



THE GARDENS OF CENTRAL PARK

Oasis of the Seas goes green with its tranquil and tropical landscaped park

MIAMI – Once again Royal Caribbean came up with a novel idea and brought it to life. The most verdant of the seven neighborhoods aboard *Oasis of the Seas*, Central Park is a gardener's dream and a breath of fresh air for anyone who appreciates natural beauty. From towering Cuban laurel and golden bamboo to clusters of calla lilies and rabbit foot ferns, the park's collection of plants is a mix of coastal and highland sub-tropical species from around the world that is well suited to thrive on *Oasis of the Seas'* Caribbean itineraries.

"We've collected and designed a unique display of the most representative varieties of regional plants," says Dennis J. Dale, director of Landscape Architecture, The Waterfield Design Group, one of the outside firms which helped make Central Park a reality. "Each tree and shrub is visually interesting and elegant as well as economically and historically important to the Caribbean."

A series of columns interlaced with vines is just one of the welcoming entry points into Central Park, and is elegantly landscaped with tropical foliage and seasonal flowers, shrubs and trees. Drifts of calla lilies among giant elephant ears, red ginger, rabbit foot ferns, banana croton, gold dust dracaena, butterfly lily, and zebra calathea are some of the plant life guests discover. Impressive 'green walls' spanning 25 feet and four stories high hosts flowering vines and a variety of ferns such as red and white Mandevilla, twinspur 'red ace', verbena and silver pothos. The park also has changing displays of accent plants, such as birds of paradise and various orchids (phalaenopsis, cymbidium and colmanara wildcat). Trees, some eventually reaching more than two-and-a-half decks high, include cherry of the rio frande, fern pine, amstel king ficus and golden bamboo. Fragrant additions include orange jasmine and allspice (scents of cinnamon and clove drift from leaves and bark.)

The Park's horticulturalists also offers great educational opportunities for kids and parents alike, sharing general gardening techniques and providing lessons on the distinctive and unusual ecology of Caribbean plants. Guests can get a close-up look at coffee plants, a cocoa tree, tiny dwarf pineapples, ginger, sugar cane, dwarf banana trees and tapioca plants. Identification labels also offer interesting facts such as the plant's origin and its medicinal or agricultural use.

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Drawing on the concept of surprise, garden spaces throughout Central Park emerge from charming pathways. The Pergola Garden is a unique interpretive plant garden, featuring vegetation from a host of Caribbean locales where guests see shade-grown coffee plants and budding pineapple plants, as well as learn about the origin of spices, such as cinnamon and nutmeg. The Sculpture Garden integrates artwork from international artists and unique plantings, while sweet olive trees frame a cozy area to sit and enjoy a view of the Park. The middle pathway transports guests over a bridge spanning a ‘river of plants’ and past a series of special gardens, restaurants and cafés, as well as boutique shops, and on to the central square, lined with colorful kumquat and lacey black olive trees.

Guests can savor the tranquility of the custom-designed green space, but behind the scenes, Mother Nature had a little help. The horticulturists, architects, designers and engineers, all teamed up to design Central Park, including creating a custom-designed irrigation and drainage systems and micro-climate control techniques. Atkins Global of Surrey, England served as the lead design architects of Central Park, and the landscape architects were The Waterfield Design Group of Winchester, Mass. and Wilson Butler Associates of Boston. And the results are a beautiful thing.

Oasis of the Seas is the largest and most revolutionary cruise ship in the world. An architectural marvel at sea, it spans 16 decks, encompasses 225,282 gross registered tons, carries 5,400 guests at double occupancy, and features 2,700 staterooms. *Oasis of the Seas* is the first ship to tout the cruise line’s new neighborhood concept of seven distinct themed areas, which includes Central Park, Boardwalk, the Royal Promenade, the Pool and Sports Zone, Vitality at Sea Spa and Fitness Center, Entertainment Place and Youth Zone. The ship sails weekly from her home port of Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Additional information is available at www.OasisoftheSeas.com.

Royal Caribbean International is a global cruise brand with 21 ships currently in service and one under construction. The line also offers unique cruise tour land packages in Alaska, Canada, Dubai, Europe, and Australia and New Zealand. For additional information or to make reservations, call your travel agent, visit www.RoyalCaribbean.com or call (800) ROYAL-CARIBBEAN. Travel professionals should go to www.CruisingPower.com or call (800) 327-2056.

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