



at the Arboretum

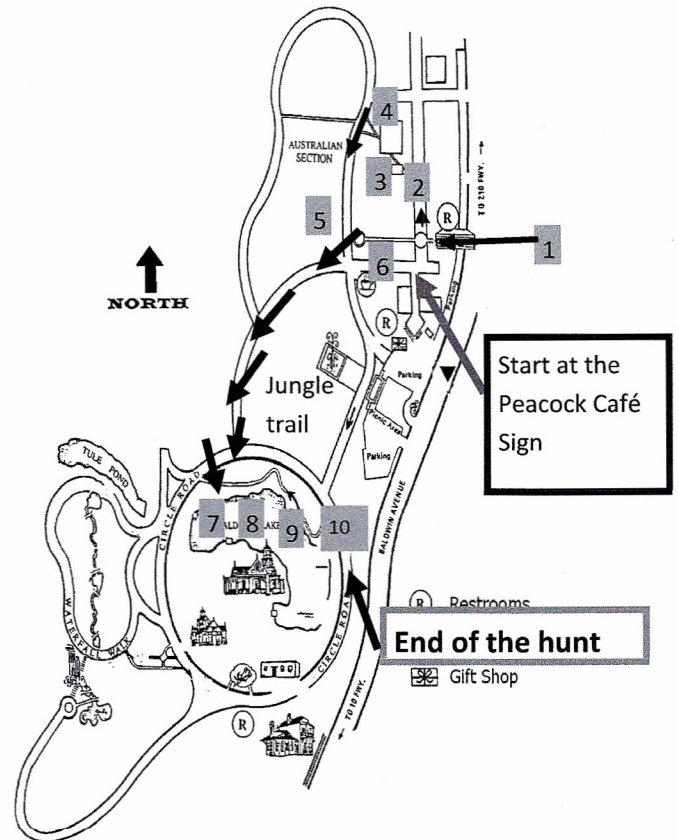
Hunt for Cool Stuff at the Arboretum



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

Welcome to the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden! The Arboretum has teamed up with the *Let's Move* initiative, which was launched by Michelle Obama, and is dedicated to solving the challenge of childhood obesity. Exercise is essential for good health. Here is a hunt that will get you moving and exploring.

1. Start at the Peacock Café sign: Walk toward the mountains and look for the gray plants that look like octopi gone wild. They are called Octopus Agave. The octopus that lives in the sea has eight appendages; how many do these plant octopi have?
2. From the octopi plants, find the dirt path heading north, towards the mountains. Walk through the garden with the painted poles, past the shade structure to the little carnivorous glass greenhouse. There you will find plants that lure insects inside and then drown them. The plant absorbs the nutrients from the decaying insect. Can you find the part of these plants that looks like tubes or pitchers? That's where all this happens.
3. Turn left out of the greenhouse and make your way to the tropical greenhouse, but don't forget to find the Tiki on the right! He is guarding the tropical island just inside the building.
4. Inside the greenhouse, notice the wonderful fragrance. Now for a little challenge: can you find the resting tortoise plant? Hint, look for the label.
5. Walk out the glass door on the left side and join the road. Turn left, and Head back down the path to Madagascar Spiny Forest exhibit. Take the path to the right. Once you enter, you will notice very different looking plants. They have adapted to an extremely dry climate. Can you find the plant called "Mouse Trap Tree?" It has nice yellow flowers. Underneath the leaves you can sometimes find seed pods that have wicked barbs that stick to anything, including mice. Make sure not to touch the seed pod.





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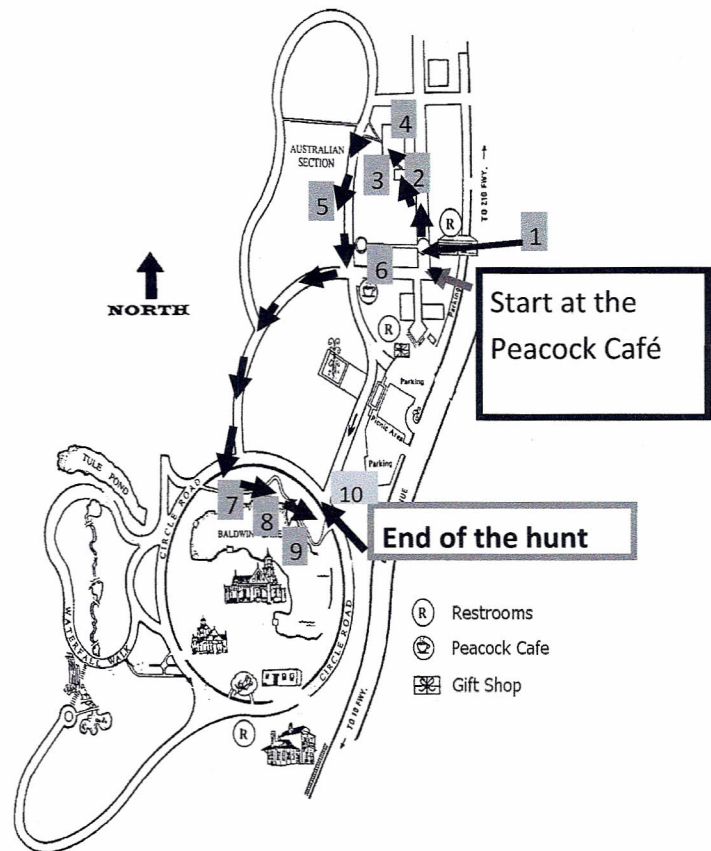
6. Head back to the main road, and walk south towards the desert display garden on the left, with the rock fountain. Once there, find the big rock with the hole in it. To the left of that rock you will find the Under-the-Sea-Garden, look for lots of red lava rock. Can you imagine fish swimming among the succulents?

7. After you swim in the Under-the-Sea-Garden, it's off to the Jungle we go. (see map) Head back out to the road. At the crossroads, go to the path that travels on the right side of the fountain, near the African plants,. A sign points to tropical forest. It's a little bit of a walk down to the Jungle. At the T in the road you will see a bench. There is a path to the right that will lead you inside the Jungle. See if you can find the big Montezuma Cypress tree. Can you get your arms around it?

8. Head to the east (left side of the lake) through the Jungle and find the hidden pond. See if you can find a huge Koi (fish) in the pond, he is bright orange. We call him Hugo.

9. There is a palm tree that leans over the water. Can you find it? How does the tree do that? Can you see any wildlife? This seems to be a favorite spot for birds and fish.

10. Look around for a short looking palm tree; they are called Cycads. The ancestors of these plants lived with the dinosaurs. Look closely at their very tough foliage. The dinosaurs that eat these plants often had stones in their stomachs to help with digestion. With all the cycads, it feels like a dinosaur might be around the corner.



You have made it through the Jungle!

This hunt is over but look for many more interesting plants and features each time you visit the Arboretum.

By the way, you walked at least 3/4 of a mile.