

TROPICAL RAVINE OPENS IN BELFAST'S BOTANIC GARDENS

The Tropical Ravine in Belfast's Botanic Gardens has reopened to the public following a £3.8m refurbishment. The listed building which dates back to 1887 has been restored with many of its original Victorian features reinstated and preserved.



The ravine has been split over two levels with an open reception area on the ground floor, and the building has been modernised to make it more energy efficient with new triple-glazed windows installed to retain heat and create the right environment for the tropical plants it is home to.

Councillor Nuala McAllister said: "Before work started on the Tropical Ravine, many of the plants were temporarily moved into the Palm House or rehomed at Botanic Gardens' glasshouses. The large cycads that we couldn't shift were covered and protected from reconstruction work and the cold. Some of the plants are estimated to be over 150 years old so the restoration has been a remarkable feat in every sense."

Visitors will now be able to learn about the conservation work and plant collection thanks to new interactive and digital exhibits. Accessibility has also been improved with the introduction of sensory facilities for sight and hearing-impaired visitors.

The Ravine is situated in the famous Botanic Gardens which includes The Palm House and an extensive rose garden as well as the nearby Ulster Museum.

Why not make a short break of it and stay in the nearby 4* Malone Lodge Hotel from only £149 per couple which includes an upgrade to an executive room, 3 course dinner with a bottle of Prosecco, full Irish breakfast and free parking. Belfast was named by Lonely Planet as the number one destination in the world to visit in 2018.

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