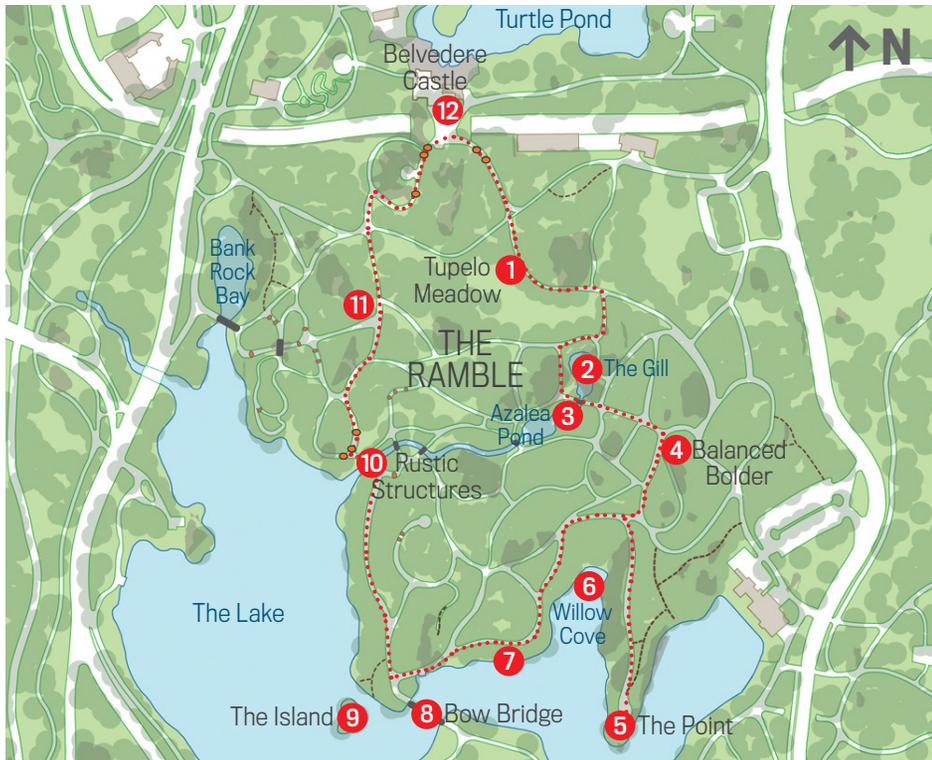


SELF-GUIDED TOUR | The Ramble



----- Rustic trails ——— Paved pathways ● Stairs - Bridges

Discover Responsibly

More than five million people visit Central Park's woodlands every year. To minimize your impact, keep dogs leashed at all times, stay on designated paths, and carry out what you carry in. Feel free to observe and photograph wildlife, but please don't feed any animals you encounter.

About the Tour

Beginning and ending at Belvedere Castle, this self-guided tour should take about 30 minutes. The entire path is paved and fairly even, but there are some stairs on this route.

The Ramble is one of the most intricate and detailed landscapes in Central Park. Central Park's designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, intended the woodlands to provide visitors a taste of the Adirondacks without leaving New York City.



1 Tupelo Meadow

The three-trunked black tupelo at the southern edge of this meadow is thought to pre-date the Park, and displays striking shades of crimson fall foliage.



2 The Gill

The Gill, the stream that threads its way through the Ramble, starts here. Like all of the Park's water bodies, the Gill is man-made. So though it appears natural, the source is actually plumbing hidden beneath the rocks.



3 Azalea Pond

Located in the heart of the Ramble, Azalea Pond is a slow-moving section of the Gill surrounded by azaleas that may be over one hundred years old. After falling into a period of decline, Azalea Pond was restored by the Conservancy in 2004.

4 Balanced Boulder

Situated strangely atop the large slab of rock, this boulder may be a glacial erratic deposited by the mile-high Wisconsin Ice Sheet that passed through Central Park thousands of years ago.

5 The Point

This narrow peninsula provides beautiful views of the Lake and Bethesda Terrace. In 2009, the Conservancy completed a restoration of the Point to remove invasive plant species and resolve erosion and soil compaction issues. Today this landscape is a popular destination for birdwatchers and hikers.

6 Willow Cove

This marshy inlet is nicknamed “willow cove” for the willow trees that grow in the cove. The combination of shallow water, rocky shores, and soil make this area a wildlife hotspot. Look for turtles basking along the shoreline, as well as birds and mammals on the ground.

7 Exposed Boulder

Resting on a number of smaller rocks by the shore of the Lake, this large boulder was placed as part of the design for the Park. Its base was originally covered in soil to make it look natural. Look out into the Lake to the left of the exposed boulder. The small rock that emerges from the water is often used by basking turtles and cormorants drying their wings.



8 Bow Bridge

The delicately arched Bow Bridge connects the Ramble to Cherry Hill. As part of the Conservancy’s restoration of Bow Bridge in 2008, missing urns were carefully reconstructed based on historic images and models of the originals.

9 The Island

Restored by the Conservancy in 2008, the Island is home to an array of native wetland plants, and is a refuge for nesting birds. Its banks are covered in Virginia rose, which have fragrant pink flowers – and develop beautiful fall colors.

10 Rustic Structures

Rustic structures like this wooden bridge and bench are built by Conservancy craftspeople. Each bridge, bench, fence, and gazebo is unique, and many are found in the Park’s woodlands.

11 Woodland Trees

Central Park’s woodlands are managed both as landscapes in a popular urban park, and as wildlife habitat. The standing dead trees (called “snags”) and logs that can be seen in the Ramble serve an ecological purpose. The same features that make the Ramble look a little messy also make it one of the top bird-watching locations in the United States.



12 Belvedere Castle

This miniature castle is one of five visitor centers in Central Park. It is also a weather station, with instruments located on its roof and in a nearby fenced enclosure. The Conservancy offers a variety of public programs out of Belvedere Castle, including tours, and family-friendly activities. The Castle’s terraces provide stunning views of the Ramble, Turtle Pond, and the Great Lawn.

Get Involved

The mission of the Central Park Conservancy is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park in partnership with the public. What’s the best way for you to support the Central Park Conservancy?

Join. Become a member and enjoy access to Member Programs and Park Perks as a thank you for your contribution. centralparknyc.org/membership

Volunteer. Programs available for all ages and schedules. Find out more at centralparknyc.org/volunteer