

EVENT INFORMATION

What is the Botanic Lights?

We have a new route for 2016, starting on the west side of the Garden by the John Hope Gateway.

This October to November, the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh is once again open after dark with a magical outdoor light event.

As darkness descends, light installations will transform popular features such as the Victorian Palm House, The Chinese Hillside and Inverleith House, while illuminating the rich living collection of plants, turning the Garden itself into the story.

Botanic Lights 2016 will take visitors on an all-new journey of light around the Garden, exploring regions of the world where the Garden's plants and trees originate including the US, China, Chile, Nepal and the Tropics, where RBGE's scientists currently undertake important conservation work.

"To explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future" - the Botanic is world renowned for its horticultural excellence, Botanic Lights is set within the beautifully landscaped grounds and night-time visitors are invited to explore the Garden following approximately one and a half kilometre trail of colour, light and installations.

This is an unaccompanied tour of the Garden following a designated route with installations, illuminations and lighting of the plants, paths and selected buildings.

Where is Botanic Lights taking place?

The event is being staged at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The Botanic Lights event starts and finishes at the **West Gate** of the Garden on **Arboretum Place** next to the **John Hope Gateway** and involves being outdoors for approximately one and a half hours. **Please note if you are a return visitor the entrance and exit point is different to last year.**

When does Botanic Lights take place?

Visitors are invited to enjoy the Botanic after dark from Thursday 13 October until Sunday 06 November. Please check Box office for specific session times and details on how to book.

How long does the trail take?

The Botanic Lights experience is a one and a half kilometre trail (approx.) and involves being outdoors for approximately one and a half hours.

Each timed session has a set capacity and we expect each session to be extremely popular. We recommend you book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Where does Botanic Lights start and finish?

The outdoor trail starts at the Garden's **West Gate** of the Garden on **Arboretum Place** next to the **John Hope Gateway** and the route will loop round to conclude back at the start. The Terrace Café is open during the event until 10pm and will be serving refreshments including mulled wine, beers, soft drinks and snacks.

Please note if you are a return visitor the entrance and exit point is different to last year. Entry is via the West Gate of the Garden on Arboretum Place next to the John Hope Gateway

Will the Glasshouses be open during the Botanic Lights 2016 event?

Please note that whilst the Glasshouses at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh will be illuminated as part of the event, the buildings will only be viewed externally and will remain closed throughout the show and are not accessible as part of the Botanic Lights event.

Will the John Hope Gateway be open at the event?

The John Hope Gateway Visitor Centre and Gateway Restaurant are not part of the event trail route and will not be accessible during the event.

Will there be Strobe Lighting as part of the installation?

At this point there are no plans for strobe lighting at the event. However, those with a light sensitivity should be aware that there may be areas where there will be flickering or flashing lights at low intensity.

Is the event suitable for children?

Yes absolutely, the event route has been designed to entertain and educate and is perfect for families. Please note, whilst the event and route through the gardens is fully accessible, certain areas are sloped and may require assistance for wheelchair users or those with infants in pushchairs.

What should I wear?

Botanic Lights is an all outdoor, evening event in Scotland. Think practical and wear appropriate clothing and footwear for a Scottish winter! Fingers crossed for good weather but as we know, Scottish weather can change hourly with a mix of crisp winter nights or showers. Layering is best and something waterproof is advisable, as is stout footwear.

What if it is raining?

All visitors are reminded that this is an outdoor event and the weather may be inclement. There are no covered areas during the walk and it is your own responsibility to wear appropriate warm and waterproof outdoor clothing and footwear.

Can I bring my dog?

Unfortunately dogs will NOT be permitted into the event arena with the exception of Assistance Dogs.

Can I bring a camera?

We would highly recommend you do, there will be so many amazing installations to photograph and remember at this event, please use Smart Phones and compact digital cameras to share images via social media.

Guidelines for Photographers

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh welcomes photographers to Botanic Lights 2016: Explore. who are invited to capture and film their Botanic Lights experience on cameras and smart phones for personal use and sharing via social media.

Photography for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Anyone found using content for promotional or commercial purposes must have a prior written agreement from RBGE and Unique Events or will be in breach of copyright and may face legal action. If using professional photography equipment and tripods please adhere to the following guidelines to ensure that you do not obstruct or diminish the enjoyment of others at the event:

- Please stay on the designated route of the trail during your visit, and do not stray too far away from the path.
- Persons, equipment, materials or stools must not cause damage to plants and the Garden environment.
- Please do not impede the movement, access or view of other visitors to the event with tripods or other equipment.
- All equipment and any litter or waste material must be cleared away immediately after the photography is completed.
- The RBGE shall not be liable for loss of or damage to your equipment or possessions or be liable for damages, compensation and claims resulting from the photography.
- In extreme weather, the RBGE reserves the right to cancel any photography activities and the event itself.
- All photography for press or online publications should be credited to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the Botanic or Botanic Lights 2016: Explore.

Am I allowed to bring food and drink into the event?

No food, alcoholic drinks, glass or cans may be brought into the Garden. The Terrace Café will be open during the event located at the end of the designated route, serving snacks, mulled wine, beers and hot drinks. Alcoholic drinks will not be served to anyone under the age of 18.

TICKETING

Where can I buy tickets for Botanic Lights?

Tickets for Botanic Lights are available to buy from:

- Online:** www.botaniclights.co.uk
- By telephone:** 0844 573 8455
- In person:** Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS

How much are tickets for Botanic Lights?

Advance tickets for **Botanic Lights** are priced as follows:

- *Full Price:* £15.00 (includes all fees)
- *Child* (under 16): £7.50 (includes all fees).

- *1x Adults & 2x Children: £27.00 (includes all fees).*
 - *2x Adults & 2x Children: £40.00 (includes all fees).*
 - *Groups (10+ Adults): £13.00 each (includes all fees). Please note all group tickets must be purchased as one transaction.*
 - *Infant (0 – 2 years): Free, but still require an event ticket. Please note this ticket MUST be placed at the same time when making a booking.*
 - *Carers of visitors with specific access requirements: Free, but still require an event ticket.*
- Postage costs apply.

Do I qualify for a concession ticket?

The following concessions are available:

- **Child** (under 16): £7.50 (includes all fees).
- **Infant** (0 – 2 years): *Free, but still require an event ticket. Please note this ticket MUST be placed at the same time when making a booking.*
- **Carers of visitors with specific access requirements:** *Free, but still require an event ticket.*
- *1x Adults & 2x Children: £27.00 (includes all fees).*
- *2x Adults & 2x Children: £40.00 (includes all fees).*
- **Groups** (10+ Adults): £13.00 each (includes all fees). *Please note all group tickets must be purchased as one transaction.*

Tickets will be checked at the entrance to the event arena and you may be asked to produce ID. Please note Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian (16+).

Unfortunately, concession tickets are not available if you are a registered student or in receipt of state pension or benefits.

Please call the Box Office on 0844 573 8455 for best rates available and ticket combinations to suit your requirements.

How do I place a group booking?

For groups of up to 10 people, please call the Box Office on 0844 573 8455 for best rates available and ticket combinations to suit your requirements.

Is my ticket valid for any day?

All tickets are only valid for the day and start time of the session selected at time of booking and are not transferable. Please make sure you allow plenty of time to get to the event for your selected session start time. Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable slot can be found in another session.

Is my ticket valid for any session/time slot?

Entry is only permitted at the start time stated on the ticket and re-entry into the event after your slot has ended is not permitted. Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable time slot can be found in another session. Please allow plenty of time to arrive at the event for your selected start time.

Will tickets be available to buy at the event?

We cannot guarantee that tickets will be available to purchase at the event. Please note time slots for Botanic Lights are booked in advance with limited availability per slot.

Due to expected demand, we recommend that you purchase in advance from www.botaniclights.co.uk

Is coach parking available for groups?

There is plenty of parking bays at the North or West side of the Garden, where the road is wider than Inverleith Row. Prepaid meters only run until 5:30pm. Please note the entrance to Botanic Lights 2016 is only by the **West Gate** of the Garden on **Arboretum Place** next to the **John Hope Gateway**

ACCESSIBILITY

What are the facilities and access for people with disabilities?

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is accessible to those with reduced mobility and specific needs, please note that some paths can be steep and care should be taken when navigating. Patrons are also advised that the underfoot conditions will not always be flat and that there may be uneven surfaces. Carers must be capable of supporting their companion with specific needs in the event of an emergency or evacuation of the area. Carers should be over 16 years old.

Will there be allocated parking for people with disabilities?

There is on-street parking with prepaid meters only run until 5:30pm. There is usually ample on-street parking available on nearby Inverleith Terrace during the evening.

There are disabled parking bays available at the John Hope Gateway (West Gate) on Arboretum Place, the entrance to the event is via **West Gate** of the Garden on **Arboretum Place** next to the **John Hope Gateway**.

PROGRAMMING

Who is responsible for managing the event?

Botanic Lights 2016 is presented by The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in association with Scotland's leading independent event producers Unique Events, working with lighting, AV and sound specialists Black Light. This year's outdoor experience is created by lighting designer Grant Anderson.

Who has designed the light installation for Botanic Lights?

Botanic Lights has been created in association with Unique Events, working with lighting and AV specialists Black Light. This year's outdoor experience is created by lighting designer Grant Anderson.

PARKING AND TRAVEL

Will there be parking facilities at the event?

Extensive parking is available around the perimeter of the Garden and on adjacent side streets. Parking is free at weekends and evenings, but is metered Mondays to Fridays between 8.30am and 5.30pm.

Will there be bus services to the event?

There are regular public bus services (Lothian Buses 8, 23 or 27) to the East Gate on Inverleith Row. For further information, please visit www.lothianbuses.com Please remember that the only entrance to the event is via **West Gate** of the Garden on **Arboretum Place** next to the **John Hope Gateway**. It is approximately a 10 minute walk from the bus stops to the West Gate.

Can I get the train to the event?

The nearest rail station is Edinburgh Waverley, which is only 1.5 miles away and is connected to the Garden by Lothian Buses service 8.

For further information, please visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.thetrainline.com.

CANCELLATION

Will the event be cancelled in the event of inclement weather?

Inevitably bad weather can affect any open-air event. No refunds will be offered if the weather is inclement but the event is safe to go ahead.

If the event has to be cancelled due to extreme weather, tickets will be refunded automatically within seven working days. Visitors will be contacted by email with confirmation of refund and offered an alternative night/session.

Will a decision to cancel the event be made in advance?

If all sessions on any night are required to be cancelled due to extreme weather, a decision to cancel will be taken at 3pm on the day if possible. If a decision is made at 3pm on the day to cancel the full night's event we will endeavour to contact all patrons by email and the information will be advertised on the official website and social media platforms.

For safety reasons, a decision may be made at any time during the evening to abandon, postpone or delay any or all of the advertised sessions. (Please note that for safety reasons, the Garden closes when wind speed exceeds 30mph). This information will be advertised on the official website and social media platforms.

In the event of inclement weather visitors should check that the Garden is open and the event is going ahead by visiting www.botaniclights.co.uk , or phoning 0131 248 2909 / 0844 573 8455.

SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING

Information about the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh?

As well as being a five star Garden, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is also a leading international research organisation delivering knowledge, education and plant conservation action in more than 80 countries around the world. It operates as a Non Departmental Public Body established under the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985, principally funded by the Scottish Government. It is also a registered charity, managed by a Board of Trustees appointed by Ministers. Its mission is to “explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future.” www.rbge.org.uk

Can my business have a partnership with Botanic Lights?

Yes. Botanic Lights is an excellent opportunity for businesses to partner a high-profile, world-class event, obtaining brand awareness with an event which will attract large numbers of visitors and generate press and media interest from across the UK and beyond. If you would like to enquire about event partnership opportunities and levels of sponsorship, please email k.connell-skinner@rbge.org.uk

PRESS & MEDIA

Please contact talk@rbge.org.uk with all enquiries.