

YOUR MONTHLY MILE | December

There are endless paths to travel in Central Park, and even lifelong New Yorkers can discover something new in its 843 acres. Check out this month's featured landmarks to learn more about their history and about the Central Park Conservancy's mission to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.



1 [Grand Army Plaza](#)

This majestic public plaza gets its name from the Grand Army of the Potomac, which was the Union Army during the Civil War. The southern end boasts the Pulitzer Fountain, while in its northern half, the gold monument to Union General William Tecumseh Sherman stands tall and resplendent. In 2015, the Conservancy restored many details of the Plaza's original 1916 design, including a double row of London plane trees along the Plaza's north side.



2 [Gapstow Bridge](#)

Year-round, the view of Gapstow Bridge is one of the most photogenic spots in the Park, but the view *from* the bridge is just as unforgettable. Looking south, you'll see the stunning contrast of the Pond's natural beauty with the impressive cityscape of 59th Street (including the Plaza Hotel). Facing north, you can catch a glimpse of festive skaters twirling on the ice in Wollman Rink, the next stop on our Mile.



3 [Wollman Rink](#)

Ice skating is a long standing and beloved tradition in Central Park. For the first century of the Park's existence, visitors skated on the frozen surface of the Lake and Pond. But since Wollman Rink opened in 1950, its cheerful ambience and iconic views have made this venue the ideal setting for everyone's favorite winter pastime.



4 [Pinebank Arch](#)

Though it is an arch by name, Pinebank Arch is one of five original cast-iron bridges remaining in Central Park, a magnificent reminder of Calvert Vaux's ornamental achievements. In 2006, the Conservancy restored the landscape around this scenic overpass (which originally crossed over the bridle path) by enhancing the plantings, reconstructing paths, and adding new benches and light fixtures.



5 [Columbus Circle Holiday Market](#)

In December, Merchant's Gate Plaza transforms into a festive winter market, featuring glittering aisles of gifts and jewelry from New York City designers as well as foods from local artisans. While you're there, make sure you visit the Central Park Conservancy's booth to bring a piece of the Park home for the holidays!