

NOTABLE STATUES AND MONUMENTS

Literary figures, ancient artifacts, and historic arches await.



1 The Pilgrim

Our journey begins with the Pilgrim statue, one of the most-loved structures in the Park and a gift from the New England Society. Since 1885, the *Pilgrim* has watched over picnics, proposals, and sled races from his perch on top of Pilgrim Hill. In the spring, visit the *Pilgrim* for a stunning showcase of Yoshino cherry trees that blanket the landscape in pink. In 2015, the Conservancy cleaned him and replaced several bandolier straps that had gone missing over the years.



2 Waldo Hutchins Bench

Southeast of Conservatory Water is a curved white granite bench dedicated to Waldo Hutchins, a member of the original Board of Commissioners for Central Park. It bears two Latin inscriptions that translate to “One must live for another if he wishes to live for himself” and “Let it not be destroyed by the passage of time.”



3 Hans Christian Andersen

One of the most popular climbing sculptures in the Park, this statue depicts Hans Christian Andersen, best known for fairy tales such as “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” “The Little Mermaid,” and “The Ugly Duckling.” The statue, sculpted by Georg Lober in 1956, holds a secret—Lober inscribed a note of devotion and encouragement to his wife, Nellie, in the palm of Hans’s left hand.



4 Glade Arch

Glade Arch, one of the Park’s oldest features, was designed by Central Park co-designer Calvert Vaux. Constructed in 1862, the arch originally carried carriage traffic from within the Park to Fifth Avenue. Although it was designed to be wide enough for horse and carriage transportation, today the arch is used as a pedestrian path for Park visitors.



5 Cedar Hill

A classic pastoral landscape, Cedar Hill is a popular spot for picnicking, reading, and sunbathing, and in winter is one of the Park’s most popular sledding hills. Its name comes from the red cedars on its crest, but several other varieties of evergreens dot the hill as well.



6 The Obelisk

The Obelisk, nicknamed Cleopatra’s Needle, dates back to 1450 B.C., when it was originally carved on the banks of the Nile. This 69-foot, 220-ton granite structure is the oldest outdoor monument in New York City. After it arrived in America in 1880, it took 112 days to transfer the Obelisk from the Hudson River into the Park, where it was finally turned upright for all to enjoy. In 2013, the Conservancy cleaned the monument, revealing its granite surface and hieroglyphs that had been obscured by decades of dirt and pollution.

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**

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

CONNECT WITH US

