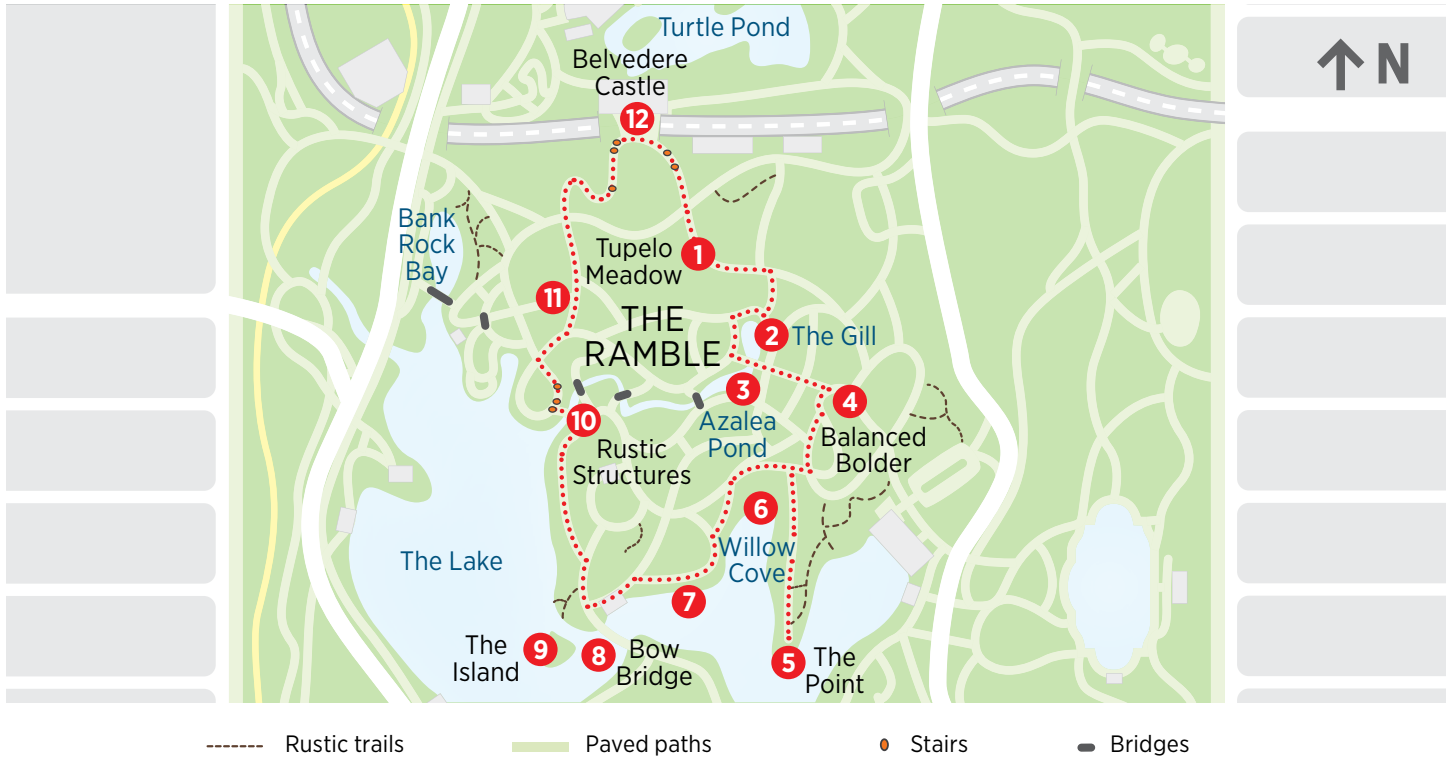


# SELF-GUIDED TOUR: THE RAMBLE



## Discover Responsibly

To minimize your impact on the natural environment, keep dogs leashed at all times, stay on designated paths, and carry out what you carry in. Feel free to observe and photograph wildlife, but please don't feed any animals you encounter.

## About the Tour

**Beginning and ending at Belvedere Castle, this self-guided tour should take about 30 minutes. The entire path is paved and fairly even, but there are some stairs on this route.**

The Ramble is one of the most intricate and detailed landscapes in Central Park. Central Park's designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, intended the woodlands to provide visitors a taste of the Adirondacks without leaving New York City.

### 1 Tupelo Meadow

The three-trunked black tupelo at the southern edge of this meadow is thought to pre-date the Park, and displays striking shades of crimson fall foliage.

### 2 The Gill

The Gill, the stream that threads its way through the Ramble, starts here. Like all of the Park's water bodies, the Gill is man-made. Although it appears natural, the source is actually plumbing hidden beneath the rocks.

### 3 Azalea Pond

Located in the heart of the Ramble, Azalea Pond is a slow-moving section of the Gill surrounded by azaleas that may be over 100 years old. After falling into a period of decline, Azalea Pond was restored by the Conservancy in 2004.

#### 4 **Balanced Boulder**

Situated strangely atop the large slab of rock, this boulder may be a glacial erratic deposited by the mile-high Wisconsin Ice Sheet that passed through Central Park thousands of years ago.

#### 5 **The Point**

This narrow peninsula provides beautiful views of the Lake and Bethesda Terrace. In 2009, the Conservancy completed a restoration of the Point to remove invasive plant species and resolve erosion and soil compaction issues. Today this landscape is a popular destination for bird-watchers and hikers.

#### 6 **Willow Cove**

This marshy inlet is aptly named for the willow trees that grow in the cove. The combination of shallow water, rocky shores, and soil make this area a wildlife hotspot. Look for turtles basking along the shoreline, as well as birds and mammals on the ground.

#### 7 **Exposed Boulder**

Resting on a number of smaller rocks by the shore of the Lake, this large boulder was placed as part of the design for the Park. Its base was originally covered in soil to make it look natural. Look out into the Lake to the left of the exposed boulder. The small rock that emerges from the water is often used by basking turtles and cormorants drying their wings.

#### 8 **Bow Bridge**

The delicately arched Bow Bridge connects the Ramble to Cherry Hill. As part of the Conservancy's restoration of Bow Bridge in 2008, missing urns were carefully reconstructed based on historic images and models of the originals.

#### 9 **The Island**

Restored by the Conservancy in 2008, the Island is home to an array of native wetland plants and is a refuge for nesting birds. Its banks are covered in Virginia rose, which have fragrant pink flowers—and develop beautiful fall colors.

#### 10 **Rustic Structures**

Rustic structures like this wooden bridge and bench are built by Conservancy craftspeople. Each bridge, bench, fence, and gazebo is unique, and many are found in the Park's woodlands.

#### 11 **Woodland Trees**

Central Park's woodlands are managed both as landscapes in a popular urban park and as a wildlife habitat. The standing dead trees (called "snags") and logs that can be seen in the Ramble serve an ecological purpose. The same features that make the Ramble look a little messy also make it one of the top bird-watching locations in the United States.

#### 12 **Belvedere Castle**

This miniature castle is one of five visitor centers in Central Park. It is also a weather station, with instruments located on its roof and in a nearby fenced enclosure. The Conservancy offers a variety of public programs out of Belvedere Castle, including tours and family-friendly activities. The Castle's terraces provide stunning views of the Ramble, Turtle Pond, and the Great Lawn.

### About the Central Park Conservancy

Funded primarily by individual donations, the nonprofit Central Park Conservancy cares for the entire Park, tending to the largest and smallest details of its maintenance and restoration.

### Get Involved

**Join.** Become a member and enjoy access to exclusive member programs and Park perks as a thank you for your contribution.

[centralparknyc.org/membership](https://centralparknyc.org/membership)

**Volunteer.** Explore programs available for all ages and schedules. Find out more at [centralparknyc.org/volunteer](https://centralparknyc.org/volunteer)