

## BSL CLASSROOM LOCATION GUIDE THE CONSERVATORY GARDENS, CENTRAL PARK

### *A BIT OF HISTORY FIRST!*

Conservatory Garden provides respite from the adjacent Fifth Avenue and its bustling Museum Mile, offering a taste of the European countryside in the heart of Manhattan. It is the only formal garden in Central Park. And takes its name from a conservatory that stood on the site from 1898 to 1935. After World War II, the garden had become neglected, and by the 1970s a wasteland. It was restored and partially replanted under the direction of horticulturist and urban landscape designer Lynden Miller, and reopened in June 1987.

It's a six-acre oasis within an oasis, and its grand entrance is worthy of the experience within. Located at 105th Street and Fifth Avenue, the magnificent Vanderbilt Gate was made in Paris in 1894 and originally stood at Fifth Avenue's Vanderbilt Mansion. It is composed of three distinct parts, skilfully restored since the 1980s; the French-style North Garden, Italianate Center Garden, and the English-style South Garden.

Through the gate is the Italianate Center Garden, featuring a large lawn bordered by yew hedges and a 12-foot jet fountain with stairs leading to the wisteria pergola. On either side stand exquisite allées that showcase rows of crabapple trees, which burst into pink and white blooms every spring.

To the north, the French-style garden offers spectacular seasonal displays of tulips each spring and Korean chrysanthemums in autumn. At its center stands the Untermyer Fountain, featuring the Three Dancing Maidens by German sculptor Walter Schott.

The intimate English-style South Garden bears special significance for literature lovers. At its heart is sculptor Bessie Potter Vonnoh's charming Burnett Fountain, a memorial for author Frances Hodgson Burnett. Mary and Dickon, the protagonists of her beloved children's book *The Secret Garden*, stand at the end of a small waterlily pool, summoning spring year-round and igniting the imaginations of passers-by.



### ***THE BARE ESSENTIALS***

*\*\*Find these on the map on page 1*

#### **Morning coffee**

- Dunkin donuts\*\*
- Side Park (In El Museo de Barrio)\*\*
- Frenchy Coffee

#### **Lunch options**

- El Paso taqueria
- Alison (New American)\*\*
- Maxwell's Central Park
- East Harlem Bottling co (bistro & brunch)
- Maoz vegetarian\*\*

#### **Grocery stores & pharmacies**

- Whole Foods market
- Duane Reade

#### **Nearest subway stations and lines**

- 103 Street station (lines 4, 6) - 9 mins walk
- 110 Street station Central Park North (lines 2, 3) - 11 mins walk

#### **Nearest public restrooms**

- On-site

### ***PLACES TO VISIT NEARBY***

#### **Less than a mile (0-10 mins walk)**

- Central Park
- Museum of the City of New York
- Guggenheim Museum
- Upper East Side

#### **A little bit further (1 mile – 20 min walk)**

- Harlem
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Upper West Side

### ***7 COOL THINGS TO DO AFTER YOUR ENGLISH CLASS***

1. Walk south from the conservatory garden until you reach the famous Jackie Onassis Kennedy reservoir. Walk to the right around it so you pass by the Gothic bridge, and continue until you reach the Great Lawn. Continue onto Belvedere Castle located right in the center of the park for great views. There is so much else to explore in this area of the park including; the Delacorte open air theater, Shakespeare's Garden, and The Obelisk.
2. Walk north from the conservatory garden to explore the far North of the park, including Huddlestone Arch, the Blockhouse and the North woods. Then leave the park at the North end and spend the afternoon exploring the famous neighborhood of Harlem. Things to see include the statue of the female civil rights campaigner, Harriet Tubman, and the Apollo Theater. End your day at the well-known restaurant, Red Rooster.
3. Walk a mile south from the garden to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. It's one of New York's most famous and largest museums, so you will need the whole afternoon here!
4. Head north to the 110 street subway station and take the 2 or 3 red line heading south. Disembark at 72nd street, and spend some time exploring the Upper-West side of Manhattan. You can also get lunch here. Later in the afternoon, you can either visit the nearby Museum of Natural History or head back into the park at the 72nd street and explore the south of the park, starting with Strawberry fields.
5. Visit the Met Cloisters. Walk to the north end of the park until you reach the 110 street Cathedral parkway subway station and take the B line to 125th street, and then switch to the A line. Ride to Dyckman street. Here you will be at The Met Cloisters. This art museum has a large collection of Medieval art work, shown in the architectural settings of French monasteries and abbeys. It's definitely worth a visit!
6. From the gardens, it's a quick 25-minute subway ride south to Times Square. After gazing up at all the Neon signs, and doing a bit of people watching, head eastwards along 42nd street for a few minutes until you reach Bryant Park. You could relax here in the late afternoon, before visiting the New York Public library.
7. Walk south along the eastern edge of the park until you reach the Guggenheim museum. Spend an hour or 2 here and then continue walking south along the eastern edge, checking out many of the famous old mansions that line the park here. This was where the rich and famous lived, back in the day. Then explore the Upper East side or visit the Frick Collection, probably New York's most well-known small art museum.

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