



A WALK THROUGH SIX CONTINENTS OF PLANT LIFE

The University of California, Santa Barbara is an institution that prides itself on diversity. This commitment to diversity is also evident in the ornamental horticulture found throughout the campus. UCSB is home to plants from six of the seven continents on Earth. A few species are unique to campus and are not found anywhere else in Santa Barbara County.

The Walking Tour

Beginning and ending at UCSB's Visitor Center, the tour takes you on an hour-long loop through some of the most unique and prized tree specimens on the campus. The map on the back is numbered, marking the location of each described species.

SENEGAL DATE PALM

1. The Senegal date palm (*Phoenix reclinata*) is native to riparian areas of tropical and southern Africa. These multi-stemmed palms are important to the indigenous people who use the trunks for building material and the leaves for thatching and weaving. The fruit is edible and the seeds are ground into flour.

AFRICAN TULIP TREE

2. The African tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*), native to tropical Africa, puts on a breathtaking display of flowers in September and October. The dark brown buds develop into a cluster of red trumpet-shaped flowers. In Ghana the tree is used in traditional medicine as a wound-healing agent.

OCTOPUS TREE

3. Indigenous to the rainforests of eastern Australia, the octopus tree (*Schefflera actinophylla*) has clustered leaves that can reach up to 24 inches in length. The small fleshy berries are a stunning magenta color. Although often grown as a houseplant, it rarely blooms under home conditions. The tree gets its name from the arrangement of terminal fruit, which have a striking resemblance to the tentacles of an octopus.

NORFOLK ISLAND PINE

4. The Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), endemic to Norfolk Island, Australia, has whorled branches and a symmetrical shape, hence another common name of star pine. The Norfolk Island pine is not really a pine. Pines are native to the Northern Hemisphere and Araucarias are only found in the Southern Hemisphere. Captain James Cook unsuccessfully attempted to use the trunks of this evergreen to construct masts for his ships after he landed on the island in 1774.

MONTEZUMA CYPRESS

5. The Montezuma cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*) is a semi-evergreen or evergreen tree that is native to Guatemala, Mexico and the southernmost valleys of the Rio Grande in Texas. It is the national tree of Mexico, where it is valued for its resistance to insect damage and decay.

TASMANIAN BLUE GUM

6. Some of the oldest trees on campus can be found in the massive windrow of Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) adjacent to Noble Hall. This row of eucalyptus was planted when the land was used for agriculture (1940s and earlier) and provided a windbreak for crops. Other remnants of these windrows can be found on campus.

JURASSIC PARK

7. As you walk by the west side of Webb Hall, make a left into the small courtyard and take a trip back in time to the age of dinosaurs and pre-historic plants. The "Jurassic Park" area is home to various plants whose ancestors were present during the Mesozoic era. From the time of the *T. rex* to the present, these plants have evolved minimally over millions of years. Some of the species present include *Araucaria bidwillii*, from Queensland, Australia, and *Araucaria rulei*, from New Caledonia.

CORK OAK

8. The cork oak (*Quercus suber*) located at the southwest corner of Davidson Library is endemic to the western Mediterranean region of southern Europe and North Africa. This species is most notable for its bark, which is harvested for cork. Reportedly, it takes about eight years for a cork oak to regenerate enough bark for another harvest.

TREES

Exotic Flora walking tour

University of California
Santa Barbara

ATLAS CEDAR

9. The blue Atlas cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* var. *glauca*) can be found in a small stand of three trees directly in front of the Women's Center. Native to the Atlas Mountains of Algeria and Morocco, this species was first introduced to Europe in 1845. The most distinguishing features of this tree are its blue-green foliage and dense, pyramidal crown.

DAWN REDWOOD

10. The dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) is a notable species due to its unusual habit of dropping its needles in the winter. This genus was originally described from fossil specimens and thought to be extinct for millions of years until living specimens were found in China in 1944. In 1947, a botanical expedition to China brought back seeds and subsequently distributed living plants to various U.S. botanical gardens.

CORAL TREES

11. The cockspur coral tree (*Erythrina crista-galli*), the naked coral tree (*Erythrina coralloides*), and the coast coral tree (*Erythrina caffra*) are some of the most stunning tree specimens on campus. Native to South America, eastern Mexico, and South Africa respectively, these trees are often used ornamentally. Their display of fiery red flowers can be seen from February to June. This is especially apparent for the naked coral tree which flowers before its leaves emerge. The walkway near Coral Tree Café and the Student Affairs building (SAASB) is lined by these trees, along with other species of *Erythrina*.

AN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Dr. Vernon Cheadle, Chancellor of UCSB from 1962 until 1977, recognized the special opportunity and favorable circumstances of this botanically rich and unique environment. He had a vision of developing the campus into an outdoor classroom, which would not only serve as an educational tool but would also create an environment of great beauty. Biology, Art, Geology, and Environmental Studies classes make use of the unique and beautiful plants in UCSB's landscape.

We hope you will enjoy this tour.

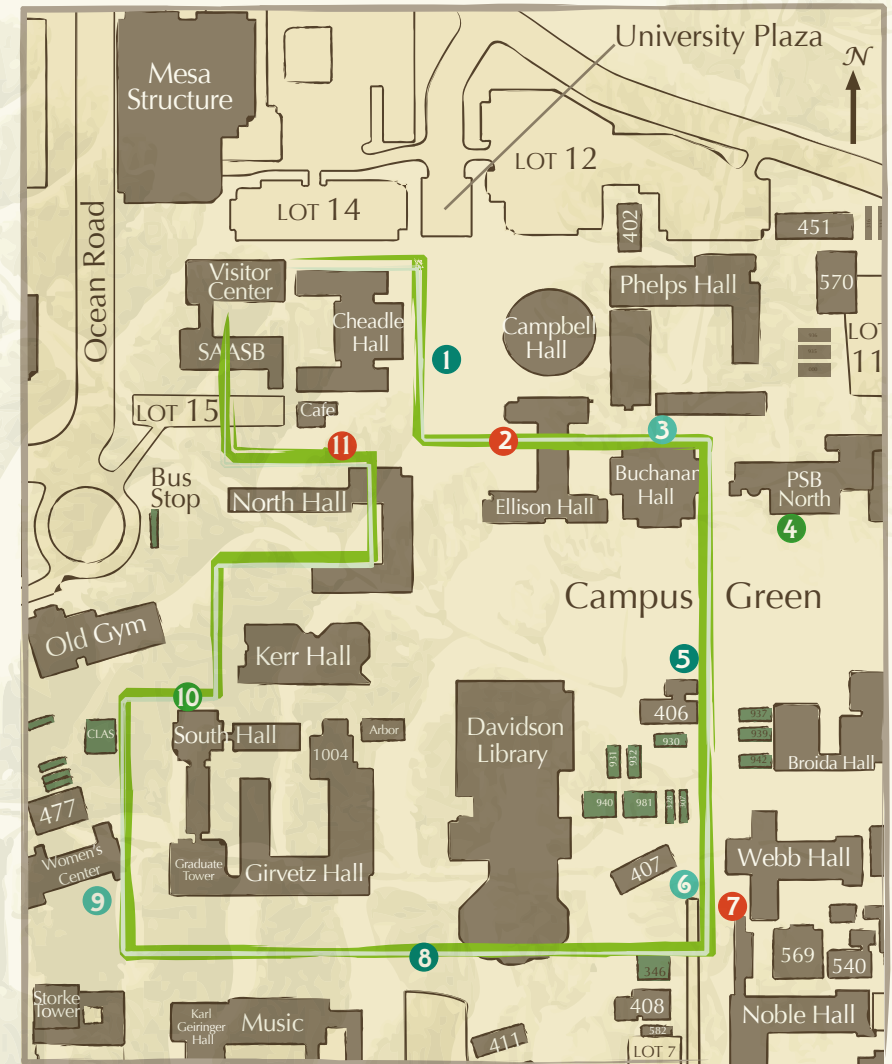


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CAMPUS FLORA PROJECT



FEATURED PLANT SPECIES

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|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Senegal Date Palm | 7. Jurassic Park |
| 2. African Tulip Tree | 8. Cork Oak |
| 3. Octopus Tree | 9. Atlas Cedar |
| 4. Norfolk Island Pine | 10. Dawn Redwood |
| 5. Montezuma Cypress | 11. Coral Trees |
| 6. Tasmanian Blue Gum | |