

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN



PRESS KIT

SPRING 2021



DESERT
BOTANICAL
garden

Overview

THE GARDEN:

Discover the tranquil vibrancy of 50,000 desert plants nestled amid the red rocks of the Papago Buttes at Desert Botanical Garden. Visitors can stroll through five thematic trails to explore plants, including towering cactus, alluring succulents and brilliant desert wildflowers. Delve deeper to experience world-class art exhibitions, festive events and so much more.

MISSION:

The Garden's commitment to the community is to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world with emphasis on the Sonoran Desert. We will ensure that the Garden is always a compelling attraction that brings to life the many wonders of the desert.

CONTACT:

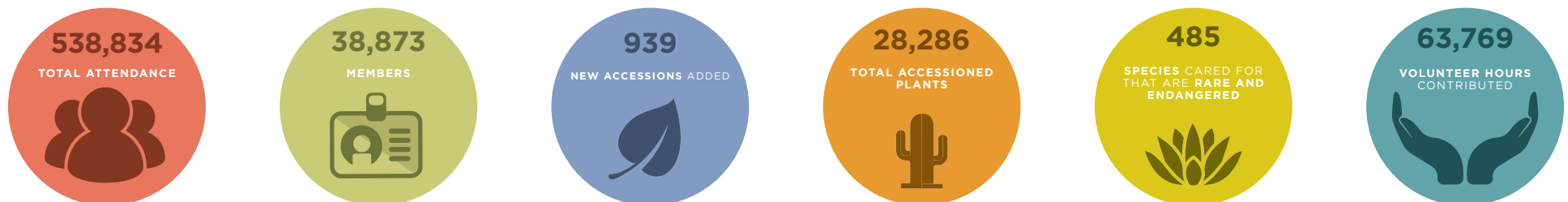
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YOUR GARDEN | BY THE NUMBERS *(As of 2019)*:



History

In the 1930s, a small group of passionate local citizens saw the need to conserve the beautiful desert environment. One was Swedish botanist Gustaf Starck, who found like-minded residents by posting a sign that said “Save the desert,” with an arrow pointing to his home. More than eight decades later, thanks to leadership and investments from many individuals, Desert Botanical Garden has blossomed from a dream into a living museum unlike any other. See how the Garden has grown during its history into a compelling attraction and desert conservation pioneer.

	1947 Gertrude Webster dies leaving her estate to support the Garden.		1970 The new library is built to house a valuable donation of rare books and prints.		1983 The American Association of Museums accredits the Garden.	
1939 The Garden opens its doors to the public.		1957 The Garden's collection increases from 1,000 to more than 18,000 specimens.		1977 The Docent Program is established.		1985 The Garden becomes a charter member of the Center for Plant Conservation.
1988 Plants and People of the Sonoran Desert Loop Trail opens.		2008 Ottosen Entry Garden opens.		2009 Joy and Howard Berlin Agave Yucca Forrest opens.		2015 The Garden hosts its first nighttime only exhibition by Bruce Munro.
	2002 The Garden completes a \$17 million expansion.		2008 Dale Chihuly's exhibition draws more than 500,000 people to the Garden.		2013 The Garden celebrates its 75th Anniversary.	
	2018 Electric Desert A Light and Sound Experience by Klip Collective sees nearly 200,000 visitors.		2020 Wild Rising by Cracking Art invades the Garden.			
2017 New Butterfly Exhibit and Hazel Hare Center for Plant Science open.		2019 Desert Botanical Garden celebrates its 80th Anniversary.		2021 Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz of Waterlily Pond Studio debut Wind, Water and Earth at the Garden.		

Trails & Exhibitions

Desert Botanical Garden provides a world-class experience for every visitor. Through permanent trailside exhibits, temporary art installations and seasonal experiences, the Garden ignites discovery about the desert and the plants that have adapted to this fascinating ecosystem.

TRAILS:

DESERT DISCOVERY LOOP TRAIL | Exhibits desert plants from around the world.

PLANTS & PEOPLE OF THE SONORAN DESERT LOOP TRAIL | Explores the use of desert plants for nourishment, cultural activities and tools.

SONORAN DESERT NATURE LOOP TRAIL | Illustrates the relationship between desert plants and animals.

CENTER FOR DESERT LIVING LOOP TRAIL | Displays ideas and strategies for sustainable ways to live with nature.

Harriet K. Maxwell DESERT WILDFLOWER LOOP TRAIL | Showcases the diversity of desert wildflowers.



Featured Exhibitions

WIND, WATER, EARTH

BY NATASHA LISITSA AND DANIEL SCHULTZ



Desert Botanical Garden's newest art exhibition opens January 2021 and features large-scale living sculptures created by Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz of Waterlily Pond Studio. Using florals and plant materials as the medium and desert elements as the inspiration, **Wind**, **Earth** and **Water** are three intricate installations that guests will experience at the Garden for only a few weeks.

Wife-and-husband duo Natasha Lisitsa and Daniel Schultz work at the nexus of sculpture and floral art, creating installations that combine the emotion of flowers with fascinating structures of industrial materials. Their work has been commissioned by modern art museums, cathedrals, public spaces and cultural organizations globally.



The exhibition kicks off with **Wind**, which will be located in *Stardust Foundation Plaza*, Jan. 19 – Feb. 19. It is inspired by the tumultuous wind and dust storms that move across the desert landscape. Measuring in at 16 feet high and 8 feet wide, visitors can wander through the rings and gaze up at a “storm cloud” of plant materials, including cholla skeletons, yucca stocks, tree branches, tumbleweeds, and tropical bromeliad and heliconia.

Visitors can experience **Water** in the *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest* on display Feb. 23 through March 22. This landscape intervention spans 100 feet, mapping the path of seasonal flooding through the site with 8,000 colored wooden dowels and 1,500 red flowering blooms, from petunias and geraniums to tropical flowers, oriented to flow and spill around rocks and plants.



The exhibition will culminate with **Earth** in *Dorrance Hall* April 3 – 25, inspired by the sandstone strata of Arizona canyons. An immersive, room height 3-dimensional structure will be composed of 25 wood layers of “strata” cut away to reveal an open archway that visitors can enter. Ten thousand fresh flowers including roses, orchids and succulents will line the layers in a palette of desert colors.

Access to viewing **Wind**, **Water** and **Earth** is included with general Garden admission, but reservations are required in advance of visits.

Signature Events

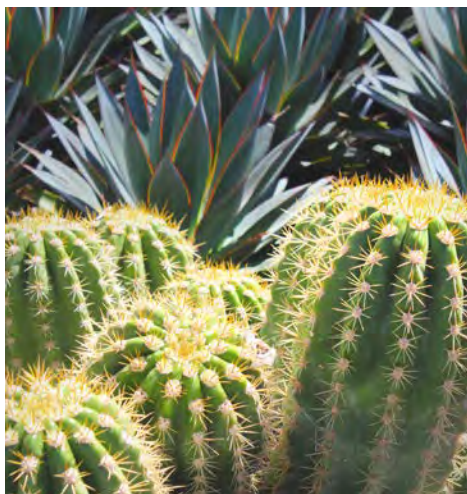
Music in the Garden



Ages 21 and older

Desert Botanical Garden offers an exciting and diverse lineup of talented performers in the Spring and Fall Music in the Garden concert series.

Fall & Spring Plant Sales



Free Admission

Don't let 30,000 plants intimidate you! On-site horticulture experts will help you find the perfect cactus, agave and ornamental to plant in your own garden.

Dog Days at the Garden



Early risers are invited to bring their whole pack to the trails mornings. Treat your dog to a morning stroll at the Garden. You and your pup will have a tail-wagging good time exploring all the beauty and sniffs of the Garden.

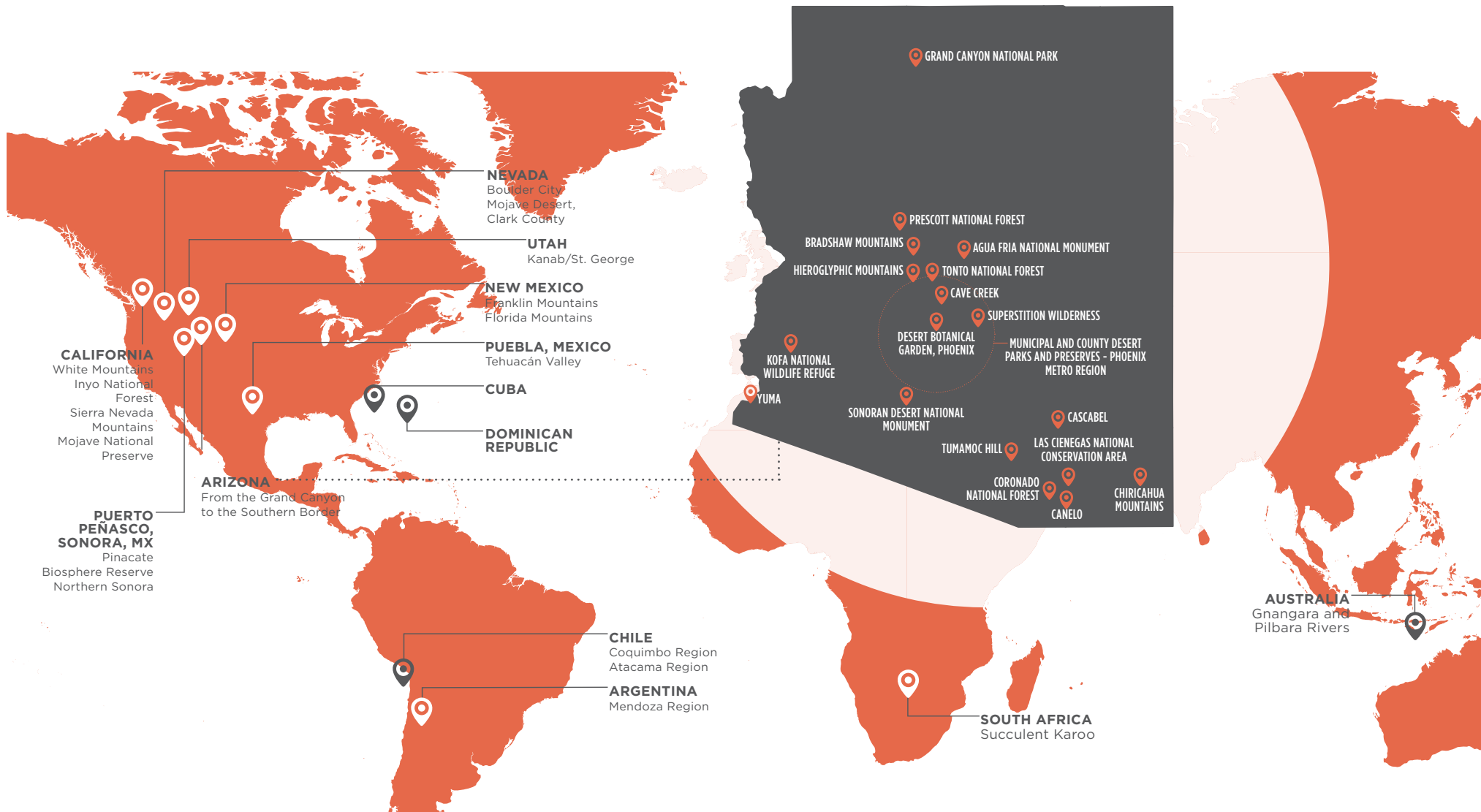
Las Noches de las Luminarias



Experience the simplicity and beauty of Las Noches de las Luminarias this holiday season with 8,000 flickering luminarias and twinkling lights throughout the Garden. Enjoy a festive drink while listening to holiday melodies.

Research & Conservation

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identified cactus as one of the most threatened groups of living organisms, but the Garden is working to protect and conserve these treasured desert plants and many others. The Garden's researchers often collaborate internationally, as well as with federal and state agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Service, to protect Arizona flora and habitat.




GARDEN SCIENTISTS ARE FULFILLING OUR MISSION THROUGH PROJECTS IN ARID REGIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

Overview



CREDITS:

- Accredited by the American Association of Museums
- Founding member of the Center for Plant Conservation
- Designated by popular vote in 1993 as a “Phoenix Point of Pride”
- Named one of “Arizona’s Treasures” by Governor Janet Napolitano in 2005



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