

Explore the kids zone featuring our giant colouring wall and discover more about our climate, the "Ventnor Method<sup>SM</sup>" and sustainability here at the Garden.

#### 12. The Japanese Garden:

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 & Potting Benches:

Not open to the public.

#### 16. Arid Garden:

Contains many plants typically seen in a dry collection under glass which flower freely out of doors at VBG such as Prickly Pear cacti, Agave, Aloe and Puya. Opened by The Prince of Wales & Duchess of Cornwall.

#### 18. Tropical House & The Hub:

VBG explained & Kid's Zone

#### 19. VBG Studio: Artist in Residence

#### 20. Stay @VBG Accommodation:

Camping & Holiday Lets

#### 21. The Plantation Room Café & Terrace



#### 22. Heritage Centre:

Learn the history of the Hospital and Garden.

#### 23. Garden Centre:

Take home your favourite plants from your garden visit, either as seeds or in pots. collected by hand and raised in our on site nurseries.

#### 24. Puya Boutique Shopping:

Exit through the shop and explore the best of boutique home and garden gifts.



**Hop Yard:** The southern most hop yard in the UK, home of Botanic Ale & Lagers - be sure to try some from our food outlets and boutique.



## 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. **Want to know more?** Find our book *Ventnor Botanic Garden Today* in our on-site outlets.

### THE VENTNOR METHOD<sup>SM</sup>

#### 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 as 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 Method<sup>SM</sup> 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

#### Ask the customer experience team for a Wellbeing timetable

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, maintenance and garden workshops.

Undercliff Drive, Ventnor, Isle of Wight PO38 1UL  
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## VISITOR GUIDE

### BRITAIN'S HOTTEST GARDEN

20,000 rare and subtropical plants

Ten Secret Gardens & Tunnel Tour

Champion Tree Trail & Kid's Adventure Map

Kid's Lizard Safari & Dinosaur Trail



**BOTANIC.CO.UK**



### 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. Admissions Window & Garden Entrance: Garden Boutique Shopping

### 2. Medicinal Garden:

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:

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:

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:

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. Subtropical Palm Garden:

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* - the oldest palms in the British Isles, collected for Queen Victoria.

### 8. Lawns & Arboretum

**9. edulis Restaurant:** As fresh as it gets dining with wonderful view over the fountain court.



### 10. Mediterranean Garden:

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.





— 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.



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NEWSLETTER



BRITAIN'S HOTTEST GARDEN

## MEET SOME OF OUR ROCK STAR PLANTS



### ECHIUM

Flowering: May - June



### KNIPHOFIA

Flowering: All Year



### PUYA

Flowering: May - June



### 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.

At VBG we operate in food meters not miles, our food outlets use ingredients grown in the garden harvested daily, dining here really is as fresh as it gets.

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.



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