

EXPLORING THE NORTH END

Roam through wooded hills and elegant gardens on an afternoon in Central Park's north end.



Funded primarily by individual donations, the nonprofit Central Park Conservancy cares for the entire Park, tending to the largest and smallest details of its maintenance and restoration.

**CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY**



1 Conservatory Garden

Begin your journey at the Conservatory Garden, the Park's six-acre formal garden. Its main entrance is the Vanderbilt Gate, a magnificent iron gate made in Paris in 1894 that originally stood before the Vanderbilt mansion on Fifth Avenue. The Garden is divided into three smaller gardens, each with a distinct style: the French-style North Garden, Italianate Center Garden, and English-style South Garden. Visit each garden for spectacular seasonal displays.



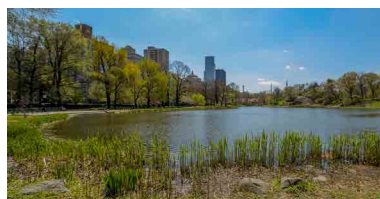
2 Fort Clinton

The British army occupied Manhattan during the American Revolution and built fortifications on land that would later become Central Park. The British evacuated in 1783, and New Yorkers rebuilt the forts in 1814 in preparation for a possible British attack during the War of 1812. This area is now known as the Fort Landscape, where forts have been integrated into the Park's designs as overlooks. Fort Clinton—one of two former forts you'll visit on this walk—was named after DeWitt Clinton, mayor of New York during the War of 1812.



3 Nutter's Battery

This second overlook marks the site of another military fort, named after a local landowner at the time named Valentine Nutter. Fort Landscape features high and rocky grounds and expansive views that can still be experienced today, making it clear why this was an important strategic location. The Conservancy rebuilt Nutter's Battery in 2014, rebuilding the wall and adding new paving and plantings, with the goal of emphasizing the impressive rock outcrop at the center of the site.



4 Harlem Meer

Central Park designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux named this man-made water body the "Meer"—Dutch for "lake." Families flock to this area for catch-and-release fishing, skating and swimming at Lasker Rink and Pool, and exploration at two nearby playgrounds. The Harlem Meer is also a thriving wildlife habitat and home to fish, turtles, and waterfowl.



5 Charles A. Dana Discovery Center

Perched on the northern shore of the Harlem Meer, the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center serves as a visitor center and offers a wide variety of free educational and community programs, seasonal exhibits, and holiday celebrations. Adjacent to the Center is a small plaza, where many community programs take place. These include the Harlem Meer Performance Festival in the summer, the Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Flotilla in the fall, and the annual Holiday Lighting event each winter.



6 Duke Ellington

Duke Ellington Circle, one of the four plazas at the Park's corners, features a larger-than-life bronze statue of the legendary jazz musician and composer with a grand piano. Installed in 1997, it was the first statue erected in Ellington's honor in the country. Ellington is one of four African-American figures honored along Central Park North (the others are Malcolm X, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and Frederick Douglass), which is an area often called "The Gateway to Harlem."

Want even more of the inside scoop?
Join us for an Official Central Park Tour.
[Click here](#) for the full schedule.

CONNECT WITH US

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [v](#) @CentralParkNYC