

YOUR MONTHLY MILE | January 2017

There are endless paths to travel in Central Park, and even lifelong New Yorkers can discover something new in its 843 acres. Check out this month's featured landmarks to learn more about the Central Park Conservancy's mission to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park.



1 [Turtle Pond](#)

Turtle Pond is home to a few species of turtles that live there year round. If you've ever visited in the summer, you've almost certainly seen a red-eared slider (the Pond's most common species of turtle) sunbathing on a log or rock. But where do they go when the banks of Vista Rock become too cool for comfort? Answer: Until the weather warms up, the turtles hibernate by burrowing into the mud at the bottom of the Pond.



2 [Belvedere Castle](#)

"Belvedere" is Italian for "beautiful view," and the view from this Norman Gothic castle atop Vista Rock is certainly beautiful in any season. Originally intended as a whimsical lookout from the highest point in the southern area of the Park, the Castle became an instrument station for the National Weather Service in 1919, perfect for its lack of wind interference. In 1983, after decades of deterioration, the Conservancy renovated and reopened the castle as a visitor center and gift shop.



3 [Alice in Wonderland](#)

When the Park's wintry landscapes look as quaint as a storybook, it's a perfect time to visit Alice and her friends for a tea party. The beloved characters of Lewis Carroll's classic come to life in this bronze statue that found its way into the Park in 1959. Commissioned by George Delacorte as a gift to the children of New York City, visitors are invited to climb atop the statue and explore its varied hiding places.



4 [Conservatory Water](#)

From spring to autumn, children and boat enthusiasts come to navigate wind-powered vessels across the shimmering ornamental Conservatory Water. In winter months, the water level is lowered, and if the ice is consistently at least six inches thick and conditions allow, then it opens for free public ice skating. In 1993, the Central Park Conservancy refurbished the terrace of Kerbs Boathouse, incorporating the benches and planting beds you see today.



5 [Pilgrim Hill](#)

Before you head to the last stop on our mile, be sure to grab your sled! Named for the bronze statue that crowns its crest, Pilgrim Hill is one of the best sledding destinations in Central Park. When there's at least six inches of snow cover on the ground, the hill opens for a winter party perfect for families. The hill's slope will delight kids of all ages!

Want even more of the inside scoop?

Join us for an Official Central Park Tour.

[Click here](#) for the full schedule.