



## 10 Minutes For The Planet

### The Tropics In Paris ©

by Valentine Rinner

Hi everyone! And welcome to this week's episode of Ten minutes for the Planet. I hope you survived all the extra Christmas food, drinks and parties, and that you were able to take some quality time off.

For those of you who weren't able to take a break outside our hectic capital, here's a good place for an invigorating break *in* Paris. Last week I visited "Le Jardin des Serres-d'Auteuil". This unusual place is really amazing.

In the late 1800s, beautiful huge greenhouses were built in this 18<sup>th</sup> century garden - originally sponsored by our botanical enthusiast, King Louis the 15<sup>th</sup>. Located above the Parc des Princes stadium and the famous Roland Garros courts, in the south of the Bois de Boulogne, this garden is all at the same time an elegant classic French "Jardin", a beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century piece of architecture, and an immersion trip to many different exotic and tropical climates with an extremely rich biodiversity.

In less than one hour you travel to Brazil, Australia, The Sahel, New Caledonia and many other places across the globe. Over the years, the garden and greenhouses have collected over 6,000 different species, with a vast representation of rare and remarkable ones. With over 500 types of orchids and one of the oldest Ginkgo Bilobas in France the many splendid collections are really very impressive.

The place is also skillfully designed for the experience to be complete. Exotic birds swing and sing in large aviaries and Japanese koi carps swim in the various ponds. Wooden huts and stone statues hide in every corner. You can also come across mascarons ornaments by Auguste Rodin on the graceful terrace. It's a fabulous journey across time and space.

Make sure you have a T-shirt under your many layers, as it can get quite warm in some of the greenhouses, especially if it's sunny outside. You can sit around cute little cast iron tables with a book between the palm trees, smell and touch exotic plants, meditate a while in the Japanese garden.

The site is most spectacular at sunset with the reflection coloring the glass roofs. The Jardin des Serres d'Auteuil is open every day, all year round, from 8 or 9am to 4 or 5pm. And it's completely free! There are many educational notices to learn all about the different plants and the stories of the places they come from, but the Paris Town Hall

also regularly organizes free tours of the gardens and greenhouses. This is a way to get more insight and fun facts about the site and its collections.

I hope I was able to convince you to go and have a look for yourself before you all turn into couch potatoes!

Bye everyone! Enjoy more New Year's food, drinks and parties and see you next year for a new episode of Ten minutes for the Planet.