



San Diego Zoo

Botanical Tours



Australian Outback



This tour begins at the totem poles in Australian Outback, next to the aviary, and continues to koalas, ending at the Queenslander walkway.



1. Red-Flowering Gum

Corymbia ficifolia

Covered by red blossoms, this flowering gum tree is well known as a spectacular street tree in Mediterranean climates. It was thought to be in the genus *Eucalyptus* until the mid-1990s, when it changed to *Corymbia*.

Fun Fact

Unlike most other eucalypts, the leaves of red-flowering gum are odorless and lack oil glands.



2. Little Kurrajong

Brachychiton bidwillii

This rare, small-growing tree is from coastal Queensland and New South Wales. Like most brachychitons, this tree flowers before the leaves emerge in the spring.

Fun Fact

Kurrajong is a term Indigenous Australians used for several species of trees in the genus *Brachychiton*. The bark fibers of these species were used to make fishing nets, ropes, and baskets.



3. Red Silky Oak

Grevillea banksii

A coastal Queensland species with spectacular flowers, this plant has become a parent in the development of new colorful hybrid plants in the nursery trade. There is also a form that bears a white flower.

Fun Fact

Grevillea is in the *Protaceae* or protea family with fellow Australian natives such as *Banksia*, *Hakea*, and *Macadamia*.



4. Honeybush

Hakea lissocarpa

This species is native to southwest Australia, and produces a mass of white to pink flowers in winter. It can regenerate from its underground root structures after fires.

Fun Fact

The strong, sweet scent and profusion of flowers make this plant very popular with pollinators.



5. Honey-myrtle

Melaleuca densa

Honey-myrtles and paperbarks belong to the *Myrtaceae* or myrtle family. The species within this family are separated by two distinct growth habits: tree forms known as “paperbarks” and the smaller forms known as “honey myrtles.”

Fun Fact

The *Melaleuca* genus is predominately endemic to Australia, with a few species extending as far as Southeast Asia. The family is comprised of roughly 300 species and a number of cultivated varieties.



6. Long-leaved Tuckeroo

Cupaniopsis newmanii

This species is native to the subtropical rainforests of eastern Australia. The leaves emerge bright red and gradually turn green. It is listed as rare by the Australian government, as it is limited in distribution.

Fun Fact

This species is in the *Sapindaceae* or soapberry family, the same family as carrotwoods, maples, horse chestnuts, and lychees.



Exclusive Video!

Watch a banksia cone burning and opening to release its seeds. sdzwa.org/banksiavideo



7. Queensland Kauri

Agathis robusta

A species from two locations in Queensland (Atherton Tableland and Fraser Island), this towering coniferous species is threatened by extensive logging.

Fun Fact

Kauris are part of an ancient group of trees once found worldwide. However, these trees disappeared from most of the Northern Hemisphere.



8. Cluster Fig Tree

Ficus racemosa

The figs on *Ficus* trees are usually produced singularly, meaning one fig per attachment to stem or trunk. However, in *Ficus racemosa*, the figs are clustered together along the trunk, an unusual characteristic.

Fun Fact

This tree is a staple food for numerous birds, animals and butterfly larvae who feed on the fruit and leaves.



9. Blue Hibiscus

Alyogyne huegelii

This shrub is a member of the *Malvaceae*, or hibiscus family. Like many species within this family, the flowers last for just one day. Over the course of the long blooming season, blue hibiscus will produce hundreds of flowers.

Fun Fact

The specific epithet *huegelii* was named in honor of Charles von Hügel, an Australian botanist who botanized in parts of Australia between 1833 and 1834.



10. Menzies' Banksia

Banksia menziesii

This beautiful, flowering tree provides nectar to many native birds. The sweet nectar was also used by Indigenous Australians to make delicious beverages for celebrations.

Fun Fact

Because they grow in areas of constant wildfires, many banksias need fire or heat to release their seeds. Watch this botanical wonder via the link inside.



11. Honeypot Dryandra

Banksia nivea

Most *Banksia* species produce elongated, cone-shaped flowers and can be made up of hundreds or thousands of individual flowers. Their flowers can be yellow, orange, red, green, violet, brown, and even multicolored.

Fun Fact

Banksias belong to the *Proteaceae*, the protea family, along with the famous proteas of South Africa.



12. Lord Howe Island Tea Tree

Melaleuca howeana

This species is endemic only to Lord Howe Island, where it is found along cliffsides, ridges, and seashores, growing under harsh conditions. These conditions severely stunt growth, however in cultivated, protected settings, the plants can grow more than 12 feet tall.

Fun Fact

Once thought to be extinct, the Lord Howe Island stick insect was rediscovered in 2001. This species of *Melaleuca* is a key food source and habitat for this insect.



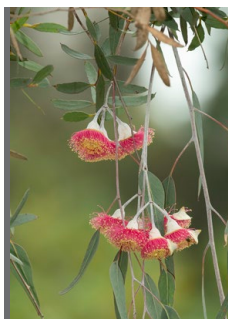
13. Pink Rock Orchid

Dendrobium kingianum

As noted by its common name, this orchid in nature is typically a lithophyte or epiphyte, which means it can be found growing on rocks or on other plants.

Fun Fact

The specific epithet *kingianum* refers to Captain Phillip Parker King, a naval officer and friend of the botanist John C. Bidwill who described and named this species.



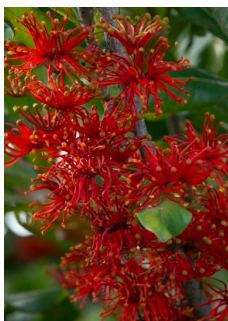
14. Silver Princess

Eucalyptus caesia

A graceful, weeping mallee from southwest Australia, its beautiful dangling red flowers are pollinated by insects and birds. The silver coloring of its branches and stems gives this plant its common name.

Fun Fact

Many eucalypts will form lignotubers, woody growths at ground level, from which they can grow back after a fire or damage.



15. Firewheel Tree

Stenocarpus sinuatus

This is another member of the *Proteaceae* and gets its common name from the scarlet flowers arranged in a wheel-like formation. A native of Australian rainforests, this tree makes a striking ornamental in coastal Southern California landscapes.

Fun Fact

The protea family contains almost 80 genera and about 1,700 species. The family is known for its unusual flowers. The family is named after Proteus, a Greek water god who was able to take many forms.

