

While away the final balmy afternoons with a trip to majestic gardens

Autumnal treats at Trewithen

BEFORE bidding a final farewell to the last few balmy days of the Cornish summer, why not make a visit to Trewithen Gardens, near Truro?

The 18th-century house is now closed for the season, but there is still much to enjoy at this gem of an estate tucked away on the outskirts of Grampound Road and Probus.

With a tearoom, plant sales and nursery as well as some enchanting circular walks you can while away your afternoon quite easily.

Starting in the exhibition and cinema room in the courtyard, you can discover all about the grounds, the estate's history and some of its stunning specimens including magnolias and camellias.

You can also find out about the garden's 24 champion trees, which have been inspected by the tree register and found to be either the tallest or the widest of their species in the country. The video is shown on constant rotation and so forms the perfect starting point for your trip.

Following the map takes you around the edge of the magnificent house through



Above: The tea room and plant centre make the perfect end to your visit, while right, the magnolia fountain is one of the highlights.

the East Terrace that looks out over pony paddocks and lush rolling green fields.

Onward to the Sycamore Avenue, with its hues of autumn and busy squirrels, makes a pleasant spot to stroll and sit for a while before heading back to the main paths that cross the garden.

The Camellia Walk is obviously best seen during the summer season, but despite many of the key blooms of the garden having flowered and

faded, the abundance of green is still punctuated by an abundance of late comers as well as a mass of hydrangeas and striking ginger lily.

Trewithen's head gardener Gary Long said: "With their lush tropical-like foliage and tubular fragrant orange flowers, they are looking stunning at the moment. 'Gingers' are a must for any garden – so much so that we'll be planting more in the water garden ready for next year."



Other off-season highlights of the garden include the fern-laden Cockpit. This shady recess has an almost prehistoric feel to it with its exotic and leafy selection casting beautiful shadows in the autumnal light.

A number of raised viewing platforms provide an opportunity to see over the floral canopy and allow visitors to get a closer view of some of the blooms, many of which are high in the trees.

Also high above the garden is Cornwall's only camera obscura; housed in a wooden

hut in the tree's canopy.

Inside its darkened room, the fascinating device projects an image from outside tree-tops onto a table inside, creating a magical image of the outside flora and fauna.

A stop at the garden's infamous fountain will make your journey around the garden complete. The sculptural bronze magnolia was completed in 1998 and is one of the garden's most popular attractions.

Finally as you peruse the plant centre, take time to admire the rose garden, the first of its kind in Cornwall – this

will remain open throughout October.

The plant centre will be running special offers and discounts on selected shrubs and roses as well as world-famous camellias, rhododendrons and azaleas.

Dogs are welcome in the garden on leads and there is disabled access as well as a network of level paths.

Worthy of note is that the toilets are located some distance from the tearoom and plant sales so those with limited mobility or small children might want to make note of the length of time it takes to reach them before indulging in their array of mouthwatering dishes and wide selection of beverages.

The main garden closes for the season at the end of September, with the rose garden, plant centre and tearoom remaining open until October.

Trewithen Garden is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4.30pm. Entry is £7.50 for adults, while children under 12 are admitted free of charge.

For more information see www.trewithengardens.co.uk or call 01726 883647.



From left, The Cockpit is a stunning haven of greenery, try the magical Camera Obscura or just enjoy the glorious colours of the late blooming plants, such as the hydrangeas.