



The Best Of
Southern California

Unique Gardens

*An outdoor feast
for your eyes, ears
and nose.*



www.TravelCostaMesa.com



Whether you know a hibiscus from a heliconias doesn't really matter. When your travels take you to Southern California, you can count on an outdoor feast for your eyes, ears and nose. Within the region are hundreds of square miles devoted to a rich variety of the world's flora, as well as to fountains, sculptures and other architectural elements that enrich their surroundings. Here are a few examples to delight experts and novices alike. Enjoy!

Orange County

Sherman Library and Gardens ①

949.673.2261

2647 East Pacific Coast Highway, Corona del Mar
www.slgardens.org

The Gardens provide a museum of living plants, displayed amidst a setting of fountains, sculptures and seasonal flowers. The tranquil environment can be enjoyed for its beauty or, if desired, a place to observe and study firsthand plant life from various parts of the world. The design of the gardens enables visitors to view this botanical diversity in a reasonably short time. Plants are labeled as to their place of origin, their generic family and common names.

The Cactus and Succulent Garden surrounds a large California pepper tree. The Tropical Conservatory with orchids, heliconias and gingers in full bloom is like a visit to the Pacific Islands. Don't forget to check out the size of the koi fish; there are more than a dozen of the beautiful carp. The Rose Garden features an array of colorful and scented blooming plants, while the cool atmosphere of the Fern Grotto exhibits the bold greenery of several forty-year-old hanging staghorn ferns. A bo tree, considered sacred by Hindus and Buddhists, resides in the Japanese Garden. The Herb Garden boasts a variety of herbs, including chocolate and orange-mint, tri-color and society garlic, to name a few.



Fullerton Arboretum ②

714.278.3407

1900 Associated Road, Fullerton
www.fullertonarboretum.org

Encompassing 26 lush acres, The Fullerton Arboretum has assembled a permanent collection of over 4,000 unique plant species from around the world. With its ponds, streams and wildlife, the Fullerton Arboretum offers a tranquil retreat from a fast-paced urban life.



Hortense Miller Garden ③

949.497.0716

22511 Allview Terrace, Laguna Beach
www.hortensemillergarden.org

The Hortense Miller Garden covers two-and-one-half acres of the upper slopes of Boat Canyon in Laguna Beach. The Garden demonstrates the range of plants that can be grown in Southern California coastal zones. The entrance court to the house, a classic 50s-modern design, is a beautiful sight particularly in the spring when the lilac blooms and large Japanese Wisteria dominate the brick wall. There are small, intimate and distinct gardens, a perennial garden which displays a profusion of flowers during all seasons as well as large succulents that lead to rare Puyas from Chile. The northwesterly half of the Garden is devoted to preservation of the native coastal sage scrub.

Roger's Gardens ④

949.640.5800

2301 San Joaquin Hills Road, Corona del Mar
www.rogersgardens.com

Roger's Gardens has grown to be known as "America's Most Beautiful Home and Garden Center." Presented in a garden-like setting, the Nursery offers one of the most extensive varieties of foliage and flowering plants found anywhere. A spectacular color palate of annuals, perennials, landscape plants and garden foliage for both sun and shade are just a few of the items for which Roger's is known. The Rose Garden has the largest variety of roses in all of Southern California, some of which are exclusive to Roger's Gardens. In the Garden Rooms are breathtakingly beautiful indoor plants including a large variety of orchids, English basket gardens and splendid designer, silk arrangements, which can be purchased as presented or custom created.



Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden ⑤

562.985.8885

1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach
www.csulb.edu/~jgarden

Gardens associated with Zen Buddhist temples have a special reverence for nature and are inspired by the natural beauty of the Japanese landscape. Their aesthetic values and symbolism are incorporated into the gardens, having a certain austerity befitting their style. Japanese gardens are an art-form, using the natural elements of water, stone and plants. Placement and interweaving of these elements are determined by qualities of naturalness and asymmetry. When one is looking at the stone pagodas, grouping of plants or rocks, or the rails on a bridge, one sees no even numbers. Japanese gardens should elicit individual aesthetic responses, impressions and feelings for nature.

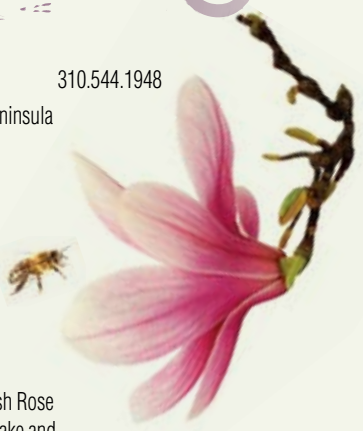
Los Angeles County

South Coast Botanic Garden 5

310.544.1948

26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula
www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

The South Coast Botanic Garden is a unique 87-acre garden environment. Once a landfill, the garden now has over 150,000 beautifully landscaped plants and trees. Some of the more diverse plants include flowering fruit trees, redwoods, ginkgos and pittosporum. The more popular gardens are the Water-wise Garden, Herb Garden, English Rose Garden and Garden of the Senses. A small lake and stream attract various birds such as ducks, geese, coots and blue heron. There are walking and shuttle tours as well as picnic areas. Horticultural lectures, classes and plant shows are provided for all visitors.



Descanso Gardens 5

818.949.4200

1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge
www.descansogardens.org

Located in the San Rafael Hills, this is truly a secluded, lush, dense garden containing over 100,000 plants including one of the largest displays of camellias in the world! Some of the more popular attractions are: a lake that hosts migratory birds; a Japanese garden with pools and waterfalls; the International Rosarium featuring thousands of rose settings. There is also an extensive performing-arts program throughout the year that provides flower and craft shows. Walking and tram tours, horticultural classes and lectures are available.

The Huntington Botanical Gardens 5

626.405.2100

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
www.huntington.org

The Botanical Gardens span nearly 120 acres with sweeping lawns and vistas interspersed with statuary, *tempiettos* and benches. Approximately 15,000 kinds of plants from all over the world make up the botanical collections, many landscaped into a series of themed gardens. Free tours of the gardens are available with paid admission or membership. Docents are in the Herb and Rose Gardens during public hours.



Photo courtesy of The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Virginia Robinson Gardens 5

310.276.5367

1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills
www.robinsongardens.org

In the Formal Mall Garden, visitors find a kaleidoscope of brilliant color-reflecting, ever-changing flower borders with rare specimen cycads planted in the lawn. Spring, summer and fall fill the Rose Garden with wonderful fragrance while the Kitchen Garden displays edibles from the delicious world of vegetables and herbs. The Australian king palm collection transports visitors to an exotic tropical paradise. Planted in the glade are gingers, bananas and intoxicating plumeria. The Renaissance Revival Pool Pavilion, modeled after the famous Villa Pisani in Italy, overlooks a sparkling pool constructed with mosaic tile wainscoting. Decorative panels of sgraffito ornamentation adorn the Roman arches that visitors pass through when entering the solarium.

Virginia Robinson Gardens has an eloquent blend of architecture and landscape, and is a beautiful representation of an early twentieth century estate. The Gardens cover six hillside acres and include five distinctive areas, which are connected by brick paths, fountains and ponds creating a visual paradise. Guided walking tours led by volunteer docents are available.

Charles F. Lummis Home and Garden 5

323.222.0546

200 East Avenue 43, Los Angeles
www.socalhistory.org

The Charles F. Lummis Home and Garden provides a peaceful sanctuary. The Lummis Home stands on the west bank of the Arroyo Seco, a concrete bed built to tame turbulent waters during the rainy season. However, the stones that once lay beneath the sycamore trees and native plants now form the structure that is the Lummis Home today. The south-facing facade of the home is comprised of intricately-placed stones acquired from this nearby stream bed, built largely by the energy and discipline of Charles Lummis.



The Arboretum 5

626.821.3222

301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia
www.arboretum.org

Spend your day in a lush garden or sit by a waterfall and watch peacocks unfold their colorful feathers! Visit the tropical greenhouse or take a tram ride through the 127-acre garden with plant and tree life from around the world! The arboretum's plants are grouped by geography with gardens for South American, Mediterranean, South African, Australian, Asiatic and North American plants. Other displays include the Aquatic Garden, Meadowbrook, Demonstration Home Gardens, Garden for All Seasons, Prehistoric and Jungle Garden, Native Oaks, Herb Garden and the Palm and Bamboo collection. Other popular activities also include bird watching, plant shows, educational classes and lectures. There are historical buildings to visit as well as a relaxing café. Numerous movies were filmed at the arboretum including portions of two *Jurassic Park* movies and *Anaconda*.

Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens 5

323.644.4200

5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles
www.lazoo.org/botanicalgardens

Most visitors to the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens come to see the animals, but the plants that provide food, shade and even entertainment are every bit as important as the animals. One of the fundamental principles of conservation is habitat preservation, and at the foundation of every habitat are plants. The trees that fill the landscape – acacia, eucalyptus, ficus, mulberry – also provide food for the animals. Additionally, the Zoo's plant collection includes many intriguing specimen plants—examples of unusual or distinctive species such as the Chilean wine palm, bald cypress and cycads. Zoo grounds also feature special gardens that highlight groups of plants. The native gardens present many of this region's spectacular indigenous plants. The cactus and succulent gardens contain representatives of arid climates around the world while the cycad garden is a living time capsule full of plant species that have been in existence since the age of dinosaurs.

Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens 5

213.629.1200

120 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles
www.kyotograndhotel.com/garden.html

The enchanting "Garden in the Sky" on the third floor of the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens is a miniature half-acre version of an historic, 400-year-old, ten-acre garden in Tokyo. The seven principles of Zen influence all Japanese gardens; you will find asymmetry, simplicity, naturalness, calmness, austerity, subtlety and spirituality presenting nature in its purest form. Kyoto Grand gardens are traditional "strolling gardens" – each step signifies a release from the realities of work and worry. An important classic technique in Japanese landscape architecture is called *shakkei*, or borrowed landscape, which beautifully incorporates surrounding landscapes into a garden's panorama. This technique has been successfully employed in the "Garden in the Sky", as it is framed by the dynamic skyline of downtown Los Angeles. Massive red rocks placed carefully throughout the garden are part of a priceless rock collection and symbolize a mountain or a continent, while a palette of combed sand might be an ocean. Experience a stroll through this graceful, calming environment, guaranteed to provide a relaxing and refreshing experience.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 5

909.625.8767

1500 North College Avenue, Claremont
www.rsabg.org

At 86 acres, this is the largest botanical garden dedicated exclusively to California's native plants. The Garden houses a large collection of Manzanitas. Throughout the peak blooming season of March and April, spring wildflowers, perennials and shrubs bloom in waves of riotous color, while summer and fall months provide a more subtle color and texture to the Botanic Garden when native fruit and seeds ripen. The Botanic Garden is a private, non-profit organization, open to the public daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free; a donation of \$4.00/person and \$8.00/family is suggested.



Japanese Garden 5

818.756.8166

6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys
www.thejapanesegarden.com

Guests are invited to walk, sit and contemplate their surroundings in the garden where the skillful blending of traditional Japanese landscaping with modern Occidental architecture is obvious. To do so is to experience absolute tranquility; it is to enrich one's spirit, to achieve a state of grace so elusive in this busy, modern world, and to emulate Lord Buddha who, three thousand years ago, seated in the shade of a tree in silent contemplation of the human condition, achieved spiritual enlightenment. *Suiho En*, the garden of water and fragrance, is a six-acre authentic Japanese garden fashioned after "stroll gardens" constructed during the 18th and 19th centuries for Japanese feudal lords. The facility is unique in that it incorporates three classical designs: a dry *karensansui*, a wet garden with promenade *chisen* and an authentic tea-ceremony garden with tea room.

UCLA Hannah Carter Japanese Garden 5

310.794.0320

10920 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1520, Los Angeles
www.japanesegarden.ucla.edu

The UCLA Hannah Carter Japanese Garden covers just over one acre and is located in the community of Bel Air about one mile from the UCLA campus. The garden was inspired by the gardens of Kyoto. Many structures in the garden – the main gate, garden house, bridges, and shrine – were built in Japan and reassembled here. Also present are Japanese antique stone carvings, water basins, lanterns, five-tiered pagoda and symbolic rocks. Several hundred tons of local stones came from quarries in Ventura County and from the foot of Mt. Baldy, northeast of Los Angeles.



The Wrigley Memorial and Botanical Gardens 6 310.510.2595

Avalon Canyon Road, Avalon
www.catalina.com/memorial.html

This garden places a special emphasis on California island endemic plants, some of which grow naturally on one or more of the California islands, but nowhere else in the world. Many of these plants are extremely rare; some are on the endangered species list. The Memorial Garden is particularly concerned with the six Catalina endemic plants which grow naturally only on Catalina Island.



Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden 5

310.379.4447

Peck Avenue just north of Manhattan Beach Boulevard, Manhattan Beach
www.manhattanbeachbotanicalgarden.org

Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden contains many themed areas, including the "Bird and Butterfly Habitat", the "Meditation Garden" and the "Matilija Poppy Hillside". Plants native to California as well as some from similar Mediterranean climates are installed. The "Children's Garden of Discovery" and a "Wildflower Meadow" were planted near the 30-seat Chevron Amphitheater. Dozens of bird species, many lizards and a multitude of beneficial insects reside there.

The Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden 5

310.825.1260

Southeastern corner of the UCLA campus
www.botgard.ucla.edu/bg-home.htm

Located on the beautiful UCLA campus, this garden maintains one of the most important living botanical collections in the United States with plant specimens from all over the world. This seven-acre garden is frost-free and therefore can exhibit many different species of tropical and subtropical plants. Approximately 5,000 species in 225 plant families are growing here outdoors.

Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine 5

310.454.4114

17190 Sunset Boulevard, Pacific Palisades

This ten-acre site, with its gardens and natural, spring-fed lake is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including swans, ducks, koi fish and lotus flowers. The grounds include a Court of Religions honoring the five principal religions of the world, the Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Memorial where a portion of Gandhi's ashes is enshrined, a small museum with exhibits on Paramahansa Yogananda's work and a gift shop with arts and crafts from India. There is also a hilltop temple overlooking the lake.



Quail Botanical Gardens 7



760.436.3036

230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
www.qbgardens.org

The Larabee Family landscaped the property around their modest home with exotic plants they had collected during their worldwide travels, including cork oaks, palms, cycads, aloes, cacti, hibiscus and unusual subtropical fruit-bearing plants and trees.



The mission of Quail Botanical Gardens is to inspire people of all ages to connect with plants and nature.

Their goals include:

- Conserving rare and endangered plants suitable for growing in outdoor habitats.
- Introducing and cultivating plants that exhibit horticultural value in San Diego County.
- Educating the public about plants and their importance in the natural environment by providing tours, nature walks, lectures, instructional programs and publications.
- Encouraging the presence of indigenous wildlife throughout the Gardens.
- Preserving designated trees and shrubs planted in the Gardens which reflect its history and charm.
- Providing a peaceful setting where the public may enjoy the natural beauty of the Gardens. Activities in the Gardens are consistent with the preservation of a tranquil environment.



Japanese Friendship Garden of San Diego 7

619.232.2721

2215 Pan American Road, San Diego

www.niwa.org

The Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego has roots in the 1915 World Exposition. After the Exposition, strong community interest kept the Japanese Tea Pavilion open for thirty years within Balboa Park, San Diego's Culture Center. With the development of San Diego's sister-city relationship with Yokohama in 1950, forty years of gift exchanges followed, kindling feelings of shared ideals represented by the Japanese Garden.



Balboa Park 7

619.239.0512

1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

www.balboapark.org

Balboa Park is renowned for the lush landscaping and lovely gardens on its 1,200 acres, offering a magnificent backdrop for cultural attractions. The Park was ranked among the Best Parks in the World by the Project for Public Places in 2003 for its mixture of horticulture and art. There are more than eight gardens in the Park, which include the lovely Alcazar Garden, the award-winning rose garden, the Japanese Friendship Garden, the desert garden and the historic Botanical Building.

Paradise Gardens 7

760.439.7005

190 Wilshire Road, San Luis Rey

www.paradisegardens.com

Paradise Gardens has become San Diego's secret tropical setting for outdoor weddings and receptions. The cascading waterfalls and picturesque gardens are a photographer's dream. You'll enjoy the sights and sounds of the tropics the moment you enter the gates to this paradise. Amenities include a Victorian-style bridal suite, a catering preparation kitchen, a lakeside gazebo, a horse-drawn carriage ride around a lakeside trail and an outdoor band shell with a natural stone dance floor. With plenty of evening lighting from the Tiki torches, you can enjoy dining and dancing under the moonlight reflected in the private lake. Paradise Gardens also hosts many family gatherings, corporate events and has recently been the setting for commercials and major motion pictures.



www.TravelCostaMesa.com