



Your Visit to  
Bok Tower Gardens

# FOR CAREGIVERS

## BOK TOWER GARDENS

1151 Tower Boulevard, Lake Wales, FL 33853  
863-676-1408 | [info@boktowergardens.org](mailto:info@boktowergardens.org)

## HOURS

Monday-Sunday 9am-6pm

The Visitor Center, Blue Palmetto Cafe and The Shop at Bok close at 5 p.m.

## ACCESSIBILITY



Bok Tower Gardens is recognized as an 'Autism Friendly' business by CARD-USF. To learn more about CARD-USF visit [usf.to/autism](http://usf.to/autism).

BTG's Visitor Services desk has a Sensory Kit which includes noise cancelling headphones, crayons, paper, and fidgets. See host for check out on a first come, first served basis.

- Mobility carts are available for rent from The Shop at Bok for \$10 hr/\$30 half day/\$60 full day. A limited number of wheelchairs are also available upon request. To reserve a mobility cart or wheelchair, inquire at The Shop at Bok upon arrival.

## FOR CAREGIVERS

### Visitor Guidelines:

- You may feel and smell, but do not pick flowers, plants or fruit.
- Do not climb trees or walk through plantings.
- Smoking or Vaping is not allowed.
- Do not feed or handle wildlife, except feeding koi fish.
- Shoes and shirts are required.
- Children must always be supervised by a parent or guardian.
- Dispose of your waste in trash containers.
- Bicycles, skateboards, skate shoes, scooters and personal golf carts are not permitted in the Gardens.
- Use caution on the mulched and gravel paths as they are naturally uneven. Please enter these areas with caution and at your own risk.

## Sensory Notifications Key



Noise/Sound  
Wait



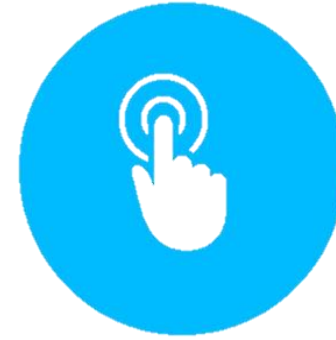
Water



Smell



Light/Visual



Touch



Waiting



## Bok Tower Gardens Entrance Gate



We enter Bok Tower Gardens through the entrance gate where we remain in our vehicle as we purchase tickets or present our membership card. There may be a few cars in line before us, but it won't take too long. Once we enter, we will drive for 1.5 miles to the parking area.



# Welcome to Bok Tower Gardens



After parking, we can walk through this entry where we will see a pool of water and many different plants. To the left, is the Visitor Center where we can get a map of the gardens.



## Inside the Visitor Center



Inside the Visitor Center is a museum for learning more about the history of Bok Tower Gardens and its ongoing conservation efforts. At the desk we can ask any questions we may have about our visit. Bathrooms are also available inside the Visitor Center.





## The Shop at Bok



We may visit The Shop at Bok. The shop is full of beautiful plants and gifts. We should ask before touching them. We can also buy drinks in here. The shop is sometimes crowded with guests. There may be a line for purchasing items, but it is not usually too long.





## Blue Palmetto Cafe



We can buy food or a drink at the Blue Palmetto Café. Inside can get very busy and noisy. We can take our food outside if we want to eat where it is less noisy. We can also order our food online for delivery outside.



## The Oval Lawn



After the Visitor's Center we will walk out to the Oval Lawn. From here, we can use different paths to find:

- The Tower
- Pinewood Estate & Garden
- Wild Garden
- Main Walk-connects to Pine Ridge Preserve Trail
- Outdoor Kitchen and Kitchen Garden
- Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



# The Gardens

Here are some of the many gardens we can enjoy:



Historic Olmsted Gardens lead to the Tower



Pollinator Garden



Endangered Plant Garden



Window by the Pond



Wetlands Boardwalk and Wild Garden



Kitchen Garden



## The Tower



We will see a large reflection pond in front of the Tower and a moat surrounding the Tower. We need to be careful when we walk near the water. We will hear the Tower bells strike every hour and a recorded song on the hour and half hour. Bell concerts are played every day at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

If we want to feed the fish at the Tower, we will need a quarter for the feeders.





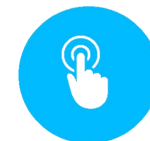
## Pinewood Estate & Gardens



When it is open, we can tour Pinewood Estate. We might have to wait in line to see inside the house. There are lots of things to see inside, but we cannot touch them.

Outside, we can play and explore in the gardens anytime. We must be careful while playing around the pond at the bottom of the hill. There is also a small pond and additional fountains around the house.

We can use the restroom located on the right side of the house.





## Wild Garden and Window by the Pond



We can explore the Wild Garden Boardwalk and the Window by the Pond where it is peaceful. This is a quiet place to sit and observe nature for a while.





## Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



We can enter Hammock Hollow through the arch or the large entrance gate. This is the only entrance and exit to Hammock Hollow. We should be sure we are with our grown up before leaving this area.



## Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



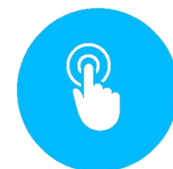
Hammock Hollow features the gopher tortoise and some of the animals that depend on its burrow for survival. These tortoises and their burrows are protected so we should never disturb them. A gopher tortoise burrow is the home for around 360 different kinds of animals!



## River Walk



At the River Walk, we can cool off in the water. There is a button on either end to start the fountains. To be safe, we should not run through the water. We might want to bring some dry clothes to wear after we play here.

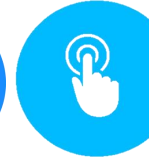
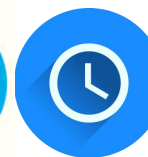
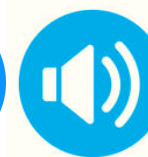




# Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



There are many places to explore in Hammock Hollow. While playing, we should do what feels comfortable and safe.





# Hammock Hollow Children's Garden



explore the make-believe  
gopher tortoise burrow...



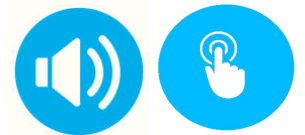
We can climb like a spider...



and climb like a bobcat!



play music...





## Some things we might want to know



- Bring a change of dry clothes.
- The bell tower is loud.
- We may hear lawnmowers or leaf blowers.
- Leashed dogs are allowed everywhere in the garden, except Hammock Hollow.
- We might see wildlife like birds, rabbits and black racer snakes.





# Some tips to keep us safe

## Safe Climbing



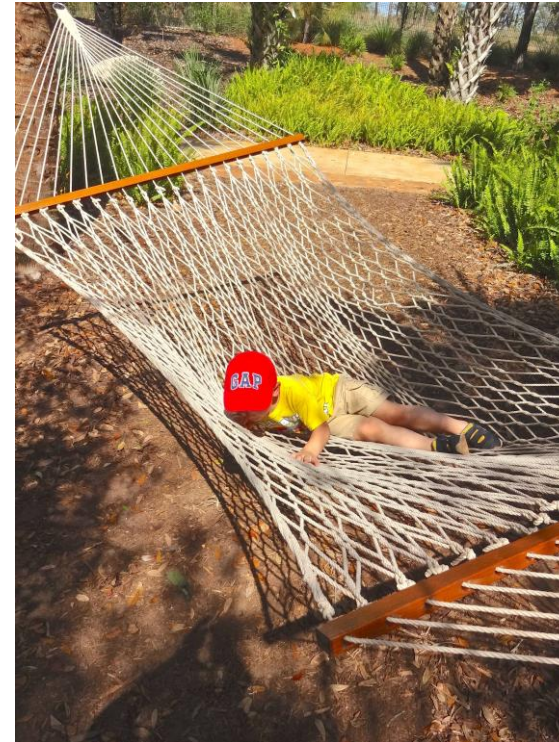
Safe places to climb:

- Spider Climb
- Bobcat Scramble
- River Walk
- Fox Den

Unsafe areas:

- On the Cave Walk
- Trees
- Any surface taller than me

## Hammock Safety



- 1 or 2 people at a time
- Slow and gentle play
- Enjoy a time to relax, take a nap or read a book



# THE GROUNDS OF BOK TOWER GARDENS

0 100 ft 100 yd



- Information
- Shuttle Stop
- Restrooms
- Water Fountain
- First Aid
- Picnic Area
- Defibrillator

## SMOKE FREE

Bok Tower Gardens is a SMOKE FREE environment. There is no smoking anywhere on the premises.

## SHUTTLE SERVICE

Shuttle service is available for persons with disabilities, with four shuttle stops located throughout the Gardens. Pick-up is available every 15-20 minutes. Shuttle service is subject to availability. Shuttles do not run during the 1 & 3 p.m. concerts.

## ACCESSIBILITY

There are designated accessible parking spaces in the parking area. Mobility carts and wheelchairs are available at The Shop at Bok. Most areas of the Gardens are accessible except the second floor of Pinewood Estate. For additional needs, please visit the Information Desk in the Visitor Center.



Snap & Share Your Experience  
#VisitCentralFL  
#BokTowerGardens  
VisitCentralFlorida.org

Additional Picnic area available on south side of the parking lot.

- 1. RIVER OF STONE**  
This unique pebble pathway at the Visitor Center features a simple, flowing pattern.
- 2. POLLINATOR GARDEN**  
Stop along the meandering path and focus on the buzz and flutter, you may see 20-30 different types of pollinators working the blossoms in search of nectar.
- 3. KITCHEN GARDEN, OUTDOOR KITCHEN & ALEXANDER DISCOVERY CENTER**  
These areas offer fun and educational activities. See program guide for details.

- 4. HAMMOCK HOLLOW CHILDREN'S GARDEN**  
Step through our pier-sized keystone gate and into a world of adventure where young visitors discover places to climb, build, dig and create.
- 5. PINE RIDGE PRESERVE TRAIL**  
Hike through one of Florida's most endangered ecosystems. Interpretive signs along the trail give details about the area.
- 6. WILD GARDEN**  
The Wild Garden showcases Florida native plants and wildlife in a series of ecosystem plantings.

- 7. WETLAND BOARDWALK**  
Explore a 170-foot boardwalk that meanders through a recreated wetland prairie and bog.
- 8. WINDOW BY THE POND**  
Look out from this small observatory into a Florida pond ecosystem. Watch as birds, reptiles, butterflies and other animals coexist in their natural habitat.
- 9. ENDANGERED PLANT GARDEN**  
This display of approximately 30 rare plants from around Florida showcases the species we are working to protect.

- 10. 1929 DEDICATION MONUMENT**  
This marker is to dedicate the creation of the Garden and wildlife sanctuary by Edward Bok and is located at the original entrance, that begins the historic garden created by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
- 11. PINEWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS**  
Step back in time to a luxurious 1930s lifestyle as you tour this 20-room Mediterranean-style winter home and gardens. An additional ticket is required for entry. The mansion is partially accessible by wheelchair.

- 12. REFLECTION POOL VISTA**  
This iconic view of the Singing Tower is the perfect place for a photo with friends or family while visiting the Gardens.
- 13. EXEDRA & SUNSET OVERLOOK**  
The marble Exedra was given as a gift to Edward Bok from his friends in the nearby community of Mountain Lake. The sunset view from here inspired Mr. Bok's dream of the Gardens.

- 14. CONCERT VIEWING AREA**  
View the carillonist's performances at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. during our live performance season. See carillon program for availability.
- 15. PEACE LANTERN**  
This Torii, or Japanese stone lantern, is adorned with peace doves and was commissioned as a gift from Usaburo Tsujita as a tribute to Mr. Bok's efforts toward world peace. Mr. Tsujita was an attendant of Mr. Bok in the 1920s. In 1955, it arrived with only the request to be placed within sight of Mr. Bok's grave.

- 16. SINGING TOWER**  
Made of pink marble and coquina, the 205-foot tall neo-Gothic and Art Deco Singing Tower houses the 60-bell carillon. Dancer level members and above are eligible to tour the Founder's Rooms on the first floor, offered on pre-scheduled dates throughout the year.
- 17. EDWARD W. BOK'S BURIAL SITE**  
Edward Bok fell ill and passed away on Sunday, January 9, 1930 within sight of his Singing Tower. His wife previously convinced him to be buried at the place he loved most. His grave rests in front of the Tower's great brass door.



Thank you for visiting



Have a wonderful day playing in the beauty of nature and enjoying the music of the Singing Tower!

If you want to come again or become a member you can ask in the Visitor Center.

Membership includes:

- Unlimited admission
- Special prices for events
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events
- Discounts in the Blue Palmetto Café and The Shop at Bok
- Reciprocal privileges at more than 300 gardens, museums, and attractions.