

## Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida



runningtotravel

May 3, 2023

Uncategorized, travel,  
Travel with kids, nature

Botanical Garden, coral  
gables, Fairchild Tropical  
Botanic Garden, Florida,  
flowers, Miami

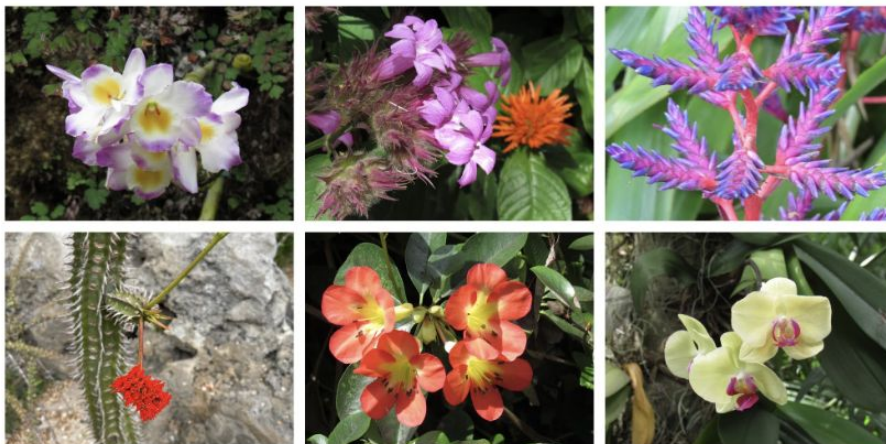
I'm a huge fan of botanical gardens and try to visit one everywhere I travel, if possible. When I told my friend who I was visiting in Miami how much I loved botanical gardens, she said she had just the place for us to go, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. She had a membership because she loved it so much and had been many times so she was happy to show me around.

Where to begin? First off, I should note I can see why this garden was voted best botanical garden in North America by *USA Today* and best outdoor attraction by *Miami New X Times*. I've been to so many botanical gardens all over the world and this is one of my new favorites.

The fact that even though I had been to Miami several times before but never been to this garden is beyond me, but better late than never. The thoughtful layout of the gardens is apparent, as well as how lovingly-tended the grounds are. Even though it was 80 degrees out with high humidity the day I was there, many parts of the garden are shaded so it was quite comfortable walking around.

I wouldn't have thought a botanical garden near Miami, Florida would be capable of having such diversity of plants and flowers but I was wrong. Granted, the key word here is "tropical," since everything here grows in a tropical environment. Of course there are palm trees and a palmetum, a fern glade, plants from the Caribbean, a children's garden, a butterfly garden and conservatory, arid and succulent garden, plants found in Madagascar, a rainforest, plus 11 lakes and 7 pools, including the Sibley Victoria Pool, the Tropical Plant Conservatory and Rare Plant House Pools, Amphitheater pool, the Sunken Garden pool and waterfall, and more. Between my friend's iPhone, my camera, and my daughter's camera, the three of us amassed a crazy number of photos and it was difficult to choose which ones to include here.





Some of my favorite areas of the garden are the butterfly garden, with the most densely packed area of butterflies I've ever seen, the rainforest with literally thousands of orchids of all colors, sizes, and shapes, and the tropical plant conservatory with some of the most unique flowers and plants in the world. We were able to walk around and see every area of the garden in a couple or so hours. At 83 acres with just over 2 miles of paved walking paths, if you're limited on your feet, you may want to take the tram.

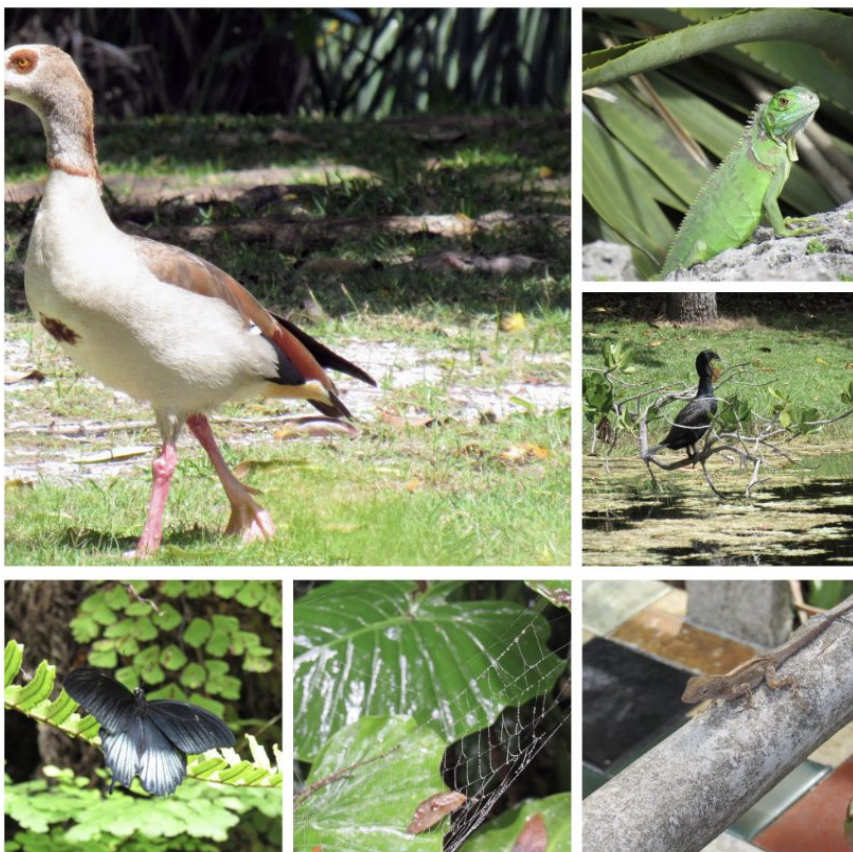
The tram tour is free but it is first-come, first-served and weather dependent, and even though it was operating, we decided to skip it and just walk around on our own. All of the plants and trees were well-marked with their common and biological name, which I appreciated, as I have a bizarre memory for plants' names and like to expand it when I can (even though I can't remember what groceries to buy without a list every time).





In addition to a variety of plants at the garden, there are of course the butterflies but also nearly 200 species of birds have been reported, according to <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L127426>, where people self-report bird spotting. Plus, there are fish in many of the water areas and six varieties of lizards have been reported. I personally spotted four different types of lizards so I have no doubt there are more since I couldn't have possibly seen them all.

Check the event calendar before you go because there are a variety of activities at the garden throughout the year including lectures, yoga, dog walks, cooking classes, bird watching, and art classes, just to name a few. There is also a cafe, The Glasshouse Cafe by Le Basque that serves soups, sandwiches, wraps, smoothies, and drinks.



Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is open daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Tickets range from \$24.95 for adults to \$11.95 for children ages 6-17 and parking is free. Promotions and discounts are available, just check the website for a full list: <https://fairchildgarden.org/>

[\\_gl=1%2A90sbbq%2A\\_ga%2ANDUxMDQwMjMzLjE2ODE0MjQzMtK.%2A\\_gid%2AMTA5NDE1MjcwMy4xNjgxNDIoMzE5](https://fairchildgarden.org/?_gl=1%2A90sbbq%2A_ga%2ANDUxMDQwMjMzLjE2ODE0MjQzMtK.%2A_gid%2AMTA5NDE1MjcwMy4xNjgxNDIoMzE5)