

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO VBG

AN INNOVATIVE BOTANIC GARDEN FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Britain's Hottest Garden & Climate Change

As a modern botanic garden we show a style of gardening that is relevant to today's environmental challenges.

Unlike traditional botanic gardens, VBG presents plants in communities, matching the genetics of the plant collection to our microclimate and alkaline soil. On average VBG is 5°C hotter than the rest of the Island and the mainland. Therefore, we can present what the U.K.'s flora might look like in the future - today.

THE VENTNOR METHODSM

How we garden at VBG

We aim to show plants growing in association with each other as they would in the wild. Much like Nature itself, they are not orderly. We do not plant in threes and fives in a standard mixed border. Dead plants and fallen leaves are left in place to allow decay and self-seeding, reducing the influence of the gardener. The Ventnor MethodSM allows our ecosystems to fill in with the ants, pests, parasites, fungi and rusts that would not appear in many pristine gardens. In our view if you want to conserve or protect a plant, put it in an ecosystem, not by itself in a heated greenhouse. You might say, "What a mess!" or you might say "How innovative!".

WELLBEING EXPERIENCE

Drop-ins welcome

The garden has a rich heritage of health and wellbeing. A Victorian chest & respiratory disease hospital where patients would come to be treated and recuperate in the pleasant coastal climate once stood here. The history of healing continues at VBG today combining the tranquillity of the Garden with healing foods from edulis Restaurant and a range of daily yoga and wellbeing classes. Why not take a yoga or wellbeing class while you visit?

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL



VBG is run by a Community Interest Company (C.I.C) which relies on admissions and other revenues to stay open. A registered charity, the VBG Friends Society, supports apprenticeships, plant buying and selected projects while a growing group of volunteers help with gardening, tours, shopkeeping and everyday issues.

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1UL
01983 855397 | Follow us here   



VISITOR GUIDE

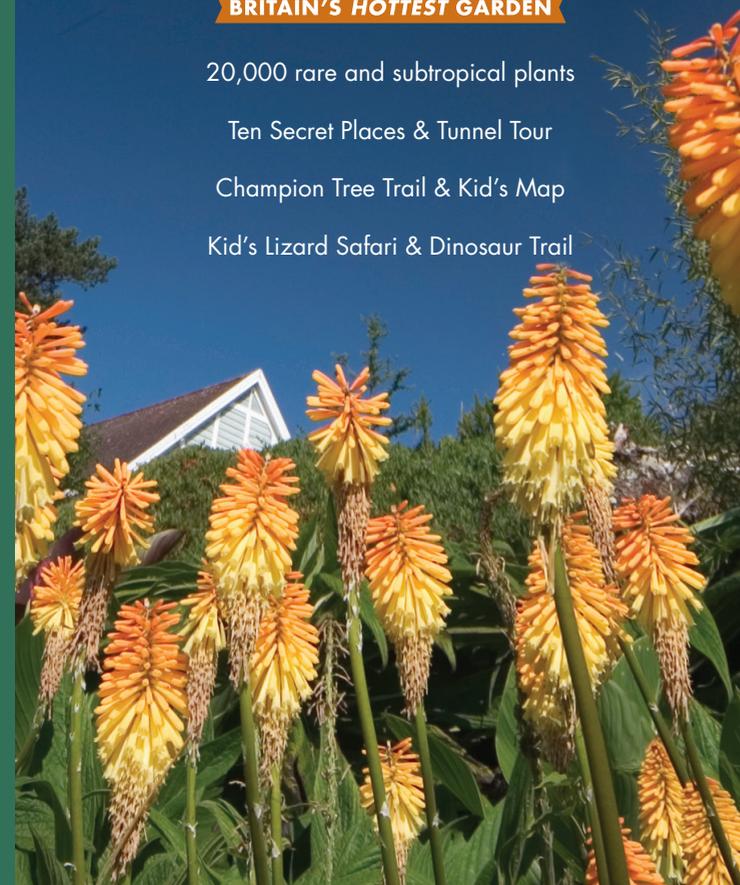
BRITAIN'S HOTTEST GARDEN

20,000 rare and subtropical plants

Ten Secret Places & Tunnel Tour

Champion Tree Trail & Kid's Map

Kid's Lizard Safari & Dinosaur Trail



SAVE OUR TREES!

Look after the planet and it will look after us. **Please return me at the end of your visit.**

DISCOVER MORE AT VBG...

1. The Plantation Room Café

2. Herb & Medicinal Garden: *The benefits of nature*

This garden is an update of a herb and medicinal garden for the 21st century. It contains plants that are of use to man that live in our climate, so we include culinary herbs, medicinal plants, fibre plants, decorative plants and cash crops.

3. South African Terrace: *A cocophony of colours*

We have abandoned the usual English style of orderly, graduated height, clumped border planting and developed a dynamic style. Don't miss the *Lampranthus spp.*, the Red Hot Pokers, *Kniphofia* and *Zantedeschia*, the Peace Lily.

4. Australian Garden: *More than Eucalyptus...*

Tree Ferns and Tea Trees are planted densely in the valley here to resemble the scrubby habitat of the riparian flora of New South Wales where short lived seasonal rivers "rip" through a normally dry landscape.

5. Hydrangea Dell

6. New Zealand Garden: *Where are the flowers?*

In a thicket of New Zealand bush you won't find many flowers, because the flora and fauna of New Zealand evolved in isolation for millions of years.

7. Palm Garden: *Royal lineage*

One of the few areas of the garden surviving from the days of the Hospital, this Garden boasts specimens of the "Chusan Palm" *Trachycarpus fortunei*. These are the oldest palms in the British Isles, collected for Queen Victoria.

8. Lawns & Arboretum

9. edulis Restaurant



**VBG EXPLAINED
ON EASY TO READ
INTERPRETATION WALLS**

10. Mediterranean Garden: *Home of our Echiums*

A south facing terrace backed by steep rocky banks provides a setting suitable for the planting of Mediterranean species. More densely planted areas display aromatic herbs and shrubs filling the air with the heady aromas caused by the volatile oils they produce.

11. Hop Yard: *Home of Botanic Ales & Lagers*

12. The Japanese Garden: *Oriental beauty*

This garden reflects not just the plants of Japan, but those of the Far East that share our climate. These are arranged naturally, but also with nods to the Japanese gardening style and tradition.

13. Walled Garden & Long Border

14. Olive Grove

15. Lower Nursery Glasshouse & Workshop

16. Arid Garden: *Our very own desert*

Contains many plants typically seen in a dry collection under glass which flower freely out of doors at VBG such as Prickly Pear cacti, Agaves, Aloes and Puya.

17. Heritage Centre: *Tuberculosis Hospital History*

18. Tropical House & The Hub: *VBG explained & Kid's Zone*

19. VBG Studio: *Artist in Residence*

20. Holiday Lets

21. Puya Gift Shop: *Boutique Shopping*

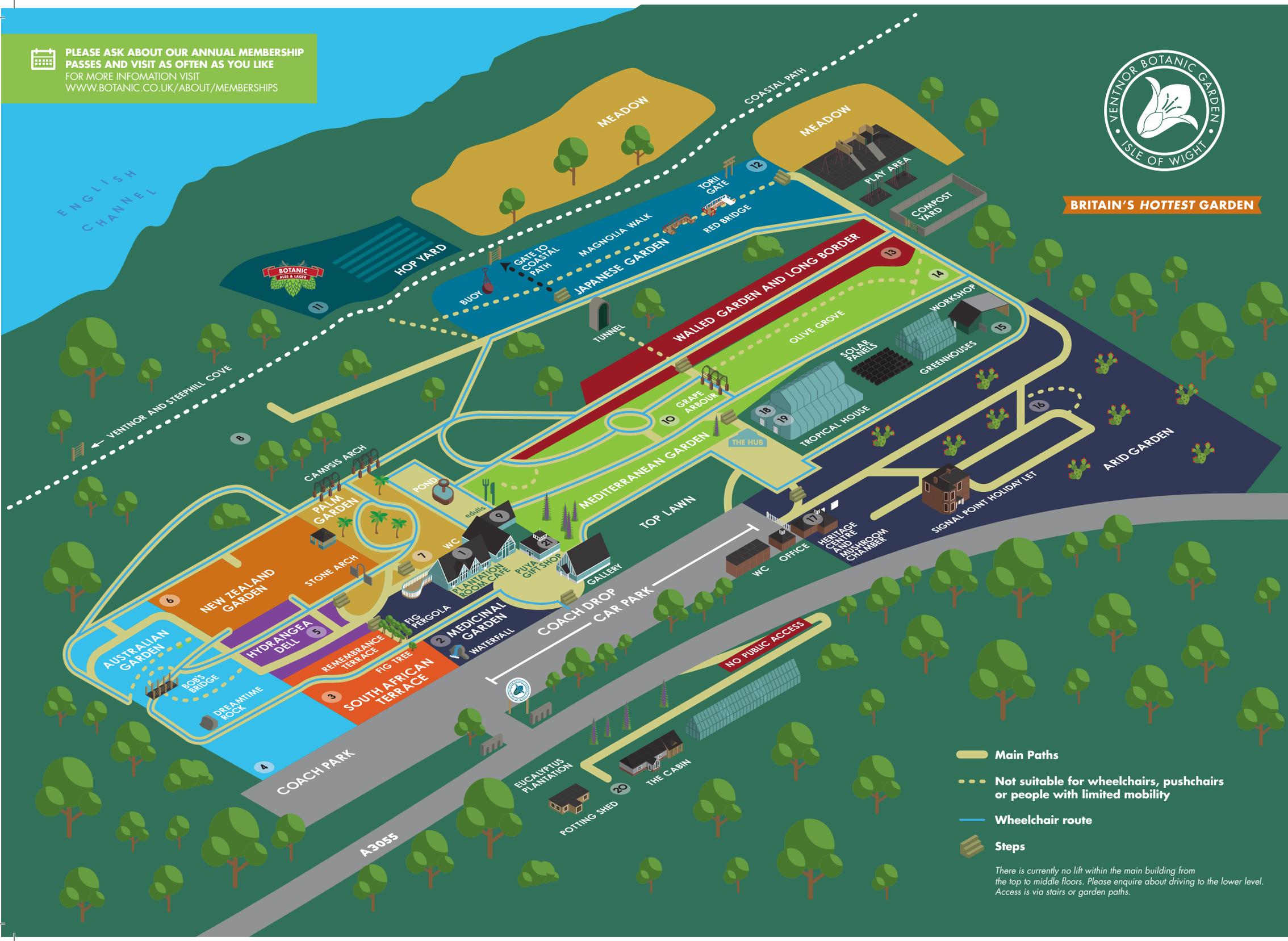
Explore the kids zone featuring our giant colouring wall and discover more about our climate, the "Ventnor MethodSM" and sustainability here at the Garden.



PLEASE ASK ABOUT OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PASSES AND VISIT AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.BOTANIC.CO.UK/ABOUT/MEMBERSHIPS



BRITAIN'S HOTTEST GARDEN



- Main Paths
- Not suitable for wheelchairs, pushchairs or people with limited mobility
- Wheelchair route
- Steps

There is currently no lift within the main building from the top to middle floors. Please enquire about driving to the lower level. Access is via stairs or garden paths.

MEET SOME OF OUR ROCK STAR PLANTS



ECHIUM
Flowering: May - June



KNIFOPHIA
Flowering: All Year



PUYA
Flowering: May - July



AGAPANTHUS
Flowering: August

GIANT AMAZONIAN WATER LILIES

We grow some of the biggest specimens in the world in our tropical house. The leaves of these giant varieties can grow over 2.5 meters across and the flowers submerge overnight and change sex.

SUSTAINABILITY

Responsible resource management is a goal of ours. You will see 60 solar panels, an air source heat pump, solar hot water panels, and countless LEDs around the Garden. Behind the scenes we have installed a high spec composting loo for our holiday cabins. You will not find many waste bins at VBG - our waste stream is expensive and we thank you for taking out what you brought in.

With climate change and species loss an ever increasing concern, we urge you to visit the Climate Wall in The Hub to learn more. We recognise we are never finished working on sustainability and welcome your suggestions.