Magnolia Gully
- 2** Fern Gully
- 3** South American Gully
- 4** Western Asian Gully
- 5** Rhododendron Gully
- 6** South East Asian Gully
- 7** Spring Gully
- 8** Nature Trail

- I17 Arboretum
- D11 Bush Dam
- L16 Chris Steele Scott Visitor Pavilion
- L13 Duck Pond
- R4 Dwarf Conifer Lawn
- H11 Garden Administration (no public access)

- N5 Lothian Viewing Platform
- K15 Main Lake
- G16 Nursery (no public access)
- H8 Spring Dam
- I13 Wollemi Pine
- K10 Woodland Garden

- A** Introduction
- B** China Roses, Tea Roses and species from America
- C** Species from China
- D** Species with striking features
- E** Climbing Roses

- F** Old European Garden Roses
- G** Rose history
- H** Rugosa and Hybrid Musk Roses
- I** Rugosa Roses
- J** Hybrid Musk and Portland Roses

ATCO Heritage Rose Garden (audio tour)



Exploring the Garden

No matter if you are a botanical novice or a plant expert, you'll be fascinated and intrigued by the amazing floral diversity and dramatic hillside setting of Mount Lofty Botanic Garden.

Take in panoramic vistas across the Piccadilly Valley; marvel at the colour and variety of the roses, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias; and enjoy the cool tranquillity of the garden gullies.

Something for every season

Come time and again throughout the year to watch nature's cycle ebb and flow with the seasons.

Spring flowers bloom in a carnival of red, pink, violet, peach, yellow and white; a seductive display to entice their pollinators.

In summer, tall tree canopies offer respite from the midday sun, while the golden and russet autumn hues herald the change of seasons to the quiet, cool and lush winter.

Birds, Butterflies and Bandicoots

The Garden hums with the rhythm of life. Listen for the mating call of the native Bronze Wing Pigeon in spring, or watch for the Brown Tree Creeper climbing trees as it hunts its next insect meal.

Hear the frogs' chorus in the ponds and in the Spring Gully. Admire the colour of the butterflies and parrots. There are resident colonies of the Southern Brown Bandicoot – signs near their habitat will show you what to look out for. Kangaroos and Koalas also frequent the Garden. Sit, watch, wait, and be rewarded!

Art & Sculpture

Look out for renowned sculptural artist Greg Johns' signature pieces at the Dwarf Conifer Lawn and adjacent to the Main Lake as well as the specially commissioned lower entrance gates.

ATCO Heritage Rose Garden

Roses have long been the messengers of lovers, an inspiration for poets and painters, and the pride and joy of gardeners. But how did all those colours and varieties of rose come about?

Discover the fascinating story of how roses have changed through centuries of selection, cross breeding and cultivation. Uncover the key chapters in the history of the rose, which spans East and West, science and culture.

Download the MP3 audio experience to enhance your visit to the garden, and hear of the Rose's history and its secrets. Available at: botanicgardens.sa.gov.au

Enjoying the Garden

For the most enjoyable and safe garden experience:

- Feel free to walk on the grass, touch, smell and enjoy the wonderful plant life and atmosphere.
- Respect the peaceful setting of the Garden and refrain from using sound equipment such as stereo systems.
- Help us to preserve the collections and do not damage or remove plant material.
- Wear sturdy walking shoes with non-slip soles and keep to the paths.
- Contact our qualified garden staff for First Aid assistance.
- Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and any other refreshments you will need during your visit.
- For safety reasons, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, ball games, pets, barbecues and alcohol are not permitted within the Garden.

Get an expert to guide you

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Garden Guides conduct free guided walks departing every Thursday at 10.30am from the lower car park (off Lampert Road).

Special interest walks may also be booked for groups of five or more on 08 8226 8803.

Visitor facilities

Ticketed parking is available in the upper car park, off Summit Road / Mawson Drive, or in the lower car park off Lampert Road (recommended for those with limited mobility). Toilets are available at both car parks and within the garden.

Wedding enquiries

For wedding enquiries, please contact Blanco Catering: botanic@blancofood.com.au or 08 8223 3526

The role of Botanic Gardens

Botanic gardens have shaped civilisation using the economic, environmental, social and cultural value of plants. They provide insights into the natural world, a place of reflection and connection, scientific research, conservation and learning.

Botanic gardens are imperative to our future. Their role in helping us to understand the connection between plants, people and culture is vital in creating sustainable communities for generations to come.

Today botanic gardens address contemporary challenges in plant conservation, environmental reconciliation and food, water and energy security through program and collection development. With persistent threat from our change in climate and environmental degradation, the need to preserve the role of botanic gardens is essential to a sustainable future.



Exploring the garden gullies

The sprawling network of hillside gullies makes Mount Lofty Botanic Garden truly distinctive and memorable. Each has its own environment and unique story to tell.

Magnolia Gully

Featuring beautiful flowers and some rare species, this trail shows the Magnolia family in all its glory. See tree varieties prized for their timber and shrubs used in Chinese medicine. This gully is at its best in August to September when the Magnolias are in full flower.

Medium gradient – Allow 1 – 1.5 hours (loop)

Woodland Trek

Paths through the woodland garden weave around the hillside, connecting the upper and lower gardens and overlooking the Main Lake. Listen to the gentle flowing of the streams and waterfalls in the gully below while you enjoy the shade and tranquillity provided by the dozens of northern hemisphere tree species.

Steep gradient - Allow 2 hours (return)

Fern Gully

High-rainfall plants from Australia and New Zealand create a temperate rainforest that is cool and inviting year-round. Tall tree ferns extend out of the gully as you climb among the vines and shrubs. Explore one of Australia's richest fern collections.

Steep gradient - Allow 1 hour (one way)

Rhododendron Gully

This is one of the most extensive and impressive gullies of the Garden, boasting one of Australia's best rhododendron collections. Follow the full length of the gully, from near the upper car park all the way to the Duck Pond (L13), to fully experience and appreciate the scale and variety of the rhododendrons, which range from small shrubs to tall forest trees. The Rhododendron Gully is a sea of vibrant colour from August to October.

Steep gradient - Allow 1–1.5 hours (return)

South American Gully

Imagine where dinosaurs roamed the earth – a time of Gondwana, the ancient supercontinent that later spawned Antarctica, Africa, South America, India, Australia and New Zealand. The South American and surrounding gullies have been planted with a Gondwanan theme. Compare plants from these now far-flung parts of the globe and look out for clues of their shared origins.

Steep gradient - Allow 1–1.5 hours (return)

Spring Gully

A glimpse into the 19th and 20th century history of the Piccadilly Valley. The permanent spring in this area was once used by local market gardeners as their main water supply, and you will find an old well and other remnant structures from this period. Also, look out for the endangered King Fern and rare indigenous Coral Ferns that have survived in this gully.

South East Asian Gully

Camellias are the dominant feature of this gully. Their large flowers are definitely beautiful, but there's more to camellias than just looks – did you know that the black tea plant is a Camellia? This gully also displays a wide variety of other species from South East Asia, Japan and the Korean peninsula.

West Asian Gully

A winding hillside gully filled with Asian and Indian flora, including an impressive collection of Viburnum species. Viburnum shrubs are renowned for their colourful berries and flowers.

Relax & enjoy

There are plenty of benches and quiet nooks throughout the Garden where you can sit back and enjoy your surroundings. And why not round off your visit with a relaxing picnic by the Main Lake or on the Dwarf Conifer Lawn?

Suggested walks

The Garden is the perfect place to lose yourself, reconnect with nature and enjoy its beauty and serenity. Some selected highlights you might wish to experience:

Admire the Valley View

Starting at the upper car park, follow the trail towards the Lothian Viewing Platform (N5). On the way you will pass a delightful variety of camellias, rhododendrons and North American plants. From here you can take in sweeping views of the Garden as well as the orchards and vineyards of the surrounding Piccadilly Valley.

Easy gradient - Allow 30 – 45 minutes (return)

Heysen trail – walk part of a South Australian icon

For the more intrepid hiker explore one of the oldest sections of the Heysen Trail that passes through the Garden. The Heysen Trail is renowned as one of the world's great long-distance walks, spanning 1,200 km from Cape Jervis on the Fleurieu Peninsula

to Parachilna Gorge in the Flinders Ranges.

Dwarf Conifer Lawn

Walk tall like a giant and discover the miniature world of the Dwarf Conifer Lawn. This magical site offers spectacular views and is a unique location for a wedding or event. Compact and slow-growing, dwarf conifers are perfect for the home garden.

Nature Trail – discover native ecosystems

Get up close to the native flora that would have dominated the Mount Lofty Ranges prior to European settlement. A canopy of mature Stringybark eucalypts shelters a complex understorey filled with native wildflowers, shrubs and climbers. See their delicate flowers in bloom during spring and early summer. Look for butterflies scattering their eggs in autumn.

Steep gradient - Allow 1–1.5 hours (each way)