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Photograph by Andy Roberts
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SECRET GARDEN

FAMILY

#ARTSANDENTERTAINMENT

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#TRAVEL



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As you approach the brown bricks of Victoria Gate, bright flecks of green flicker into view through the wrought iron. Welcome to [Kew Gardens](#), one of the top family destinations in London. Hop on the green Kew Explorer bus as it trundles to its first stop, the Palm House, a gorgeous Victorian glass-and-iron greenhouse that dates back to 1848. Take the kids by their hands and head inside, where lush palms and ferns from around the world flourish in the humid environment. Keeping with the tropical theme, down in the basement the Marine Aquarium recreates four major marine habitats, including a colorful coral reef teeming with life. Next, hop back on the bus or simply meander your way to the Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway, a recent addition to the gardens from the architects who designed the London Eye, where you'll get a bird's-eye view of the sweet chestnut and oak trees. Those essentials out of the way, let the kids lead you to the next stop. Perhaps they'll pull you into the Bamboo Garden, an Asian-influenced grove of nearly 150 types of bamboo. Or maybe they'll gravitate to the badger sett, a human-sized version of the homes that the park's more than 20 badger families live in. The Holly Walk is especially charming during the holidays, while the Gallery of Botanical Art—the first of its kind in the world—will appeal to the art lovers among you. Wherever you wander, you'll find natural beauty in abundance, creating memories you'll cherish for years to come.



KEW GARDENS

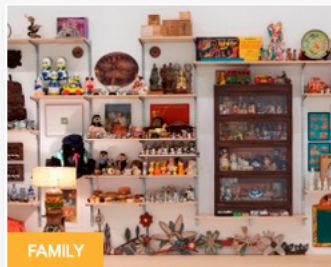
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