Scheduling Your Tour

Please call 510-643-7265 or email gardentours@berkeley.edu to schedule a tour or for more information.

- All docent-led and in-school programs must be scheduled by the 15th of the month prior to your desired date. Children’s tours have adult chaperone requirements.
- Tours may be scheduled during open hours each day of the week except for First Closed Tuesday and First Free Thursday.
- Tour groups are welcome to extend their stay in the Garden an additional 1/2 hour for snacks, lunch or further exploration. Children must be supervised at all times.
- Tours are given rain or shine. Come prepared for the weather and areas of rough terrain. Free ponchos are available for tour groups to use and keep.
- In cases of heavy rain, the tour will be modified to be indoors as much as possible.
- Our docent-to-student ratios are as follows: one docent per five Grade K-3 students; one docent per six Grade 4-8 students; one docent per eight high school students or adults.
- Student groups must provide one adult chaperone (admitted free) for each docent group.
- If your group wishes to visit the Garden without arranging a docent-led tour, please call 510-643-7265 in advance so that we may help in selecting a date and to facilitate your visit. All K-12 student groups visiting without a docent are required to have a staff-led introduction to the Garden ($20).

Tour and Program Fees

Garden Tours: Children $6.50 • College Students $6.50
For Adults and Seniors a minimum flat fee of $100 for up to 10
Each additional person. Adults $12.00 • Seniors (65+) $10.00
Special Garden Tour Programs: Each student $7.50 (fee includes hands-on activities with consumables and take-aways)
In-school Programs: $75 for one presentation or $60 for each two presentations given on the same day.

Payment must be received before your tour date to secure your tour. Changes are allowed up the 15th of the month prior to your date. Credit cards are accepted. Please make checks payable to UC Regents.

Parking is available at $1.50 for the first hour and $0.50 for each half hour thereafter.

Tour Contact: (510) 643-7265 or gardentours@berkeley.edu

Hours: The Garden is open from 9 AM - 5 PM every day, except major holidays and the first Tuesday of every month. Check our website for special closures.

Location: The Garden is located at 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720, midway between the UC Berkeley Memorial Stadium and Lawrence Hall of Science.

Web address: botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Voted “Best of the East Bay”
Best Place to Get Lost

When you enter the Botanical Garden of UC Berkeley, you not only encounter the plants native to all parts of the globe, you would swear that the climates shift slightly as you leave one continent and come upon the next.

— East Bay Express

Discover the world of plants at the University of California Botanical Garden

Nestled on 34 acres in Strawberry Canyon above the Berkeley campus, the Garden’s world-class collection of more than 12,000 different kinds of plants from around the world are arranged by region: Asia, Australasia, California, Eastern North America, Mediterranean, Mexico/ Central America, New World Desert, South America, and Southern Africa. Naturalistic plantings of environments as diverse as deserts, redwood forests, tropical forests, and wetlands create a “living museum” of wild-collected plants invaluable for education and research. Many rare and endangered plants are propagated for conservation and reintroduction into the wild.

Ethnobotanical collections include the Crops of the World Garden, Herb Garden, Chinese Medicinal Herb Garden, and the Garden of Old Roses. The Garden displays special collections of cacti and succulents, orchids, ferns, carnivorous plants, and tropical plants in glass houses. The diverse collections offer year-round beauty and provide a variety of experiences throughout the seasons.

With paid admission, we offer free docent-led tours on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 PM. (Free tours are not for organized groups due to limited space.) The Garden has several interpretive tour brochures for self-guided exploration, available at the kiosk.

Our mission is to develop and maintain a diverse living collection of plants to support teaching and worldwide research in plant biology, further the conservation of plant diversity, and promote public understanding and appreciation of plants and the natural environment.
and textures.

the world provides attractive ‘waterwise’ plant candidates that
minimal water requirements. Our unique collection from around
continents, including environments as diverse as deserts,
explore the Garden’s incredible diversity of plants from six
special interests and level of garden knowledge with sufficient
All of the tours listed in this brochure can be modified for an
children's tours are aligned with California State Education
Teacher materials are provided with tours and are included with your confirmation and invoice.
All of the tours listed in this brochure can be modified for an
ADULT TOURS
Plants of the World: General Tour of the Garden
Explore the Garden’s incredible diversity of plants from six
(Year-round; Best winter month option)
Primary Grades / 60 min
Awaken Your Senses
Use all five senses to experience nature in the Garden. Touch, look,
look, listen, smell, and taste as you investigate plants from around
the life cycles of many plants and crops.

Plant Travelers (Best in fall)
Can plants really travel? Marvel at botanical fruit and seed adaptations, such as slingshots, parachutes, hitchhikers, helicopters and other mechanisms, that propel plant seeds around the Garden.

Extreme Environments: Glass House Collections
How have plants adapted to environments with extreme amounts of sunlight or water? Explore the plant communities of three unique glass houses: the Arid House, with one of the largest collections of cacti and succulents in the country; the Orchid, Fern and Carnivorous Plant House; and the Tropical House, where you feel as though you're in a rainforest. The experience includes some plant favorites such as chocolate, cinnamon, coffee, and vanilla. This is a mostly indoor tour.

Patterns in Nature: Math in the Garden
Look closely at nature – trees, leaves, cones, cacti, ferns, flowers, honeycomb, and more. Discover geometric shapes, angles, symmetry, and patterns, even fractals and Fibonacci numbers! Learn how nature's mathematical designs and patterns are adaptations helping plants to survive.

Trees in the Garden
How are trees different from other plants? How do they adapt to their environments, make food from sunlight, grow, and reproduce? In what ways are they essential to life on our planet? Visit trees from around the world, including the kinds of trees that lived when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and examples of the planet's tallest living organisms.

Grades 3 & up / 75 - 90 min
California Ecosystems and Habitats
Visit the Garden's outstanding collection of California native plants. Explore plant communities including alpine fell-field, chaparral, coastal dune, desert, pine-oak woodland, pygmy forest, redwood forest, serpentine, and vernal pool. Compare and contrast the characteristics that allow plants to thrive in the Golden State's unique ecosystems.

California Natives: Plants and People
Explore the creative ways California Indians have used plants in their everyday lives for food, shelter, clothing, tools, fiber, medicine, music, toys and games. Which parts of the plant are used – roots, stems, leaves, seeds, bark – and why? We'll examine California’s native plants and replicas of Indian artifacts to discover the plant knowledge, customs, and skills of California’s earliest peoples.

Evolution: Plants through Time
Journey through time from a barren earth 4.5 billion years ago to the astounding diversity of plants and animals today. Examine fossil evidence and discover ancient plants living in our collection. See the kinds of plants dinosaurs might have eaten. Learn how plants have adapted over millions of years to a changing earth and climate, and made it possible for other species to evolve.

Water Ecology: Ponds and Creeks
Explore the Garden’s water habitats from gently flowing creeks to still pond waters. Dip nets in pools and examine plants, insects, and microorganisms. How are pond and creek ecosystems different? Learn about photosynthesis, decomposers, and the importance of protecting these fragile environments.

Looking for “hands-on” activities?
Grocery Store Botany (Primary grades / 45 min)
Docents will visit your classroom with a collection of nutritious roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruit, and seeds. Students will touch, smell, and taste as they learn about healthy eating and the function of each plant part. Teachers may request to keep the vegetables for class use.

California Natives: Plants and People (Grades 3 & up / 45 min)
Docents bring native plants and replicas of artifacts for an interactive classroom presentation. Students learn how California Indians used plants in their everyday lives for shelter, food, clothing, tools, medicine, music, toys, and games. Student and Public Tours

Special Garden Tour Programs
Includes hands-on materials / 75 - 90 min

Foods of the Americas (Offered in October only)
Tour our “marketplace” exhibit filled with foods first cultivated by ancient Mayan, Incan and Aztec cultures. These include corn, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, squashes, peppers, amaranth, quinoa and chocolate. See them growing in our Crops of the World Garden and Tropical House. Learn about botanical plant parts and nutritional values of these important foods with fun challenges and activities.

People Using Plants (Offered in spring with exhibit)
Humans depend on plants to survive, prosper, and enrich their lives. Explore the Garden's herb and crop gardens, desert and rainforest collections, and California plant communities to discover the everyday uses of plants by different peoples and cultures. Visit the Garden's special Fiber & Dye exhibit and create your own sampler to take home. This tour can be modified as a “Foods of the World” tour focused on edibles.

In-school Programs

“Docents were lovely. The kids learned a lot and had fun. I have taken classes to the Garden for the past few years, it's such a wonderful resource!” – Kindergarten teacher, St. Lawrence O'Toole

“Great connections to our Standards and curriculum!” – 2nd grade teacher, Rosa Parks School

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