

\$16.99 U.S.



Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, located on the Ashley River near Charleston, South Carolina, has been owned by the Drayton family since the 1670s and has been open to the public since 1872. It is the last surviving nineteenth-century romantic garden of its size in America, and it is where the largest and most ancient azalea and camellia collections in America were developed. It is the garden where azaleas were first planted out of doors in a landscape setting.

The plantation also features a Swamp Garden boardwalk that allows visitors to enjoy birding, a Nature Train that takes visitors on a picturesque ride throughout the plantation, and a reconstructed Slave Street that provides an excellent history tour of African American life at Magnolia. The house tour shows the nature of post—Civil War life at Magnolia.



Derek Fell is widely known as one of America's finest garden photographers. He has published articles in *Connoisseur*, *Americana*, *Woman's Day*, *Pace*, *Southern Accents*, and other national and international magazines. He has also authored books about the gardens of artists Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, and Van Gogh, for which he has been honored with Best Book and Best Photography awards from the Garden Writers Association.

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Magnolia Plantation and Gardens

DEREK FELL

GIBBS SMITH

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Principal photography by Derek Fell



The Plantation House in early-morning mist, framed by a leaning live oak tree. The house is the third on the site, erected in 1865 and now open to the public as a museum. The property has been home to descendants of the Drayton family for more than 325 years.



Spring



“I have seen gardens, many gardens, in England, France, in Italy. I have seen what can be done in great hot-houses, and on great terraces, what can be done under a roof, and what can be done in the open air with the aid of architecture and sculpture, and ornamental land and water, but no horticulture that I have seen devised by mortal man approaches the unearthly enchantment of the azaleas at Magnolia.”

—Owen Wister,
Lady Baltimore magazine

Magnolia Plantation is in zone 8 on the USDA's plant hardiness map. Frosts are infrequent and snow may fall once in ten years. Spring flowering occurs at Magnolia Plantation in early March, when warm spells energize sleeping buds into bloom. First to flower are masses of daffodils that have naturalized along the woodland trails. Saucer magnolias flaunt their large pink blossoms high into the tree canopy.

Facing: The Schoolhouse Pond is rimmed with azaleas, their colors exquisitely reflected in the mirrorlike surface of the water. This highly reflective quality is caused by tannin from bald cypress roots staining the water dark.

Left: Southern Indica azaleas, first introduced to America at Magnolia Plantation from Europe, produce a symphony of color.

Right: A clump of perennial gaillardia, a native American wildflower, blooms among parterre hedges in the herb garden, located in front of the Plantation House.

Far Right: This Bird Girl statue by Sylvia Shaw Judson is a replica of a bronze original that once stood in the Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah. After a photograph of the statue appeared on the cover of the best-seller *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, it was moved to the Telfair Museum of Art.

Below: Once used as a freshwater reservoir for Magnolia Plantation's rice fields, and reverted to swamp, the sixty-acre Audubon Swamp Garden provides a sanctuary for wildlife and some of the best fishing within the property.

