Don’t let the cold keep you from Central Park this winter! With fun, year-round destinations like the Swedish Cottage and the Central Park Zoo — and snowy activities like sledding and ice skating — there is so much to see and do this season. Our Winter Guide has everything you need to know about upcoming happenings in the Park.

The mission of the Central Park Conservancy is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public.
ENJOYING WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK

Whether you like spending these snowy months outdoors with your sled and ice skates — or prefer taking it easy with a peaceful walk and warm cup of cocoa — we’ve got you covered with these fun wintertime activities.

Best winter entertainment

1. **RIDE THE CAROUSEL**
   Listen to joyful calliope music and admire the colorful details of Central Park’s famed Carousel. NYC Parks discovered this vintage carousel abandoned in an old trolley terminal on Coney Island before bringing it to its current location. This is the fourth carousel to stand in the Park since it opened in 1871, and it remains one of the largest carousels in the U.S. Tickets are $3.25 each and the Carousel is open 11:00 am – 5:00 pm in the wintertime, weather permitting.
   LOCATION: Mid-Park at 65th Street

2. **PLAY BOARD GAMES**
   Chess & Checkers House, one of the Park’s five visitor centers, features indoor chess and checkers tables. Visitors are welcome to borrow chess and checkers pieces from Conservancy staff, or bring their own. A variety of other games, including Scrabble and Jenga, are also available.
   LOCATION: Mid-Park at 64th Street

3. **VISIT THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO**
   What’s more entertaining than observing adorable sea lions, penguins, seals, and snow leopards? Managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society, the Central Park Zoo is open year-round. Families with children can continue north to the Tisch Children’s Zoo, home to potbellied pigs, sheep, and the only cow in Manhattan. Prices vary and tickets are available online. The Zoo is open from 10:00 am – 4:30 pm in the wintertime.
   LOCATION: East Side between 63rd and 66th Streets

4. **LISTEN TO TUNES AT THE DELACORTE CLOCK**
   This popular clock near the Zoo rings seasonal chimes and nursery rhymes every half hour from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The clock sits atop a three-tiered tower and features a band of animals including monkeys, a penguin, a hippo, and a kangaroo. The animals circle the tower to 44 tunes that change seasonally.
   LOCATION: Inside the Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue

5. **SEE A SHOW AT THE SWEDISH COTTAGE MARIONETTE THEATRE**
   Under the direction of the City Parks Foundation, the Swedish Cottage is home to one of the last public marionette companies in the country. See their original production, Yeti, Set, Snow!, now through February. Prices vary and tickets are available online.
   LOCATION: West Side at 79th Street
ENJOYING WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK

continued

Best ways to get active

6. GO ICE SKATING
Take in the surrounding views while you skate in one of the Park’s ice rinks: Wollman Rink or Lasker Rink. Both offer skate and locker rentals. Hours and ticket prices vary. When conditions permit and the ice is consistently at least six inches thick, Conservatory Water also opens for free ice skating — just bring your own skates!

LOCATIONS: Wollman Rink: East Side between 62nd and 63rd Streets; Lasker Rink: Mid-Park between 106th and 108th Streets; Conservatory Water: East Side from 72nd to 75th Street

7. GO SLEDDING
Grab your sled and enjoy fresh snow on the slopes of Central Park. Pilgrim Hill and Cedar Hill, two popular sledding destinations in the Park, are open for sledding when there is at least six inches of snow cover on the ground and conditions permit.

LOCATIONS: Pilgrim Hill: East Side at 72nd Street; Cedar Hill: East Side from 76th to 79th Street

8. BUILD A SNOWMAN
This classic snow day activity is easy with so much space in New York City’s backyard. Many lawns, such as Sheep Meadow, are closed in the winter to let them rest — but we open them when there is more than six inches of snow cover on the ground (and conditions permit) because that’s enough snow to protect them.

LOCATION: Throughout the Park

9. GO CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING OR SNOWSHOEING
Visitors can cross-country ski or snowshoe through Central Park’s wide-open meadows or along the bridle path, which we leave snow-covered in the winter to protect its soft surface.

LOCATION: Throughout the Park

Don’t forget!
Enjoy Central Park safely this winter with these important tips.

• Before coming to Central Park during a snowstorm or blizzard, check our Twitter at twitter.com/centralparknyc or our alerts and closures page at centralparknyc.org/alerts for updates on the Park’s status.

• Never go out on the ice of any Central Park water body, and don’t let your dog go out either! Falling into frigid water can cause life-threatening hypothermia within minutes. If you see someone in danger on, in, or near a Central Park water body, call 911.

• Some Central Park restrooms are closed and most Park drinking fountains are turned off during the winter season — see our official map on page 10 for locations. Many restrooms are maintained by other organizations, and may be closed due to snowfall without notice. These include the facilities at the Arsenal, Le Pain Quotidien at Mineral Springs and the Kerbs Boathouse, Tavern on the Green, the Loeb Boathouse, and the Tennis House.
Best ways to explore Park history

10. TAKE AN OFFICIAL CENTRAL PARK TOUR
From corner to corner, Central Park is filled with fascinating destinations and secrets. Discover them on a year-round tour or one of our special seasonal offerings. Topics range from statues and monuments to tree identification. Browse some of our recommended highlights on page 7 or visit centralparknyc.org/tours to see our full listing and register.
LOCATION: Throughout the Park

11. EXPLORE THE ARTHUR ROSS PINETUM
In their design of Central Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux included a “Winter Drive” of pines, spruces, and firs from 72nd to 102nd Street. By the late 1800s, when these trees needed replacement, deciduous ones (trees that shed their leaves each year) took their place. In the 1970s, philanthropist Arthur Ross set out to return pine trees to Central Park (and hide the buildings along the 86th Street Transverse Road from sight). The Pinetum now features 17 different species of pine trees.
LOCATION: Mid-Park between 84th and 86th Streets

12. ADMIRE THE BETHESDA TERRACE ARCADE
Watch the falling snow from this magnificent space between the Mall and Bethesda Fountain. Look up to admire the Arcade’s magnificent Minton tile ceiling, which was designed by Jacob Wrey Mould, British-born architect and designer. Made up of 49 panels, the ceiling features almost 16,000 elaborately patterned encaustic tiles.
LOCATION: Mid-Park at 72nd Street

13. VISIT OUR LANDFORMS EXHIBIT
Step out of the cold and into the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center to browse our free exhibit on the history of the Park’s Fort Landscape.
LOCATION: Inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

VISITOR CENTERS
Stop by one of Central Park’s visitor centers to grab a free map and learn about the Park from our friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Charles A. Dana Discovery Center
Inside Central Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues

Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop
Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets

Chess & Checkers House
Mid-Park at 64th Street

Columbus Circle Information Kiosk
West 59th Street at Central Park West

Belvedere Castle
Mid-Park at 79th Street
Note: Belvedere Castle is closed for restoration and will reopen in spring 2019.

Visitor centers are open from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.
**ENJOYING WINTER IN CENTRAL PARK**

continued

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**Best activities for kids**

14. **BORROW A DISCOVERY KIT**

Borrow a Discovery Kit for an in-Park adventure! Discovery Kit backpacks are filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, a hand lens, colored pencils, and sketch paper.

**LOCATION:** Charles A. Dana Discovery Center: Inside Central Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues; Chess & Checkers House: Mid-Park at 64th Street

15. **COMPLETE A DISCOVERY JOURNAL**

Discovery Journals allow kids to investigate the connections between the design, plants, wildlife, and people in Central Park. Best for ages 6 to 10. Download your own at centralparknyc.org/discoveryjournals, or get them at any visitor center.

**LOCATION:** Throughout the Park

16. **GO ON A DISCOVERY WALK FOR FAMILIES**

Learn firsthand about the people, plants, and wildlife that thrive in this urban oasis — for free! Kids complete guided hands-on activities while exploring the world’s greatest outdoor classroom. See page 9 or visit centralparknyc.org/discoverywalks for upcoming listings and to register.

**LOCATION:** Throughout the Park

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**GRAB A BITE OR WARM DRINK**

Looking for a quick snack or full meal? There are plenty of places in Central Park to find food and drinks.

**LOEB BOATHOUSE**

Grab a quick bite at the Boathouse Express Cafe, or enjoy a more formal meal at the Lakeside Restaurant, which offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as a full bar and weekend brunch.

**LOCATION:** East Side between 74th and 75th Streets

**LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN AT KERBS BOATHOUSE**

On the east side of Conservatory Water, Le Pain Quotidien serves breakfast, sandwiches, and drinks.

**LOCATION:** East Side at 74th Street

**LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN AT MINERAL SPRINGS**

Just north of Sheep Meadow, Le Pain Quotidien offers sandwiches, handmade breads, healthy salads, bakery fare, and beverages.

**LOCATION:** Mid-Park at 69th Street

**TAVERN ON THE GREEN**

This restaurant was originally built in 1870 as a sheepfold for the sheep who grazed on nearby Sheep Meadow. It was converted into a restaurant in 1934, and offers lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch.

**LOCATION:** West Side between 66th and 67th Streets

**DANCING CRANE CAFE AT THE CENTRAL PARK ZOO**

Just south of the Zoo, this cafe features a variety of full meals, snacks, and beverages.

**LOCATION:** Inside the Central Park Wildlife Conservation Center at 64th Street and Fifth Avenue

*Hours vary. Concession carts selling snacks and beverages are also located throughout the Park.*

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**Explore at your own pace**

There are countless scenic routes to take through Central Park. From north to south, the Park’s landscapes invite you to wander. Why not do it at your own pace? If you’re curious where to start, visit centralparknyc.org/walks for some of our suggestions.
Central Park has always been home to romance — did you know a popular path for couples named Lovers’ Lane once existed where Turtle Pond is today? These days, there are so many date spots in the Park that planning a romantic outing can be overwhelming. Just in time for Valentine’s Day, use our flow chart below to find your perfect location for a date.

**PLAN YOUR PERFECT CENTRAL PARK DATE**

- **What type of date would you like to have?**
  - **PLAYFUL & LIVELY**
  - **OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY**
  - **QUIET & LOW KEY**

- **What should your date include?**
  - **A WINTER WALK**
  - **TAKING A WALK**
  - **ENJOYING A CUP OF COCOA**

- **How would you like to spend your date?**
  - **STEPPING BACK IN TIME**
  - **SUMMIT ROCK**
    - **WEST SIDE FROM 81ST TO 85TH STREET**
    - Grab a cup of cocoa at a cafe in Central Park (see a list on page 5) and head to Summit Rock. Only reached by inconspicuous paths, the area features plenty of seating and open space.

- **What interests you most?**
  - **PICTURE-PERFECT VIEWS**
  - **HISTORY & NOSTALGIA**
  - **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**

- **A GOOD SUNSET**
  - **CONSERVATORY GARDEN**
    - **EAST SIDE FROM 104TH TO 106TH STREET**
    - Central Park’s only formal garden — an officially designated Quiet Zone — offers a calm setting for a leisurely stroll.

- **WILDLIFE & WOODS**
  - **THE RESERVOIR**
    - **BETWEEN 85TH AND 96TH STREETS**
    - Take a walk around the Reservoir’s 1.58-mile track for some of the most breathtaking sunset views in New York City.

- **A WINTER WALK**
  - **THE POINT**
    - **MID-PARK AT 73RD STREET**
    - This secluded spot in the Ramble offers lesser-known views of Bethesda Terrace and Bow Bridge. As you make your way to the Point, admire the Ramble’s plantings and wildlife.

- **OUT-OF-THE-ORDINARY**
  - **THE BLOCKHOUSE**
    - **WEST SIDE AT 109TH STREET**
    - Hidden in the North Woods is Central Park’s oldest building, the Blockhouse. It’s the only remaining fort in the area built for the War of 1812, and features surrounding outcrop seating.

- **QUIET & LOW KEY**
  - **HALLETT NATURE SANCTUARY**
    - **EAST SIDE FROM 60TH TO 62ND STREET**
    - Featuring native plants and diverse wildlife, the Hallett Nature Sanctuary offers long, winding paths and beautiful rustic architecture.

- **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE**
  - **LADIES PAVILION**
    - **WEST SIDE AT 75TH STREET**
    - A popular wedding spot, the charming Ladies Pavilion provides views of the Lake and Midtown. Climb its neighboring outcrop for extra fun and sights.

- **PICTURE-PERFECT VIEWS**
  - **PINETUM PLAYGROUND**
    - **WEST SIDE AT 85TH STREET**
    - Ride the swings at this all-ages playground surrounded by Central Park’s largest collection of pine trees.

- **HISTORY & NOSTALGIA**
  - **THE CAROUSEL**
    - **MID-PARK AT 65TH STREET**
    - Enjoy calliope music while riding on one of the Carousel’s magnificent horses. Dedicated in 1951, the Carousel was discovered on an old trolley terminal on Coney Island.

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**CELEBRATE VALENTINE’S DAY WITH FLOWERS IN CENTRAL PARK**

Flowers have always been a classic go-to gift for anyone looking to spark some romance. For a small donation, the Conservancy will plant daffodils or tulips in Central Park in honor of someone special.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Official Central Park Tours
Sign up for an Official Central Park Tour to learn more about the history, design, and ecology of Central Park. Enjoy a year-round signature offering or take one of our special seasonal tours below. Visit centralparknyc.org/tours to purchase tickets and see our full schedule of tours.

ICONIC VIEWS OF CENTRAL PARK TOUR
Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Also available in Español
Meet at the Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop
(Mid-Park between 64th and 65th Streets)
Learn how rocky, swampy land was built into the living work of art that is Central Park today. You’ll discover the original family-focused purpose of the Dairy, see impressive skyline views from Sheep Meadow, and walk under the gorgeous American elms that line the Mall.

HEART OF THE PARK TOUR | Free
Meet inside the Park at 72nd Street and Fifth Avenue
Walk straight through the heart of Central Park on this east-to-west tour and enjoy a variety of the scenic, sculptural, and architectural elements the Park has to offer. Highlights of this tour include Conservatory Water, the Loeb Boathouse, Bethesda Terrace, Bow Bridge, Cherry Hill, the Lake, and Strawberry Fields.

STROLL TO STRAWBERRY FIELDS | Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Meet at the Columbus Circle Information Kiosk
(59th Street and Central Park West)
Explore the southwest area of Central Park and see it like never before. From a planned military parade ground to the site commemorating a famous activist for peace, some of the most-visited spots in the Park have secrets to share with even the most seasoned Park-goer.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS
continued

Official Central Park Tours | Seasonal Tours

WINTER TREE WALK: THE NORTH WOODS | Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Sunday, January 20 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Meet inside the Park at 103rd Street and Central Park West

The North Woods is the largest of the Park’s woodlands, offering people and wildlife a 40-acre forest retreat in the middle of New York City. Explore this rugged landscape while learning easy tips for identifying trees using bark, buds, leaf scars, and other characteristics. You’ll also see tumbling waterfalls, rustic bridges, and picturesque pools.

SENeca VILLAGE TOUR | Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Monday, January 21 | 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Friday, February 1 & Sunday, February 17 | 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Sunday, February 3 & Thursday, February 14 | 11:00 am – 12:15 pm
Meet inside the Park at 85th Street and Central Park West

Before the city built Central Park, the area from West 82nd to West 89th Street was home to Seneca Village, the largest community of African-American property owners in New York. Join us on this newly enhanced tour of the Seneca Village site and discover more about its history, the lives of its residents, and what recent archaeological discoveries reveal about this remarkable community and its place in 19th-century New York.

NORTHERN FORTS TOUR | Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Monday, February 18 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Sunday, March 10 & Friday, March 15 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Meet at the Charles A. Dana Discovery Center (Inside the Park at 110th Street between Fifth and Lenox Avenues)

Central Park’s north end played an important role in both the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The area’s high ground and expansive views made it an important strategic outlook, while its rocky and swampy terrain made it difficult to infiltrate. This area is now known as the Fort Landscape, where forts have been integrated into the Park’s designs as overlooks. History buffs will love this tour of several fort sites and the Harlem Meer.

STATUES AND MONUMENTS TOUR | Tickets: $15 (Members $10)
Thursday, February 7 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Saturday, February 16 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Meet inside the Park at 72nd Street and Fifth Avenue

Discover the secrets and mysteries of some of Central Park’s most beloved statues and monuments. You’ll visit the popular Alice in Wonderland and Hans Christian Andersen sculptures at Conservatory Water, learn about the many monuments lining Literary Walk on the Mall, admire Angel of the Waters at bustling Bethesda Terrace — and more!
JOIN OUR DISCOVERY CLUB

Participate in our free family programs to learn about nature and the history of Central Park—and collect exploration tools along the way! The more programs your family enjoys, the richer your experiences with the Park will be.

Join the club by getting your activity card. Earn a punch on your card each time you complete various family activities, including borrowing a Discovery Kit, going on a free Discovery Walk for Families, completing a Discovery Journal, and more.

Collect 5 punches to receive a free Discovery Notebook. Young Central Park explorers can jot down findings and observations in this rugged notebook.

Collect 10 punches to receive a free Discovery Club bandana. Kids can wear it with pride as an official steward of Central Park!

Rewards are available at all visitor centers. Get the activity card at one of our visitor centers, at an eligible program, or by visiting centralparknyc.org/discoveryclub.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Discovery Walks for Families
Bring your family for a guided walk and discover why Central Park is a sanctuary for plants, animals, and humans alike. Learn about the architecture, landscapes, and ecosystems of the Park through hands-on exploration using Discovery Kits—rugged backpacks filled with kid-friendly binoculars, field guides, and hand lenses. Visit centralparknyc.org/discoverywalks to register.

TIME TRAVELERS | Free
Saturdays, March 2 & 9 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Take a journey through time—from the Ice Age, through the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, to today—and discover how Manhattan’s geography shaped the design (and use) of the Harlem Meer landscape.

RUN THE 2018 UNITED AIRLINES NYC HALF WITH TEAM CENTRAL PARK!

Runners, now is your chance to make your miles matter and run for Central Park. Join Team Central Park and receive guaranteed entry into the 2018 United Airlines NYC Half. Donate or fundraise a minimum of $1,000 for the Conservancy in exchange for receiving guaranteed entry into the race and other team benefits.

Limited spots are available.

Register Now!
**Central Park Map**

**Hours**
Central Park opens at 6:00 am and closes at 1:00 am, 365 days a year.

**Visitor Centers and Facilities**

- **Charles A. Dana Discovery Center**
  110th Street between Fifth & Lenox Avenues
- **Dairy Visitor Center & Gift Shop**
  Mid-Park at 65th Street
- **Chess & Checkers House**
  Mid-Park at 64th Street
- **Columbus Circle Information Kiosk**
  Central Park West at 59th Street
- **Belvedere Castle**
  Mid-Park at 79th Street
  *Note: Belvedere Castle is closed for restoration and will reopen in spring 2019.*

**Points of Interest**

- **W 103** The Ravine / The Loch
- **W 101** The Pool
- **W 79** Shakespeare Garden
- **W 74** Bow Bridge
- **W 72** Strawberry Fields / Imagine Mosaic
- **W 72** Cherry Hill
- **E 107** Harlem Meer
- **E 105** Conservatory Garden
  Open year-round, 8:00 am to dusk.
- **E 90** Reservoir
  From 86th to 96th Street
- **E 81** Obelisk (Cleopatra’s Needle)
- **E 75** Alice in Wonderland
- **E 74** Conservatory Water
- **E 72** Bethesda Terrace / Bethesda Fountain
- **E 68** The Mall (Literary Walk)
  From 66th to 72nd Street
- **E 67** Balto
- **E 62** Gapstow Bridge

**Map Key**

- Visitor Center
- Playground
- Information Kiosk
- Food / Closed in Winter
- Restrooms / Closed in Winter
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Park Drive (shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles)
- Transverse Road (vehicles only)
- Pedestrian Path (pedestrians only)
- Bridle Path (no bicyclists)
- Emergency Call Box or Dial 911