

Kew up to see the World in 2011 – Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s Year Ahead

This year, we are inviting you to pack your bags and head down to **Kew Gardens**, where you can experience those far flung climes without having to venture even as far as the airport. From the heat of the Brazilian rainforest to the cool of the Alpine region, and from the elegance of Japanese architecture to the arid wilderness of the desert regions, a trip to Kew will bring you climates and regions from around the world without the strain on your bank balance.

Professor Stephen Hopper, Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, says, “In this challenging financial climate, we should not overlook the gems that this country has to offer. Kew incorporates stunning national heritage with the beauty and excitement of some of our favourite holiday destinations. For anyone with a love of nature, travel, art, or architecture, Kew is a hotbed of culture right here on our doorstep.”

February	5 Feb – 6 March	Depressed by the thought of those long winter months looming on the horizon? Then put Saturday 5 February into your diary, which marks the opening of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew’s month long Tropical Extravaganza orchid festival. It’s celebration of all things bright, beautiful, and, of course, tropical, in the Princess of Wales conservatory.
	5 Feb – 1 June	Kew’s first selling exhibition of original botanical artwork in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery for Botanical Art. ‘From Eye to Hand’ will consist of paintings by artists whose work already features in the Kew Collection, and who were invited to submit material for this exhibition. For more information please go to: http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/spring-selling-exhibition/index.htm
	Signs of Spring – Visit Kew’s snowdrop collection in the Rock Garden. More information http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/BulbWatch/	
March	March sees Kew host the biggest spring flowering display in the country, with 5 million bulbs filling the Gardens with colour – a perfect setting for a gentle walk on Mothering Sunday (3 April 2011) . More information http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/BulbWatch/	
April	9 April – 2 May	Easter at Kew is all about family adventure, fun learning and of course, heaps of chocolate! Come and explore all that goes into a chocolate bar with our arts and crafts workshops, then take a stroll through the glasshouses to find the plants involved in making these delicious treats. The traditional Easter Egg hunt (Sunday 24 April from 9.30am to 1pm) is a fantastic way to round off a family weekend.
	21 April – 16 Oct	This spring, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the British Museum are bringing a small corner of Australia to the heart of London. The Australia Landscape celebrates the rich diversity of Australia’s plant life. It takes visitors through three Australian habitats: From the coastal vegetation of Eastern Australia; through the country’s red centre, the arid desert covering the southern third of the Northern Territory and the North East corner of South Australia; and culminating with a Western Australian granite outcrop showcasing unique and highly threatened flora.
May	The bluebells in the conservation area are in full bloom in May and make a stunning day out.	
	12 May	Photocall for Global Fiesta (the launch of Kew’s summer festival).

		Details of the photocall to follow.
	14 – 15 May	<p>Global Fiesta In celebration of Kew's rich diversity we are kicking off the summer with an energetic, vibrant Global Fiesta weekend. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Latin carnival, celebrating the plants of South America's tropical rainforests and the work Kew is doing to conserve them • A Japanese Tea Ceremony, highlighting oriental plants through tea and bean cakes • Global food and drink drawing on the plants within the Gardens that are used in world food and drink. • World music, which will reflect the geographical origin of Kew's plant collections.
	14 May – 25 Sept	<p>Hard Rain A thought provoking and highly topical photographic exhibition displayed along Kew's Broadwalk. The exhibition consists of two parts: It opens with Hard Rain, a banner consisting of 43 photographs illustrating each line of Bob Dylan song 'A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall'. The second part is entitled 'What'll You Do Now?' and explores, through images and text, proven solutions via technologies, development projects, and lifestyle approaches to the problems illustrated in Hard Rain.</p> <p>International Garden Photographer of the Year This is the fourth year that Kew will be hosting this renowned outdoor photographic exhibition, featuring amateur and professional entries of digital garden photography. Visitors will be able to view approximately 100 enlarged photographs and admire the photographic skill, composition, vibrant colours and specialised garden shots all displayed in an outdoor gallery.</p>
	24 May – 28 May	<p>For the first time since 1976, Kew will be hosting a garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, in association with <i>The Times</i> newspaper. Through an eye catching and innovative design by Chelsea gold medallist Marcus Barnett, the garden will highlight the significance of plants to science and society. For more information please go to: http://www.kew.org/about-kew/press-media/press-releases-kew/chelsea-2011/index.htm</p> <p>This show garden will be relocated to Kew Gardens following the Chelsea Flower Show (subject to funding and planning agreement), giving an opportunity for anyone who missed Chelsea to see the garden over the summer months. Visitors to Kew will have the added benefit of being able to walk through the garden and to see it against the majestic backdrop of Kew's historic, UNESCO World Heritage Site landscape, and to see many more beautiful, useful and rare plants in Kew's gardens and iconic glasshouses.</p>
June	25 June – 16 October 2011	<p>South African Botanical Art Over 60 contemporary paintings will be on show in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art, mostly executed by South African artists. The unique flora of the Cape of Good Hope has stimulated many artists to paint extraordinary strelitzias, protea and cycads or their exquisite lilies and fire ephemerals.</p> <p>Also on display will be some of the original paintings from the book 'The Smallest Kingdom', by Mike Fraser with illustrations by Liz Fraser, which details the intricate interlinking life styles of the plants and animals of the Cape.</p>

July	5 – 10 July 2011	Kew re-launches its Summer Swing concerts as Kew the Music – with a stellar line-up and a fresh new look. Artists include Blondie, The Noisettes, Jamie Cullum and Jools Holland and his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra. For more information please go to: http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/outdoor-concerts/Kew-the-Music.htm
	23 July – 25 September 2011	Wish You Were Here In celebration of the many worlds of Kew, this photographic exhibition, by renowned photographer Franck Allais, offers visitors an encounter with a series of medium scale photographs, creating surreal landscapes that play with realities and perspectives. Visitors are invited to engage with imaginary scenes and enter into a playful reconsideration of the Gardens and its living collections, landscapes, cultural and historical artefacts. Franck Allais's work has appeared in <i>The Guardian</i> , <i>Wallpaper</i> magazine, and <i>Vogue</i> .
	Enjoy the Gardens in full summer bloom: Highlights include the giant water lilies in the Waterlily House, the rhododendron dell, as well as the wildflower display, featuring British native orchids, nestled around the bee hives near Main Gate.	
September	17 and 18 September 2011	During Open House London weekend take a tour of Kew's architectural highlights . Please check www.londonopenhouse.org and www.kew.org for further details.
October	Experience Kew's beautiful autumn colour and from the top of the Xstrata Treetop Walkway see the changing canopy of Kew's Arboretum. Check www.kew.org for more details about Kew's autumn programme.	
November	12 November – 6 April 2012	The exhibition 'Inspiring Kew' opens in The Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art.
December	Experience Christmas fun at Kew! Stroll down Holly Walk or explore the Pinetum, take part in a Christmas themed tour led by one of our volunteer guides or escape the cold and warm up in the steamy glasshouses. Check www.kew.org for more details.	

Ends

Notes to Editors

- For opening hours see <http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/visit-information/opening-times/>
- Last entry to the Gardens, the Glasshouses, Galleries and the Xstrata Treetop Walkway is 30 minutes before closing
- Admission: Adults £13.90, concessions £11.90, free for children under 17 (with an adult)
- Visitor information: 020 8332 5655 or info@kew.org
- Website: www.kew.org

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is a world famous scientific organisation, internationally respected for its outstanding living collection of plants and world-class Herbarium as well as its scientific expertise in plant diversity, conservation and sustainable development in the UK and around the world. Kew Gardens is a major international visitor attraction. Its landscaped 132 hectares and RBG Kew's country estate, Wakehurst Place, attract nearly 2 million visitors every year. Kew was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2003 and celebrated its 250th anniversary in 2009. Wakehurst Place is home to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank, the largest wild plant seed bank in the world. RBG Kew and its partners have collected and conserved seed from 10 per cent of the world's wild flowering plant species (c.30, 000 species). The aim is to conserve 25% by 2020, and its enormous potential for future conservation can only be fulfilled with the support of the public and other funders.

Kew receives funding from the UK Government through Defra for approximately half of its income and is also reliant on support from other sources. Without the voluntary monies raised through membership, donations and grants, Kew would have to significantly scale back activities at a time when, as environmental challenges become ever more acute, its resources and expertise are needed in the world more than ever. Kew needs to raise significant funds both in the UK and overseas. Members of the public can support the work of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership by getting involved with

the 'Adopt a Seed, Save a Species' campaign. For £25 an individual can adopt a seed or for £1000 anyone can save an entire species. www.kew.org/adoptaseed.