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Botanical Gardens to Love

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This is a garden to die for! I came across the Dallas Arboretum by happy accident while visiting my grown kids who live outside of Dallas, Texas.

They took me there for my birthday one spring because they know I love gardens. Now the gardens have become a ritual whenever I visit. Sixty-six acres of botanical bliss, no matter the season.

I counted over 20 signature gardens described on their website, including the Rory Meyers Children’s Garden with 8 acres of hands-on educationally focused fun and exploration, an amazing ornamental garden, and a kitchen pavilion where chefs offer cooking demos and free daily tastings of their delectable, sustainable, locally grown dishes. There are acres of Trial Gardens displaying between 3,000 and 5,000 plants that are trialed yearly from over 150 plant breeding companies. The site’s aptly posted slogan, “So many gardens, so much beauty!” couldn’t be more accurate.

One of my favorite areas is the Crape Myrtle Allee. The gracefully arching trees line a stone path creating a natural tunnel-like underpass leading from one garden to another. Whether clothed in lush spring foliage, shouting out its bright summer blooms, or hosting a glorious winter wonderland, this spectacular beauty does not disappoint.



Another not-to-miss garden is the Margaret Elizabeth Jonnson Color Garden. Spring and summer are the best times to visit these huge sweeping gardens which transition from red, purple, and yellows of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, to



the pink, cream, and lavender of summer perennials. Autumn virtually bursts into flame with brilliant chrysanthemums. Everywhere one looks there are layers upon layers of color.



My most recent visit took place in late October, when the weather is turning chill and blooms are sparse. However, the fall trees and foliage still boast plenty of breathtaking beauty as one strolls around the spacious grounds. Additionally, the gardens host an autumn extravaganza in Pecan Grove laden with thousands of pumpkins, gourds, and squash. Full-size pumpkin houses and giant insect constructions dot the grounds among the trees providing plenty of shady spots to picnic. This year’s theme, ‘A Fall Fairy Tale,’ sounds intriguing featuring Jack & The Beanstalk, The Three Little Pigs, The Sword in the Stone, and One Thousand and One Nights.



There is always something going on at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens: cooking classes, historical tours, art shows, concerts. You can’t do it all in one trip, but no matter what season you visit, you will be delightfully inspired. Entrance fees range from three dollars to twenty, depending on the time of year and what events are going on at the time of your visit. It is definitely worth exploring their website at: <https://www.dallasarboretum.org/>. And if your travels bring you anywhere near Texas, don’t miss this delightful garden.

